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Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is a member-driven organization that provides leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in a range of industries such as aerospace engineering, biotechnology/bioscience, specialty chemicals and plastics, and information technology and communications. BAHEP partners with 270 member companies, 13 cities, Galveston County, Harris County, Houston Airport System, and the Port of Houston Authority in southeast Texas to foster economic vitality through regional collaboration.

Commercial / Office / Industrial Development

Solvay announced it will build and operate a large-scale alkoxylation unit in **Pasadena** at an integrated industrial facility of LyondellBasell's Equistar Chemicals affiliate in order to better serve a growing North American market. Equistar will supply the ethylene oxide raw material to the unit in which Solvay will invest more than \$55 million. Alkoxyates are used as emulsifiers, detergents and wetting agents and are the chemical foundation for a wide range of Solvay Novecare specialty surfactants. The unit is expected to be operational in 2015.

A new spec building will break ground in the coming weeks at 9655 New Century Drive in **Bayport North** Industrial Park. This one is 15,000 SF, 10-ton crane ready.

Ground has been broken for Port Commerce Business Park in **Houston** on Genoa Red Bluff Road, just east of Space Center Boulevard. Buildings will be ready for occupancy by year's end. Build-to-suit opportunities at this deed-restricted park range from 2.5-acre sites to more than 15 acres.

Phase two of **Pasadena's** Port 225 business park is now pre-leasing for PTR A rail users up to 400,000 SF. The developer will also build-to-suit. Location is on SH 225 between Beltway 8 and Red Bluff Road.

Expansion at St. Luke's Patients Medical Center in **Pasadena** -- A two-story, 14,000 SF patient tower is planned that includes a 12-bed observation unit, a new pharmacy and chapel. Completion is expected by October 2015. A redesign of the emergency department is also underway that will increase the number of treatment rooms; completion is expected this July.

Siluria Technologies, a pioneer in the commercial production of fuels and chemicals made from natural gas, began construction of its first demonstration plant in **La Porte**. The unit will be installed at a facility owned and operated by Braskem America Inc. The methane in pipeline natural gas will be converted directly into ethylene, a key building block for the petrochemicals industry, and will integrate directly into conventional plant utilities and equipment. Operations are expected in the 4th quarter of 2014.

Houston Area Safety Council plans to add another 17,000 SF training building to its campus in **Pasadena**. This second phase development also includes a retail service center.

***You're invited to go with us!** BAHEP's Citizens for Space Exploration's 23rd annual trip to Washington, D.C., in support of NASA and a healthy Human Space Exploration Program for our country is scheduled for*

May 20-23. This group of more than 100 travelers will meet with over 350 congressional offices while in Washington to educate them on the importance of NASA to our country. We need your voice! If you've never made the trip before, this is the year you should plan to join the group in support of NASA. Contact david@bayareahouston.com or 832-536-3242 for more details.

Houston Methodist St. John Hospital is the new name for CHRISTUS St. John Hospital in **Nassau Bay**. The transfer of majority ownership in the hospital is complete.

Recognition -- Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is one of four hospitals to be recognized collectively as a 2014 Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence, as measured by Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. The four Memorial Hermann Hospitals placed in the top five percent of more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide for clinical performance.

Planned development -- Heartis Clear Lake, a new 78-unit assisted living and memory care campus, will open winter 2015 on SH 3 (Old Galveston Road) in **Houston**, just south of Clear Lake City Blvd.

University of Texas Medical Branch in **Galveston** (UTMB) has renewed its status as a Level 1 trauma center. It's one of three centers for adults in the greater Houston area and is the lead trauma center for a nine-county region of Southeast Texas. A Level 1 trauma center has to provide total care for every possible injury and is required to have 15 physician specialists on call 24/7. A center must also have a burn unit or a transfer agreement with another hospital.

The owner of the 1322 Space Park office building in **Nassau Bay** is renovating the property; plans include a cafeteria with a gourmet food truck concept and a dog park.

Recent lease transactions

- 185,168 SF – Sunbelt Supply Company, providing valves and valve automation systems for the petrochemical, refining, power, wastewater and mining industries, leased at Carson Commerce Center, 3750 SH 225 in **Pasadena**.
- 174,720 SF – An undisclosed manufacturer/distributor leased space at 9401 Bay Area Blvd. at Bay Area Business Park in **Pasadena**. The company will be operational by the end of March.
- 174,720 SF - Dunavant Transportation Group also leased space at Bay Area Business Park, 9501 Bay Area Blvd. It, too, will be operational by the end of March.
- 31,480 SF – Sprint Safety leased a new crane-ready building on 3.3 acres at Fairmont Industrial Center, 11804 Fairmont Parkway in **La Porte** for warehouse/distribution operations. The developer plans additional buildings at this location.
- 30,115 SF – Louisiana Valve Source leased a newly-constructed building on 2.7 acres at 5349 Bay Oaks Drive in **Pasadena**.
- 30,000 SF - TGE Industrial Services leased the building at 2510 Beltway 8 in **Pasadena**.
- 15,696 SF – Gulf Coast Center at 305-309 E. Main St. in **League City**.
- 9,579 SF – Ohmstede at 2450 South Shore Blvd. in **League City**. *BAHEP member Colliers International – Ed Edson for the tenant.*
- 7,000 SF – Foster Wheeler leased at 2323 Underwood in **La Porte** for its construction staffing center.
- 5,000 SF – JAXA at 18050 Saturn in **Nassau Bay**. *BAHEP member Griffin Partners – Drew Lewis represented the owner.*
- 4,695 SF - Wood Group Mustang at 6021 Fairmont Parkway in **Pasadena**. *Owner represented by Randolph Wile of Wile Interests.*
- 4,304 SF – Sabine Surveyors at 17049 El Camino Real. *BAHEP member PM Realty Group - Courtney Knightstep for the landlord.*
- 4,207 SF – Starkey Mortgage at Saturn One, 18050 Saturn Lane, in **Nassau Bay**.
- 3,640 SF - Galveston County leased space at the Bay Colony Town Center in **League City** for its Wellcare program.
- 3,500 SF – Custom Abrasives at 2525 Bay Area Blvd.
- 2,100 SF – Lavender Intl. at 15200 Middlebrook. The company is a leader in provision of NDT (non-destructive testing) training, exams and consultancy services.
- 1,400 SF – Ai United Insurance at **Webster's** Clear Lake Center. *BAHEP member United Equities – Doug Freedman for the owner.*
- 1,314 SF – AOD at 17047 El Camino Real. *BAHEP member PM Realty Group – Courtney Knightstep for the landlord.*
- 1,175 SF - Houston Permitting Center (City of **Houston** Public Works and Engineering Department) will open a satellite office at 1335 Regents Park Drive, Suite 130, to serve the growing needs of the community. City of Houston Councilmember Dave Martin worked to bring this project to fruition.

- 1,100 SF - Galson Laboratories opened a new office at 2401 Termini in **Dickinson**. This national company specializes in industrial hygiene analysis and monitoring solutions and is the world's largest air-only industrial hygiene lab.

Other real estate transactions ...

- Recently purchased - 11.5684 acres along SH 3 just south of Beltway 8 at Conklin Lane. *BAHEP member Colliers International – Marshall Clinkscales for the seller.*
- VSP Technologies purchased the 12,500 SF building at 520 Orchard in **Webster**. The company is a fuel-sealing products distributor.

Now Open

Webster - Immediate Medical Care - Urgent care at 525 Blossom Street. This company also has locations in Pasadena and Friendswood. Paragon ER and DaVita Dialysis both leased at SH 3 and Bay Area Blvd. at Bay Area Square.

League City - Orchard Park at Victory Lakes, a 126-bed senior living community including 60 assisted living units and 40 memory care units.

Groundbreaking

League City - Woodland Creek at The Crossings, a Methodist Retirement Community for independent and assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing on 18 acres, just north of FM 518, on Egret Bay Blvd. This is a \$75 million project; approximately 150 full-time jobs will be created.

Pasadena - Frontier Logistics at RailPort, 46 acres on SH 225 at Beltway 8

Retail / Hospitality Development

IT'S REALLY BIG! Baybrook Mall, the largest shopping center in southeast **Houston**, announced plans for a multi-million dollar outdoor expansion that adds more than 30 retailers, 10 restaurants and entertainment and hospitality venues to the property. The project, a joint venture between General Growth Properties, Inc. and the landowner, a CDC Houston-managed entity, adds an estimated 555,000 SF to the 1.2-million SF center. Work begins in early May with completion by the 2015 holiday season. Baybrook Mall is nearly 100% leased and located in one of the nation's fastest growing markets.

A 'lifestyle' expansion of 285,000 SF will connect to the existing property between Forever 21 and Dillard's on the north side of the mall. A 270,000 SF power center will complete the project with a variety of big-box anchor tenants, restaurants and family-friendly activity venues. To accommodate the expansion, a single-story parking deck will be added to the property.

Another key component is the addition of a grassy lawn at the heart of the area. Approximately the length of a football field, it will serve as a gathering spot for visitors.

A General Growth Properties' spokesman says quite a few restaurants and retailers have finalized leases, and more are in the process.

FOR A BIRD'S EYE VIEW of what's going on in Bay Area Houston, click on [HOT PROJECTS](#). There's always something new!

Food for thought ...

A new 12,000 SF Luby's-Fuddrucker's side-by-side restaurant is under construction in front of Mardel's and Hobby Lobby along the Gulf Freeway at the Centre at Baybrook in **Webster**.

In **Kemah**, a new Whataburger is under construction on FM 518 next to Wal-Mart.

Tapology Gastro Pub leased 3,000 SF and will open soon in the former Berryhill's location at 2660 Marina Bay Drive in **League City**. The pub will have 60 different beers on tap and will have a full restaurant selling pub food like burgers, steak and chicken.

Two new Carl's Jr.'s are coming soon to **Pasadena**. One is underway on Red Bluff Road at Pasadena Blvd., and the other is planned on Fairmont Parkway at Lily Street. *BAHEP member Colliers International – Marshall Clinkscales represented the seller for the Fairmont Parkway site.*

Tookie's Seafood broke ground in **Seabrook** at 1102 Bayport Avenue (State Highway 146). New Orleans-style grilled oysters, fried gulf seafood, and salads are some of the featured items – doors will open in the fall.

Salata, known as The Next Generation Salad Bar, has opened its **Nassau Bay** Town Square location at 1780 NASA Parkway.

Panera Bread is relocating to the NEC of the Gulf Freeway at El Dorado Blvd. from its former location at Baybrook Passage. The owner plans an even bigger (the largest store in the Houston market!) and better store with a drive-through and indoor-outdoor fireplace. Look for a May opening.

Build-out has begun for The Fresh Market in Bay Area **Houston**. The 24,000 SF store will be located at 1507 W. Bay Area Blvd. in **Baybrook** Village near Jo-Ann Fabrics and LifeWay. The target date to open is May-June but our Facebook page will let you know for sure!

Houston Tex-Mex restaurant El Tiempo plans to open its **Webster** location on May 1st in time for Cinco de Mayo celebrations. The location is 20237 Gulf Freeway.

National franchise Jinya Ramen Bar is planned for 18299 Egret Bay Boulevard in the Marina Gate Shopping Center in **Webster**.

New Developments ...

Under construction and pre-leasing – a 27,000 SF LEED certified retail center is scheduled for completion in the 4th quarter of 2014. The site, fronting on Spencer Highway at Center Street, is on nearly six acres in front of **Pasadena's** new 30-acre Houston Area Safety Council campus. More than 300,000 visitors a year are expected at the safety council campus!

The Shops at Tuscan Lakes, a 12,450 SF multi-tenant retail center, is planned for the SEC of **League City** Parkway at FM 270 (Egret Bay Boulevard).

La Porte Plaza, a new retail development at SH 146 and Spencer Highway, has signed Dollar Tree as the first tenant. It leased 9,033 SF in the center of the 20,433 SF building. Negotiations are in progress with other retailers for the remaining 11,400 SF.

TopGolf may be coming to **Webster**! Planned is a 65,000 SF entertainment venue with an investment value of \$17 to \$18.5 million. This project is expected to create 100 new jobs and attract 450,000 visitors yearly. No word on the location.

At **Baybrook** Passage (NEC of Bay Area Blvd. and the Gulf Freeway), the retail building next to Bonefish Grill will be torn down making room for the freeway expansion.

Groundbreaking for the new \$25 million Lone Star Flight Museum, relocating from Galveston, is slated for early next year with an expected completion date of early 2016. Plans for the 125,000 SF facility at **Ellington Airport** include hangar space for aircraft display and storage, an auditorium, exhibit hall, library, gift shop and cafeteria.

Recent real estate deals –

- 15,000 SF – Texan Bank leased at 12941 Gulf Freeway. The space will serve as corporate headquarters and as a bank branch.
- 12,500 SF – Dollar Tree leased at Pecan Park in **League City** next to Jumping World that recently opened.
- 12,000 SF – Value Furniture & Mattress leased at Village Real Shopping Center – 915 E. NASA Parkway in **Webster**.
- 5,000 SF – Berkeley Eye Care Center leased space at **Nassau Bay** Town Square. Still available in this center is 2,100 SF.
- 2,362 SF - Marco's Pizza leased at 4860 Fairmont Parkway in **Pasadena**.
- 1,500 SF – Expedia CruiseShipCenters opened a full-service travel agency in **Webster** at 400 W. Bay Area Blvd.
- 1,500 SF - Simply Supplements leased in **Webster** at 1020 W. NASA Parkway - Point NASA and has opened for business.

- 1,300 SF – Pyramids Pharmacy opened a compounding pharmacy at the **Webster** Medical Enclave, 500 N. Kobayashi Road.
- The Shops at Clear Lake in the Clear Lake Crossing development, SH 3 at Clear Lake City Blvd. in **Houston**, was purchased by a California-based investor. The property is 100% occupied.
- Recently purchased – 3.5 acres behind Houston Garden Center on Beltway 8 at Vista Road in **Pasadena** for a new hotel.

McRee Ford will build a new 85,000 SF facility in **Dickinson**, valued at approximately \$8 million, that includes a showroom and all repair facilities under one roof. The construction is anticipated to begin in the second quarter of 2014.

Under contract -- The former Luby's building in the 1200 block of Southmore Avenue in **Pasadena** is planned for redevelopment as a multi-tenant building when the deal is done.

It's reported that Dave & Busters will open its third Houston location in Baybrook Mall by mid 2015. Read more here: http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/blog/breaking-ground/2014/03/major-entertainment-venue-to-open-at-baybrook-mall.html?ana=e_du_pub&s=article_du&ed=2014-03-25

Storage Wars:

- A storage facility is being built in **Pasadena** at the corner of Strawberry and Vista Roads.
- Best Storage will open at 7430 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. This 55,000 SF building was formerly an Albertson's.
- A four-story, 120,000 SF storage facility is going up in **League City** at FM 646 and Walker Street.
- Another is under construction at Bay Area Boulevard and Feathercraft in **Houston**.

The first phase of Jag Hollow, a new road in **League City's** entertainment district, has been completed. This opens up the property for easier access to the new Quaker Steak & Lube restaurant that is currently under construction.

In **La Porte**, Hampton Inn and Suites plans a new hotel along SH 146 just south of Fairmont Parkway.

Construction has begun on **League City's** new 95,000 SF H-E-B store on the League City Parkway at South Shore Boulevard. Officials say they are moving forward with plans to open in the fall.

Galveston County news

- A come back for the Balinese Room? An unnamed investor may purchase the rights to the name and the right to rebuild at the same location along the **Galveston** seawall at 21st Street. Still in the planning stage, a new Balinese Room would be built in Polynesian style, 140 ft. wide and extend 193 feet over the Gulf of Mexico.
- Plans for Adventure Pointe, a proposed theme park on 35 acres on the south side of Tanger Outlets in **Texas City**, are still in the works. The entertainment venue would include vintage trains, an 'iceless' skating rink, zip lines, go-carts and a 60-room hotel. More details as they come.
- Buc-ee's will open sooner than expected, late April or early May, at the Gulf Freeway and Holland Road. It's a big one ... 60,000 SF!

Just for fun ...

- Southwest International In-Water Boat Show at South Shore Harbour Marina in **League City**, March 27-30. www.southwestintlboatshow.com
- 19th annual Keels & Wheels will be held in **Seabrook**, May 3-4, at Lakewood Yacht Club. Last year, 15,000 attended coming from 26 states and 7 countries. Economic impact of this event is more than \$3.5 million each year. <http://www.keels-wheels.com/>
- 2014 Red, White & Bayou Crawfish and Texas Music Festival in **Dickinson**, May 17 at Dickinson City Hall. <http://www.redwhiteandbayou.com/index.html>
- 41st annual **Pasadena** Strawberry Festival, May 16-18 at the Pasadena Municipal Fairgrounds. www.strawberryfest.org

Coming Soon

Baybrook Mall - Art of Shaving (high-end shaving supplies and grooming products) opening in late April or early May. This is the

second store in the market, the other being in The Woodlands.

Nassau Bay – AMOCO Federal Credit Union (micro branch) at the new city hall, 1800 Space Park

If you “LIKE” us on Facebook, you’ll get updates and the latest news about restaurants and retail openings in the area. Just a suggestion! 😊

Now Open

Clear Lake Shores – Marina Café (indoor-outdoor and waterfront!) at 620 Marina Bay Drive

Webster – Five Below (discount store) at Baybrook Square; Harbor Freight at Point NASA - 1020 W. NASA Parkway; Slices & Ices at Shops by the Bay - 300 W. Bay Area Blvd.; Bombshells Restaurant & Bar at 803 E. NASA Parkway - Challenger Plaza; Sears Outlet at Clear Lake Center - 20750 Gulf Freeway

Friendswood – Rhea Land’s (children’s clothing & toy consignment) at 108 W. Edgewood Drive

League City – Unexpected Interiors at 613 Main St.

La Porte – DnD Backyard - Crawfish Shack & Live Music at 113 N. 10th; The Gates, an event center, at 912 W. Main

Dickinson – Herb Café Farm to Art Market at 5828 FM 517 East; Rose Petal Florist at Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center-3500 Gulf Freeway

Houston – Chick-fil-A at the Gulf Freeway and El Dorado Boulevard; Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Anderson Properties at 457 Bay Area Blvd.

Baybrook – Style Encore at 19074 Gulf Freeway

NOTE: Please feel free to pass this e-newsletter along to others who would enjoy it, and remember to credit Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership for this information.

Residential Development

- Recently purchased - 38 acres for a residential subdivision in **League City** at Bay Colony. The property is along Cross Colony Drive north of Borden’s Gully.
- West Ranch in **Friendswood** has opened a new section, West Lake, that’s near the new West Ranch recreation center opening this summer. Home builders include David Weekley Homes, Village Builders, Highland Homes, Coventry Homes and Partners in Building; homes range from the \$300’s to the \$800’s.

Infrastructure News and Everything Else!

Sometimes it takes an act of Congress to fix an act of Congress

Last summer, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) joined forces with the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance (CSFI) to convince members of Congress that the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012 (BW-12) would have devastating consequences for many thousands of people and businesses across the nation.

Both the House and Senate passed House Bill 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. It was then sent to President Obama and signed into law on March 21st.

What does this mean? The legislation significantly changes the Biggert-Waters flood insurance law by addressing a number of unintended consequences stemming from the legislation. It reinstates grandfathered status for properties built to code before flood maps were adopted, allows new purchasers to assume existing flood policies when buying a property, and calls for accurate flood maps and gradual rate increases. BAHEP manager David Braun provided the leadership on this initiative. If you need additional information, please call him at 832.536.3242.

United Airlines plans service from **Bush Intercontinental Airport** to Atlanta and New Orleans beginning June 15 and to Austin starting on June 16. Service to Tokyo begins March 30 and to Munich on April 24.

Korean Air will begin direct daily flights from **Bush Intercontinental Airport** to Seoul, South Korea starting May 2. Last year, Turkish Airlines began new service between Houston and Istanbul, and Air China launched daily non-stop service from Houston to Beijing.

Did you know **IAH** saw 8.9 million international passengers last year...
the most in the airport's 45-year history?

Southwest Airlines announced new service from **Hobby Airport** to the Caribbean in 2014. Pack your bags for Jamaica, Aruba and the Bahamas – service starts July 1.

Did you know that **Hobby Airport** broke records, too, in 2013?
Passenger traffic was at an all-time high ... 11.1 million!

The **Port of Galveston's** current focus is on a \$10 million expansion of its second cruise terminal but, looking ahead, it is also developing a design for a third cruise terminal. Royal Caribbean Cruises has agreed to bring more cruises and bigger ships in exchange for the port's multimillion dollar expansion project. Approximately 60,000 SF will be added to the second terminal bringing it to 150,000 SF with seating for 1,000. Port of Galveston ranks as the fourth busiest cruise port in the nation -- 178 cruises in 2013.

Did you know that the Cruise Lines International Association found that Texas had the third largest economic impact in the U.S. from the cruise industry?
Texas sees \$1.2 billion in direct spending from this industry,

The new command center for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston has opened for operation at **Ellington Airport**. The \$43 million state-of-the-art facility will serve to coordinate response to incidents throughout the sector's region in addition to guiding ships and billions in freight into Houston, Galveston and Texas City ports. The organizational structure for this center consists of six departments and branches: Response, Prevention, Logistics, Waterways Management, Planning and Readiness, and the Sector Command Center which is manned 24/7, 365 days a year.

City news ...

Friendswood

- NeighborhoodScout.com has ranked Friendswood high on the list as a safe city in the U.S. – it ranks No. 32 with cities of 25,000 or more people. In Texas, Friendswood ranked third safest.
- In 2013, 168 single-family homes were permitted with a valuation of \$62,120,000.

Dickinson - The Dickinson Economic Development Corporation is looking for developers who would be interested in a 16-acre tract of waterfront property along the Gulf Freeway on Dickinson Bayou. The project could include hospitality, retail and commercial development.

Kemah – City Council approved a 40-year ground lease with The Gulf Coast Center to construct a \$12.2 million transportation center within the Kemah Lighthouse business district.

Nassau Bay – Construction on the new Donald Matter Municipal Building is well underway. City Hall and the Police Department will be located on the second floor. The first floor will be occupied by a tenant.

La Porte – The city has a vision for one or more waterfront restaurants on 8.5 acres of bay-front property. The land, a 35-acre property overlooking Galveston Bay, is owned by the city and is near Sylvan Beach.

League City

- The city was named by NerdWallet.com as the 16th best city in Texas for homeownership. Availability of homes, median household income, and monthly homeowner costs were some of the data used to compile the list.
- City building permits for 2013 showed that 1,080 new homes were constructed last year, a 55% increase from 2012.

Pasadena – Strategic Advisory Group was contracted by the Pasadena Second Century Corporation (economic development corporation) to prepare developer solicitation packages to identify potential development partners for the various components outlined in the master plan prepared by SAG. They will manage the developer solicitation process and select a short list of candidates from which to request a formal proposal. The proposed staggered development project includes a hotel, water park, amphitheatre, retail and

restaurant facilities and would include an entertainment venue based on concepts approved by Mickey Gilley. The site is portions of the 200 acres adjacent to and surrounding the Pasadena Convention Center on Fairmont Parkway.

Education news

- Texas A&M University at **Galveston** is partnering with a private group to build and finance a \$45 million, 612-bed cadet residence hall on Pelican Island. The land is north of Seawolf Parkway and west of Texas Clipper Road. The Galveston campus has seven residence halls for more than 1,000 students. The projected student population was 2,100 last fall. Read more at Galveston County Daily News.
- The School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch at **Galveston** has been recognized for its online master's degree program. It was ranked sixth in the U.S. and the best in Texas by U.S. News & World Report's survey of graduate online nursing programs.
- **Clear Creek ISD's** second football stadium is scheduled to start construction in April near West NASA Parkway on the west side of the Gulf Freeway. Completion is expected for the Challenger Columbia Stadium by August 2015. Read more: <http://www.chron.com/default/article/Clear-Creek-to-start-second-stadium-this-spring-5163075.php>
- A \$56 million bond proposal to build schools in the **Dickinson ISD** is up for a vote in May. This would fund construction of an elementary school and intermediate school on land off the Gulf Freeway near FM 517 and Calder Road. Read more: <http://www.chron.com/default/article/Dickinson-ISD-plans-May-bond-election-to-fund-new-5163067.php>
- With plans to open this August, **Pasadena ISD's** new Career & Technical High School nears completion. The new 246,000 SF high school will offer students an opportunity to graduate with a diploma, earn free college credits and gain professional certification or a license in high-demand areas including Pre-Engineering/Robotics, Nursing, Veterinarian, Automotive, and Welding .. just to name a few. The location is along Beltway 8 just west of Genoa Red Bluff Road. http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/pasadena/news/construction-nears-completion-for-state-of-the-art-career-technical/article_7f5e68ab-16b9-5c2f-accf-d7af2050e2f7.html
- According to Kiplinger's annual listing of best values among the nation's top 100 public colleges, Texas A&M University ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 17 in the nation.
- This is a good time to go through your attic and closets! A **Friendswood ISD** museum is proposed for the corner of Laurel and West Spreading Oaks in a former junior high school building. The school district is seeking memorabilia.

Road news ...

Big Stuff – Gulf Freeway expansion estimated timelines:

The roadwork is part of a \$93 million I-45 South project to widen the existing six main lanes to 10 and add more frontage lanes in each direction from FM 2351 to Medical Center Blvd.

- Southbound frontage road north of Bay Area Blvd. – June 2014 to October 2014
- Southbound frontage road south of Bay Area Blvd. – October 2014 to November 2014
- Demolish Bay Area Boulevard bridge – January 2015
- Reopen Bay Area Boulevard at I-45 – April to May 2015
- Work on northbound frontage road – January 2015 to June 2015

Thanks to *Biz Buzz at the Galveston Daily News* for rounding up this information!

BAHEP is now part of the Facebook and Twitter network providing its members and followers yet another way to keep up with its activities.

Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaHoustonEcon>

Check out our tweets at <https://twitter.com/BAHEP>.

Economic development doesn't happen by itself! If you would like to know more about how you can support our economic development initiatives and have the opportunity to work with the region's business leaders, please contact Membership Director Harriet Lukee at 832.536.3255 or Harriet@bayareahouston.com.

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