Second Quarter 2000 Vol.

NHA Hosts City Council Breakfast

The North Houston Association and its members recently hosted a private reception to welcome the new city of Houston council members and educate them on the Association's purpose and role in the community.

"A number of council members serve our area, and we want them to know they can turn to NHA as a resource for economic development, environment, transporta-

tion, workforce development and legislative issues," said Catherine Wray, executive director.

NHA Chairman Dennis Petersen, P.E., began the breakfast by welcoming attendees and providing an overview of the Association's purpose and background. He also introduced a number of Association board members as well as dignitaries from a variety of counties and cities.

Following introductions, speakers provided an overview of each commit-



City of Houston Council Member Mark Goldberg speaks to NHA members about key issues in his district. He noted the importance of teaming up with the Association to positively impact north Houston.

tee: Transportation Committee Chairman Glenn Graham, P.E., Environment Committee Chairman Rafael Ortega, P.E., Workforce Development Committee Board Liaison Dr. John Pickelman, and Business Issues and Resources Committee Chairman Steve McPhetridge.

At the event, Council Member Gabriel Vasquez noted that transportation issues were key for his constituents and highlighted the economic development impact of the Downtown Corridor.

Council Member Gordon Quan said

that he hopes to work with the North'Houston Association on common issues, and was impressed with the presentations and information given at the reception.

Council Member Mark Goldberg specifically noted the importance of the North East Water Treatment Plant to his constituents, and expressed interest in working with NHA's Environment Committee.

NHA President Senator Jon Lindsay concluded the event with an invitation to

all council members to visit with NHA members and staff about particular issues. He encouraged them to utilize the Association's ability to provide a historic background on a variety of issues.

Underwriters of the event were Bank One, Texas, Brown & Gay Engineers, HNTB Corporation, JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc., Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc., PBS&J, The Betz Companies, Turner Collie & Braden Inc., and Walter P. Moore.



Michael Richmond, CEO, The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P., and NHA Board Member and Chancellor Dr. John Pickelman, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, converse at the NHA City Council Breakfast.

INSIDE...

- Mobility Update, Annual Awards Event Scheduled
- NHA welcomes three new members
- Board of Directors passes three resolutions at annual retreat

From the President...

Dear NHA Members:

Recently the Senate Health Services Committee, of which I am a member, held a public hearing at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. We heard invited testimony on one of our interim studies: to assess the preparedness of the Texas health care work force to meet the health care needs of Texans beyond the year 2000, including methods to retain Texas-trained medical personnel.

The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) provided a telemedicine demonstration; the implications for such technology are endless. It will never be able to replace the doctor/patient relationship, but it should serve to enhance this relationship. There was also testimony, although limited, on patient confidentiality. As we transition into a more high tech society, there are many confidentiality problems regarding personal data and health records that must be addressed.

The committee is also charged with studying the effects of Medicaid reform and managed care on the Medicaid system. One concern is that many mentally ill adults do not qualify for Medicaid for psychotic drugs, and costs for these medications have sky-rocketed. The committee is holding several hearings around the state to gain a statewide perspective on these issues. For more information on the Health Services Committee, or any other Senate Committee, visit the Senate web site at www.senate.state.tx.us.

Senator Jon Lindsay

NHA Adds Three New Members

The North Houston Association's membership roster has grown by three: Enron, Friendswood Development Company and Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group, PLLC.

Enron is an energy network that has championed restructuring natural gas and electricity markets globally. Its goal is to help customers make the most of the enormous opportunities that competitive energy markets offer.

The company helps make the competitive U.S. energy markets more efficient.

Enron's outsourcing services enable commercial and light industrial companies, schools, universities and other institutions to reduce capital costs and limit their energy risk at one or multiple sites.

The company is the world's largest marketer of electricity and natural gas. Enron participates in markets in North America, South America, Northern Europe, the United Kingdom, Con-

tinental Europe and Australia.

In Asia, Africa and India, Enron is developing essential energy infrastructure and offering financial services.

Enron has approximately \$34 billion in capital and assets. The company operates some of the largest natural gas pipeline systems in North America and South America and is introducing more flexible storage capacity.

For four years running, Fortune magazine has named Enron the "Most Innovative Company in America" and last year named it one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America."

Friendswood Development Company is a multi-faceted real estate development company active in the Houston market since 1962. Current projects in the North Houston Association's service area are Kingwood, Fairfield, WindRose, Village Creek and Laurel Creek.

Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group, PLLC, is a medical group practice which

has serviced the north Houston community for more than 15 years.

Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group is a 26-physician multi-specialty medical group, which has a satellite office in Kingwood. The Kingwood office joined the North Houston Association because the Kingwood-based physicians, Drs. Martin Basaldua and Carl Heller, have been longtime residents of the Kingwood community and believe in what the Association stands for in furthering the economic development of the area.

Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group merged with Basaldua and Heller, PA in December 1999, to further its strategic objective of bringing like-minded physicians together in one medical group, creating a united presence for dealing directly with the insurance industry to improve upon patient access to the physicians of their choice as well as confidence in the quality of health care patients deserve.

NHA's Annual Awards Event Honors Members, Releases Mobility Update

Three outstanding individuals and one company will be honored at NHA's Annual Awards Breakfast, and the much-anticipated Mobility Update will be released to the membership.

The event will take place from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton North Houston Hotel on Thursday, July 20.

"This year has been so packed with projects and activities that we had to postpone this annual breakfast to the summer. When we saw that the Mobility Update would be available around the same time, we decided to combine the two topics," said Catherine Wray, executive director.

Speakers at the event will include Jackie Freeman, Harris County; Tom Rolen, City of Houston; Judge Alan Sadler, Montgomery County; and Gary Trietsch, Texas Department of Transportation.

"As our members know, we insist on high-quality programs and products. For this reason, the Mobility Update is being released behind schedule. However, the committee felt it was worth the delay to have the most professional, upto-date document possible," Wray said.

The Mobility Update includes an inventory of current and future roadway and highway projects, information on multimodal projects in Greenspoint and The Woodlands, details on expansions and improvements at Bush Intercontinental Airport, information on the Clean Air Act as it relates to transportation, a summary on the Grand Parkway and contacts for funding agencies.

Sponsors of the Mobility Update are Brown & Gay, Carter & Burgess, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, Greater Greenspoint District, HNTB Corporation, JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc., Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc., PBS&J, The Woodlands Op-

erating Company, L.P., Turner Collie & Braden Inc., Walter P. Moore, and Williams Brothers Construction Company. These sponsors will all have complimentary tables at the event.

NHA's highest honor, the North Star Award, will be presented to Chris Olavson, former director of district transportation planning for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Olavson worked for TxDOT for more than 32 years; 13 of those years he served as the director of district transportation planning.

When he was working for TxDOT, Olavson regularly attended NHA's Transportation Committee meetings to keep membership informed on regional issues and the status of projects in north Houston.

"Chris is a major supporter of the North Houston Association; his input has been invaluable," said Wray.

The North Star Award is given to an individual who has made a long-term impact on the quality of life in north Houston. Past recipients include Roger Galatas, The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P., Jimmie Schindewolfe, P.E., city of Houston, and former Congressman Jack Fields.

Two individuals are being honored with the Association's Compass Award: Glenn Graham and David Millikan.

Graham, with PBS&J, has served as the chairman of NHA's Transportation Committee for three years. In this capacity, he has led the development and production of the Mobility Update, among numerous other projects of the committee.

Graham and Millikan worked together as co-chairmen of the Grand Parkway Committee. Under their leadership, committee members met with Congressman Kevin Brady on the issue. As a result, a Grand Parkway Factual Document was created and distributed to key legislators; a NHA luncheon was also focused around this topic.

In addition to his work with the Grand Parkway Committee, Millikan was chairman of the Environment Committee for two years. As chairman, he was involved in a number of activities, including reviewing draft legislation relating to formation of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.

Millikan has been involved in NHA's committees for 10 years, and is currently working as vice president at Michael Baker Jr.

NHA's Compass Award is bestowed on an individual who has made significant contributions to the projects and programs of the Association.

The third NHA award is the Environmental Impact Award. This year, the Association is honoring Continental Airlines for its strides in preserving north Houston's environment.

Continental has an eight-member environmental affairs staff working to reduce operational impacts on the environment while maintaining a safe, ontime airline. It has agreed to voluntarily reduce air emissions, specifically nitrogen oxides, from ground service equipment at Bush Intercontinental Airport by 75 percent by 2005.

EVENT DETAILS

What: NHA's Annual Awards and Mobility Event

When: Thursday, July 20 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Where: Sheraton North

Houston Hotel Member Costs:

Individuals - \$40 Table of Eight - \$300

James Curry, Hines

He just can't stay away - from north Houston, that is.

Once James Curry, senior manager with Hines, arrived in Houston, he kept coming back for more.

Originally from Lubbock, Texas, Curry earned his undergraduate degree in marketing from Texas Tech, then later acquired a master's in business administration from the University of Houston.

He served five years in the Air Force, where he flew the SAC Airborne Command Post out of Omaha, Nebraska.



Curry remembers when north Houston was just beginning to thrive. He worked for Texas International Airlines when they bought Continental Airlines, and then joined Hines' Houston office.

He began with Hines in 1983 managing several properties in the Galleria area before transferring to Atlanta to take responsibility for the company's operations in the southeast region.

After five years in Atlanta, he returned to Houston to handle due diligence/acquisitions for Hines' Greenspoint property.

Curry wasn't the only one who believed in the future of north Houston. At the time of the acquisition, Greenspoint was the largest existing office property the company had ever purchased.

"On a personal level, I was glad to return to north Houston," said Curry. "In fact, we moved right back into our old neighborhood in Atascocita and picked up where we left off - with our friends and our community involvement."

"I had lived in Houston for 13 years

before moving to Atlanta. When I first arrived in Houston, Greenspoint Mall was opening, and coming back to work in Greenspoint years later was interesting. Upon my return, I was surprised at some of the notions people had about Greenspoint, but now I've seen the area move back to the stature and position it held when it was first developed," he said.

Curry feels NHA, "provides a very effective voice for advocating for infrastructure and improvements needed in the area. My participating in NHA has allowed me to influence and support the positions for the area that I work in. It's also a great networking opportunity; fellow members are good resources to call on when I need help."

In addition to serving as Treasurer of the NHA Board of Directors, he is chairman of the Greater Greenspoint Management District, president of the Greenspoint Property Owners Association, president of the Greenspoint Town Center Property Owners Association, and a board member of The Greenspoint Club.

Roy Hearnsberger, P.E., Carter & Burgess

When engineers are asked what project they are most proud of, they often mention a particular structure and high-profile clients. Roy Hearnsberger's answer to this question sounds simple, but is a far cry from easy.

"I'm most proud of our company," said Hearnsberger, P.E., senior vice president and a lead principal for Carter & Burgess' Houston office.

Hearnsberger came to Houston in 1976 to open the office and has grown it to 230 people.

Carter & Burgess is ranked 38th in Engineering News-Record magazine's listing of the top 500 U.S. design firms, 16th in Engineering News-Record magazine's listing of the top 100 pure design firms, 7th in Building Design and Construction magazine's survey of A/E firms, in volume of work for commercial, institutional, and industrial projects, and 13th in Consulting-Specifying Engineer magazine's annual listing of the top 100 firms engaged in mechanical/electrical design.

The firm is currently working on several major Houston area projects, including the new NFL stadium, projects at Bush Intercontinental Airport and the preliminary engineering for METRO's Main Street Light Rail Project. The company has also been instrumental in such projects as the Union Station District Energy Center, Harris County Criminal Courts Building, White Oak Bayou Flood Studies, major land developments and highway transportation projects.

Carter & Burgess employs more than 2,000 employees in 30 offices nationwide, with expertise in every facet of engineering and design.

On a personal note, Hearnsberger strongly supports scouting; he served as scout master for eight years with Troop 1377 in Kingwood. He says the biggest reward has been watching some of the boys he worked with in scouting grow up and become leaders in school, business and the community.

Not only is Hearnsberger a true scout, he has also earned the Haden E. McKay, M.D., Citizen of the Year Award in 1997. This award is based on community contributions and involvement. He also was awarded the service to People Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1994, and is a Paul Har-

ris Fellow with the Rotary Club.

"One of my current interests is working with the Northeast Medical Center," he said.

He has been president of the hospital's board of authority since 1993, and has served on the board since the mid-1980s. Board positions of this not-for-profit hospital are appointed by Humble's city council.

Hearnsberger was also the founding president of the hospital's foundation. "We've raised more than \$1 million for health services for the community," he said.

"I like to be involved in the communities where I work. It's a privilege and opportunity to give back to the community."



Annual Golf Tournament, Membership Meeting Set

True public-private partnerships will be formed August 21 at the North Houston Association's sixth annual golf tournament. Area public officials will play on teams with NHA members at the event, to be held at The Woodlands Conference Center and Resort.

Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Montgomery County Judge Alan Sadler will again serve as the tournament's honorary chairmen.

"We secured a number of sponsors for the tournament even before we mailed out the registration brochures," said Pat Wisniewski, projects coordinator. "It has become a tradition for our members. Throughout the year, all our meetings are rather formal; we don't host any type of social events since the Association is so issue-oriented. Everyone enjoys the relaxed atmosphere of the golf course."

Golf committee members wanted to hold the tournament in Montgomery County this year, to represent the northernmost section of the Association's service area.

The committee, chaired by Roy Hearnsberger, has set a fundraising goal of \$30,000 for this year's tournament. Last year, \$28,000 was raised to support NHA's programs and projects.

NHA Board Passes Resolutions at Annual Retreat

The North Houston Association's Board of Directors passed three resolutions at its annual retreat in May.

Two resolutions focus on transportation issues in the region and the third resolution supports the Cypress-Fairbanks area joining the North Harris Montgomery Community College District.

"NHA recognizes that a skilled and educated workforce is essential to the continued economic development of the region, which is why we have a committee solely dedicated to workforce development in north Houston. We encourage the voters in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD area to support this alliance," said Catherine Wray, executive director.

One resolution, "endorses and supports the North Corridor Coalition and its efforts to advocate for full implementation of High Capacity Transit (HCT) and transportation studies that will investigate all modes of HCT options."

"This issue is key to the continued growth and economic development of

the area," said Wray. "NHA regularly partners with officials from the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Houston-Galveston Area Council, as well as other public agencies and civic organizations to promote transportation projects in north Harris and south Montgomery Counties. Supporting the continued improvement of our transportation system is another way we can serve our members."

The second transportation-related resolution focuses on rewarding commuters utilizing alternative modes of transportation. It endorses and supports Senate Bill 2083 and House Bill 3546, which raises the cap for commute benefits to \$175 per month (up from the current \$65/month).

"Alternative modes of transportation - carpooling, vanpooling and riding the bus - are key components of a successful transportation system. NHA houses a Transportation Management Organization which supports these alternatives and educating the public about its options," said Wray.

The next issue of the NHA Vision will provide a complete listing of tournament sponsors, as well as event and fundraising results.

The event also serves as the Association's annual membership meeting. New Board members will be elected at the dinner that follows the tournament.

To sponsor this annual event, please contact Wisniewski in the NHA office (281-875-0660).

Golf Tournament Sponsorship Packages

Platinum Underwriter - \$5,000 Gold Underwriter - \$4,000 Silver Underwriter - \$3,000 Bronze Underwriter - \$2,000 Bag Tag Underwriter - \$1,500 Par Package - \$1,300 Team/Hole Package - \$900 Team Sponsor - \$700 Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$500 Hole In One Contest Sponsor - \$500 Food Sponsor - \$500 Chipping/Putting Contest Sponsor - \$500 Driving Range Sponsor - \$500 Putting Green Sponsor - \$500 Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$500 Hole Sponsorship - \$300 Trophy Sponsor - \$250



Site Consultant Meets With NHA Members

A number of NHA members met privately with a national site consultant to highlight key aspects of north Houston.

In April, NHA member Reliant Energy/HL&P's Economic Development Department arranged a meeting with Adam Faulk, of Jackson & Cooksey in Dallas.

The meeting began with Dudley VanNess, Reliant Energy/HL&P, giving a background summary on Faulk, and NHA Executive Director Catherine Wray making introductions.

"I'm coming down here to meet more people in the area because we're seeing an increase of activity (here)," said Faulk.

Faulk noted that community leaders are an "absolute necessity" for him to provide detailed services to his clients.

"A lot of the corporations we represent require a fair amount of site se-

"I'm coming down here to meet more people in the area because we're seeing an increase of activity (in north Houston)."

lection work before even thinking about the real estate transaction. All sectors of industries are extremely busy evaluating how they can save money in their cost of operations," he said. "It's amazing the detail these companies are looking to lower these bottom line expenditures."

Faulk advises his clients to look at what will lower their operating costs and tries to get them to use any incentives as a tool to make the final decision.

"If there are incentives, it obviously makes the decision a lot easier. That's the way they should approach the process."

"For this region, it seems that outside of the energy related field, the technology sector is one that seems to be focusing a lot more on this part of the region," he said.

After Faulk's comments, Jack Drake, Greater Greenspoint Management District, spoke about how all areas of the north Houston region are interdependent on each other. Drake presented a regional perspective including geographic and economic information.

"Wherever you may bring companies to our area, whether it's Clear Lake, The Woodlands, downtown or Sharpstown, it's good for our region and our regional economy," said Drake.

Drake also noted that the region is still driven by the energy industry, but other industries are strong players as well.

According to Drake, the energy industry is about 50 percent of the area's employment base and the area is home to 25 percent of all the energy jobs that are in the U.S.

An added benefit is the region's cost of living; it is 15 percent below the national average. Drake also discussed

airport expansion plans and described the Greater Greenspoint Management District.

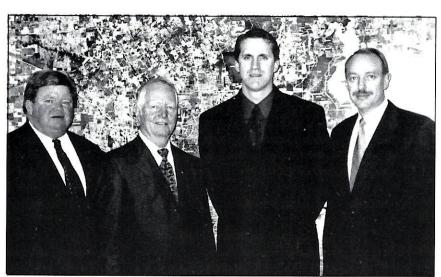
Following Drake's presentation,

"...it seems that outside of the energy related field, the technology sector is one that seems to be focusing a lot more on this part of the region."

James Curry, Hines, talked specifically about the Greenspoint area and a study on projected employment growth produced by the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Ron Dagley and Mark Wimberly, The Betz Companies, discussed several properties available in the north Houston region.

NHA meets with site consultants on an annual basis. Any members interested participating in the next site consultant visit should contact Catherine Wray in the NHA office.



Dudley VanNess, Reliant Energy HL&P - Economic Development Department, Senator Jon Lindsay, Adam Faulk, Jackson & Cooksey, and Dennis Petersen, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam were some of the attendees at the site consultant meeting.

Environment Committee

Last quarter, several speakers updated Environment Committee members on relevant issues to north Houston. Craig Beskid, Radian International, provided the committee with an update on the State Implementation Program (SIP). He noted that anticipated measures for compliance include accelerated update of non-road equipment, diesel engine post-combustion controls, 20 percent reduction in vehicle miles traveled, re-

duced speed limits and CARB phase III Reformulated Gas.

Jim Burke, North Harris County Regional Water Authority, spoke on recent activities of the authority. He discussed upcoming Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that would be released, discussed fees charged to MUDs, and spoke generally about the authority's overall budget.

Gary Stobb, Harris County, spoke on the County's activities with respect to long-term wa-

ter supply. He noted that since Harris County does not have a water supply, its focus is on the transmission of water outside the city limits of Houston. He referenced SB 821, which relates to counties operating or implementing systems for the transmission of water at a rate lower than that disincentive fee set by the Harris Galveston Coastal Subsidence District.

The committee is still awaiting the release of Harris County's Regulations for Development Projects. It was due to be completed mid-year. Once the NHA receives a copy, the Environment Committee will comment where necessary.

The newly-created Legislative Subcommittee, headed by Bob Jones, recently reviewed a piece of federal legislation with respect to repetitive flood loss. Committee members are currently waiting for feedback from Congressman Ken Bentsen's office for his position on this issue.

Transportation Committee

The NHA Mobility Update will be released at a July 20th breakfast; see related article in this publication for details. Contact any NHA staff member to RSVP for the event.

In February, Alan Clark, Houston-



State Representative Peggy Hamric spoke to Business Issues & Resources Committee members in April on key legislative issues in the North Houston Association service area.

Galveston Area Council, reported on air quality in the Houston-Galveston area. He said the area must come into compliance by the year 2007 or face federal sanctions. He noted that 50 percent of the emissions contributing to the ground level ozone problem were generated outside Harris County. He also gave information on the SIP timeline. Clark then addressed the Transportation Conformity Plan, which is a detailed model produced by H-GAC that shows emissions and impacts of a project to the region.

The Airport Mobility Subcommittee recently met with the Department of Aviation to gather initial information regarding needed roadway projects in and around the airport. Meetings are being set up with other agencies including TxDOT, METRO, city of Houston, Harris County and the local staff members at the TNRCC and the EPA to discuss their priority projects for airport mobility and the viability of these projects.

Business Issues & Resources

In April, State Representative Peggy Hamric, District 126, spoke to the Legislative Subcommittee members on legislative issues including air quality and redistricting. She believes a lot of what TNRCC is going to require for

> Houston will closely follow the Dallas SIP. That will probably involve cleaner gasoline and reduction of speed limits.

> The committee has decided to undertake a membership survey in order to determine future growth potential and direction of the Association and its programs.

Regarding legislative issues, a position paper process has been established, and the Association's legislative agenda for the upcoming

session has been set.

The Resource Subcommittee has secured sponsors of the NHA Fact Book, and the initial section, Population/Demographics, is being developed. Document format and design is currently being finalized.

NHA Annual Report

The North Houston Association's Annual Report has been distributed to all NHA member contacts.

The document reports on accomplishments for 1999 as well as goals for 2000.

If you did not receive a copy of the report, contact the Association staff at 281-875-0660.

NHA Committee Meetings

Board of Directors

Dates: July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12 Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Place: The Greenspoint Club R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660 (regrets only)

Business Issues & Resources

Dates: July 28, Sept. 22 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

Environment

Dates: July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14 Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

Transportation

Dates: July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Place: Greenspoint Conference Center

R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

Workforce Development and all Subcommittees

Contact Pat Wisniewski in the NHA office for details (281-875-0660).

How to Reach Us Via E-Mail...

Senator Jon Lindsay: lindsayj@wt.net Catherine Wray: wrayc@wt.net Patricia Wisniewski: wisniewskip@wt.net Marlisa Stanley: stanleym@wt.net



Special thanks to the following underwriters of this issue:









NORTH HOUSTON **ASSOCIATION**

16825 Northchase Dr., Ste. 160 Houston, Texas 77060 Phone: 281/875-0660

Fax: 281/875-0663

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