



THE WOODLANDS AREA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

BUSINESS TODAY

January 2015



The Chamber's 29th Annual
TASTE
of the town
at The Woodlands
Town Center



January 29
The Woodlands Waterway
Marriott

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Woodlands CVB was again recognized with multiple Pinnacle Awards from the International Festivals & Events Association. Awards included a Gold Pinnacle Award for its newsletter, a Silver Pinnacle for its monthly e-newsletter; and Bronze Pinnacles for its Facebook page and for the 16th Annual Red, Hot & Blue Festival & Fireworks Extravaganza event program.



L-R: TWCVB Staff Cameron Clay-Klepac, Alisann Schweiker, Nick Wolda, Megan Lichenstein-Meauxg and Kara Stanley

LJF Marketing was recently awarded Silver in the 2014 Davey Awards competition. Recognition was given for their packaging design and re-branding of Leo's Dressings, Marinades & Sauces. "We are thrilled to receive this award because this competition truly embodies LJF Marketing – a small firm with big ideas," noted Linda Freede, president.



Lone Star College has been rated by RateMyProfessors.com as the number one community college system in Texas for the second year in a row. Each year RateMyProfessors.com collects data from students and compiles lists of the top schools in the country which is used as a resource by students. Schools are rated in categories such as quality, reputation, location and student happiness.

Charity Navigator, one of the preeminent charity bench marking, vetting and evaluating websites, awarded Montgomery County United Way their top rating for charities: four stars. Montgomery County United Way is the only charity in Montgomery County with a 4 star rating!

PARTNERSHIPS

With more than 1,000 people a day relocating to Texas from around the world, Gordy Bunch, president and CEO of TWFG Insurance services, says he is expanding his business again with 15 more branches in Texas, two additional in California, and another in Washington, which is also enjoying rapid growth. "Our focus on the Texas market is simply a matter of follow-the-opportunity," Bunch explains.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Council (WWAC) celebrated a decade of promoting the arts in our community recently. The event honored the founding directors of the organization, Dr. David Gottlieb, Jerry MacDonald, Alex Sutton and Nick Wolda, whose vision 10 years ago launched the organization that has had such an impact on the communities in Montgomery County, through The WWAF and Because Art Matters outreach programs.



L-R: Cindy Hardin, Amy Lecocq, Alex Sutton, Jerry MacDonald, Nick Wolda during Founder's Presentation

NEW SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

Woodforest Golf Club has launched a new restaurant, Woodforest Grille. The 120-seat bar and grill features a menu by chef Jeremy Eaton, expansive porches for al fresco dining and banks of televisions – including live feeds from the 18th hole. www.woodforestgolf.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Woodlands-based Ototronix helps veterans recover hearing with MAXUM implants. Steve Bastien, who served in the Navy on submarines, has gone from being basically unable to hear in his left ear to enjoying 80% word recognition. The MAXUM is a minimally invasive middle-ear hearing implant created by The Woodlands-based manufacturer Ototronix. www.mymaxum.com

Donielle Albrecht, an Upper School social science teacher at The John Cooper School, has been selected to serve as one of the first Advanced Placement (AP) Advocates for the state of Texas by the College Board AP Advocates in Texas. The program began in 2013 in California, Florida, Georgia and New York and just recently expanded to Texas.



Donielle Albrecht

UnitedHealthcare is introducing Charter, a new health benefits plan that gives Houston-area employers and their employees access to care provided by Kelsey-Seybold, the nation's first accredited accountable care organization designed to improve care while helping to reduce costs. www.kelsey-seybold.com

Sacred Heart Catholic School recently welcomed community veterans to the school's second annual Veteran's Day celebration featuring an honor guard presentation by Boy Scout troop and Cub Scout pack 1517 and a TAPS trumpet dedication from students Thomas Farrell, Troy Horn and Kaitlyn Montgomery. "It is an overwhelming sense of pride to watch our students and school family honor the men and women who make our freedom possible," said Principal Deb Brown.



onthetown Magazine is enjoying tremendous growth and success, especially in Montgomery County. According to Cathy Mogler, "What has made us so successful over the past year is that the magazine specifically focuses on those businesses and people who give back to our community." The bimonthly publication pays homage to our local heroes; those community members and non-profit organizations who make a difference in our county every day.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have been busy learning about the

lives of the saints by competing in classroom bees. Congratulations to all of the participants.



L-R: Principal Renee Nunez, Annie Perry (3rd Place), John Podowski (2nd Place), Therese Abib, Emily Perry (1st Place), and Mark Englemeyer

Terry McBurney, local restaurateur and president of the Greater Montgomery County Restaurant Association, inspired a group of up-and-coming businesspeople to explore the increasingly vibrant and varied local dining scene in and around The Woodlands. McBurney spoke at a recent Chamber's YPN luncheon regarding recent economic and tourism growth in The Woodlands by detailing the influx of independent, local and national restaurants in the area.

Market Street Photo Booth experienced its busiest holiday season ever. "New and repeat corporate clients benefited from our high-end Photo Booth Entertainment and Corporate Branding service at several of the areas prestigious venues," said owner Adreana Betti. "We look forward to continued growth in 2015."



EVENTS / SERIES

Kelly Wilhelm and Kim Claytons shook martinis for Apollo Hospital's Martini's Mammos & Manicures event. Over 200 men and women came to the event to learn about breast care and health with Apollo's medical doctors.

