NHA Update
33 years of advocacy for North Houston

Welcome New Member!
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital
Since 1985, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands has been continually recognized for delivering a higher level of care. It is the first and only hospital in Montgomery County to be granted Magnet® status for nursing excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Memorial Hermann The Woodlands is a 294-private bed, full-service, acute care facility that brings together the ultimate in healthcare technology, expertise and healing for families in south Montgomery County and surrounding communities in north Harris County. For more information, contact: Linda Nelson, Marketing Director, at 713.897.2458 or Linda.Nelson@memorialhermann.org

Houston’s Industrial Real Estate Market Continues Growth – Northwest and North
One sector of real estate, Industrial, is doing quite well, and some would say better than ever. Manufacturing and distribution plants, storage yards and "flex" office space that can include the front- and back-end operations for logistics providers and other middlemen are in high demand. The sector has several things going for it that others lack. First, although energy companies' job cuts do affect service providers, another area of energy is gearing up for a boom — petrochemicals. The billions of dollars in new petrochemical plants underway along the Gulf Coast will increase the need for packaging, storage and export of plastic resin, all of which call for a rise in demand of industrial space. Another factor fueling industrial demand is the sheer growth of the city. Houston’s metro population went from 4.7 million in 2000 to 6.5 million in 2014 and is expected to grow to more than 10 million by 2050, according to the Greater Houston Partnership. When people move to Houston, they need goods and services, and the demand for things like grocery distribution plants and e-commerce hubs grows.

The northwest is by far the largest submarket for industrial real estate — CBRE reports more than 138 million rentable square feet in the area. The second-largest submarket is the north, at more than 80 million square feet, but much of that growth is due to the demand for industrial space near the bustling hubs of the northwest. Together, the north and northwest submarkets account for nearly half the industrial real estate in Houston. Warehousing and distribution for commercial goods and services, including food, are

TO ADD A MEETING TO YOUR CALENDAR GO TO WWW.NORTH-HOUSTON.COM, CHOOSE CALENDAR, GO TO THE EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND AND CLICK ON ICON TO THE RIGHT OF THE TITLE

EVENTS:
October Membership Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Speaker: Commissioner Steve Radack, Harris County Precinct 3
Location: Hyatt North Houston, 425 North Sam Houston Pkwy East, Houston, TX 77060.
Click here for more information or to purchase tickets.

21st Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, 1:30 pm
Hobby Airport Opens First Phase Of Southwest Airlines Concourse
The Houston Airport System and Southwest Airlines Co. have opened the first phase of its international terminal and concourse. The 280,000-square-foot West Concourse, which consists of the whole international terminal, federal inspection station and new Southwest ticket station, is being opened in two phases. On Sept. 1, Southwest opened its new ticket station, which includes self-service stations, as well as international and domestic flight check-in, according to project manager Bill Manning. The new ticket station — about double the size of the current one — will replace the existing ticket check-in station. The existing space will open up the airport's lobby, but has the capacity to more than double the existing Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints. The rest of the West Concourse is expected to open Oct. 15, alongside the bulk of Southwest's international flights. Additional flights to Costa Rica will start in November. The other piece of the West Concourse puzzle is the new parking garage. That project, paid for by the city of Houston, will open in two phases, the first is expected to open by Thanksgiving, the second sometime in February 2016, Manning said.

HB 2612 Requires Toll Road Report
The Texas Department of Transportation is now required to develop a report that includes a plan to reduce the reliance on toll roads. The report will also identify the amount of debt service on bonds issued for each toll project in Texas and what would be appropriate to accelerate or complete lump-sum payment of existing debt service. This past legislative session, no additional toll roads were added.

Houston's Memorial Park Makeover - First Phase
The first phase of the expected $200 million makeover of Houston's Memorial Park will begin this fall. The remodel of the 113-acre area is currently estimated to cost $25 million with a $5 million commitment from Uptown TIRZ. The Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC) said the project will take three years to complete. The project is a part of the MPC's recently approved master plan to transform the 1,503-acre park, which will include a land bridge over Memorial Drive, an indoor pool, extensive increases to the park's bike and running trails, an observation deck, bird sanctuary, new entry gateways and a remodeled driving range for the golf course. In order to make these changes, East Memorial Loop Drive will be shifted to the east, as it currently bisects the Eastern Glades area. The shift will allow for 30 new acres of accessible parkland.

There have been two large shady green spaces designed for the park's Eastern Glades area, between the Memorial Park Golf Course and Crestwood subdivision. The new area will include picnicking accommodations, large walkways, gardens and a large viewing pond, which were inspired by Missouri-based Hare & Hare's original master plan for the park. “The Eastern Glades will provide an amenity that we do not have right now: a place to put down a blanket and read a book, relax on a park bench, or go for a leisurely walk and just enjoy being outdoors,” said Shellye Arnold, CEO of the Memorial Park Conservancy.

Lone Star College Joins White House Initiative On Educational Excellence For Hispanics
Lone Star College has partnered with private and public organizations to participate in the 2015 White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. A local investment of

Kingwood Country Club
For more information click here!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:
Transportation Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2015
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Speaker: John Tyler, Harris County Toll Road Authority
Location: LSCS–Greenspoint Center, Room 306 (250 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston 77060)

Environment Committee Meeting
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2015
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Speaker: Mark Kasmarek, U.S. Geological Survey
Topic: Annual Water-Level Changes in the Gulf Cast Aquifer
Location: LSCS–Greenspoint Center, Room 306 (250 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston 77060)

To attend one of our meetings, please RSVP to shannon.roberts@north-houston.com.

MEMBER NEWS
Ray Laughter, Lone Star College vice chancellor of external affairs, and member of the North Houston Association Board of Directors for many years, is set to retire Feb. 28, 2016. Laughter began his career as director of the Small Business Development Center in 1987 and was named vice chancellor of external affairs in 2001.

AGS Consultants was nominated for 2015 Small Business of the Year Award through Lone Star College (sponsored by SBA). The firm was nominated by Greenspoint District. Grace Cervin, AGS owner, is a Greenspoint District Board member.
nearly $11 million in the Houston area will be used to further support and advance the educational attainment of Hispanics from “cradle-to-career”. “The Hispanic population at Lone Star College continues to grow,” said Steve Head, LSC chancellor. “This initiative will help us make sure our Hispanic students are prepared to further their education after high school.” It is estimated that 63 percent of all jobs will require some post-secondary training by 2018. Initiatives like these will help open doors and lead to better employment opportunities. Lone Star College pledged $710,000 to continue encouraging the partnership between educational institutions, community-based groups, and parents through tools that would help them gain knowledge about the K-20 education system. The LSC-East Aldine Center is expected to open in fall of 2017.

**Port of Houston Authority Receives Highest Honor**
Chairman Janiece Longoria announced at the June Port Commission meeting that the Port of Houston Authority has been awarded the 2015 Platinum Leadership Circle Award. The Port Authority has maintained the Leadership Circle award for four consecutive years, and this year Port of Houston Authority again received the highest distinction – platinum level. “Congratulations to the finance, accounting and audit groups for the hard work and commitment you have shown in maintaining this prestigious award for a fourth consecutive year,” Chairman Longoria said to the audience. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts launched the Leadership Circle program in 2009 to spotlight entities that provide financial transparency online. To qualify for this award, local governments must open their books to the public online in a user-friendly format. According to the Texas Comptroller’s website, the platinum level represents entities that go above and beyond providing financial transparency in local government.

---

**VETERANS NEWS**

**Veteran Services Improving Throughout Harris County**
As reported by *Community Impact Newspaper*, access to services for veterans is improving in northwest Harris County. More local veterans are taking advantage of the Tomball Veterans Affairs clinic that opened in 2013 and continues to add services. In addition, organizations as varied as Lone Star College and Northwest Assistance Ministries are broadening outreach initiatives to accommodate underserved veteran populations. The Harris County Veterans Treatment Court program, which launched in 2009 to provide medical help to veterans convicted of felonies as an alternative to jail time, was expanded in November to include veterans convicted of misdemeanors. Before Harris County Judge Ed Emmett asked the Mental Health Association of Houston to develop a behavioral health program for veterans in 2008, many veterans were returning to civilian life with no support system. Meanwhile the Coalition for the Homeless in Harris County has found housing for more than 2,800 veterans since 2012. Working with more than 70 partners, including Northwest Assistance Ministries in northwest Houston, volunteers meet homeless veterans face-to-face in an effort to get them off the streets. The coalition has set a goal to completely eliminate veteran homelessness in the county by the end of this year.

**A Project To Help Wounded Warriors**
The Valor Club Golf Course is a proposed facility in San Antonio that will allow disabled
veterans the opportunity to aid in their rehabilitation by playing the game of golf. It will be a 9-hole course with handicapped accessibility, as well as an affordable housing component, for wounded warriors. There is only one other course like this for veterans on the West coast. The course will be built with private funds that are being raised now. There is also a plan to create a permanent endowment so disabled veterans can play for free.

**Ryan Weldon Raises Awareness For PTSD With Lone Star College Visit**

Cpl. Ryan Weldon, Marine Corps veteran, spoke recently at Lone Star College-University Park to tell the story of his 5,000 mile walk to raise awareness for those with post-traumatic stress disorder. “PTSD is serious and that is the goal, to get the word out about PTSD and let people know who suffer you are not alone,” said Weldon. “You never know what you could do; a simple phone call could save someone’s life.” LSC students, military veterans and the public were invited to attend this important dialogue. It is estimated that one in three returning veterans are being diagnosed with serious PTSD symptoms. Less than 40 percent will seek help. Since 2006, 1,100 vets have taken their own lives. Houston is the third largest military retirement community in the United States and the second largest veterans community in terms of resident veterans. In addition, it is estimated that 23 percent of Houston homeless adults are veterans.

LSC provides numerous services to its military veteran students including the VetSuccess on Campus program, a collaborative effort between LSC and the Department of Veterans Affairs with the purpose of providing a supportive on-campus environment for student veterans. LSC was also designated a 2015 Military Friendly® School selected from a nationwide list of more than 10,000 schools by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business connecting the military and civilian worlds. This is the second year in row LSC has been recognized.