

## NHA Releases Mobility Update, Presents Annual Awards

Despite the early hour, NHA members were rubbing elbows with business, community and political officials at the Association's Annual Awards/Mobility Update Breakfast on July 20.

"We thought a breakfast would be a nice change of pace, and with the amount of ground we have to cover today, we need all the time we can get," said Catherine Wray, executive director.

After introductions were made and dignitaries and sponsors recognized, NHA Chairman Dennis Petersen detailed the steps taken by committee members and staff to produce the Mobility Update.

The purpose of the document is to identify and prioritize mobility projects needed to accommodate existing and future transportation demand in north Houston.

It includes an inventory of current and future roadway and highway projects, information on multimodal projects in Greenspoint and The Woodlands, details on expansions and im-

provements 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.

A copy of the Mobility Update was given to each attendee at the breakfast, mailed to all NHA member contacts and will be provided to agencies and elected officials. NHA members may purchase additional copies at \$5, and non-members will be charged \$25.

Tom Rolen, director of public works and engineering for the city of Houston, spoke about Greens Road, the one city of Houston project identified as priority in the Mobility Update.

Jackie Freeman, assistant county engineer for Harris County, discussed the priority projects in Harris County.

Following Freeman, Bob Johnson spoke on behalf of Montgomery County Judge Alan Sadler about identified Montgomery County projects.

The final speaker during the Mobility Update segment of the breakfast



*TxDOT District Engineer Gary Trietsch updates NHA members on the agency's north Houston projects listed in the Mobility Update.*

was Gary Trietsch, district engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). He discussed a number of projects TxDOT is involved with that are identified in the Mobility Update.

"TxDOT is an essential partner for our area's continued growth," said Wray. "The agency and its employees

*("Awards" continued on page two)*



*NHA annual awards recipients are from left, David Millikan and Glenn Graham (Compass Award), Nene Foxhall (Environmental Impact Award), and Chris Olavson (North Star Award).*

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- ◆ Three firms join ranks of NHA membership
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- ◆ Representative Nixon speaks at joint committee meeting

## **From the President...**

Now is the time to provide draft legislation for the 2001 Legislative Session. These draft pieces of legislation have to be put in legal terms by the legislative council before they can go any further in the process. This council will be inundated with work once November arrives, so I suggest you take advantage of the "calm before the storm".

My top issue is healthcare, and I predict my second issue, transportation, will rise to the top in the coming session. Leading officials, such as Lt. Governor Rick Perry and Comptroller Carol Keeton Rylander, have already been talking up congestion and mobility issues. Transportation has become a key issue in Austin, which is where many of our key leaders live. Harris County is the only area that has remotely kept up with transportation needs. The third issue on my agenda for north Harris County is education, specifically regarding funding.

Despite these important issues, I believe redistricting will overshadow the session. For this reason, I suggest that you don't waste a lot of bullets on things that won't get done - prioritize and choose your issues carefully.

*Senator Jon Lindsay*

## **Adams, Lovett Join NHA Board**

Two new NHA Board members, Joe Adams, Union Pacific Railroad, and Pamela Lovett, Greater Houston Partnership, were voted in by the membership at the Association's annual meeting, held August 21.

Adams is the chairman's special representative for Union Pacific Railroad in Houston. Because of Houston's importance to the railroad, Chairman Dick Davidson assigned Adams to work with governmental, business and civic leaders on issues of importance to the Houston/Gulf Coast region.

He began his career with the railroad in 1978, and prior to joining UP, he served in the Nixon and Ford administrations in Washington D.C. at the Civil Aeronautics Board, the White House and the U.S. Treasury Department.

Lovett replaces Karen Hoylman, South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber, on NHA's Board of Directors.

This is one of two special chamber

of commerce positions on the Board, which was created several years ago to improve communication between NHA and the chambers in its service area. Bruce Hillegeist, Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce, holds the second chamber position on NHA's Board.

Lovett is president of the Greater Houston Partnership's Economic Development Division, which is responsible for marketing and promoting the Houston region for corporate expansions and relocations.

Lovett is responsible for developing and implementing programs to market Houston to domestic and foreign companies to attract new projects to the region. Her team was named one of the top 10 economic development teams in the country in 1999 by *Site Selection*.

"With her expertise in economic development, we hope Pam will find time to work with our Business Issues & Resources committee," said Catherine Wray, executive director. ■

## **Awards**

*(continued from page one)*

have been extremely helpful and available to the Association through the years. NHA members are especially appreciative of Chris Olavson, former director of district transportation planning for TxDOT, and his commitment to the region's success."

For this reason, Olavson received NHA's highest honor, the North Star Award. When 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.

The North Star Award is given to an individual who has made a long-term impact on the quality of life in north Houston.

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

Graham, with PBS&J Corporation, has served as the chairman of NHA's Transportation Committee for three years. Graham and Millikan worked together as co-chairmen of the Grand Parkway Committee.

In addition to his work with the Grand Parkway Committee, Millikan was chairman of the Environment Committee for two years.

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 honored 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, on-time 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. ■

# NHA Hosts 6th Annual Golf Tournament

The 6th Annual NHA Golf Tournament, affectionately known as the "hotter than #@!!" tournament, was held Monday, August 21 at The Woodlands Resort and Country Club. The event raised more than \$25,000 for the Association.

NHA tournament participants teed off at 12:30 p.m. on the Pines Course, which had plenty of shade for all the gracious tournament volunteers.

Reliant Energy HL&P/Entex won both first and second place, and The Betz Companies won third place. Fred Martinez, ATSER, L.P., won Longest Drive; Steve Head, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, won Closest to the Pin; Steve Johnson, Southwestern Bell, won the Chipping Contest, and Mike Alexander, ExxonMobil, won the Putting Contest. Tournament sponsors and volunteers made the event an outstanding success. ■



(Above) Two unidentified golfers search off the beaten path for lost golf balls. (Left) David Dabbs, Michael Say and Ron Dagley (l. to r.), The Betz Companies team, took third place honors at the NHA 6th Annual Golf Tournament.

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### Martin Basaldua, M.D., Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group

"One of the best things we can do for our state is to higher-educate our citizens."

One might expect this statement to come from a university president or a state legislator, but these words show a hint of the passion NHA Board Member Martin Basaldua, M.D., has for education and the well-being of his home state.

Basaldua is a full-time family physician with the Texas Gulf Coast Medical Group, a 24-physician multi-specialty medical group, which has a satellite office in Kingwood.

What's his connection with education issues (other than his years in medical school) and other issues that the North Houston Association addresses?

"It would be easy to belong only to medical organizations, but medicine doesn't exist in a vacuum," Basaldua said.

He added that membership in the Association helps his practice stay in touch with important issues in the community and keeps him in tune legislatively.

"Our practice has a commitment to community service, and being a member of the NHA Board is a good way to do this," he said.

Being involved in NHA is just the tip of the iceberg for Basaldua. Governor George Bush appointed him to his most rewarding volunteer activity - the Texas Higher Educa-

tion Coordinating Board (THECB). Basaldua has been on the board since 1997, and is now the vice chair.

Bush was looking for someone to replace a physician board member that had passed away. The Governor needed someone who had served on a community college board, and since Basaldua served on the North Harris Montgomery Community College District board for six years, it was a good fit.

The THECB is an 18-member board that oversees all public higher education; it oversees the \$10 billion spent by the state on higher education, sets policy caps on tuition rates, gives final approval of new buildings and enlargements, and approves new curriculum and degree programs, up to the Ph.D. level.

There are several committees on this board, and Basaldua is chair of the adhoc planning committee, which has drafted recommendations for short and long-term plans in higher education. Currently, he is traveling throughout Texas to hear public input on these recommendations through a "Closing the Gaps" campaign that educates people about the plan.

The final draft of these recommendations will be presented to the THECB in October and then published. It already has the Governor's backing, who says it fits well with his vision for the state.

The Governor also appointed Basaldua to the Texas Strategic Economic Development Planning Commission in 1997. This commission had a two-year life, and its purpose was to develop the "Texas Strategic Economic Development Plan 1998-2008".

Basaldua spoke on the final plan at NHA's Business Issues & Resources Committee meeting last year.

Basaldua has received numerous awards, including San Antonio Community College's Distinguished Alumni Award.

He lives in Kingwood with his wife Alta, and they have three sons - two in college and one a junior in high school.

Basaldua enjoys weightlifting, scuba diving and flying planes. He's hoping to make time to get his pilot's license, but at the rate he's going, the Governor will probably keep him too busy for that. ■



### Nene Foxhall, Continental Airlines

NHA Board Member Nene Foxhall is vice president, state and civic affairs for Continental Airlines, Inc. In this role, she is responsible for state and local government relations for the airline.

Continental is the fifth largest U.S. airline, based on passenger traffic. About 46 million passengers were enplaned in 1999.

The airline was the first to introduce self-service kiosks in its airports. The machine allows customers to check in, view live seat map displays, verify OnePass numbers, check bags (at ticket counter locations) and for its Elite OnePass members, upgrade to First Class without waiting in line.

Continental is celebrating its fifth year of sharing the profits with employees. Since 1996, Continental has paid more than \$447 million in profit sharing to employees. Also in 1996, the airline began a perfect attendance program. Employees with six months of per-

fect attendance in a given period are entered into a drawing for a new Eddie Bauer Limited Edition Ford Explorer.

Continental's workforce consists of approximately 51,500 employees based throughout the world. The airline prides itself on a company culture that treats each and every employee with dignity and respect.

The airline has received numerous awards, including "Top International Airline" by the National Airline Quality Rating Study, "Top U.S. Airline" by Inflight Research Services (Oxford, England), and "100 Best Companies to Work For in America, Rank #23" by *Fortune* magazine.

Prior to joining Continental, Foxhall was an attorney associated with Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, L.L.P., where she counseled government entity clients on policy issues and matters of statutory compliance.

Before her work as an attorney, she was

a writer at the *Dallas Morning News* and later at the *Houston Chronicle*, where she served as political editor.

Foxhall earned a B.A., cum laude, from Texas Tech University in 1974 and the University of Houston School of Law, cum laude, in 1988.

In addition to her work on the Association's Board, she serves on the board of directors for the San Jacinto Council of the Girl Scouts of America, the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Houston Image Group, Harris County Pct. 1 Street Olympics, City of Houston Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ9), and City of Houston S. Post Oak Redevelopment Authority.

She formerly served on the board of directors of the local chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She lives in Houston with her husband Stephen Jetton. ■

## Three Firms Join NHA in Third Quarter

Three firms joined NHA in the third quarter of 2000: Cobourn Linseisen & Ratcliff, Inc., Gilbane, Inc., and Thompson Professional Group, Inc.

Cobourn Linseisen & Ratcliff, Inc. (CLR), is a Houston-based firm that offers a full range of professional services in civil engineering, surveying, architecture and planning.

Established in 1977, CLR currently has a staff of more than 100 professional and support personnel serving the greater Houston metropolitan and surrounding areas. CLR's specific expertise in engineering and surveying is in the areas of transportation, municipal facilities, site development, and land development in Harris County and surrounding areas.

In addition, CLR also provides full services for the programming, design and construction of education facilities. A partial list of projects include Bush Intercontinental Airport, Champion Forest Baptist Church, Cy-Fair, Spring and Tomball Independent School Districts, North Harris Montgomery Com-

munity College District's Tomball Campus, Rock Creek Subdivision, Tomball Police and Fire Stations and Willowbrook Plaza.

Gilbane provides premier services to develop, construct and manage facilities and capital projects for customers nationwide. The firm has been servicing clients since 1873, and today integrates its expertise in finance, planning, development, management and construction under Gilbane, Inc., a private holding company.

Gilbane delivers its services through its subsidiary companies: Gilbane Building Company and Gilbane Properties, Inc. The two companies work together as well as individually to deliver a full range of tailored facility solutions to meet clients' immediate and long-term requirements.

Now in its fourth generation of continuous family leadership, Gilbane is involved in all major public and private markets: industrial, institutional and commercial.

Thompson Professional Group, Inc., is a full-service multi-disciplined engineering and architectural firm specializing in transporta-

tion, infrastructure, water resources, hydraulics and hydrology, facilities and environmental sciences. Thompson has delivered superior engineering design services, paramount to the growth and improvement of the Houston area, for 50 years.

The firm's transportation expertise includes all aspects of major bridges and grade separations, new highway systems, urban roadway reconstruction and widening, as well as major roadway, complex interchange and major bridge design.

Thompson has provided both water treatment and supply and wastewater collection and treatment design services since 1950. The firm's experience in wastewater design and construction includes wastewater treatment plants for primary, secondary and tertiary treatment, as well as hazardous wastewater treatment.

The company's experience in hydrology and hydraulics spans the application of both conventional design and analysis methodologies as well as the use of all modern computer application tools. ■

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## NHA-TMO Assists Baker Hughes Inteq With Commuting Options

Baker Hughes Inteq has 132 commuters saving time, money and stress on their trek to work each day.

The North Houston Association's Transportation Management Organization (NHA-TMO), along with Metro, helped the company get 12 vanpools on the road over the last year.

"One reason vanpooling is so successful at this company is they have become an excellent example of a corporate champion," said Pat Wisniewski, projects coordinator.

"Baker Hughes Inteq provides a monetary incentive to its employees to utilize the vanpools. This, in combination with METRO's monthly financial support, saves commuters money on their drive to and from work."

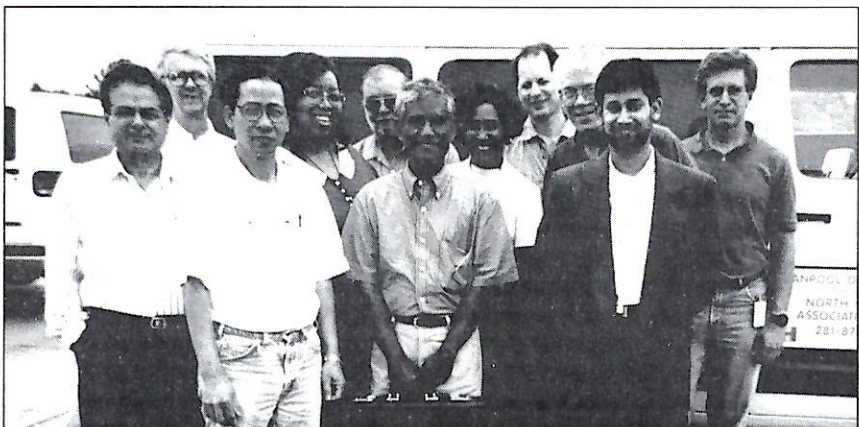
"The company also receives a tax benefit for offering a transportation program to their employees," said Wisniewski.

Baker Hughes Inteq expanded its alternative transportation program for its em-

ployees when it relocated approximately 100 employees from the company's Beltway 8/Westheimer facility to its building on Rankin Road.

If companies or individual commuters

would like to find out about creating or increasing a transportation program tailored specifically for their employees, contact Wisniewski in the North Houston Association office (281-875-0660). ■



*NHA-TMO awarded Baker Hughes Inteq vanpool participants as the May 2000 "Vanpool of the Month." The company provides monetary incentives to its employees who utilize this alternative mode of transportation.*

## **Rep. Nixon Touts Monorail as Solution to Congestion Woes**

The interchange at Loop 610 and U.S. 59 South is one of the nation's worst traffic areas according to AAA, and even though it's not in the North Houston Association's service area, it affects many of NHA's members.

In recent comments to the North Houston Association's Business Issues & Resources and Transportation Committee members, Representative Joe Nixon pointed to the solution of a monorail system to ease the growing congestion issues in the region.

Nixon stated that a 1997 study showed that 75 percent of freeway travel in Houston was congested.

The proposed system could carry 960,000 passengers per day at an average speed of 40 miles per hour including stops. This may not sound like high-speed at first glance, but the average speed on the Katy Freeway during peak driving times is between 20 and 29 miles per hour.

According to Nixon, "a two-way system adds the capacity of eight new highway lanes at a fraction of the cost, space and time required for such a highway expansion."

### **MONORAIL SYSTEM AT A GLANCE**

**Construction Cost:** 150-mile monorail system can be built for between \$25 and \$40 million per mile.

**Annual Operating Cost:** Approximately \$0.03 per passenger mile.

**Timetable:** It is estimated that a single crew can build five miles of a system in one year. The entire 150-mile system could be in place in 10 years.

**Benefits:** Reduces congestion, no exhaust emissions, new technology attracts drivers from their cars, rubber tires make it whisper quiet, elevated guideway does not occupy valuable roadway space.

This is different from Metro's proposed light rail system; Nixon said it is not designed to compete with Metro, but to compliment the agency's congestion reduction efforts. He suggested that Metro would be the entity to administer and govern the monorail system.

Many drivers cringe at the mere thought of more construction taking place on Houston's highways, but Nixon noted that column and monorail beams are designed and precast off-site and are installed by cranes at night, causing little or no disruption of traffic.

He also highlighted the need for right-of-way acquisition is reduced by placing guideways between existing roadways. In Houston, the rights-of-way on the sides of the freeways and the abandoned railroad may also be utilized.

Increased safety is an added benefit of this proposed solution to the area's congestion. Because the system is elevated, collisions with cars and pedestrians will be impossible, and the nature of the design does not allow derailment. There are also a number of built-in mechanics to ensure passenger safety.

Some committee members present expressed concern over lofty ridership projections, and Nixon touted success of other similar systems throughout the world. Specifically, Seattle's capital costs of their monorail system were recovered within five months after opening. Owen Transit Group, Inc. estimates that the proposed system for Houston could conservatively expect about 768,000 cars per day to be removed from the streets.

According to Nixon, a 150-mile system can be built in Houston for between \$25 and \$40 million per mile for the guideway, stations, vehicles and all systems. He said annual operating costs would be approximately three cents per passenger mile.

Nixon compared the monorail system to the Metro's proposed system: a 7.5-mile light rail system, which is estimated to take five years to construct.

Other benefits mentioned by Nixon included high levels of efficiency, attractive-

### **NHA Announces Staff Changes**

NHA Executive Director Catherine Wray turned in her resignation to the Board of Directors at its September 12 meeting.

Wray recently accepted an offer to work for HNTB, as the Director of Community and Government Relations.

"The past five years with the North Houston Association have been very rewarding," she said. "I appreciate the trust and confidence in my abilities that the Board of Directors have shown me. I am very grateful for the opportunities and experiences afforded me and for the many friends that I have made along the way. I wish you and the North Houston Association continued success."

Wray was hired as the Assistant Director of Projects for the Association in 1995, and was promoted to Projects Director then Executive Director in 1998.

The Association's Board of Directors has formed a search committee to find Wray's replacement.

The Association also recently hired Judy Granata as its office manager.

Granata previously worked as the executive administrative assistant to the chief financial officer of Parrot Ice.

She has three daughters, and lives in The Woodlands with her husband Gary. Granata was initiated into Association activities at the Annual Golf Tournament, and says she already enjoys working for NHA and looks forward to being fully integrated into the Association's functions.

ness to commuters and a minimal environmental impact.

Nixon noted that he had not mentioned taxes as a funding source because he believes there will be no need for this measure.

The Association has not championed a specific plan, but stated in a recent resolution that it "endorses and supports the North Corridor Coalition (NCC) and its efforts to advocate for full implementation of High Capacity Transit (TCT) and transportation studies that will investigate all modes of HCT options." ■

### Environment Committee

Mike Talbot, Harris County Flood Control District spoke to the committee in May regarding projects for the current year, distributions of the District's budget allocations and legislative issues.

Kent McLemore, Ph.D., acting assistant director, Planning Division of the Houston Airport System, recently spoke at a joint meeting of the North Houston Association's Environment and Transportation Committees. (see related article on this page)

The Army Corps of Engineers and TNRCC are negotiating their water quality certification drafting their memorandum of understanding between the two agencies for water quality certification. NHA member David Lowe, Friendswood Development Company, is representing the Association on the U.S. Waters & Wetlands Working Group.

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 was released at the July 20th breakfast (see cover story).

The Airport Mobility Subcommittee recently met with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Harris County to collect information on projects in the areas in and around Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Similar meetings will be scheduled with METRO, city of Houston and local staff members at the TNRCC and the EPA to discuss their priority projects for airport mobility and the viability of these projects.

Once all information is gathered, the subcommittee will produce an updated airport mobility document.

The Grand Parkway Subcommittee

is in the process of organizing a speaker's bureau that will make presentations at community organizations to educate them about the benefits of the Grand Parkway.

### Business Issues & Resources

The committee's membership survey is complete, and NHA staff is currently tabulating the results. The pur-

pose of the survey is to determine future growth potential and direction of the Association and its programs.

The Resource Subcommittee is putting the final touches on the first section of the NHA Fact Book. This section, Population/Demographics, should be released at the beginning of October. All member contacts will receive one complimentary copy. ■

## McLemore Discusses HAS Plans

At a recent meeting of NHA's Transportation and Business Issues & Resources Committees, HAS Acting Director of Planning Kent McLemore, discussed the following activities at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

- Runway 8L/26R – clearing and grading occurred at the end of August, with actual construction beginning in July 2001 and completed early 2003. Project cost: approximately \$200 million.
- Taxiway SD Bridge (new bridge across JFK Blvd.) – construction scheduled to begin January 2001. Estimated completion date is May 2002. Project cost: approximately \$57 million.
- New Cargo Area (NE side of airport) – the NTP is expected in November, with an estimated construction schedule of one year. Project cost (HAS portion): \$70 million.
- Consolidated Rental Car Facility – bid advertisement for this project is scheduled for September. As part of this project, the HAS is purchasing 29 clean burning buses for the rental car agencies to consolidate their bus service, thereby reducing emissions. Project cost: \$90 million.
- International Services Expansion Program (ISEP) – this is the expansion of Terminal D, and is a joint venture between HAS and NHA member Continental Airlines. A 70,000 sq. ft. Central Federal Inspection Area will be constructed, and is expected to be complete in June 2004. This will include a new parking garage consisting of about

2,500 spaces. The Automated People Movers (APM) systems will be extended to Terminal D. There will be roadway/infrastructure improvements, ITT extension and Terminal D remodeling. Construction on the garage is expected to be complete mid-2003, and construction on the APM and FIS areas is expected to be complete in June 2004.

- Terminal E – Continental Airlines will build this new terminal, expand the Terminal C baggage handling facility and construct the central ticketing area. Ten of the Terminal E gates are expected to be complete by the end of 2002, and the remaining eight gates will be ready in May 2003. The Central Ticketing area is scheduled to be ready by June 2004.
- Improvements to Terminal A/B garage – The first three levels will be complete in September. An additional 3,000 spaces will be ready by November, and the complete garage will be ready in July 2001. Project cost: \$65 million.
- Federal Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) – the FEIS for all above projects, with the exception of the A/B garage, have been distributed, and public comments are currently being accepted. The ROD is expected in October. Construction cannot begin nor bonds be sold until the ROD is issued.



## Upcoming Events

### NHA Committee Meetings

#### Board of Directors

Dates: Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 14  
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: Oct. 27  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center  
R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

#### Environment

Dates: Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 12  
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center  
R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

#### Transportation

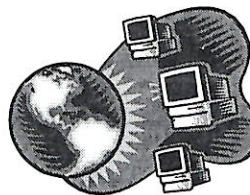
Dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 27  
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Place: Greenspoint Conference Center  
R.S.V.P.: 281-875-0660

### Workforce Development and all Subcommittees

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

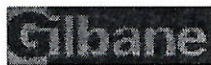
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