



THE WOODLANDS AREA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

BUSINESS TODAY

April 2014



Free Health Screenings
April 30, 2014



7:00 - 11:30 AM
Open to the Community
Free to attend
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott - 3rd Floor



2014 Business Summit on Healthcare
Healthy BOTTOM Line
APRIL 30, 2014

Scan
for information
on Business Summit
on Health Care
April 20



BUSINESS BRIEFS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Samuel Knight, a second grade student at The John Cooper School, had his artwork selected by the Texas Art Education Association for inclusion in the 2014 Youth Art Month Show in Austin. His triptych of trees, titled "The Sunset of the Three Trees," was on display at the State Capitol and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum last month.

Karyn Jackson Stephens of The J. Beard Real Estate Company, LP, has been elected as the 2014 president of the Commercial Real Estate Association of Montgomery County (C.R.E.A.M.). "I am honored to serve as president for 2014," said Stephens, who has been an active member for 11 years, previously serving on the board and as vice president in 2013 and as second vice president in 2012.



Karyn Jackson Stephens

The Woodlands Development Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Howard Hughes Corporation (NYSE:HHC) has garnered the inaugural Vision Award for Exemplary Leadership for The Woodlands Master Plan, presented by The Houston District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) at its 2014 Development of Distinction Awards. This marks the first time ULI Houston has honored an outstanding project and its leadership with this award.



Robin Roberts has achieved her certification as a COPE (MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education) Certified Health Coach with Take Shape for Life. This certification reinforces Roberts' health coaching skills, leading clients in their weight loss journey. Visit RobinRobertsCH.com

Blake Perry, 7th grader at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, competed in the Zone 8th Regional Spelling Bee taking 3rd place among students from 28 other schools.



Blake holding his trophy from the SAOPCS Bee.

Paul Ryan, president of The Woodlands based Texas Pools, announced Thom Blumenkamp, Certified Building Professional (CBP) received the 2014 Volunteer Leadership Award from the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) Region 3 at a recent Design Awards ceremony.

For the 5th consecutive year, **Memorial Hermann Health System** has four hospitals among the nation's 50 best hospitals, according to Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. This distinction, which was achieved based on an evaluation of clinical performance over seven years, places those four hospitals in the Top 1% of hospitals nationwide.

NEW TO THE TEAM & PROMOTIONS

Montgomery County Youth Services announced Michelle O'Rourke has joined as Development Coordinator for Volunteer and Community Presences. "Michelle has been a great supporter of the agency and we are ecstatic to bring her on board," commented John Bracken, Executive Director. Visit www.youthmc.org.



Michelle O'Rourke

The Friendship Center welcomes Allison Hulett as Executive Director and Jeremy Hall to the Board of Directors. TFC provides Meals on Wheels, Transportation and other services to seniors of Montgomery County. Visit www.tfc-seniorserices.org/ to learn more.

Knighon & Stone, PLLC congratulates Attorney Nick Dupre in attaining Legal Specialization in Estate Planning and Probate. The firm also welcomes Attorney Axel Lindholm to its team. A native of Magnolia, Axel recently graduated from the U.T. School of Law. Visit www.knighonstone.com.



Axel Lindholm Nick Dupre

Bret L. Strong, founder and managing shareholder of **The Strong Firm P.C.**, announces the addition of Kyla Wilder as an Associate Attorney. Her role within the firm focuses on real estate, business controversies, oil & gas, energy, commercial transactions and entity formations including corporations, partnerships, and LLCs. Visit www.thestrongfirm.com.



Lauren Trice has been named Business Development Specialist of **The Woodlands CVB** where she will be responsible for securing sponsorships for several events and festivals presented by The Woodlands CVB. "We love her spirit, her passion for The Woodlands and her attention to detail," says Nick Wolda, president of The Woodlands CVB.



Lauren Trice

Vicki Fullerton of RE/MAX The Woodlands was elected 2015 secretary-treasurer of the Texas Association of REALTORS®. Dan

Hatfield, chairman of the Texas Association of REALTORS®, commented, "Vicki Fullerton is a proven leader who will make significant contributions to the advancement of Texas real estate."



Vicki Fullerton

Like the lure of its secret-recipe Cane's sauce, **Kelly Wisner** couldn't resist the opportunity to return to the Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers marketing team. For more than five years, Wisner specialized in local marketing and community support at the company's headquarters. So when local franchisee, Jesson Gil, approached her about returning to the Raising Cane's family as Marketing Director, it was an easy decision. Visit www.raisingcanes.com.

Carrie Fitzpatrick has been selected as principal of The Johnson Development Corp. – Woodforest's first on-site school, Jean E. Stewart Elementary. A 16-year Conroe ISD employee, Fitzpatrick currently is principal of B.B. Rice Elementary, where she has been for nine years. Stewart Elementary will serve students in kindergarten through sixth grade when it opens in August.



Carrie Fitzpatrick

PARTNERSHIPS & EXPANSIONS

Montini Healthy Vending, a healthful snack and beverage company that places eco-friendly vending machines, has recently secured contracts with The Aveda Institute, Champions School of Real Estate and St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital. "We are very happy and proud to partner with these great locations because they chose a healthier path" says Elena Agostini, owner.



Market Street Photo Booth announced new preferred venue partnerships including;

The Cynthia Woods Mitchel Pavilion, House of Blues Hospitality Tent, and Villa Sport Athletic Club & Spa.

Bonefish Grill recently celebrated the brand's 200th restaurant opening. During the ceremony, Bonefish Grill presented the Junior League of North Harris and South Montgomery Counties, Inc. with a donation of over \$5,000 from funds raised at a pre-opening VIP evening saluting the Junior League. Visit www.bonefishgrill.com.

ANNIVERSARIES

Meador Staffing celebrates 45 years. The Meador family, employees, clients, the community, and friends, gathered at the corporate location recently to reminisce and relive the stories of the multiple decades Meador Staffing's doors have been open. Ben Meador, founder, has earned national acclaim for his business, one of the nation's largest independently owned personnel staffing services. Visit www.meador.com.

LJF Marketing celebrates the 25th anniversary and highlights several changes taking place. Formerly known as LJF Associates, Inc., the firm has formally changed the brand to LJF Marketing, complete with a new logo and redesigned website, LJFMarketing.com.

Kidville in The Woodlands recently hosted a Birthday Bash to celebrate its 10th year. The bash blended the best of children's play, creativity and birthday goodies. Karen Roberts, owner said, "Over 10,000 kids have had their birthdays at Kidville, worldwide. We're into creative play and games, and we do absolutely awesome parties."



NEW SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

Legends Sports Complex and NFL player and former Texas A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson have teamed up to bring top level football training and education with a newly integrated Quarterback/Wide Receiver School. Johnson states, "Win championships, set

records, acquire scholarships; become a better quarterback on and off the field." Visit www.TheLegendsSportsComplex.com/KB3.

To meet increased demand and improve patient experience and convenience, **Kelsey-Seybold Clinic** has begun construction on a \$30 million medical office building. This new facility is part of a nearly \$200 million capital investment Kelsey-Seybold will make in the Houston area by early 2015. The new clinic, which will open in the winter of 2014, will be located at 106 Vision Park Blvd., Shenandoah.

Dr. Robert Talac of Advanced Spine Institute offers next-generation of professional, pain-free back surgery. He uses revolutionary tools in concert for Laser Spine Pro procedure, making good on the promise of truly precise, low-impact spine surgery. "This is a shift in the paradigm of how we address problems in the back and neck," Talac says. Visit www.advspineinstitute.com.



Dr. Robert Talac

EVENTS / SERIES

Wild West WineFest is set for May 1 to benefit the Montgomery County Women's Center. For information visit www.winefesttx.org.



Pictured at a planning committee meeting are, L-R Donna Rodriguez, MCWC; Cathie Gillum, PRG Design; Deanna Germany, Sheryl Dudzik, Sarah Raleigh, MCWC; Ally Seder, WineFest Chair; Marion Fisher, MCWC Board Member; and Liz Grimm, Liz Grimm PR.

Pregnancy Assistance Center North recently hosted its annual PACN Spring Banquet. Attendees listened to national legal headliner Jay Sekulow from the American Center for Law and Justice. Visit www.pacncommunity.org.

The Woodlands Strykers announced the 2014 Texas Collegiate League schedule. This year marks the 11th season in TCL history as well as the Strykers 3rd season as the league's

most recent member. The league will maintain its 60 game schedule with all 6 teams returning for the 2014 campaign. Visit www.woodlandsstrykers.com

Children's Safe Harbor recently hosted a reception at Crescent Moon Wine Bar to promote its fundraiser, themed "Betting on Courage".



Andrea Fry and Rodney Anderson, Crescent Moon Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recently, **Montgomery County United Way** partnered with the **Center for Public Policy Priorities** to gain insight on assets and gaps that impact our growing community. CPPP presented an analysis for Montgomery County, known as the Texas Regional Opportunity Index report that demonstrated an increasing number of residents experiencing the impact of trends and challenges that pose threats to their quality of life. Visit www.mcuw.org for full report.

The Woodlands Township recently presented an overview of the state of The Woodlands, attributing the success to The Woodlands master plan and covenants. Some of the highlights included the success of lowering the property tax to 29.4 this year from what was 32.7 in 2010, many significantly large businesses continue to move here, and \$6.6 million of hotel sales tax was received in 2013.

The Leadership Montgomery County Class of 2014 announced that this year's class project will focus on water conservation. Four-year old Victor Matos looks on as dad, David Matos, demonstrates the working model for the rainwater harvesting/public education project.



The South Montgomery County Family YMCA kicked off its Annual Campaign to help raise funds that will provide

scholarships to local youth, teen, families and seniors. The campaign is supported by more than 120 volunteers and Y Staff. In 2013, more than \$600,000 was raised through the South Montgomery County YMCA. The goal for 2014 is \$630,000.

Woodlands Christian Academy high school students welcomed Congressman Kevin Brady for a town hall meeting recently. The students and the congressman discussed such topics as immigration, gun control, healthcare, and what a day in the life of a congressman is like.

Milstead Automotive & Transmission recently challenged high school students from Montgomery and Harris Counties to create compelling anti-texting-while-driving videos as part of its 4th annual Milstead Video Ambassador Award contest. Milstead brings awareness to the extreme dangers of distracted driving and to save lives in the process. Entries can be viewed at www.milsteadautomotive.com.

Paul Ikard (left), managing partner of Ikard & Stevenson, served as the speaker at the recent Commercial Real Estate Association of Montgomery County (C.R.E.A.M.) luncheon. Ikard is pictured with Karyn Jackson Stephens (right), president of C.R.E.A.M.

GIVING BACK

Scrap Yard Sports recently held Yard Sale at the Scrap Yard where participating churches raised money for special projects such as mission trips and youth programs. "We all want what's best for the community as a whole, and events like this are a great use of our facility," says Bryan Beaty, a partner in Scrap Yard Sports.



McKenzie's Barbecue & Burgers donated a dinner in support of the Annual April Sound Rhinestone Cowgirl Golf Tournament, benefitting the Rainbow Room—a non-profit assisting abused or neglected children when they have to be removed from their home by Child Protective Services.