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He moved to the Bayou City from Indiana.
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One Herman Place includes a rooftop skylounge among its amenities.
HOTEL ZAZA MEMORIAL CITY REVEALS DESIGN DETAILS, OPENING DATE

Dallas-based Z Resorts LLC announced that Hotel ZaZa Memorial City, which was designed with inspiration from Palm Springs, California, will open Dec. 1. The 159-room hotel will have more than 13,000 square feet of meeting and event space, as well as a signature restaurant and lounge dubbed The Tipping Point, according to a statement. The development will also include 133 luxury apartment units, featuring a separate ground level private pool experience and 17th-floor resident lounge, game and conference rooms.

Z Resorts LLC partnered with Houston-based MetroNational in a third-party management deal to build Houston’s second Hotel ZaZa. The 17-story hotel broke ground in October 2015 at 9787 Katy Freeway at the intersection of Interstate 10 and Bunker Hill.

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LOWE’S COMPLETES $512M PURCHASE OF HOUSTON CO.

About a month and a half after announcing its intent to snap up a Houston-based company servicing the multifamily housing industry, Lowe’s Cos. Inc. (NYSE: LOW) has completed the $512 million deal.

Maintenance Supply Headquarters now falls under the umbrella of North Carolina-based Lowe’s — the nation’s second-largest home improvement retail chain behind rival The Home Depot Inc. (NYSE: HD), headquartered in Atlanta.

Founded in 2006, MSH boasts a portfolio of more than 5,300 products, such as appliances, plumbing, lighting and hardware, as well as services like renovation project support and custom fabrication for maintaining and renovating multifamily properties. As a result, the acquisition bolsters Lowe’s strategy to both “deepen and broaden its relationship with pro customers and better serve their needs,” the company said in a news release.

MSH’s 550 employees and 13 distribution centers supply maintenance and repair workers in the multifamily housing industry, primarily serving western, southeastern and south central areas of the U.S.

LUKE’S ICEHOUSE, at 903 Durham Drive just south of Washington Avenue, posted on its Facebook page on June 26. Owner Keith Lawyer told the Houston Business Journal he plans to release a longer statement in the coming days. He added that the buyer is from Dallas.

LUKE’S ICEHOUSE

Thank you for your patronage throughout the years. Luke’s has been sold. There will be some great new things coming in the future. Stay tuned for details.”
Linn Energy and Oklahoma Co. form JV focused on SCOOP/STACK play

THE SKINNY
Houston-based Linn Energy Inc. (OTCQB: LNGG) and Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Citizen Energy II LLC have agreed to form a joint venture called Roan Resources LLC. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter.

THE JV
Roan is expected to be debt-free when the deal closes, and the JV will establish a new revolving credit facility secured by its own assets. The company will have independent management and a separate board of directors comprised of four Linn-designated directors, four Citizen-designated directors, and a CEO, whom Linn and Citizen will appoint. The JV is expected to pursue an initial public offering in early 2018, subject to market conditions.

THE ASSETS
Roan will focus on development in the SCOOP/STACK/Merge play in the Anadarko Basin in Oklahoma. SCOOP stands for "South Central Oklahoma Oil Province," while STACK represents the "Sooner Trend South Central Oklahoma Oil Province," and Merge is a 50,000-acre core of the SCOOP and STACK, according to a presentation from Knight LLP, Linn's legal adviser. Citigroup acted as sole financial adviser to Linn, and Latham & Watkins LLP was Citizen's legal adviser. Thompson & Knight LLP was Citizen's legal adviser.

The acreage Roan will contribute to Roan has more than 1,500 net drilling locations that represent more than 20 years of development, and its total net resource potential is estimated to be more than 2 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

Meanwhile, Linn will retain its majority operated position of about 105,000 net acres in the northwest STACK and its Chisholm Trail midstream business, including a 250 million-cubic-feet-per-day capacity cryogenic plant currently under construction. Linn expects to commission the plant in the second quarter of 2018, and the acreage Linn will contribute to Roan remains dedicated to Chisholm Trail.

THE LINN BACK STORY
Linn Energy Inc. emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy as the reorganized successor to Linn Energy LLC in February. At the time, the company said it’s moving from an upstream master limited partnership to a growth-oriented exploration and production company. Since then, Linn has made several deals to sell non-core assets. Most notably, the company recently exited California through a few different deals and sold some Wyoming assets in a $581.5 million deal. The SCOOP/STACK/Merge has been a major focus for the reemerged company. About 57 percent of Linn’s total 2017 budgeted capital was allocated to the Merge, according to a presentation from early June. With its concentrated acreage position, Roan will be able to increase capital and operational efficiency in the area while facilitating the formation of longer lateral drilling units.

THE SCOOP/STACK BACK STORY
Some major asset sales over the past year or so have involved the SCOOP/STACK area. For instance, Houston-based Marathon Oil Corp. (NYSE: MRO) bought Oklahoma City-based PayRock Energy Holdings LLC last year for $888 million to boost its footprint in the STACK. At the time, Marathon’s CEO called the STACK “one of the best unconventional oil plays in the U.S.”

In December 2015, Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy Corp. (NYSE: DVN) announced a $1.9 billion deal to buy 80,000 net acres in the STACK, and The Woodlands-based Newfield Exploration Co. (NYSE: NFX) announced a deal in May 2016 to acquire Oklahoma assets for $470 million.

More recently, Houston-based Vanguard Natural Resources LLC (Nasdaq: VNR) sold some assets in the SCOOP/STACK for $280 million, and Houston-based Cheniere Energy Inc. (NYSE Mkt: LNG) is planning a pipeline from the area to the Gulf Coast markets.

THE PLAYERS
Jefferies LLC acted as sole financial adviser to Linn, and Latham & Watkins LLP was Linn’s legal adviser. Citigroup acted as sole financial adviser to Citizen, and Thompson & Knight LLP was Citizen’s legal adviser.

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Howard Hughes Corp. to bring its big vision to a smaller community

The Howard Hughes Corp. has made its name in Houston developing Texas-sized master-planned communities. The Dallas-based developer's flagship community — The Woodlands — spans a whopping 28,000 acres. More than 115,000 residents live in the north Houston suburb, which is home to a couple of Fortune 500 companies as well as five hospital systems.

The Woodlands' sister community — Bridgeland — spans 11,400 acres northwest of Houston. Until recently, Bridgeland was Howard Hughes' youngest master-planned community with just a quarter of its residential development completed. The Cypress-area community is so large, it is expected to have a lifespan of another 20 years, according to Metrostudy, a national housing research firm.

However, Howard Hughes' latest master-planned community — The Woodlands Hills — spans about 2,000 acres. It's the size of a typical Houston-area master-planned community, but is smaller than its sister communities around the nation.

Tim Welbes, co-president of The Woodlands Development Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Howard Hughes Corp., said it’s unlikely Houston-area developers will build gargantuan master-planned communities in the future.

“Howard Hughes’ latest master-planned community – The Woodlands Hills – spans about 2,000 acres. It’s the size of a typical Houston-area master-planned community, but is smaller than its sister communities around the nation. The Woodlands Hills is right-sized for this market,” Welbes said. “We’ll see more and more of these moderately sized properties. You probably won’t see another Woodlands-sized community again.”

Developers are shying away from developing 10,000- plus acre communities as large contiguous parcels of land become harder to find and assemble. Investors are also more skittish about massive master-planned communities’ carry cost — the decades it typically takes to hold, develop and reap a return on investment, Welbes said.

Despite its relatively smaller size, The Woodlands Hills will retain the high-quality homes and amenities of its larger counterparts, said Heath Melton, Howard Hughes' vice president of master-planned communities, residential development.

“We wanted to capture and extend The Woodlands vision,” Melton said.

The Woodlands Hills — named after the pine-forested hills of the land — will feature more than 4,500 single-family homes, including homes at a more affordable price point that will likely attract older Millennials starting families as well as Baby Boomers looking to downsize as their children leave the nest.

As a result, The Woodlands Hills will feature a bevy of amenities, including:

- 112 acres of green space including 20 neighborhood parks.
- Extensive hike and bike trails, including bike lanes on major roads.
- A 7.5-acre “village park” that will feature a park of model homes; a resort-style pool with a lazy river; a play area for children; a fitness center and lap pool for adults; several tennis courts; and an events lawn with a stage for outdoor fitness classes, such as yoga.
- Future retail development.

As Houston’s suburban population continues to grow, residential developers are building master-planned communities farther into the exurbs. Prolific developers, such as The Howard Hughes Corp. as well as Houston-based Johnson Development Corp., have staked the next chapter of its north Houston development with The Woodlands Hills, the fastest-growing city in America, according to the U.S. Census.

The Woodlands Hills is expected to break ground on the first five sections in September and will feature a couple hundred home sites. A grand opening is planned for spring 2018.

Several miles south of The Woodlands Hills, Johnson Development is underway on Grand Central Park, a 2,046-acre master-planned community on the former Boy Scouts’ Camp Strake property.

The Woodlands Hills will include a resort-style pool with a lazy river.
THE DESTINATION BOULEVARD
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theboulevardproject.com
HBJ Heavy Hitter: My energy clients are taking advantage of Houston’s office market

Q&A

Rob Neblett, a longtime commercial real estate broker with nearly 40 years of experience in the industry, said 2016 was a year of robust business and deal making.

And that’s saying something, considering that many of Neblett’s clients are in an industry that was brought to its knees last year.

Throughout his career in commercial real estate, Neblett has represented several high-profile Houston energy companies, including Kinder Morgan, Halcon Resources, Mariner Energy and others.

Neblett, who’s spent the past six years at Avison Young, is joining CBRE as a senior vice president in the firm’s advisory and transaction services and occupier team in Houston. He chatted with the Houston Business Journal about his ambitions at CBRE and what kinds of moves his global energy tenants are making.

What motivated the move to CBRE?

I've been in the business a long time. I’m a native Houstonian, and in my opinion, (CBRE) has evolved into the best platform on the planet. They have incredible global connectivity, and they’ve got great people that I’ve known for a long time. The whole thing became a very attractive option for me to take my career to another level.

What do you hope to accomplish in the new role? I’ve had clients from out-of-state that are very excited about me joining CBRE. So, it’s been very exciting for them, and it’s nice to know that people like that are paying attention.

You’ve worked with a lot of energy tenants in the past – what’s their approach to real estate this year? It’s been an interesting year. I’ve seen some clients that got hit by the downturn a couple years ago be very successful in organizing their businesses and evolving into new organizations and going forward in a more streamlined manner. More interestingly, I’ve seen some really good clients be intentional about watching for acquisition opportunities in the upstream business.

In the past 12 months, as Wall Street (money) diminished, and the banks got quiet, some of my clients have been able to make moves on assets in places like the Permian Basin. They’re positioned to gear up and take these initial acquisitions forward.

Among your clients, have you witnessed any sort of trend this past year that stands out against your career? I’ve seen something in the past few months that I haven’t seen in a while. (Some of my clients) are looking down the road and taking advantage of acquiring facilities that they aren’t quite ready to grow into. ... It shows foresight, and they’ve been able to match that with a very, very favorable office market. Companies fundamentally operating in more space than they need, but they’re taking full advantage of the market, and they’re hopefully positioned to make acquisitions and have the facilities to accommodate those acquisitions.

For one reason or another, I work with clients that have had enough dry powder to make really good moves in down markets. So, 2016 was a very good year. Based on the way the oil and gas market looked, I certainly didn’t see that coming. But, that showed where the really good operators were patient in waiting to acquire assets when there wasn’t as much money chasing them.

There’s always a focus on taking advantage of down markets to upgrade your facilities for the benefit of your employeers and recruiting and retention at a very discounted price.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE HUB

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MAKING MOVES

RECENT INDUSTRIAL DEALS

INKED IN HOUSTON

Several major industrial deals were signed in June in Houston.

Park 8Ninety, a 127-acre industrial park southwest of Houston in Missouri City, signed its first tenants. McCord Development’s Lockwood Business Park, a 25-acre industrial development in Generation Park, nabbed an anchor tenant. A Brazilian petrochemical conglomerate announced plans to build a major petrochemical project in Houston.

Here are the stats on some of the biggest industrial deals to close this month.

125,251
Number of square feet that VWR International (NYSE: VWR) will occupy in Park 8Ninety.

$675M
Amount that Brazil-based Braskem (NYSE: BAK) will commit to Delta, which will be the largest polypropylene production line in the Americas.

96,983
Number of square feet that Rexel Inc. will occupy in Park 8Ninety.
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DRILLING DOWN

SUBSEA CEO REMAINS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC OF 2018 GULF IMPROVEMENT

The oil downturn hasn’t been kind to offshore activity in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, but at least one subsea executive is starting to see signs that things may improve soon.

Neil Saunders, CEO of GE Oil & Gas subsea systems and drilling, said he’s starting to see more companies making request-for-quotations, a good sign that activity may pick up next year.

“If it’s coming back at record levels? No,” Saunders said. “I’m not telling anybody anything they don’t already know. Activity is down.”

If a rig has been mothballed — as many have been during the downturn — it’s probably going to take some work to re-mobilize, Saunders said. That’s where the RFQs come in.

“Almost inevitable that you’re going to have to refresh that rig with some new parts. You may want to look up that rig to make it more marketable,” Saunders said. “If you’re going to do that, you’re going to go out and get pricing for spare parts and for upgrades.”

Saunders said that seeing more of these is an indicator that some of the rigs may be looking to return to the market toward the end of 2017 or into 2018.

GE Oil & Gas is a subsidiary of Boston-based General Electric Co. (NYSE: GE). The subsidiary company is in the midst of a high-profile megamerger with Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. (NYSE: BHGE).

But all of the above is still in the future. Saunders said that in the recent past and for the time being, his segment of GE Oil & Gas has been “working pretty tirelessly on our cost point.”

That means a lot of the traditional efforts that companies might make in lean times — the segment has found cost deflation in material purchasing and reduction in headcount, he said. But there have been some unusual tactics as well that come from being a part of as widespread an organization as GE.

The subsea business has kept its manufacturing capacity utilization up by turning its capabilities toward machining wind turbine and aviation parts for other sections of the GE family of companies.

“Those are things that are great to do,” Saunders said. “They allow you to protect your capability and obviously help out other members of the team.”

It can also use this time to tap into the research capabilities of its parent company. Saunders said a lot of analysis has been done to improve its equipment designs. All of these efforts have certainly been paying off, Saunders said. His business line has managed to offer solutions for about half the price they would have before the downturn, he said.

“Are they making or suddenly start winning a bunch of business?” Saunders said. “Well, you have to realize that market now is nothing like what we had in 2013. It’s much tighter.”

NEW SERVICE MODELS

Cost deflation and activity reduction aren’t the only ways the downturn has made its mark on the market, though. Service companies are having to bind themselves more closely to the success for failure of the equipment and their customers’ projects and take on more risk.

This new shape for service agreement includes things like variable rates that adjust with the downturn of the assets GE offers and even some financing, Saunders said.

“If you want me to take some risk on the performance of my equipment and ultimately maybe the performance of your project, then obviously I need to learn more about the application of my equipment and your project before I’m preparing to enter into something,” Saunders said. “If we’re going to bring financing to a project, then the viability of the customer certainly becomes very important to us.”

Roughly half of all the work Saunders’ company is quoting these days falls into one of these unusual structures, he said.

HEADCOUNT RECOVERY (OR NOT)

Like many others in the oil and gas business over the last several years, Saunders’ business line has had to reduce headcount to protect its returns. But that doesn’t necessarily mean employment in the space will snap back to where it was once the market stabilizes, Saunders said.

He pointed out that he can only really give insight in the narrow band of subsea services he operates in, but he said the cost structures just aren’t built around a leaner.

“It feels like there’s not really room for this kind of people-heavy approach that we take to these big offshore and big subsea developments,” he said. “I think you want to end up with something that’s much more productive, optimized and leaner.”

NEWS BRIEF

HOUSTON PIPELINE CO. LOOKS FOR CUSTOMERS FOR PROPOSED DAKOTA ACCESS CONNECTION

Houston-based pipeline company American Midstream Partners LP (NYSE: AMID) is looking for customers for a proposed connection from its own system into the Dakota Access Pipeline. The connection would draw crude from existing inputs on American Midstream’s Bakken pipeline system on the western edge of North Dakota and run up to 20,000 barrels per day into the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Bakken system has capacity for 40,000 barrels per day, which could be expanded in the course of the project. American Midstream, led by CEO Lynn Bourdon, has started a binding open season to gauge shipper interest that will last until July 17.

BY THE NUMBERS

KINDER MORGAN SECURES CREDIT TO FUND CANADIAN EXPANSION

$4.15 billion

The total credit Kinder Morgan Inc. (NYSE: KMI) got a hold of in a deal with a syndicate of four banks in order to move forward with the expansion of its Trans Mountain pipeline in Western Canada.

$4.68 billion

The remaining capital spend needed to complete the project. The source for the remaining $530 million or so has yet to be determined, and could come from any of several financing tools, depending on what makes the most sense, said Kinder Morgan spokesman Dave Conover.

This new shape for service agreement includes things like variable rates that adjust with the downturn of the assets GE offers and even some financing, Saunders said.

“If you want me to take some risk on the performance of my equipment and ultimately maybe the performance of your project, then obviously I need to learn more about the application of my equipment and your project before I’m preparing to enter into something,” Saunders said. “If we’re going to bring financing to a project, then the viability of the customer certainly becomes very important to us.”

Roughly half of all the work Saunders’ company is quoting these days falls into one of these unusual structures, he said.
RETAIL HUB
The latest in Houston’s hot retail sector.

WHAT’S BAKING?
LONGTIME KOLACHE SHOP TO OPEN SECOND LOCATION IN NEW HEIGHTS MIXED-USE

BY OLIVIA PULSINELLI
opulsinelli@bizjournals.com

The Kolache Shoppe, a 47-year-old business in the Greenway Plaza area, plans to open its second location in a new mixed-use development underway in the Heights.

The new 1,200-square-foot location will open in Heights Central Station next summer. It will serve as a bakery and coffee shop and will offer new services, such as a drive-thru option.

“Having a much larger space in the Heights will allow us to expand our offerings in many different, exciting ways,” shop co-owner Lucy Hines said in a press release. “Most importantly, we plan to increase our partnerships with local food purveyors to offer new, unique kolache flavors. Also, our Boomtown Coffee program will grow immensely – in addition to their drip coffee that our current customers already know and love, we plan to serve a wide variety of espresso-based drinks as well as cold-brew coffee.”

Houston-based MFT Interests is developing Heights Central Station at 1050 Yale St. The two-story mixed-use project is along 11th Street, on the site of a post office that closed at the beginning of 2016.

Heights Central Station will consist of three buildings. The Kolache Shoppe is taking a one-story, 1,200-square-foot standalone building on the site. Dish Society recently leased 3,800 square feet on the first floor of the 9,130-square-foot West Building. The East Building is 11,680 square feet.

The project is expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2018, according to a brochure from NewQuest Properties, which is handling leasing. Kirksey is the architect, and Gallant Builders will be the general contractor.

FOCUSED ON FITNESS

BOUTIQUE FITNESS STUDIO TO OPEN FIRST TEXAS LOCATION IN NEW MONTROSE PROJECT

Spenga, a boutique fitness studio, has leased 4,011 square feet on the second floor of 307 Westheimer Road, a retail development expected to deliver later this year.

Spenga, a Chicago-based boutique fitness studio, is entering the Texas market with its first location in Montrose.

The company leased 4,011 square feet at 307 Westheimer Road, and it’s planning additional Houston locations, according to JLL. Spenga’s name is an amalgam of spin, strength and yoga, and it combines cardio, strength and flexibility in 60-minute, high-intensity interval training sessions.

JLL’s Matt Parsons is representing Spenga in its Houston expansion, and Chris Dray of NewQuest Properties represented the landlord, Lower Westheimer Center LP, in the Montrose lease.

The Montrose location is on the second floor of a new two-story retail development that’s expected to deliver later this year, according to JLL. According to LoopNet, 2,000 square feet is available for lease on the first floor.

Owners of longtime Italian restaurant Michelangelo’s sold the property in March, according to Swamplot. The location is near the border between Montrose and Midtown, and it’s also 404 yards from the future home of a Whole Foods Market, according to LoopNet.

Construction of that project, which is expected to be the first mixed-use residential-grocery midrise in Houston, began earlier this year. A Pearl-branded apartment complex with 264 residential units will sit atop the 40,000-square-foot Whole Foods.

RETAIL REDUCTION

SEARS TO CLOSE 2 HOUSTON-AREA STORES AS PART OF NATIONWIDE CONTRACTION

Sears plans to close another 20 stores nationwide, including its Baybrook Mall location and its store at 9570 Southwest Freeway in Houston.

Sears Holdings Corp. (Nasdaq: SHLD) plans to close another 20 stores nationwide, which include two Houston locations.

Sears’ Baybrook Mall location and its store at 9570 Southwest Freeway, formerly the Westwood Mall, are on the list of closures announced June 22. No other Texas store was on the list. The stores’ liquidation sales will begin by June 30, and they’re expected to close by mid-September.

The aggregate annual base rent at the 20 stores is approximately $11.2 million, New York-based Seritage Growth Properties (NYSE: SRG) said in a June 23 filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. This is the latest in a series of closures Illinois-based Sears has announced since January. Before this latest round, Sears had announced a combined total of 245 closings. Those previously announced closures included Texas stores in a variety of cities, but none in Houston. However, a 97,000-square-foot Sears in Lake Jackson’s Brazos Mall closed a year ago. As of late last year, that location was being renovated to make room for four tenants.

Sears still operates dozens of locations in the greater Houston area — including its hardware stores, appliance outlet stores, Hometown Dealers locations, Sears PartsDirect locations, Sears Parts and Repair Centers and Sears Auto Centers — according to the store locator on the company’s website.
ROLLING, ROLLING, ROLLING

HOUSTON-AREA TRUCKING TECH CO. RAMPS UP HIRING, TO DOUBLE IN 2018

A Spring-based trucking technology company is hauling — well, they're growing fast.

Gorilla Safety, which offers cloud-based technology for fleet and safety management, is planning to hire about 35 people by the end of this year, up from its roughly 20 current employees, co-founder Mark Walton said. The company is planning to double its number of employees again in 2018.

The hiring spree is related to a federal rule going into effect in December, which requires truckers to dump paper logs and use electronic logging devices. In the U.S., alone, trucking revenue is valued at more than $700 billion, according to the American Trucking Associations.

“We have to have the resources to not only onboard, but also to be able to support (new growth),” Walton said.

With the hiring, the company expects its revenue to hover between $10 million to $12 million in 2017 before growing to about $50 million in 2018. Gorilla Safety has been self-funded so far after Walton and fellow co-founder Tommy Johnson created the company in November 2013.

The company's growth has led to the creation of its first COO, Shannon McLeRoy. He was promoted to the position in May from director of sales.

Doubling the size of the company has created some office space challenges, though. Last year, Gorilla Safety signed a lease for a roughly 2,600-square-foot space at 20008 Champion Forest Drive in Spring, but the company expects to need a bigger office, between 10,000 to 12,000 square feet soon.

“We'll have to make sure we can stay awhile in the next one,” McLeRoy said.

In 2015, trucking accounted for $726.4 billion in gross freight revenues, or 81 percent of the freight bill in the U.S., according to the most recent data from the American Trucking Associations. Trucks carried 10.49 billion tons of freight in 2015, which is about 70 percent of the nation's freight tonnage.

NEW NAME, NEW PARTNER

HOUSTON BOUTIQUE LAW FIRM CHANGES NAME AFTER PARTNER LEAVES

A Houston-based boutique law firm, which was formed by two former Vinson & Elkins LLP senior litigation partners, has changed its name after one of its founders rejoined his previous employer.

Schick & Copeland LLP is now Copeland & Rice after Robert Schick was hired back at Vinson & Elkins as a partner in the firm’s Houston office. Schick and Morgan Copeland Jr. formed Schick & Copeland in early 2014 after joining Vinson & Elkins straight out of law school.

The boutique law firm's name change occurred June 16. Tracey Rice is a partner at Copeland & Rice.

The Copeland & Rice team will continue to offer our unique combination of deep experience and low overhead to help our clients achieve their business goals,” Copeland Jr. said in an email. “It will be business as usual as we continue to serve our clients.”

Schick & Copeland also hired Gwen Samora as partner effective June 19. Samora was a former colleague of Morgan Copeland Jr. at Vinson & Elkins.

Vinson & Elkins is the largest law firm in Houston with 261 local lawyers, according to HB’s List. It is also one of the of the busiest law firms in Texas, completing more than 400 deals between 2010 and 2016.

MONEY & INNOVATION HUB

HOUSTON BIOTECH COMPANY INJECTED WITH FIRST CAPITAL RAISE

A Houston-based biotech company received its first capital raise ahead of rolling out its technology to hospitals.

Luminare Inc. — which creates a system for early detection for sepsis — raised about $497,491 in seed round funding, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company has the option to raise another half-million dollars, said co-founder Dr. Sarma Velamuri.

Luminare plans to use the money to launch pilot tests in hospitals, Velamuri said. The company was founded in fall 2014 and is currently based in Station Houston. It has three employees.

Sepsis, a life-threatening blood disease, kills about 258,000 people in the nation each year, according to disease advocacy group Sepsis Alliance. Hospitals spend about $24 billion annually to fight the disease, one of the most expensive conditions to treat in U.S. health care.

“It’s an enormous cost to society,” Velamuri said.

Luminare is pre-revenue, Velamuri said. He declined to disclose the run rate for the funding. Velamuri met fellow co-founder, Marcus Rydberg, a few days before Rydberg's wedding in Sweden in fall 2014. Velamuri’s wife, who is Swedish, had a longtime friend who was marrying Rydberg. At the time, Velamuri was looking to start a company to stop patients from dying from undetected sepsis.

A few weeks after the meeting, Rydberg and his wife moved to Houston so Rydberg could launch the company with Velamuri. Luminare is from the Latin lumen which means “light.”

“This is what we’re supposed to be doing,” Velamuri said. “We’re here because we know we can fix this.”
cyberattacks against the energy sector have challenged the oil and gas industry boardroom’s traditional perspective on risk. A handful of industry players are now paying serious attention to cybersecurity risk, and have responded beyond considering an ever-changing landscape as what was once “the IT guy’s problem.”

Despite the devastating effect of low oil prices on the Houston economy since early 2015, a few organizations continue to focus on resilient operations and addressing cyber risk. As one oil and gas major board-level executive has been rumored to say, “Hackers don’t care about the price of oil.”

The likelihood of cybersecurity incidents affecting bottom lines now has everyone’s attention and industry risk portfolios are increasingly balanced toward mitigating them. Still, local firms see signs of persistent gaps.

BY STEVEN PAUL ROMERO
Guest Contributor

Recent and on-going cyberattacks against the energy sector have motivated a lack of skills compatible with ICS. Convergent views and a growing list of security opinions and a growing list of security vendors continue to be a diverse field. Due to their diversity and separation from traditional business networks, however, increasing technology convergence, legitimate business drivers, technology convergence, network infrastructure.

Amidst a deluge of information from a variety of media sources, conflicting opinions and a growing list of security vendors, one issue remains unchanged – a lack of skills compatible with ICS. Considering this, there are many opportunities for those willing to push themselves by committing to learning, understanding and participating in a growing field.

Concerned organizations must help by getting past relying on vendors and technical gadgetry to solve security woes. Instead, they must dedicate portions of their budget to training employees whose interest and aptitude in solving challenging technical and business problems.

Cyberattacks against the energy sector aren’t going away. For those that turn a blind eye to the risks, it is not a matter of if they will fall victim, but when. Creating a pipeline of skilled cybersecurity talent is an investment Houston energy companies need to consider to help ensure safe and secure operations.

Steven Paul Romero is an energy professional at Chevron, previously serving as risk manager, responsible for identifying gaps and improving security posture in Chevron’s Process Control Network Infrastructure.

NOT JUST AN IT PROBLEM
Most oil and gas industry professionals’ attention are on attacks targeting Industrial Control Systems (ICS). Attacks against these types of systems have been downplayed due to their diversity and separation from traditional business networks. However, increasing technology convergence, legitimate business drivers, production uptime requirements and ability for ICS to affect the physical realm are putting asset owners and operators under greater risk.

According to ICS experts, historical examples of the catastrophic effects of safety incidents have prompted the oil and gas industry to respond in kind with sound engineering practice and corresponding controls to reduce likelihood, consequence and impact. A growing list of security incidents affecting ICS point to heightened need for the oil and gas industry to similarly focus on closing gaps that have the potential to lay business and community stakeholders bare to serious reliability, financial, reputational, environmental, and safety-related risks.

BUILDING THE PROFESSION IS A REQUIREMENT
Amidst a deluge of information from a variety of media sources, conflicting opinions and a growing list of security vendors, one issue remains unchanged – a lack of skills compatible with ICS. Considering this, there are many opportunities for those willing to push themselves by committing to learning, understanding and participating in a growing field.

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Cyberattacks against the energy sector aren’t going away. For those that turn a blind eye to the risks, it is not a matter of if they will fall victim, but when. Creating a pipeline of skilled cybersecurity talent is an investment Houston energy companies need to consider to help ensure safe and secure operations.
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS REMAINS A POWERHOUSE OF CITY’S ECONOMIC ENGINE

BY JACK WITTHAUS

More than 100 business leaders attended the 2017 Houston Business Journal Power Breakfast on International Business, which covered the importance of establishing business relationships outside the U.S.

The June 20 panel at the Junior League of Houston featured five panelists – from local officials to company leaders – who had experience in international deals. They were Manny Menendez, founder of MCM Group Holdings Ltd.; Jim Griffin, chairman of the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region; Matthew Shailer, director of trade and international affairs at Mayor Sylvester Turner’s office; Jonathan Newton, managing partner at Baker McKenzie Houston; and Takeshi Ebisu, CEO of Goodman Global Inc.

The panel covered topics ranging from why international business is important and how companies can start to establish these foreign relationships.

Panelists agreed that businesses often look to the international market since about 80 percent of the global economy is outside the U.S., Shailer said. Houston is well positioned as a city for international business, and there are various tools the city and other groups provide to local businesses interested in expanding their reach.

But it’s important to take your time when expanding your business abroad, panelists said. Panelists discussed finding reliable partners for forming international relations. There could be negative implications if a company moves too fast with finding good partners abroad.

Menendez said, “Go slow to finish first.” Menendez said on entering new markets internationally, it’s also important to remember the customs of another country once a business starts looking internationally, panelists said. If an international partner acts differently than you expect, it might be because business is handled differently in other parts of the world.

“The biggest part of conducting international business is establishing trust,” Newton said.

Sometimes, companies may feel apprehensive to conduct international business if a political climate is deemed unstable. But political volatility is just part of doing international business, Newton said.

Another piece of advice: Learn a little bit about the country before you leave. That will help impress a future business partner if you attempt to understand their country before talking with them.

“Travel humbly and respectfully,” Menendez said. “You’re a guest in other countries.”

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AMENITIES ARMS RACE
HOW HOUSTON MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPERS ARE UPPING THE ANTE ON LUXURY AMENITIES AND ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF CLASS A APARTMENTS

BY PAUL TAKAHASHI | PTAKAHASHI@BIZJOURNALS.COM | 713-395-9635 | @HBJPAUL

When Marvy Finger developed his first Houston apartment project in 1960, it offered a few basic amenities.

Colony Oaks, a two-story, 317-unit garden-style apartment complex near the Galleria, featured landscaping courtyards and a swimming pool.

Six decades later, the founder and CEO of The Finger Cos. infuses a bevy of luxury amenities into his Class A apartments. One of the prolific Houston multifamily developer’s most recent projects – 1900 Yorktown – is located just three miles from Colony Oaks. The eight-story, 262-unit apartment complex features a resort-style pool with cabanas, a state-of-the-art fitness center and a clubroom with bars and kitchen that can be rented out for private parties.

“The amenities in these apartments of today are outrageous compared to what was available on the market when I started,” Finger said.

Houston’s Class A apartment developers and architects are increasingly engaged in an amenities arms race – upping the ante on features, services and technology – as competition heats up for wealthy renters.

Developers are now planning new amenities that are poised to revolutionize apartments. Many developers are designing apartments for a future where drones, self-driving cars and artificial intelligence will transform the way renters live.

Developers are building high-end amenities and new technologies into their projects to differentiate them in an ever-crowded market. All of this means living in a luxury apartment in Houston these days can rival a relaxing stay at a five-star hotel.

“Houston’s apartment amenities are very, very nice and very upscale,” said Bruce McClenny, president of Houston-based Apartment Data Services. “The amenities are right up there with custom homes.”

Hines Interests incorporated a pocket park in the Southmore, a 24-story, 233 unit tower in the Museum District.

Amenities galore
Several years ago, Scott Ziegler began keeping a “menu list” of amenities for clients looking to develop a luxury apartment project in Houston. The senior principal of Houston-based Ziegler Cooper Architects started with about 35 amenities on his first list about seven years ago. Today, that list has expanded to a whopping 98 amenities.

“Ziegler works with developers to dissect their target renter audience, narrowing a project’s amenity package based on location, demographics and economics. The architect travels the world looking for inspiration in hotels, markets and residences in other countries. When he’s not globetrotting, Ziegler is constantly combing the Internet, especially Pinterest, to give his design team ideas for Houston’s next big apartment amenity.”

Scott Ziegler

“Modern Houston apartments boast a bevy of high-end amenities, such as resort-style pools with cabanas, high-end fitness centers and high-tech conference rooms.

Some Houston apartments feature amenities geared toward Millennials and young professionals working in energy, law and medicine. These youth-oriented apartments offer video arcade rooms, pool tables, bocce ball pits, bowling lanes and resort-style pools with cabanas, outdoor grills and even full-service bars.

StreetlightsResidential offers a full-service bar – complete with a bartender mixing drinks – at its three Houston apartment projects: The Ivy, The James and The Carter. Residents can stop by during happy hour, and pay for a bottle of beer, a glass of wine or a mixed cocktail. The James, located near the River Oaks District, is an eight-story midrise featuring 344 high-end units. Rents are about $2,600 per square foot, or $2,210 per month for an average 850-square-foot unit.

Other apartments feature amenities designed to woo Baby Boomers, such as demonstration kitchens for cooking classes and wine lockers. Some apartment developers, like Martin Fein Interests and GreyStar, are building apartments that cater to active-adult renters ages 55 years and up. Both developers offer spas that feature hair and nail salons in their active-adult projects. Rents at Greystar’s Overture Sugar Land, a four-story, 200-unit complex southwest of Houston, averages $2,174 per month. Rents at Fein’s Olympia at Willowick Park, an eight-story, 189-unit midrise near Highland Village, average $3,354 per month.

Apartment amenities aren’t just about physical features – they’re also about offering unparalleled hotel-like services.

Many Houston luxury apartments feature a concierge desk that can handle packages, dry cleaning, changing light-bulbs and even restaurant reservations and appointments. The Morgan Group is offering a hotel-like shuttle service at Pearl CityCentre that transports apartment residents to the nearby CityCentre mixed-use development. The seven-story,
Some amenities may look good on paper, but are often underutilized by residents, said Paul Forbes, a co-principal at Houston-based Allen Harrison Co.

"I believe the amenities arms race is a losing battle because it's kind of trendy," Forbes said. "Instead, we're trying to focus on something that is going to stand the test of time. That means building amenities that everyone wants, uses and values: a pool, fitness center and common area for residents."

"Amenities are expensive," Ziegler said. "But the cost of not doing it is more than just doing it."

Ziegler points to one of his Houston projects, The Sovereign at Regent Square, developed by Boston-based GID Development. Plans for the Class A apartment project in Upper Kirby evolved from a three- or four-story garden-style apartment to an eight-story midrise to the current 21-story, 290-unit tower. The project includes a demonstration kitchen, zen garden, on-site ATM, valet parking and electric car charging station among its many amenities.

The Sovereign came to market during the middle of the oil slump, but leased up in half the normal time — within eight months instead of the typical 12 to 15 months, Ziegler said. Rents at The Sovereign start from $1,700 per month for a 592-square-foot studio to more than $5,000 per month for a two-bedroom unit spanning 1,453 square feet.

"Our client wanted a blowout amenity package," Ziegler said. "And they hit it out of the park."

**Pool of luxury renters**

With so many luxury apartment units being delivered, industry observers have often wondered: Just how deep is this pool of affluent renters in Houston?

"It might not be as big as developers may think," according to RENTCafé. The national apartment search firm analyzed U.S. Census data and found that Houston had the fifth-largest number of affluent renters nationally. There are 22,000 renter-occupied households in Houston who earn more than $150,000 a year, an increase of 4.8 percent between 2014 and 2015.

Still, this well-heeled group represents just 4.4 percent of all renters in Houston. The majority of Houston renters — 64.3 percent — earn less than $50,000 a year, according to RENTCafé.

Nearly half of Houston apartment residents are considered “rent-burdened,” meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, according to Abodo. Houston ranks No. 58 among the top 100 cities with the highest share of rent-burdened residents, according to Abodo.

**Amenities of the future**

Emerging technologies are transforming the way developers build Houston apartments and amenities.

With the rise of ride-sharing and autonomous cars, Gensler is advising clients to delay construction on parking garages and instead design parking structures that could be converted into other uses in the future.

Peter Merwin, a principal at Gensler overseeing the architect’s mixed-use practice in Houston, believes emerging technologies, such as self-driving cars and automated parking garages that can stack cars on top of each other, could mean more space for apartment units and amenities for Houston developers.

"We won't immediately eliminate the need for parking, but if we can nibble back 10 percent, it'll be a huge boon to developers," Merwin said. "Like the Dutch from the sea, taking back real estate is very crucial."

Several apartment operators, including Scottsdale, Arizona-based Alliance Residential Co., are looking at incorporating smart home technology and artificial intelligence into their units. Residents of these “smart apartments” will be able to control lights, surround sound systems and thermostats with just their voice.

As online shopping becomes more popular, developers such as Morgan Group and Midway Cos. are installing automated package lockers that can text or email residents to pick up their Amazon deliveries securely. Other developers, like Hanover Co., have incorporated refrigerated package storage areas for Blue Apron and other food deliveries. With the rising popularity of online shopping and near-instant delivery services, developers are also looking into drone landing pads where flying drones will deliver packages.

Amenities can be a risky proposition, however, said Jonathan Brinsden, CEO of Houston-based Midway Cos. High-tech technologies, such as self-driving cars and autonomous vehicles, can make the most of new amenities for residents. However, if they are not designed properly and instead designed parking structures that could be converted into other uses in the future.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 18**
amendments in particular can be hard to predict, because new technologies change rapidly.

"People tend to gravitate toward what's the hot new thing today, but it may not be relevant in a decade," Brinsden said. "At one point, everyone raced to put in an iPod speaker dock, but when Apple changed their connector, it rendered everything into obsolescence."

Neighborhood amenities
Developers are increasingly harnessing neighborhood amenities — restaurants, nightlife, shopping, entertainment, park or even a grocery store on the ground floor — to attract high-end renters.

Marvy Finger was one of the first to incorporate a grocery store in the One Park Place apartment tower downtown, which has a Phoenicia grocery store on the ground floor.

Today, Ziegler Cooper is working with The Morgan Group on a Pearl-branded apartment midrise anchored by a Whole Foods Market in Midtown, as well as with Midway Cos. on Buffalo Heights, a boutique office and apartment midrise anchored by a H-E-B grocery store near Buffalo Bayou Park.

Apartment and mixed-use developers are keen to partner with grocers because they can charge higher rents and earn a greater return on their investment, Ziegler said. A recent Urban Land Institute study found that an urban mixed-use apartment project can charge a 25 to 30 percent rent premium over single-use apartment projects.

"We’re seeing a densification in our living patterns," Ziegler said. "People are looking for more of an urban lifestyle, and we see the grocer as one of the key elements in a niche neighborhood."

Ultimately, the fundamentals of real estate — great location and design — will always trump amenities and technologies, Brinsden said.

Midway Cos. recently completed Avenue Grove, an eight-story, 270-unit apartment project in Upper Kirby that features all the usual luxury amenities: a resort-style pool, a high-end fitness center and an automated package locker system.

But Avenue Grove's biggest amenity sits across the street. Levy Park, a 6-acre urban park, underwent a $15 million makeover and now features a pavilion, green space, playground, fountains, games and even a restaurant. Rents start from $1,650 a month for a one-bedroom unit spanning 623 square feet to nearly $4,000 per month for a two-bedroom brownstone spanning 1,135 square feet.

Hines Interests also included a pocket park in The Southmore, a 24-story, 233-unit tower in the Museum District. Rents for the average units range from $2,200 to $6,400 per month.

"Rather than focusing on the amenity of the day, we try to focus on the human aspect: What is it that day-to-day impacts the way people live?" Brinsden said. "It's the simple things, such as connectivity, location and access to neighborhood amenities like restaurants. Those are going to be a constant for the foreseeable future."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Jonathan Brinsden

10.
11.
12.
13.

The conference room at Hanover Montrose. Residents can host boardroom meetings in their apartment building. 11.) The electric car charging stations at Hanover Post Oak, developed by The Hanover Co. As electric cars become more commonplace, developers are adding charging stations into apartment buildings. 12.) The keyless locks at Olympia at Willowick Place. Emerging technology in security, entertainment and smart homes are revolutionizing Houston apartments. 13.) The Alcove bar at The James. Residents can stop by during happy hour and have a drink and socialize.

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# Largest Houston-area For-Profit Private Employers

## Ranked by Local Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name (previous rank)</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Total Local Employment</th>
<th>Local Revenue FY 2016</th>
<th>General Business Description</th>
<th>Top Local Executive(s)</th>
<th>Headquarters Year Founded</th>
<th>Locally Managed by Margaret Wagner 713-395-9626, @HBJWagner <a href="mailto:mwagner@bizjournals.com">mwagner@bizjournals.com</a></th>
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<td><strong>H-E-B</strong> ⚪️ <a href="http://h-E-B.com">h-E-B.com</a></td>
<td>425 S Sawdust Road, Spring, TX 77380</td>
<td>24,437</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Retail grocer</td>
<td>Scott McGillivray, president-Houston food and drug division</td>
<td>San Antonio 1988</td>
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<td><strong>Landry's Inc.</strong> 🥗 <a href="http://landry.com">landry.com</a></td>
<td>1510 W Loop S, Houston, TX 77027</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>$444 million</td>
<td>Food and beverages, lodging and entertainment</td>
<td>Tilman Fertitta, chairman, president, CEO</td>
<td>Houston 1980</td>
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<td><strong>Academy Sports + Outdoors</strong> 🏐️ <a href="http://academy.com">academy.com</a></td>
<td>200 N. Mason Rd., Katy, TX 77449</td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Recreational sports and outdoor equipment retailer</td>
<td>J.K. Symancyk, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston 1984</td>
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<td><strong>Fiesta Mart Inc.</strong> 🌯 <a href="http://fiestamart.com">fiestamart.com</a></td>
<td>5235 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77008</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Retail grocer</td>
<td>Michael Byars, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston 1972</td>
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<td><strong>Goodman Global Inc.</strong> 🌐 <a href="http://goodman.com">goodman.com</a></td>
<td>3131 Sage Rd., Houston, TX 77056</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Manufacturer of AC and heating units</td>
<td>Takashi Ebisu, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston 1969</td>
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<td><strong>The Brock Group</strong> 🌳 <a href="http://www.brockgroup.com">www.brockgroup.com</a></td>
<td>10341 Sabine St., Houston, TX 77064</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Soft craft services, labor support and materials for capital projects, maintenance and facility turnarounds.</td>
<td>Michael McGinies, CEO, chairman</td>
<td>Houston 1999</td>
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<td><strong>Hensel Phelps</strong> 🏗️ <a href="http://henselphelps.com">henselphelps.com</a></td>
<td>18031 Royal Run, Houston, TX 77040</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>$166.29 million</td>
<td>Plans, builds and manages a diverse range of domestic and international project types that encompasses construction and innovation of a variety of project types.</td>
<td>Brad Withers, vice president Houston major</td>
<td>Greenway, CA 1993</td>
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<td><strong>Lewis Food Town</strong> 🍔 <a href="http://foodtownshopper.com">foodtownshopper.com</a></td>
<td>3111 Parner Houston, TX 77054</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>$600 million</td>
<td>Retail grocer</td>
<td>Michael Lewis, President</td>
<td>Houston 1994</td>
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<td><strong>Kelsey-Seybold Clinic</strong> 🏥 <a href="http://kelsey-seybold.com">kelsey-seybold.com</a></td>
<td>2277 W. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030</td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>$899.26 million</td>
<td>Multi-specialty medical services provider, including corporate wellness and executive health services.</td>
<td>Tony Lin, chairman of the board, managing director</td>
<td>Houston 1999</td>
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<td><strong>S&amp;B Engineers and Constructors Ltd.</strong> 🛠️ <a href="http://sbdallas.com">sbdallas.com</a></td>
<td>7825 Park Place Blvd., Houston, TX 77087</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>$1.06 billion</td>
<td>General engineering procurement and construction contractor for the oil and gas industry</td>
<td>James Slaughter Jr., president</td>
<td>Houston 1967</td>
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<td><strong>Gulf States Toyota</strong> 🚗 <a href="http://gultstates.toyota.com">gultstates.toyota.com</a></td>
<td>1375 Enclave Pkwy., Houston, TX 77077</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Independent Toyota distributor</td>
<td>T. Dan Friedie, CEO, chairman</td>
<td>Houston 1969</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Williams Brothers Construction Company Inc.</strong> 🏗️ <a href="http://wbc.com">wbc.com</a></td>
<td>3800 Mike Tyson Houston, TX 77006</td>
<td>1,885</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Highway construction</td>
<td>Doug Pitcock, CEO, chairman, owner</td>
<td>Houston 1965</td>
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<td><strong>Universal Plant Services Inc.</strong> 🌐 <a href="http://universalplant.com">universalplant.com</a></td>
<td>806 Seaco Ct., Deer Park, TX 77536</td>
<td>1,863</td>
<td>$287.46 million</td>
<td>Provides specialty services for maintenance, turnaround and construction for the refining, petrochemical, power generation, mobility and offshore markets.</td>
<td>Bradley Jones, Stewart Jones, Co-CEDs</td>
<td>Deer Park 1986</td>
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<td><strong>Ernst &amp; Young LLP</strong> 📊 <a href="http://ey.com">ey.com</a></td>
<td>5 Houston Center, 1200 McNair St., Houston, TX 77010</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Professional services firm</td>
<td>Deborah Byers, Houston managing partner, US oil and gas leader</td>
<td>New York 2013</td>
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<td><strong>PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP</strong> 📊 <a href="http://pwc.com">pwc.com</a></td>
<td>1000 Louisiana St., Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Ray Garfias, Houston office managing partner</td>
<td>Houston 1995</td>
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<td><strong>Stewart &amp; Stevenson LLC</strong> 🏗️ <a href="http://stewartstevenson.com">stewartstevenson.com</a></td>
<td>1000 Louisiana, Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Manufacturer, designer and provider of equipment and parts for oil and gas industry</td>
<td>Anthony DeRoche, CEO</td>
<td>Houston 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gulf Interstate Engineering Co.</strong> 🏗️ <a href="http://gie.com">gie.com</a></td>
<td>10050 Barker Pkwy. Ln., Houston, TX 77029</td>
<td>1,287</td>
<td>$235.34 million</td>
<td>Engineering consulting services for the oil &amp; gas industry</td>
<td>H. Doug Evans, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston 1953</td>
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<td><strong>Direct Energy LP</strong> 🌞 <a href="http://directenergy.com">directenergy.com</a></td>
<td>12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77046</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Energy and energy services retailer</td>
<td>John Schultz, president, Centrica North America and direct energy business</td>
<td>Houston 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KPMG LLP</strong> 📊 <a href="http://kpmg.com/us">kpmg.com/us</a></td>
<td>811 Main St., Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>1,132</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Audit, tax and advisory firm</td>
<td>Tanya Jackson, Houston major market managing partner</td>
<td>New York 1917</td>
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<td>**Igloo Products Corp. 🏷️ <a href="http://igloo.com">igloo.com</a></td>
<td>771 Igloo Rd., Katy, TX 77449</td>
<td>1,113</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Designer and manufacturer of ice chests, coolers and insulated products</td>
<td>Mark Parrish, CEO, president</td>
<td>Katy 1947</td>
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<td><strong>Silver Eagle Distributors</strong> 🍺 <a href="http://silvereagle.com">silvereagle.com</a></td>
<td>7777 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77007</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Wholesale beer distributor</td>
<td>John L. Nau III, owner, CEO</td>
<td>Houston 1961</td>
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<td><strong>The Lewis Group LLP</strong> 🚗 <a href="http://thelawgroup.com">thelawgroup.com</a></td>
<td>13250 FM 1960 W., Houston, TX 77065</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Gasoline retailer, quick-service restaurant, and fuel station</td>
<td>Sherman Lewis, III, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston 1980</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ascend Performance Materials</strong> 🌙 <a href="http://ascendentmaterials.com">ascendentmaterials.com</a></td>
<td>600 Travis St., Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Plastics, fibers, and chemicals provider</td>
<td>Fred Poes, CEO</td>
<td>Houston 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bracewell LLP</strong> 🚀 <a href="http://bracewell.com">bracewell.com</a></td>
<td>711 Louisiana St., Suite 2300, Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Law firm</td>
<td>Gregory M. Bopp, managing partner</td>
<td>Houston 1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Piping Technology &amp; Products Inc.</strong> 🪠 <a href="http://www.pipingtech.com">www.pipingtech.com</a></td>
<td>3701 Holmes Road Houston, TX 77051</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>$69 million</td>
<td>Piping products</td>
<td>Jorge Aguado, owner, president</td>
<td>Houston 1978</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Davis replaced former CEO John Simmons, who was promoted to vice chair of financial affairs, in February 2016.

---

**CLOSER LOOK**

**ABOUT THE LIST**

Information was obtained from firm representatives. Information on The List was supplied by individual companies through questionnaires and could not be independently verified by the Houston Business Journal.

**NEED A COPY OF THE LIST?**

Information for obtaining reprints, web permissions and commemorative plaques, call 713-395-5134. More information can be found online at HoustonBusinessJournal.com by clicking the “Store” tab near the top of the site.

**WANT TO BE ON THE LIST?**

If you wish to be surveyed when The List is next updated, or if you wish to be considered for other Lists, email your contact information to Margaret Wagner at mwagner@bizjournals.com

* = not on list previously

N/A = information not available

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**LARGEST HOUSTON-AREA FOR-PROFIT PRIVATE EMPLOYERS**

RANKED BY LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

**JUNE 30-JULY 6, 2017**

**HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Managed by Margaret Wagner 713-395-9626, @HBJWagner mwagner@bizjournals.com
MEET THE TOP 5 LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE UPTOWN AND GALLERIA AREA

The top 5 largest employers in the Uptown and Galleria area employ at least 6,700 workers collectively in the area, according to HBJ’s List (see page 22).

By Emily Wilkinson  |  ewilkinson@bizjournals.com

1. **ENBRIDGE INC.**

The largest employer in the Uptown and Galleria area has had a year of transition. Canada-based Enbridge Inc. (NYSE: ENB) closed on its $28 billion acquisition of Houston’s Spectra Energy in February, creating a $126 billion midstream giant. Enbridge planned to consolidate Houston employees into Spectra’s existing longtime office at 5400 Westheimer Ct. by the end of the year, and filed a $2.5 million construction permit for the space. Meanwhile, a handful of Spectra’s top executives have since left the company, likely part of the $540 million expected in savings from overlaps between the two companies. Greg Ebel, Spectra’s chairman, president and CEO, is now chairman of Enbridge’s board of directors. Two of Enbridge’s MLPs — Spectra Energy Partners LP (NYSE: SEP) and Enbridge Energy Partners LP (NYSE: EEP) — are still trading under their own tickers on the New York Stock Exchange, while another one, Houston-based Midcoast Energy Partners LP (NYSE: MEP), is being taken private in a $170.2 million deal. Bill Yardley is the new president and chairman of Spectra Energy Partners.

2. **BHP BILLITON LTD.**

The second-largest employer in the Uptown and Galleria area, BHP Billiton Ltd. (NYSE: BHP), moved into its new tower at 1500 Post Oak Blvd. earlier this year. BHP, which is a mining company, based in Australia but has its petroleum unit based in Houston, relocated the first wave of employees into the new tower at the end of March and everyone else was moved in by early May, according to a spokesperson. The employees relocated from 1360 Post Oak — also in the Four Oaks Place complex — but some contractors still work there, the spokesperson said. However, BHP has about 320,549 square feet of space in the building available for sublease, according to data from Commercial Gateway. The new building, which was developed by Transwestern, designed by Pickard Chilton Architects and built by D.E. Harvey Builders, has been in the works since 2013 and is on the site of a former 24-Hour Fitness.

3. **LANDRY’S INC.**

Landry’s Inc., the third-largest employer in the Uptown and Galleria area, is wrapping up construction of The Post Oak, a 10-acre mixed-use project that will include hotel, office, residential, retail and restaurant offerings. The project is next door to Landry’s current headquarters at 1510 West Loop S. The hotel portion will not have a hotel flag, or an outside hotel brand, for the 250-room hotel, Tilman Fertitta, CEO and owner of Landry’s Inc., previously told HBJ. The hotel is expected to open in December. Meanwhile, a 10,000-square-foot Mastro’s Steakhouse — the first in Texas — is slated to open in the fall at The Post Oak, a long with Willie G’s Seafood & Steaks, which is relocating from 1605 Post Oak Blvd. to a 10,000-square-foot space in the development at 1630 W. Loop S. Houston-based O’Donnell/Snider Construction is the general contractor for both restaurants. Jorge Gonzalez, who most recently served as general manager and area vice president of Mandarin Oriental Miami, was named general manager of The Post Oak in early June.

4. **BBVA COMPASS**

One of Houston’s largest banks is also the fourth-largest employer in the Uptown and Galleria area. BBVA Compass has 1,000 employees at its namesake tower at 2200 Post Oak Blvd. The building was built in 2013 and was the first office building to be constructed in the Galleria area in 10 years.

Birmingham, Alabama-based BBVA Compass is a subsidiary of Houston-based bank holding company BBVA Compass Bancshares Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Spain-based Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA (NYSE: BBVA). BBVA Compass is the fourth-largest bank in Houston with local deposits of $12.9 billion, according to data from the FDIC. The bank was also the largest SBA lender in Houston in 2016 for 7(a) loans.

5. **APACHE CORP.**

Houston-based Apache Corp. (NYSE: APA), an upstream energy company, has close to 1,000 employees at its headquarters at 2000 Post Oak Blvd. The company recently extended its existing office lease at the complex again, while nearby land it bought in 2012 continues to sit vacant. Apache’s lease with Houston-based Parkway Inc. (NYSE: PKY) for 524,000 square feet in the Post Oak Central office complex now expires in February 2022. “This extension gives us time to evaluate the best long-term, cost-effective solution for our headquarters and allows us to maintain our current location as recovery in the energy markets continue,” Apache said in an emailed statement.

In 2012, Apache bought 6.4 acres in between the first two phases of Blvd Place, a mixed-use project up the street from Post Oak Central. Apache, which is the 22nd-largest public company in Houston based on its revenue of $5.1 billion in 2016, has been spending most of its resources on its Alpine High operations—a oil patch the company found in Reeves County, Texas, where production was largely thought to be uneconomical.

### UPTOWN AND SURROUNDING AREA: INCOME

Residents of the Uptown area — found in the 77056 ZIP code — and some of their closest neighbors are significantly more affluent than those in other adjacent ZIP codes. Income encompasses 42 sources of money, ranging from salaries and dividends to alimony and low-income energy assistance.

- **Per capita income**
  - $77,7056
  - $77,7057
  - $77,7027
  - $77,7081
  - $77,7401

- **Median household income**
  - $104,900
  - $98,800
  - $96,800
  - $93,800
  - $84,800

### UPTOWN AND SURROUNDING AREA: HOME VALUES

An upper quartile house value exceeds 75 percent of all housing units in a given place. A median of one-half of all units sold.

- **Upper quartile (75th percentile) house value**
  - $1,004,900
  - $996,800
  - $980,800
  - $940,800
  - $754,800

- **Median (50th percentile) house value**
  - $697,700
  - $704,800
  - $717,700
  - $713,700
  - $710,800

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU’S 2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
The Houston Business Journal will proudly recognize the city’s most successful women business leaders in for-profit and nonprofit industries at our second annual Women Who Mean Business event on October 26.

Do you know a successful female business leader? Get her nominated! Nominations are now open until August 7 in the following categories:

- Outstanding business leaders in energy
- Outstanding business leaders in finance (includes accounting, banking, wealth management, etc.)
- Outstanding business leaders in health care
- Outstanding business leaders in real estate (includes commercial and residential)
- Outstanding business leaders in professional services (includes lawyers, PR agents, marketing agencies, staffing, consulting, etc.)
- Outstanding nonprofit business leaders (government, social services, etc.)
- Women to watch (10 years or less in their industry)

We’ll also recognize the top 25 women-owned businesses in Houston.

Nominate your top woman business leader at Bizjournals.com/houston/nomination.

Honorees will be announced at an evening reception October 26 and in a special edition of the Houston Business Journal October 27. Winners in each of these categories will be selected based on their career achievement, contribution to the community and leadership skills.

Come join us at this extravagant event on October 26 – Marriott Marquis from 6-9 pm.
# LARGEST UPTOWN & GALLERIA EMPLOYERS

**RANKED BY UPTOWN & GALLERIA EMPLOYEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name (previous rank)</th>
<th>Companywide Revenue FY 2016</th>
<th>Uptown &amp; Galleria Employees</th>
<th>Business Description</th>
<th>Top Local Executive(s)</th>
<th>Headquarters Ticker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enbridge Inc. 1</td>
<td>$25.77 billion</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>Natural gas distribution</td>
<td>Bill Yardley, president and chairman of Spectra Energy Partners</td>
<td>Calgary, Canada NYSE: ENB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHP Billiton</td>
<td>$30.91 billion</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>Mining, Metals and Petroleum company</td>
<td>Steve Piotrowski, president petroleum</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia ASX: BHU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landry's Inc.</td>
<td>$3.3 billion</td>
<td>1,275</td>
<td>Multibrand dining, hospitality, entertainment and gaming corporation</td>
<td>Tilman Fertitta, chairman, president, CEO</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBVA Compass</td>
<td>$3.96 billion</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Banking and financial services</td>
<td>Mark Montgomery, Houston CEO</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL NYSE: BZVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apache Corp.</td>
<td>$5.17 billion</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>Oil and gas exploration and production company</td>
<td>John Chrisman, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Stores Inc.</td>
<td>$1.44 billion</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>Department store retailer</td>
<td>Michael Glazer, CEO, president</td>
<td>Houston NYSE: SBI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherford International plc</td>
<td>$5.75 billion</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>Oilfield service and technology company</td>
<td>Mark McCollum, CEO, president</td>
<td>Bas, Switzerland NYSE: WFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart</td>
<td>$2.91 billion</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>Title services company</td>
<td>Matt Morris, CEO</td>
<td>Houston NYSE: STC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hines</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>Real estate investment, development, and management company</td>
<td>Gerald Hines, chairman, founder</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alert Logic Inc.</td>
<td>$101.45 million</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>Cybersecurity software and services</td>
<td>Gray Hall, CEO</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRE Inc.</td>
<td>$13.07 billion</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>Commercial real estate services</td>
<td>Cody Ambrozin, senior managing director</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA NYSE: CBG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amegy Bank</td>
<td>$49.67 million</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>Commercial banking services</td>
<td>Shane Stephens, CEO</td>
<td>Houston NASDAQ: AZB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transwestern</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>Commercial real estate brokerage and property manager</td>
<td>Robert Buxton, chairman</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLL</td>
<td>$6.8 million</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Commercial real estate</td>
<td>Dan Bylow, president - Houston</td>
<td>Chicago, IL NYSE: JLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Government entity</td>
<td>Ed Emmett, county judge</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost Bank</td>
<td>$1.14 million</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Commercial banking</td>
<td>Daniel Lopri, region president</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cushman &amp; Wakefield of Texas Inc.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Global real estate services firm</td>
<td>Tim Byrnes, executive vice chairman</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Reed &amp; McGraw LLP</td>
<td>$57.6 million</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Full service corporate law firm</td>
<td>J. Cary Gray, president, managing director</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iHeartMedia</td>
<td>$87 million</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Radio station operator</td>
<td>Eddie Markey, president, market manager</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX OTC: IHTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall/Heaton Associates Inc.</td>
<td>$56.77 million</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Architectural design and planning</td>
<td>John O’Connell, CEO</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Spectra Energy Corp. 2015 employee count was 1,070.
Join us as we discuss the top issues facing HR professionals, managers and business owners today. We'll discuss best practices in recruiting and retention, employee engagement, onboarding best practices and how to manage different generations. We'll also dive into how companies can provide attractive health care and benefits packages. Register now!

Giselle Greenwood,
Moderator
Editor-in-Chief for the Houston Business Journal

CECIL M. GREGG
Senior District President, Robert Half

TERRY LEDERMAN
Vice President of recruitment solutions, Employer Flexible

STEVE ROPOLO
Regional Managing Partner, Houston | San Antonio, Fisher Phillips

PETER SULLIVAN
Senior Vice President/ Benefits Director, Bowen Miclette & Britt

DR. JEANETTE WINTERS
Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Igloo Products Corp.

THURSDAY, JULY 27
7:00 - 7:30 am
Networking and Continental Breakfast

7:30 - 9:00 am
Panel discussion/ Q&A

Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Ln,
Houston, TX 77027

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JUNE 30-JULY 6, 2017
HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

POWER BREAKFAST SERIES
HUMAN RESOURCES PANEL

PANELISTS (SCHEDULED TO APPEAR)

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EVENTS DETAILS: AUBREY STUART | EVENTS MANAGER | ASTUART@BIZJOURNALS.COM
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: GREG COX | ADVERTISING DIRECTOR | GCOX@BIZJOURNALS.COM
**PEOPLE ON THE MOVE**

### ARCHITECTURE

Karen Wetmore  
Perelle Solomon  
Amy Pipe  
Haley Ottmann  
Holly Henry  
Aaron Beltran

Planning Design Research Corporation promoted Wetmore, Solomon, Pipe, Ottmann and Henry from staff to associate and Beltran from associate to senior associate. Wetmore’s design experience has encompassed various project types, ranging from cost-conscious clients with aggressive timelines to high-end specialty interiors; Solomon serves as PDR’s project accountant by addressing tight deadlines and a multitude of accounting activities; Pipe is PDR’s communications and change management specialist and helps clients effectively implement change in the workplace through vision alignment, training, and strategic messaging; and Beltran serves as an AutoCAD/Revit Manager and has overseen base-building and business information modeling projects.

### CONSTRUCTION

Ken Terveen  
Kevin Johnson  
Sarah Perez  
Amy Pipe  
Wynpleth Sanchez  
David Brady  
Fritz Guthrie

Slack & Co. Contracting Inc. hired Terveen as senior estimator and Johnson as project manager. Terveen is responsible for preparing comprehensive bids for construction projects and Johnson is responsible for planning, managing, executing and controlling assigned projects, ensuring that client objectives are obtained.

### NONPROFIT

Ken Terveen  
Sarah Perez  
Haley Ottmann  
Holly Henry  
Aaron Beltran  
Karen Wetmore  
Perelle Solomon  
Amy Pipe  
Haley Ottmann  
Holly Henry  
Perelle Solomon  
Haley Ottmann  
Holly Henry

More:
- **People on the Move** submissions online at HoustonBusinessJournal.com.
- We welcome information about any newsworthy business professionals.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

**SEND US YOUR PEOPLE**

The Houston Business Journal accepts People on the Move submissions online at HoustonBusinessJournal.com/people.

We welcome information about any newsworthy business professionals who have been promoted, joined a new company or received an award.

Include name, title, company, location and a photo of the person, along with a company contact name, email address and phone number.

Photos can be attached directly to the submission form. Photos must be attached as .jpg files (at least 200 dpi).

### CALENDAR

**Event:** JumpStart - Networking 101 Workshop  
**Presented by:** Houston West Chamber of Commerce  
**Time:** 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Mascalzones, 12126 Westheimer  
**Price:** Free  
**More:** business.hwcoc.org/events

**Event:** Business Wellness Networking - Lunch & Learn  
**Presented by:** Houston West Chamber of Commerce  
**Speaker:** Rachel Wilson Thibadeaux  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Wyndham Houston West - Energy Corridor, 14703 Park Row Drive  
**Price:** $16  
**More:** business.hwcoc.org/events

**Event:** Passing the Baton Presented by: South East Express Network of the American Business Women’s Association  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway  
**Price:** $20  
**More:** SEEN-ABWA.org

**Event:** West Houston Young Professionals Happy Hour Presented by: Houston West Chamber of Commerce  
**Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Bowl & Barrel, 797 Sorella Ct Ste 118  
**Price:** $20  
**More:** business.hwcoc.org/events

**Event:** Coffee with NAWBO President, Ronda Baggs Presented by: National Association of Women Business Owners - Houston  
**Time:** 9 to 10 a.m.  
**Location:** 3 Brothers Bakery, 4606 Washington Ave  
**Price:** Free  
**More:** nawbo.org/houston/events

**Event:** Business Wellness Networking - Lunch & Learn Presented by: Houston West Chamber of Commerce  
**Speaker:** Hett Ives  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Wyndham Houston West - Energy Corridor, 14703 Park Row Drive  
**Price:** $16  
**More:** business.hwcoc.org/events

**Event:** Real Men of Montgomery County Style Show Presented by: Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber  
**Time:** TBD  
**Location:** TBD  
**Price:** $60  
**More:** conroe.chambermaster.com/events

**Event:** Rotary Fire Fighters Home Gala Presented by: Rotary Fire Fighters Home  
**Time:** 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Location:** JW Marriott Houston, 5150 Westheimer Rd  
**Price:** $150  
**More:** rotaryfirefightershome.org

**Event:** Hispanic Impact Summit Presented by: Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
**Time:** 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore Blvd  
**Price:** $48  
**More:** houstonhispanic-chamber.com

**Event:** East End Celebration Presented by: Houston East End Chamber of Commerce  
**Time:** 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Location:** Anheuser-Busch Tasting Room, 775 Gilhorn Dr  
**More:** eecochouston.chambermaster.com/events

**Submit Your Event**

Nonprofits may send items for consideration to nharms@bizjournals.com. For-profits can submit calendar items under the “Events” tab at HoustonBusinessJournal.com.
The Houston Business Journal will be honoring organizations and individuals committed to diversity at its inaugural Diversity in Business Awards. Honorees will be celebrated at an awards dinner Nov. 9 and featured in a special publication on Nov. 10. All honorees will be recognized at the event; there will not be a singular winner per category.

**Organization Categories:**
- Outstanding Diversity in a Small Organization (10 to 49 employees)
- Outstanding Diversity in a Mid-Sized Organization (50 to 499 employees)
- Outstanding Diversity in a Large Organization (500 or more employees)
- Commitment to Diversity in the Community Award

Nomination criteria includes % of minorities that work at a company, community involvement, education options about importance of diversity in the workplace, and more.

**Individual Categories:**
- Outstanding Head of Diversity Department Award
- Outstanding Diversity Award Role model at a for-profit company
- Outstanding Diversity Award Role model at a nonprofit

**NOMINATE NOW AT:**
- bizj.us/1p2iha
- bizj.us/1p2ihd

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**About This Section**

The Business Leads is a collection of information gathered from Houston-area courthouses, government offices and informational websites. We gather these public records so you can build your business. No matter what business you are in, you can gain a competitive edge by reading the Business Leads. Find new and expanding businesses and new customers. Find out the area’s commercial and residential hot spots. Find clues about the financial condition of your vendors, customers or competitors. Listings for each category may vary from week to week because of information availability and space constraints. (Note: *Indicates listings are not available for this week."

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**Bankruptcy Petitions**

Include listings of court filings involving businesses that have filed Chapter 7 or 11 petitions. Chapter 13 is a bankruptcy plan available to individuals whose income is sufficiently stable and regular to enable such an individual to make payments under a plan to a trustee who disburses the funds to creditors.

**Chapter 11**

Shambaugh Roofing and Remodeling LLC of Spring, Texas, 2J031 Money Oaks Blvd., Spring 77388; Debts, $881,293; Major Creditor, On Deck Capital Inc., $122,872; Attorney, Steven A. Leach, case #17-36969, 06/13/17.

Duron Systems Inc., 9110 Tush Rd., Houston 77064; Debts, $1,000,001 to $10,000,000; Debts, $1,000,001 to $10,000,000; Attorney, Texas W.S. Baker, case #17-36902, 06/13/17.

RRI Energy Communications Inc. (jointly administered to case #17-36866), 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, N.J. 85040; Assets, $0 to $50,000; Debts, $0 to $50,000; Attorney, Zack A. Clement, case #17-36893, 06/14/17.

GenOn Americas Procurement LLC (jointly administered to case #17-33695), 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, N.J. 85040; Assets, $0 to $10,000; Debts, $0 to $50,000; Attorney, Zack A. Clement, case #17-36894, 06/14/17.

GenOn Energy Inc. (lead), 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, N.J. 85040; Assets, $1 million to $10 billion; Debts, $1 billion to $10 billion; Attorney, Zack A. Clement, case #17-36895, 06/14/17.

GenOn Americas Generation LLC (jointly administered to case #17-33695), 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, N.J. 85040; Assets, $0 to $10 billion; Debts, $500 million to $1 billion; Attorney, Zack A. Clement, case #17-36896, 06/14/17.

GenOn Asset Management LLC (jointly administered to case #17-33695), 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, N.J. 85040; Assets, $0 to $10 billion; Debts, $500 million to $1 billion; Attorney, Zack A. Clement, case #17-36897, 06/14/17.

GenOn Capital Inc. (jointly administered to case #17-
26 HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL JUNE 30-JULY 6, 2017

LEADS

Corporate Philanthropy Awards

The Houston Business Journal will recognize the companies that make Houston one of the top cities in the United States each year for corporate giving at its inaugural Corporate Philanthropy Awards. Honorees will be celebrated at an awards ceremony Sept. 28 and featured in a special publication on Sept. 29.

CATEGORIES:

Corporate Philanthropy: Ranked by Hours Volunteered:
These lists will be ranked by the number of hours a company has spent volunteering. There will be three lists.

- Small companies (10 to 99 employees) ranked by hours volunteered
- Mid-sized companies (100 to 499 employees) ranked by hours volunteered
- Large companies (500 or more employees) ranked by hours volunteered

Corporate Philanthropy: Ranked by Amount Given:
These lists will be ranked by the amount of monetary donations a company has given. There will be three lists.

- Small companies (10 to 99 employees) ranked by money donated
- Mid-sized companies (100 to 499 employees) ranked by money donated
- Large companies (500 or more employees) ranked by money donated

Nominations open until August 14
NOMINATE NOW AT: bizj.us/1p2wu

NOMINATIONS:
NATALIE HARMS | ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR PRINT
nharms@bizjournals.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
GREG COX | ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
gcox@bizjournals.com

EVENT DETAILS:
AUBREY STUART | EVENT MANAGER
astuart@bizjournals.com

Introducing the Houston Business Journal’s inaugural

Corporate Philanthropy Awards

HRG

NRG

Mid-sized companies

Large companies
**GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN 2017!**

Friday, September 15
Hilton Americas
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

The 2017 BizExpo will allow small business owners to showcase their businesses!

**EARLY BIRD Special**

Your Display Booth Includes:
- Signage
- 6 foot skirted table
- Pipe and drape
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Spring Shamrock Holdings Co. Inc., 2203 Musky Oaks Rd. #10B, Austin 78733, $201,000 to $600,000, Attorney, Joshua W. Wolfshohl; case #17-33808, 06/18/17.

Quality Oil Tools LLC (located at 1301 San Jacinto St.), 1004 West Loop F.P.O. 6302, (941), Book/Page RP-2017-262238, 06/14/17.

O’Donnell/Seider Construction Co., commercial construction at 1301 Enclave Pl. #C, Sugar Land 77489, $5,000 to $10,000, Attorney, Joshua W. Wolfshohl; case #17-33806, 06/18/17.

QCT Holding Co. LLC (intentionally omitted here), 1301 San Jacinto St. #10B, Houston 77002, $5,000 to $10,000, Attorney, Joshua W. Wolfshohl; case #17-33807, 06/18/17.

R.B. Ratcliffe Assoc., commercial alteration at 645 W. 19th St. #1600, EnLink Houston Trademark Hitt Inc., 3305 W. 22nd St., $383,000.

Ramirez & Hitt Landscape Company Inc., (located at 6224 N. Main St.), 15155 York Ln., $11,800, (941), Book/Page RP-2017-262271, 06/13/17.

Rima Projects Inc., commercial alteration at 706 E. 13th St., $462,000.

Ranchland Communities Inc, (located at 2108 Glen Forest Blvd., $336,608.

R.B. Ratcliffe Assoc., commercial alteration at 1200 Smith St. #1600, commercial

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HP Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Electrical/Hard-ware Engineer in Houston, TX (Ref. #HPIHOURAPJ1). Designs, analyzes, develops, modifies and evaluates electrical/electronic parts, components, sub-systems, algorithms, or integrated cir- cuity for electrical/electronic/other hardware systems. Implement the audio sub system on several notebook and tablet designs on-site and remotely. Mail resume to HP Inc., c/o Andrew Bergoine, 11445 Compaq Center Drive W, Houston, TX 77070. Resume must include Ref #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise is an industry leading technology company that enables customers to go further, faster. HPE is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Financial Analyst in Houston, TX (Ref. #HPECH-HSOC). Preparing P&Ls for combined Worldwide Technology Services. Prepare P&Ls for two separate business categories as well as the consolidation, including many calculations. Experience required. Travel 30% to client sites in Texas and Louisiana. Please submit resume to careers@hpe.com and put job code SDE in subject line.

Sr. Consulting Partner, IT Strategy & Del in Houston, TX. Resp-Sen-Audit, dev & mkg key accts in exc of $20m in Oil&Gas ind. Analyze ops, 2d, area of ptl cost reduce, pr imp./pol change.Set, Pvt, prfnt/vrse impl.of TTEC4co underg. mjr IT trans, MBA on oil&intl; lev/Work w/clients/execs. 2nd/3rd rdmap bdg&invest props Resp-4st. ExtCom&4com csn&embs of all std coms. 4 adm of firm.Prov track recd of impl.TTstr&mng succe golves that impl str. Prov.expirt in IT syst.4Downstr&Trad emits of mjr Oil&Gas Co. Deep expbd kwl of ITNet Inc. Past, Futur syst sofwr. Preq. in mgm portf in exc.of $20m kwl of 2nd&tertr suppl in Oil&Gas. Fld. Trav. upton wk pr mo./wo. US & Intern. cnts./Inc. MSDR14ays exec.exp in IT str&delivery consl or frm equiv. CV by mail w/RespSCP to Application Development Resources, Rakesh Rao, 3015 Windward Plaza #120, Alpharetta GA 30005.

ACCOUNTANT
ACCOUNTANT sought by staffing service in Houston, TX. Respond by mailing resumes only to: Ms. S. Romo (H/V-#10), Momentum Staffing Solutions, LLC, 1415 North Loop West, Suite 855, Houston, TX 77088.

Survey and Design Engineer
Becht Engineering seeks a Survey and Design Engineer to work in Humble, Texas with telecommuting benefit to assign and schedule survey and design projects and resolve survey and design technical matters. Bachelor's degree or equivalent and experience required. Travel 50% to client sites in Texas and Louisiana. Please submit resume to careers@becht.com and put job code SDE in subject line.

Senior Geophysicist
Lukoil Intl. Upstream West, Inc. opening for Senior Geophysicist position. Req. Masters in Geosciences, Geophysics or Geology + 5 yrs exp. Duties: provide quant & qual anal & comparisons of seismic time & depth gathers in order to characterize amplitude variation within offset domain inside area of interest, areally & stratigraphically defined as area of lead or prospective interest, possess the ability to integrate these results with overall exploration effort, provide quant and qual support & anal to internal- or outside party-generated seismic inversion products from input calibration well data, provide well data identification, selec- tion, quality control & quality assurance, characterization, fit-for-pur- pose modeling, application & supplied to outside or internal party, inter- pret the same results, test against actual data, provide quant and qual estimates on data accuracy & ability to predict physical location of ex- pected reservoirs, analyze quality of expected reservoirs, ability or lack thereof to predict presence of hydrocarbons, have ability to understand & apply various seismically-derived attributes & how these attributes may or may not directly impact prospective area in terms of delineat- ing, confirming, or denying existence of a reservoir prone depositional system, its character & relationship to a prospective area of interest, with particular knowledge of how overall impact of seismic attributes affects prospect risk, have ability to understand & apply rock physics calculations & methodologies to calibrate seismic results & predictions/ limitations, against actual & conceptual well control within a seismic; understand importance of well & well data selection, quality control and quality assurance; understand formation evaluation & its potential to effect overall results, understand intrinsic limitations of seismic data to predict reservoir presence, location, quality & how the application of rock physics methods will affect the prediction of same, have ability to model various lithology, fluid, & reservoir properties & predict their ef- fect on seismic response; interpret 2D/3D seismic reflection data either in time or depth, create structure, thickness & various amplitude maps, combine with geological model(s) & extend well control to produce various lead & prospect maps in given area of interest, integrate veloc- ity models with PSTM interpretations to build final grids as input into static geo-models. Please fax resumes to 713-386-2749.

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713.395.9618
Gcox@bizjournals.com
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all county and municipal governments and to all interested persons within the Harris and Galveston Counties that the Board of Directors of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District will hold hearings on applications for new well permits and for renewal or amendment of existing permits or requests to reconsider denial of well registrations submitted by the below listed parties, on \textbf{July 11, 2017, at} 2:00 p.m., at the offices of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Friendswood, Harris County, Texas.

Any person who desires to appear at the hearing and present testimony, evidence, exhibits, or other information may do so. The date, time, and place of the hearing are fixed by the Subsidence District and the hearing may be continued where appropriate.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend the Subsidence District hearing and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print, or braille are requested to contact Ronald Geesing at (281) 986-2180 at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Sincerely,

Vannin Truong

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Oakview Farms, LLC, c/o Provident Engineers, Inc., at the office of PROVIDENT ENGINEERS, INC., at 9800 Centre Parkway, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77036 until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 6, 2017. All bids will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor, and services necessary or incidental to "Construction of MTI Lift Station Rehabilitation." Scope of Project:

1. Lift station rehabilitation to include, but not limited to: pump replacement, retrofit rehabilitation, piping and related electrical improvements, and general site improvements. The project also includes modifications to access hatches and raising discharge manholes. The successful bidder will be required to provide performance, payment and maintenance bonds for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Sealed Bids in duplicate will be received by Oakview Farms, LLC, c/o Provident Engineers, Inc., at the office of Provident Engineers, Inc., at 9800 Centre Parkway, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77036 until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 6, 2017. All bids will be opened and read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor, and services necessary or incidental to "Construction of MTI Lift Station Rehabilitation." Scope of Project:

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. There will be no pre-bid conference associated with this project.招标文件和标底文件的可用性将公布在www.turner-mud.org，搜索：4505-00。
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Mount Houston Road MUD will be received at the office of the Engineer for the District, 2925 Taft Business Park, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77042, until 2:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20, 2017, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of “Mount Houston Road MUD – Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 118 Emergency Interconnect” Project No. 40359-006.

Scope of the Work includes:
1. Installation of Water Meter Valve and Assembly
2. Installation of 15-Inch Water Meter Within Meter Vault
3. Installation for Purpose of Valve in Valley Meter Vault
4. Installation of 12-Inch Lookout Gate Valve and Box
5. Approximately 150 LF of 12-inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe
6. Construction to Existing 12-Inch Water Line
7. Installation of 12-inch Gate Valve with Indicator Port

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM, local time, Thursday, July 6, 2017, at the office of the Engineer, 2925 Taft Business Park, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042. Attendance is mandatory.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any minor defects. In the case of lack of clarity or ambiguity in the proposal, the Owner reserves the right to accept the most advantageous or reject the bid. All bids received after closing time designated above will not be considered.

INVITATION TO BID
Sealed bids in duplicate addressed to Conroe Municipal Utility District will be received in the office of the Engineer for the District, 4121 bloodworth, Suite 150, Bellaire, Texas 77411, until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2017, and then publicly opened and read at 2:00 p.m., local time, for construction of the 2017 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation for Conroe Municipal Utility District.


On the day of July 19, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of “Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Drainage Facilities to Serve Riverstone Phase 5 – Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 50.”

Proposals must be accompanied by a cashier's check or bid bond in the sum of not less than 5% of the total amount of the contract. Documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search “HCMUD 276 Waterline Crossings”. Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.

For purposes of the construction of “WATERLINE CROSSINGS”.  Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids in duplicate addressed to Conroe Municipal Utility District will be received in the office of the Engineer for the District, 2925 Taft Business Park, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77042, until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, and then publicly opened and read at 2:00 p.m., local time, for construction of the 2017 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation for Conroe Municipal Utility District.


On the day of July 19, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of “Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Drainage Facilities to Serve Riverstone Phase 5 – Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 50.”

Proposals must be accompanied by a cashier's check or bid bond in the sum of not less than 5% of the total amount of the contract. Documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search “HCMUD 276 Waterline Crossings”. Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.

For purposes of the construction of “WATERLINE CROSSINGS”.  Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.

INVITATION TO BID
Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Spring Creek Utility District, LP on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 489, will be received in the office of BGE, Inc., 10777 West Loop South, Suite 150, Bellaire, Texas 77411 until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, and then publicly opened and read at 2:00 p.m., local time, for construction of the “Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Drainage Facilities to Serve Riverstone Phase 5 – Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 50.”

The project is located northeast of the IH-10 and North Westgreen Boulevard intersection. The project includes two bored and cased waterline crossings under Texas 59 and one under IH-69, in the City of Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas. Said plans, specifications and bid documents are available at www.civcastusa.com. Said plans may be examined without charge in the office of Jones & Carter, Inc., Construction Documents, 2925 Taft Business Park, Suite 150, Houston, Texas 77042.


On the day of July 19, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of “Construction of Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Drainage Facilities to Serve Riverstone Phase 5 – Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 50.”

Proposals must be accompanied by a cashier's check or bid bond in the sum of not less than 5% of the total amount of the contract. Documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search “HCMUD 276 Waterline Crossings”. Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.

For purposes of the construction of “WATERLINE CROSSINGS”.  Bidders must register on this website in order to view documents.
INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to D.R. Horton - Texas, Ltd. on behalf of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 49, will be received in the office of BGC, Inc., 10111 Northwest Freeway, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77042, until 10:30 am on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time sealed bids will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of all materials, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of Bridges on Lake Houston, Section Seven Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Storm Sewer Facilities, Harris County, Texas.

Notice to Bidders

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 49, will be received in the office of BGC, Inc., 10111 Northwest Freeway, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77042, until 10:30 am on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time sealed bids will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of all materials, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of Bridges on Lake Houston, Section Seven Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Storm Sewer Facilities, Harris County, Texas.

Notice to Contractors

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Southeast Management, Inc., head office on behalf of Intrastate Municipal Utility District No. 49 will be received in the office of R. G. Miller Engineers, Inc., 16340 Park Place, Suite 500, Houston, Texas 77084, until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at which time sealed bids will be publicly opened and read for furnishing all materials, equipment and performing all work required for construction of Southeast Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Treatment Plant, Commercial Western Municipal Interconnection Utility Districts. The right is reserved, as the Owner may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if selected, will be required to execute a guarantee payment bond and a maintenance bond for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Northwest Harris County MUD No. 5, will be received in the office of Crayfish, Inc., 9960 Richmond Avenue, Suite 490, North Building, Houston, Texas 77294 until 11:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, July 18, 2017 and then publicly opened and read for furnishing of all materials, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to Construction of Bridges, Sections Six, Seven, Eight, and Nine, on north, and Benbrook Dr on the south, 20th Street on the west, and John Alber Rd on the east.

Documents are available online at https://www.houstontx.gov/bidsandcontracts. Questions should be submitted by email to syed.moinuddin@houstontx.gov

APPLICATION FOR ADVERTISING

Project Name: WBS Number:
INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 2, will be received in the office of Van De Wiele & Vogler, Inc., 2925 Briarpark, Suite 270, Houston, Texas 77042 until Friday, July 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM (Local Time), and then publicly opened and read. The right is reserved, as the Owner may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if selected, will be required to execute a guarantee payment bond and a maintenance bond for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to Houston First Corporation ("HFC") requires responsive proposals ("Proposals") from interested bidders to furnish and install a video/audio and reading/lounging service to licensees, sublicensees, and other users of its facilities.

Documents are available online at https://www.houstontx.gov/hfc/requestsforproposals. Questions should be submitted by email to Michael.Engel@HFC.houstontx.gov

APPLICATION FOR ADVERTISING

Project Name: WBS Number:
INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Houston and each of the Districts, WBS Number: 46-010-000-000 will be received at the City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise Department, 13430 NW Freeway Suite 400, Houston, TX 77078-3000. The City of Houston and each of the Districts reserve the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if selected, will be required to execute a guarantee payment bond and a maintenance bond for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the City of Houston and each of the Districts, WBS Number: 46-010-000-000 will be received at the City of Houston Office of Business Opportunity Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise Department, 13430 NW Freeway Suite 400, Houston, TX 77078-3000. The City of Houston and each of the Districts reserve the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if selected, will be required to execute a guarantee payment bond and a maintenance bond for the full amount of the contract. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) will receive Request for Qualifications for the following: Woodlands Division, Sanitary Sewer System, Storm Drainage System, Street Paving, and Donation Amenity Lake.

Scope of Project

1. Approx. 2,400 LF of 6-in-thru-8-in water line and all appurtenances.
2. Approx. 2,200 LF of 8-in thru 15-in sanitary sewer system collection and all appurtenances.
3. Approx. 2,700 LF of 18-in thru 48-in storm sewer and all appurtenances.
4. Approx. 10,055 LF of 6-in thru 8-in reinforced concrete
5. Approx. 9,700 SY of 6-in thru 8-in reinforced concrete pavement
6. Approx. 5,900 LF of reinforced concrete curb
7. Approx. 57,000 CY of lake excavation

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held in the office of BridgeHead Development, LP, 27370 House Hall Road, Cypress, TX 77435 on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. All interested parties are encouraged to attend to learn about the solicitation document.


Elton D. Brock, MBA, CTPM, CTCM, CPSM
Purchasing Manager
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
Purchase Department
1577 Dan vac Road
Houston, TX 77084

All responses shall be received at:
Elsan D. Brock, MBA, CTPM, CTCM, CPSM
Purchasing Manager
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
Purchase Department
1577 Dan vac Road
Houston, TX 77084

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Houst Houston First Projects: These projects are subject to the Houston First Program, which gives a preference to certain local entities in award of the procurement.

http://www.houstontx.gov/site/houstonfirst.html

Invitation to Bid - Sealed bids will be received in the Office of the City Secretary, 500 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002 until 11:00 am local time, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Downtown in Houston, Texas.

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to LGI Homes – Texas, LLC for Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 378, will be received at the offices of Costello, Inc., 9990 Richmond Avenue, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77036 until 2:00 PM, local time, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision required or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 378, in Montgomery County, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bid Quotations will be received at the offices of Tejas Consulting Engineers, Inc., 9105 FM 1093, Ste. 101, Cypress, TX 77433 until 11:00 am local time, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 278 WATER DISTRIBUTION, WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND STORM WATER FACILITIES TO SERVE WOODLANDS, PINES, SECTION TEN PROJECT NO. 021-002-18 (ST)

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. the office of the Engineer for the Developers, EHSRA, 10555 Woodlands Drive, Houston, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to GRAHAM WESTMINSTER URBAN UTILITY DISTRICT, will be received in the office of Graham Westminster Urban Utility District, 3700 Woodlands Dr., Cypress, TX 77433, until 11:00 am local time, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Invitation to Bid - Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website, http://www.civcastusa.com, or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 278, at the office of the Woodlands Division, Project NO. 40277-20, at 10:00 a.m. on July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Invitation to Bid - Sealed bids may be submitted either (i) electronically using the CivCast USA (“CivCast”) website, http://www.civcastusa.com, or (ii) Paper copy in duplicate. Bids will be received Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 278, at the office of the Woodlands Division, Project NO. 40277-20, at 10:00 a.m. on July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to GRAHAM WESTMINSTER URBAN UTILITY DISTRICT, will be received in the office of Graham Westminster Urban Utility District, 3700 Woodlands Dr., Cypress, TX 77433, until 11:00 am local time, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bid Quotations will be received at the offices of Tejas Consulting Engineers, Inc., 9105 FM 1093, Ste. 101, Cypress, TX 77433, until 11:00 am local time, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision required or incidental to the construction of improvements located at Cypress, Texas.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to the Owners at 901 Post Oak Blvd., 3500 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 1100, Houston, Texas 77056 at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read for furnishing of all plant, labor, material and equipment and appurtenances.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 278 WATER DISTRIBUTION, WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND STORM WATER FACILITIES TO SERVE WOODLANDS, PINES, SECTION TEN

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities or defects. In case of the lack of clarity or ambiguity in a proposal, the Owner reserves the right to accept the most advantageous or reject the bid. All bids received after the closing time designated above will be returned unopened.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. 457991
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARIE JURISCHK WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2017 in Cause No. 457991 pending in the Probate Court of Harris County, Texas to:

GENE WILBERT JURISCHK AND BERT WAYNE JURISCHK,
Independent Co-Executors

All claims against the Estate of MARIE JURISCHK WILLIAMS, Deceased, should be presented to: Geoffrey C. Sansom, Attorney at Law, 2905 Sackett Street, Houston, Texas 77009.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. 457938
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MILDRED MARIE JURISCHK WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on June 21, 2017 in Cause No. 457938 pending in the Probate Court of Harris County, Texas to:

GERARD WRIGHT JURISCHK AND BERT WAYNE JURISCHK,
Independent Co-Executors

All claims against the Estate of MILDRED MARIE JURISCHK WILLIAMS, Deceased, should be presented to: John Pays, Attorney at Law, 14301 S. Nebraska, League City, Texas 77573.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. 457957
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALBERT ARTHUR WRIGHT, JR., Deceased, were issued on April 19, 2017 in Cause No. 457957 pending in the Probate Court of Harris County, Texas to:

DORES PASQUALI,
Independent Administrator

All claims against the Estate of ALBERT ARTHUR WRIGHT, JR., Deceased, should be presented to: Stott Payne, Attorney at Law, 2905 Sackett Street, Houston, Texas 77009.

NOTE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077701
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GEORGE DUNSON, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077701 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

BERNICE M. DUNSON,
Independent Administrator

All claims against the Estate of GEORGE DUNSON, Deceased, should be presented to: Bernice M. Dunson, 1720 Navoa Drive, League City, Texas 77573.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077767
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PHILLIP GEORGE DUNSON, Deceased, were issued on April 19, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077767 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

DAVID MILLER,
Independent Co-Executors

All claims against the Estate of PHILLIP GEORGE DUNSON, Deceased, should be presented to: David C. Simmons, Attorney at Law, 4145 Royal Crest Dr., Suite 170, Houston, Texas 77098.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077794
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELAINE M. POORELL, Deceased, were issued on May 18, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077794 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

WILLIAM W. POORELL AND JAMES L. POORELL,
Independent Co-Executors

All claims against the Estate of ELAINE M. POORELL, Deceased, should be presented to: Patrick F. Timmons, Jr., Attorney at Law, 8956 Katy Freeway, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77024-1806.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077797
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MABEL BAKER MILLER, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077797 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

WILLIAM J. MILLER,
Independent Administrator

All claims against the Estate of MABEL BAKER MILLER, Deceased, should be presented to: George K. Simmons, Attorney at Law, 1720 Navoa Drive, League City, Texas 77573.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077804
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GEORGE LEE MILLER, Deceased, were issued on April 19, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077804 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

JAMES L. MILLER,
Independent Executor

All claims against the Estate of GEORGE LEE MILLER, Deceased, should be presented to: David C. Simmons, Attorney at Law, 4145 Royal Crest Dr., Suite 170, Houston, Texas 77098.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077811
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BERTHOLD H. MILLER, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077811 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

JOHN MILLER,
Independent Executor

All claims against the Estate of BERTHOLD H. MILLER, Deceased, should be presented to: Paul P. Schaefer, Attorney at Law, 1720 Navoa Drive, League City, Texas 77573.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077813
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PAUL MILLER, Deceased, were issued on April 19, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077813 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

PAUL MILLER,
Independent Administrator

All claims against the Estate of PAUL MILLER, Deceased, should be presented to: Geoffrey C. Sansom, Attorney at Law, 2905 Sackett Street, Houston, Texas 77009.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NO. PR-0077820
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARSHALL MILLER, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2017 in Cause No. PR-0077820 pending in the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas to:

MARSHALL MILLER,
Independent Administrator

All claims against the Estate of MARSHALL MILLER, Deceased, should be presented to: David C. Simmons, Attorney at Law, 4145 Royal Crest Dr., Suite 170, Houston, Texas 77098.
BY BRYAN BENNETT
Guest Contributor

The importance and awareness of the impact of data centers in our daily lives is not widely understood, and this is very understandable.

However, Houstonians should recognize that nearly all of our daily lives and corporations that employ millions of Houstonians intersect with data centers every second. These interactions range from your cell phone calls, texts, banking transactions, your company’s payroll, corporate conference calls, grocery store purchases, healthcare medical records, hospitals, insurance, airlines, hotels, rental cars and nearly everything else you purchase including online purchases.

The Houston corporate community uses data centers regularly to ensure business continuity regardless of outside influences such as hurricanes, tornadoes or other disasters. Many data centers in the U.S. including Houston’s robust data center community are very secure facilities. In fact, several colocation data centers in Houston are structurally designed to withstand winds of up to 185 mph or more. In addition, these data centers provide physical security which includes re-enforced crash rated fencing to contain the event of a vehicle intrusion by ramming the facility along with other security protocols such as card swipes, retinal readers and digital fingerprint recognition to gain entry, as well as, superior redundancy and backup systems. If this seems like it’s a James Bond movie...it’s a lot more than that.

Houston is home to several data centers with different commercial developers. These developers have spent well in excess of $300 million dollars in recent years in and around the Houston area. These new construction and expansion projects stimulate our local economy which added over 1 million square feet of available leasable space while providing valuable and “mission critical” services to Houston businesses. If your company risks “going down” meaning your IT infrastructure or operating without your critical data, you run the risk of losing millions of dollars in the process. Therefore, you might seriously consider being in a highly secured, networked environment like a colocation data center to maintain your business continuity. Houston offers many excellent colocation data centers from which to choose.

In fact, as a simple example of data centers that we use daily is the following. Did you know when you place a call to a friend or conference call across town or the country, it does not go directly to their phone or office? It most likely is routed from your phone to a cell tower then perhaps a transfer station in Houston and then to their phone? Of course, all of this happens at the speed of light through data centers, cell towers, computers and fiber optic connectivity. This illustration is just a microcosm of the vitality of technology and data centers and they are attached at the hip.

The question becomes is your company, your bank, your hospital, your retailer, your pharmacy in a highly secure and scalable data center? The answer is many are and many are not. The costly danger is for the many who are not secure.

The reality is more than one Fortune 1000 companies have lost millions and even billions in revenue with not knowing the answer to that question as their legacy data centers failed a “best practice” review.

That is important for all the obvious reasons: when consumers cannot access web sites for their purchases or when a company’s point of sales transactions like groceries, gas are disrupted. These can be very frustrating and create a great loss in revenue and potentially damage a company’s brand equity and net income.

Bryan Bennett is principal at Houston-based Bennett Data Center Solutions.
New University of St. Thomas president focused on expanded curriculum

Richard Ludwick assumes his position as president of the University of St. Thomas in July.

Richard Ludwick takes the helm of the University of St. Thomas in July during a time of great transformation.

The school, named after philosopher and theologian St. Thomas Aquinas, has long offered a strong liberal arts and science curriculum. However, in recent years — prompted by student interest and business needs — the 70-year-old university has expanded its pre-professional programs in business, health, technology and engineering.

In fact, the University of St. Thomas has seen a 75 percent growth in students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. The university, founded in 1947 by the Basilian Fathers, currently has 3,312 students including 1,602 undergraduates.

In April, the University of St. Thomas opened a new center for science and health professions, a 103,000-square-foot complex. Since the university launched its most recent capital campaign in 2009, the university has raised more than $143 million — a third of which has gone toward the new center for science and health professions.

Ludwick said he plans to work with business leaders to expand the university's pre-professional programs while still emphasizing the importance of the university’s traditional liberal arts and science education.

Most recently, Ludwick served as the president of the independent Colleges of Indiana, the nation's oldest state association of private colleges serving 31 institutions and 100,000 students. In that role since 2010, Ludwick has helped to increase student funding and grow revenue, including philanthropic gifts.

Why did you decide to pursue the top job at the University of St. Thomas? There was a strong alignment between my personal beliefs, desire to find a career home and the mission of this Catholic institution. I was also attracted to the diversity of the students here and the welcome that students and others here feel regardless of their background. In a sense, the story of this university is a story of modern Houston, particularly its diversity and trendsetting demographic shifts. That played a part in my decision of where I wanted to serve.

What attracted you to lead Catholic institutions in your career? At this point in my career, I want to dedicate my life and career to that to which I find feeds my soul, and that’s my faith. For me, the Catholic character of the University of St. Thomas is significant. This is the only Catholic institution of higher education in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. There’s a rich intellectual tradition here, but we also have the ability to have tough conversations that are infused with a freedom of expression that isn’t always possible elsewhere. I believe the search for truth can be found in the fusion of faith and reason. This isn’t proselytizing. It’s opening one’s mind to the possibility that we don’t know everything yet. Faith helps us beyond what the known limits are, and it provides the framework for how we test those ideas and help expand the mind and knowledge.

The university is undergoing a major expansion, including the opening of a new College of Science and Health Professions. Some have expressed concerns that liberal arts courses, such as philosophy, may suffer as a result of these changes. What do you say to that? University of St. Thomas will always provide a strong liberal arts curriculum. Philosophy is one of the strong tenants of our core curriculum. Whether you’re Catholic or not, philosophy is a crucible for reflection and expansion. It gives you a chance to do your own exploring. At the same time, the sciences have always been a part of our curriculum. In fact, one of the great gifts of the church is science. What is new and encouraging is that our students are more interested in science than in previous generations. I think some see our new College of Science and Health Professions as this big departure. But my view is it’s a continuum. We’re staying with what we’ve always done, but expanding it. Liberal arts and science are at the heart and soul of this institution. That’s what forms the core of a well-educated person. People often talk about getting students to become workforce ready. Is anyone workforce ready if they can’t communicate or work well with others? Those are the things liberal arts and science can teach our students.

How will this university prepare students to become workforce ready during your tenure? When you look at our students, you can see certain high-impact areas. Our students who seek entry into medical schools are very successful. Obviously, our business program has seen success. But we want to prepare all of our students for whatever careers they may choose. Often, we haven’t even imagined the jobs of the future. But at the core of all of these professions is the soft skills, such as the ability to analyze problems and communicate. I’ve talked with lots of employers. Most of the people who lead them are actually liberal arts educated. When you stop to think about it, do you really want to hire an engineer who is a great engineer but can’t communicate with people? I think one of the best undergraduate engineering programs is at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana, where the largest department there is the humanities. The reason why their engineers are so sought is because they have great engineers who are able to do all the essential skills. That’s why liberal arts are so important.

What can Houston’s business community do to help the university in this mission? Wherever I’ve been, I’ve enjoyed a strong relationship with business. I think the thing we’re looking for in the business community is a strong match. If employers want a partner to solve a problem, we can help. If they need a strong talent pipeline, we want to make that even more robust. While I was at the Indiana consortium, we launched a pilot called Launch Tech where we give our liberal arts students four weeks of intensive training on coding. We give them a crash course, and then help them connect with businesses by visiting coworking spaces and startups. It always makes sense to partner with business to meet those needs, and it helps our students enter into the workforce.

With concerns about student debt mounting, how do you encourage students to pursue a liberal arts and science program from a private Catholic university while still keeping costs down? Affordability is an important mission for our university. We serve many first-generation college students from backgrounds that aren’t as well-heeled. The conversation over the value of a liberal arts education and even higher education is a national one. People ask, “Is college worth it?” I say, “What is the cost of not pursuing that education?” Especially with first-generation students, they don’t have the opportunity to advance in their formation and economically without education. The national average debt of students who graduate from private college is about $30,000. That’s the cost of some entry-level vehicles, but the payoff for that is so significant that it’s almost negligible. Various estimates peg the lifetime earnings of a college graduate to be more than $1 million. It’s significant. If you’re going to make an argument based on money, you have to get an education.

How will you define success during your tenure at the university? The true mark of our success will be found in the hearts and minds of the students we reach and touch. We’re expanding our programs in science and health professionals. We’ll raise money through our endowment and expanding our relationships with the community, but our work with students — that’s the key metric that we can be judged on.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.
S. Glen Haven, Braeswood Place
4 Beds, 2-1/2 Baths, $790s
Tom Plant 713.524.0888

Westheimer, Regency House
2 Beds, 2-1/2 Baths, $740s
Karin Tennant 713.524.0888

W. Cottage St., Heights
3+ Beds, 3-1/2 Baths, $710s
Caroline Schlemmer 713.864.0888

S. Glen Haven, Braeswood Place
5 Beds, 5-1/2 Baths, $3.9+ Mil
Beverly Berry 713.524.0888

Glen Cove, Memorial Park
5+ Beds, 6-1/2 Baths, $3.4+ Mil
Cathy Blum 713.524.0888

Cason, West University
5+ Beds, 5+ Baths, $3.3+ Mil
Carol Rowley 713.524.0888

Cason, West University
4 Beds, 4-1/2 Baths, $1+ Mil
Tim Surratt 713.524.0888

Kingsride, Memorial
5 Beds, 3-1/2 Baths, $890s
Colleen Sherlock 713.524.0888

Three Corners, Hunters Creek
5 Beds, 4+ Baths, $2.7+ Mil
Sharon Ballas 713.784.0888

Constance, Hedwig
4 Beds, 4-1/2 Baths, $1.7+ Mil
Pama Abercrombie 713.784.0888

Constance, Hedwig
4+ Beds, 4 Baths, $1.2+ Mil
Kelly Leaning 713.784.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
3+ Beds, 3-1/2 Baths, $1.3+ Mil
Heidi Dugan 713.524.0888

Mercer, West University
4 Beds, 2-1/2 Baths, $1.4+ Mil
Susan Hoffman 713.524.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
4 Beds, 1-1/2 Baths, $1.1+ Mil
Kelly Blum 713.524.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
4+ Beds, 4 Baths, $1.2+ Mil
Karin Tennant 713.524.0888

Kingsride, Memorial
5 Beds, 3-1/2 Baths, $890s
Clint Simpson 713.784.0888

Kingsride, Memorial
5 Beds, 5-1/2 Baths, $3.9+ Mil
Beverly Berry 713.524.0888

Glen Cove, Memorial Park
5 Beds, 6-1/2 Baths, $3.4+ Mil
Cathy Blum 713.524.0888

Constance, Hedwig
4 Beds, 4-1/2 Baths, $1.7+ Mil
Pama Abercrombie 713.784.0888

Constance, Hedwig
4+ Beds, 4 Baths, $1.2+ Mil
Kelly Leaning 713.784.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
3+ Beds, 3-1/2 Baths, $1.3+ Mil
Karin Tennant 713.524.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
4 Beds, 1-1/2 Baths, $1.1+ Mil
Kelly Blum 713.524.0888

Vassar, Rice/Museum District
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Karin Tennant 713.524.0888

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Clint Simpson 713.784.0888

Kingsride, Memorial
5 Beds, 5-1/2 Baths, $3.9+ Mil
Beverly Berry 713.524.0888

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