

Texas Department of Commerce Executive Director to Speak at July Luncheon

Many site relocation consultants have said that a trained and available workforce is a must in attracting businesses to an area. Another must is some form of economic development incentives.

Brenda Arnett, executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce, is charged with creating and implementing these types of programs to attract businesses to Texas, and she will be the featured speaker at the North Houston Association's quarterly membership luncheon.

The luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. on July 23 at the Wyndham-Greenspoint Hotel. It is being sponsored by the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber, Houston Northwest Chamber, Humble Area Chamber, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber, Port of Houston Authority, South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber and the Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Texas Department of Commerce has the task of providing business with the "business tools" for economic growth and job creation. One of its primary goals is to help businesses be competitive in the global market.

Current programs include the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) and the Smart Jobs Fund, two of the department's most popular business incentive programs.

TMAC is a statewide manufacturing extension service created to assist small Texas manufacturers adopt new manufacturing technologies and techniques to improve global competitiveness.

The Texas Department of Com-



Executive Director of the Texas Department of Commerce, Brenda Arnett, will speak at the North Houston Association's Membership Luncheon on July 23.

merce estimates that businesses using the programs will see an average of 50 percent increase in annual sales, 30 percent increase in exports, 15 percent increase in productivity, and a 20 percent reduction in manufacturing lead time.

The program is also expected to help minimize job dislocations and plant closures that might occur in certain Texas industries vulnerable to international competition and defense downsizing.

The Smart Jobs Fund provides direct grants to employers for customized training. The employer determines what training is needed for their workforce as long as they meet the requirements set by the Texas Legislature. These requirements include salary levels, an employer match and a worker retention period of three months after the training project is completed.

Due to the program's success, the funding level for fiscal year 1996 has

been greatly increased to more than \$29 million. For the biennium ending August 31, 1995, grants were awarded to more than 77 companies at a total funding level of about \$7.7 million.

The Smart Jobs Fund was established by the 73rd Legislature in September 1993.

Arnett was appointed to her current position by Governor George W. Bush in February 1995. Prior to joining the Texas Department of Commerce, she was the founder and president of a temporary medical staffing service in Houston that was founded in 1976.

Arnett has advised members of the U.S. Congress on the health care industry and other business issues, and the Texas Legislature on state agencies and their interaction with state government.

Arnett attended the University of Houston and is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Radiology at Herman Hospital. ■

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From the President

Jon Lindsay

I would like to thank all of you for your warm welcome to the North Houston Association. My role as president is an ideal fit for the North Houston Association, its members and my upcoming job as Senator of the area.

As some of you "old-timers" know, I was involved in the North Houston Association before its inception. In the early 70's, I was a part of the Houston North Association, which was created specifically to promote quality development in north Harris County. The members involved in the association realized there was a need for a regional organization that could impact north Houston issues such as infrastructure, environment and quality of life. Thus, the North Houston Association was born in 1982, and began with 26 member companies, primarily developers.

Today, north Houston's needs have changed, and as a result the association's membership is a more diverse group, including educational and financial institutions, engineering firms, law firms, nonprofit organizations and, of course, real estate and developers; but our focus remains on regional issues that impact north Houston.

One specific event that will affect a large number of issues is the upcoming 1997 legislative session. The association is currently formulating its legislative agenda, and I encourage you to forward me your thoughts on the issues that are important to you and your company. Without your input, our positions will represent only a few individuals.

Lindsay Named NHA's President, Stanley Executive Director

Jon Lindsay, state Senator Elect and former Harris County Judge, has been named president of the North Houston Association.

"On behalf of the North Houston Association and its board of directors, we are very pleased to welcome Jon as our new president," said Chairman Gary Montgomery. "His ties to local and state officials are a perfect fit for the North Houston Association. It will enable us to keep our members informed on legislative issues that affect north Houston."

Lindsay believes the position of president of the North Houston Association is ideal because it serves generally the same area that his Senate District covers.

"Many of the issues that the North Houston Association addresses are the same that I will face in the Senate. This job will help me keep better informed about the needs of the community," said Lindsay.

"I am confident that the association members and the residents of north

Harris County will benefit through his extensive experience of the public and private sectors," said Harris County Precinct Four Commissioner Jerry Eversole.

"No one is more knowledgeable of the north Houston, Harris County area than Jon Lindsay," said Montgomery County Judge Alan B. Sadler.

In addition to hiring Lindsay, the association promoted Marlisa Stanley to executive director. She will manage the daily activities, committees and events of the association.

Stanley, former director of projects and public relations, has been with the association for two years and has kept things on track amidst various changes.

"She has brought several new projects to the association, including the quarterly newsletter, the "Friday Fax", and the golf tournament, just to name a few," said Montgomery.

Prior to joining NHA, Stanley worked for Edelman Public Relations, an international public relations firm. ■

Dr. John Pickelman Joins NHA's Board

Dr. John Pickelman, chancellor of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, has been named to the North Houston Association's board of directors.

"The addition of Dr. Pickelman to our board will add a new dimension to its character," said Chairman Gary Montgomery. "His unique insight into how education relates to economic development and the business community will be an asset both to our association and the north Houston area."

"I am pleased to be selected to serve on the North Houston Association's board. I am looking forward to helping the association work on regional issues that affect the north Houston area," said Pickelman.

Pickelman has been chancellor of the college district since 1991, and prior to working in north Houston, he served as president of Galveston College.

Pickelman was awarded the North Houston Association's 1995 North Star Award, in honor of outstanding community service, including the creation of Montgomery College.

He has also been designated as an Outstanding Texas Community College CEO, and in 1990, he was designated a Distinguished Graduate of the College of Education and the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin. ■

NHA Receives Award for GreenLine Express

The North Houston Association was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Lone Star Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation at its summer conference held on June 20, 1996.

The award recognizes the North Houston Association for its innovative partnership of the public and private sector in the creation of the GreenLine Express minibus service. ■

Economic Development Committee

The North Houston Association's Economic Development Committee has developed its Economic Development Resource List, a document that gives profiles of member companies, by industry, who have volunteered for the project. The first purpose of the document is to have a pool of experts available to provide industry information requested by relocation prospects. The list will also be given to all north Houston chambers of commerce to use as a resource of experts in various industries.

The committee is also getting reprints of the small NHA Aerial Land Use Maps. The small maps are so popular that the association was sold out of them earlier in the year. The committee will consider updating the map early in 1997.

Environment Committee

The JFK/Airport Beautification Subcommittee met with the Department of Aviation regarding how NHA can help coordinate beautification efforts along JFK Boulevard with their projected widening of the road. This partnership with the city will allow NHA's beautification efforts to proceed in a well-informed manner.

The Infrastructure Subcommittee will begin meeting on the issue of subsidence and surface water conversion, in order to keep NHA members informed of the situation.

The Landscape/Aesthetics Preservation Subcommittee is gathering tree and shrub ordinances from local cities and counties. After review of the policies, the subcommittee will evaluate consistency of the policies.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee is working with the city of Houston's De-

Sign Up Now for NHA's Golf Tournament

The Second Annual North Houston Association Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, September 16, at Willow Creek Golf Club.

Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Montgomery County Judge Alan B. Sadler have agreed to serve as honorary chairmen for the event.

Just as last year, each team will consist of three individuals and a public official. NHA will match public officials to teams.

Compaq Computer Corporation is the tournament's first Silver Underwriter, and there are many additional

sponsorships still available:

Gold Underwriter	\$5,000
Video Underwriter	\$2,500
Bag Tag Underwriter	\$1,000
Team/Hole Package	\$ 800
Team (3 people)	\$ 600
Beverage Station	\$ 300
Hole Sponsor	\$ 250
Individual Entries	\$ 200

All tournament proceeds benefit the economic development, environment and transportation projects of the North Houston Association.

Call the NHA office today to sign up for the tournament! ■

partment of Aviation to develop a list of projects that would improve mobility and access near Houston Intercontinental Airport. The association will coordinate with various agencies involved in the projects to determine the priorities and time lines for the projects.

In May, members of the committee and State Representative Kevin Brady, Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Humble Area Chamber of Commerce President Mike Byers, presented the North Houston Association's Mo-

bility Update to the Texas Transportation Commission in Austin.

NHA Chairman Gary Montgomery introduced the presentation and Mobility Update Subcommittee Chairman Mark Froehlich presented the document to the commissioners.

Regarding congestion-mitigation efforts, the association has assisted First Health Strategy with a parking shortage problem by forming a number of vanpools. If your company needs assistance, contact the NHA office. ■



Mark Froehlich, chairman of the Mobility Update Subcommittee, presents the North Houston Mobility Update to the Texas Transportation Commission in Austin.

Upcoming Events

Bring a Friend, Ride Free!

During the week of July 22, when current riders of the GreenLine Express bring a friend, they both ride free.

The GreenLine Express is a subscription minibus service between Kingwood and Greenspoint. Many commuters that live in the Kingwood area utilize the service to save time and money while commuting to the Greenspoint area.

Tickets to ride must be purchased in advance. For ticket information, contact the North Houston Association.

NHA Aerial Area Land Use Maps Available

The large (37 1/2" x 41 1/2") North Houston Association Area Land Use maps are now half price! Prices for members are \$5 (\$2.50 if 10 or more are purchased). The nonmember price is \$12.50 (\$6.25 for purchases of 10 or more). For more information, call 875-0660.

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NHA Committee Meetings

Transportation

The Transportation Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on July 24, August 28 and September 25 in the first floor conference room at Two Greenspoint Plaza.

Environment

The Environment Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on July 11, August 8 and September 12 at Swift Energy Company.

Economic Development

Call the NHA office (875-0660) for more information.

Environment/Transportation Subcommittees

Call the NHA office (875-0660) for more information.

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