



THE WOODLANDS AREA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

BUSINESS TODAY

November 2014



THE CHAMBER'S GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Dr. Austin Lane, Brenda Mizell, Jeff Shipley, Bret Strong and the Huntsman Corporation have been selected as this year's Hometown Heroes. They will be recognized for their many contributions to the community at The Woodlands Celebration of Excellence Gala, benefiting Interfaith of The Woodlands.



L-R: Kaity Beauregard Fisher, Sheila Davenport, Dr. Austin Lane, and Dr. Ann Snyder.

Chris Wylie with The Chris Wylie Team/RE/MAX Partners was awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation by the Seniors Real Estate Specialist Council of the NATIONAL ASSOC. OF REALTORS®. Wylie joins more than 16,000 real estate professionals in North America who have earned the SRES® designation.

IN THE NEWS

Sondra Himmer of Panther Creek Inspiration Ranch was recently interviewed by host Lou Garino on Business Newsmakers Radio 1110 KTEK-AM, a Wall St. Journal Radio Network, Bloomberg Radio Station in Houston. Himmer discussed Panther Creek Inspiration Ranch's recent 6th annual Denim & Diamonds Gala.

Adreena Betti, owner of Market Street Photo Booth was interviewed on Lone Star Radio to share about their Event Entertainment and Corporate Branding Service compared to low cost amateur providers. Ultimately clients get what they pay for and of equal importance to fun brand promotion is brand protection. www.MarketStreetPhotoBooth.com

NEW TO THE TEAM & PROMOTIONS

Alan Bush, principal of Bush Law Firm, is pleased to welcome Meghan Hurse to the firm. Hurse joins the firm as an associate attorney. "With the economic

growth around our office on The Woodlands Waterway, we are poised for rapid deployment to serve the national employers moving into the area," said Bush.



Meghan Hurse

Mike Karlins, CPA of Karlins, Ramey & Tompkins, recently welcomed six new team members to their expanding team.



L-R: Meet Leanne Newcomb, Reagan Ohendalski, Sarah Hankla, Jorge Mendez, Kenia Cadiz and Paul Hopkins.

Philip Rogers and Glenda Akins have joined forces with RE/MAX The Woodlands & Spring.



Philip Rogers Glenda Akins

Jack Stibbs, managing shareholder and founder of Stibbs & Co., P.C., Attorneys, recently announced that Rex M. Shannon III has joined the law firm as an associate attorney. Shannon's primary practice is litigation, but he will also handle various forms of business transactions. "We are excited to add Rex to the firm," said Stibbs.



Rex M. Shannon III

The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau has announced the addition of an experienced hospitality professional, Kara Stanley, as the new Group Sales Specialist. In this role, Ms. Stanley will fulfill the CVB's expanded role of promoting The Woodlands to businesses, associations, and



Kara Stanley

various groups for meetings and events in The Woodlands.

PARTNERSHIPS & EXPANSIONS

In an effort to better serve its clients and stakeholders, the **Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEA)** has selected Newton Design and Marketing to oversee an extensive rebranding campaign. For over three decades, MCEA has served as an agent of good throughout Montgomery County. Newton's services are intended to clarify MCEA's mission and brand in order to better serve the local area.

HFG Wealth Management, a comprehensive financial planning and wealth advisory firm, announced a relocation and expansion of The Woodlands office to 1790 Hughes Landing, Ste. 350. The move to Hughes Landing will accommodate business growth, and serve clients in the Woodlands area.

NEW SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

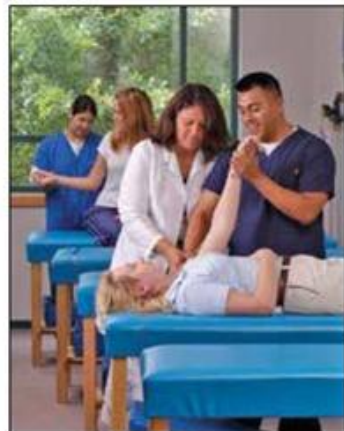
A new magazine comes to town - **ConnexionW Bilingual Magazine** comes from the idea of bringing together the Texan and Latino communities. "We are motivated by the desire to serve our community by offering a bridge between cultures. We are most interested in connecting communications between the two cultures by reading in English and Spanish," said ConnexionW's Editor in Chief, Alba Malaver.

Anyone living in Houston or the surrounding counties can now talk directly with a registered nurse, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week by calling the new, free **Nurse Health Line at 713-338-7979**. From diaper rash to migraine headache, this free service is available regardless if you have insurance or a primary care provider.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Republic Payment Systems of The Woodlands is participating in the OptBlue program, which is currently available to a select few merchant services providers in the United States. The OptBlue program offers lower fees and faster remuneration for small businesses, bridging a long-standing gap between American Express and industry credit card leaders Visa and MasterCard.

Graduates of Lone Star College-Montgomery's physical therapist assistant (PTA) program continue to pass national licensing boards with flying colors. In fact, Dr. Renee Pruitt, PTA program director at LSC-Montgomery, indicates that graduates have passed at a remarkable rate of 100% for over 5 years. Last year was also the first time for the LSC-Montgomery PTA class to achieve a 100% first-time board pass rate.



The Lone Star College System Board of Trustees voted unanimously to reduce the property tax rate to 10.81 cents per \$100 property evaluation for the 2014-15 tax year, which represents a significant 7 percent decrease. This is the third year in a row LSC has lowered the tax rate and is the largest decrease in 40 years. "This tax decrease is the second largest in our history and the biggest since 1974," said Stephen C. Head, LSC chancellor.

Montgomery County Women's Center recently awarded college scholarships to 17 clients who had been served by the center. "The majority of our clients have incomes below the poverty level and have never received the education or training necessary to obtain adequate employment to support themselves and their children," explained Sarah Raleigh, President and CEO of MCWC.



L-R: Marion Fischer, JoAnne Tinnin with her daughter, and Sarah Raleigh.