

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of THE DAILY NEWS through this monthly supplement.

## Director Geyer speaks of initiatives for NASA and Johnson Space Center important to regional growth

Following a glowing introduction by Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District and chair of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, NASA Johnson Space Center Director Mark S. Geyer said that he would speak of what is happening today, tomorrow, and in the future at NASA and JSC. He was addressing members of BAHEP who were attending a general membership meeting at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas, in late August.

the world. We lead the rest of the world in space. I had a chance to meet with the U.S. ambassador in Russia when I was over there for a launch. He told me that as difficult as relationships are with the Russians, Space Station is the one thing,



*Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District and chair of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, introduced NASA Johnson Space Center Director Mark S. Geyer, who became the 12th director of NASA JSC on May 25, 2018.*

the Orion spacecraft, which is designed to take four crew past the moon on 21-day missions. "By mid-2020, we'll be launching Orion on the SLS (Space Launch System) rocket out past the moon," Geyer said.

He then spoke about the future and the Gateway. NASA is planning to build the Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway in the 2020s to serve as the stepping off point for human cislunar (between the earth and the moon) operations, lunar surface access, and missions to Mars. The platform will consist of at least a power and propulsion element and habitation, logistics, and airlock capabilities. While specific technical and mission capabilities, as well as partnership opportunities, are under consideration, NASA plans to launch elements of the gateway on the SLS or commercial rockets for assembly in space. Geyer said that the Johnson Space Center is and will continue to be a key part of the integration of that program.

### Johnson can play key partnership role

"I think that Johnson can play a key role in the world in pulling together ideas

about how to access the moon. We can do that not only with our international partners but also with our commercial partners. What do they think will be helpful so that in the long run the lunar architecture that we set up is not all based on

very open. He really likes to meet with teams and talking with the interns. He's trying very hard, listening to people. I love working for him; he's a great guy."

Geyer began his NASA career in 1990 at NASA



### Station is incredible achievement

Geyer began with comments about the International Space Station saying, "Station is an incredible international achievement. I want to talk about the different pieces that make ISS so special. People may not be aware of the details surrounding the amount of utilization that is happening every day on Space Station. There are payload experiments — things we are pushing the envelope on — on how to live and work in space, which is really going to be important when we go to the moon and on to Mars. A Mars journey could take three years or longer. We're learning about how the human body behaves and how it changes. We're learning how to mitigate those things through exercise and nutrition. There's an incredible amount of work that goes on every day; plus, we get some cool pictures!"

### ISS symbolizes national leadership

The International Space Station welcomed its first international crew, commanded by American astronaut William M. Shepherd, arriving on a Russian Soyuz which launched on Oct. 31, 2000. Since that day, there has always been an American onboard Station. Geyer stressed, "Station brings a symbol of national leadership in

the one positive thing that we are doing together. That's important."

Geyer also cautioned, "Another thing to remember is that if the United States doesn't lead in space, there's another country that cannot wait to lead in space and that's China. We know that they are making efforts to do that."

Geyer spoke further of the ISS and the commercial opportunities that it offers. He noted that NASA stepped back and said, "Why don't we buy cargo as

a service rather than designing and owning vehicles?" He continued saying, "The next big thing is commercial crew. Again, like cargo, NASA said we want to buy crew delivery. It's been a challenge, but it's been a great challenge. It's an exciting time."

### NASA to build Lunar Orbital Platform

The JSC director reported that the next big part of exploration is going out past the moon. He spoke of



*BAHEP's general membership meeting was well attended and included members Shawn Bailey, president/CEO, AMOCO Federal Credit Union; Dr. Bix Rathburn, senior vice president, Moody National Bank; and Galveston County Commissioner Precinct 4 Ken Clark (left to right).*

NASA. I think we can play a role in that by bringing entities together and having those dialogues," Geyer explained.

He closed his presentation by commenting on new NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine saying, "He is extremely personable and

JSC. He has witnessed much during the ensuing years — both triumph and tragedy. His presentation to the BAHEP membership left many with the feeling, however, that the best is yet to come both for NASA and for Johnson Space Center.

## Read all about it in the latest BDU newsletter!

The newest edition of the popular newsletter, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE, is now available on the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's website.

Curious about Commercial/Office/Industrial Development, Retail / Hospitality Development, Residential Development, Infrastructure News and Everything Else in the Bay Area? Then this newsletter is a

must-read! Published four times each year, it keeps everyone in the region up-to-date on key business development.

Here's a quick look at a little of what's inside of this latest edition.

### Retail / hospitality development

The Gulf Coast Public Market is coming to Dickinson,

and will be located at 4033 Highway 3 near the Boat Ramp. It will include 40,000 SF of indoor retail space and several day carts for local vendors and entrepreneurs to showcase prepared and fresh foods, seafood

from the coast, and handmade arts and crafts. It will also include several public amenities to enjoy outside. A splash pad for kids, an entertainment plaza, day carts, and outside seating are just a few of the many additions for patrons while they enjoy the beautiful views of Dickinson Bayou nearby. Construction is anticipated to start next fall with an opening date scheduled for sometime in 2020. To find out more information or how to become involved with the Gulf Coast Public Market, please visit [gulfcoastpublicmarket.com](http://gulfcoastpublicmarket.com).

O2 Bistro, a new restaurant concept by John Shafer, owner of Outriggers, will open in Clear Lake Shores. The site was formerly Opus Bistro restaurant, which has moved and reopened as Opus Ocean Grill at the Watergate Yachting Center. The new O2 will be a fine dining restaurant, and word has it that one of Houston's premier chefs will create the menu. Restaurant opening is expected in September at 1002 Aspen.

### Galveston port news

The Port of Galveston will welcome the *Carnival Vista* in September -- 1,055 feet long with a capacity of around 4,000 passengers. Amenities include SkyRide, a suspended open-air cycling experience, an IMAX theater, and expansive water park. The increased capacity of this vessel could result

in 20,000 more passengers a year coming to Galveston. The ship will offer two seven-day Caribbean trips with calls at Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel. The other trip includes stops at Mahogany Bay, Belize, and Cozumel.

If a third cruise terminal is built in Galveston, it will allow Royal Caribbean to bring the Oasis-class of ships, which are more than 1,180 feet long and capable of carrying more than 6,200 passengers.

### Roadway construction

- SH 96 to FM 517 is under construction with an anticipated completion date of spring 2021. Construction cost is \$122 million.
- FM 517 to FM 1764 - Project was let in June; construction started July 2018. Construction cost is \$231 million.
- FM 1764 to FM 519 - Anticipated letting is August 2019 with a cost estimate of \$118 million.
- FM 519 to the Galveston causeway - Anticipated letting is 2020 with a cost estimate of \$320 million.
- SH 146: FM 518 to FM 517 - widen to 6-lane boulevard with an overpass at SH 96. Anticipated letting is 2021 at an estimated cost of \$85 million.

More updates are available at [bayareahouston.com/content/BusinessAssistance/realEstate#Real%20Estate%20Reports](http://bayareahouston.com/content/BusinessAssistance/realEstate#Real%20Estate%20Reports).

## BAHEP welcomes new member COMCAST BUSINESS

### Comcast Business Bay Area

Comcast was founded in 1963 with the purchase of a 1,200-subscriber cable system in Tupelo, Miss. Today, Comcast Business has the largest IP network in the

country depend on network connectivity and the reliability of Comcast Business' network management. We welcome Comcast Business and look forward to working together on behalf of regional growth."

much to its subscribers. Its technology solutions range from fast, reliable Ethernet and Internet connectivity to voice, video, and Managed Solutions. Comcast Business is powered by an advanced Gig-ready network and 24/7 technical support.

Comcast Business offers robust Ethernet services, providing a high-performance backbone that helps organizations securely manage growth and drive application performance. Comcast Business offers SD-WAN on its carrier-grade ActiveCore (SM) that enables a simplified software-driven IP Network that minimizes capital expense by reducing hardware and dependence on T1s and allows for centralized and consistent network management across locations.

For further information about Comcast Business, contact Burnham at 281.620.1168 or visit the Comcast website at <https://business.comcast.com/local/texas/houston>.

# COMCAST BUSINESS

nation, serving the needs of small business through large enterprise customers.

The regional office of Comcast Business, located at 8590 W. Tidwell in Houston, has joined the membership of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell stated, "Comcast's growth over the past 55 years has been nothing short of phenomenal. The productivity and efficiency of businesses across this

Comcast Business' Dionne Burnham will represent the company within BAHEP. She said, "BAHEP has long been a subscriber to our services, and we are very familiar with the great work the organization does in the region. We're excited to have the opportunity to engage with BAHEP and its members and hope to be actively involved in BAHEP's important initiatives."

Comcast Business offers

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 265 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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