

IN BRIEF

Site consultants visit

The organization had a banner week during the later part of December with the visit of two site selectors. With the assistance of Dudley VanNess, CenterPoint Energy, Margaret Grissom with Peake Consulting and David Florence with Gray Construction the site selectors were brought in to visit our city economic development specialists. As part of the organization's marketing outreach, this effort showcases the advantages and opportunities of the region.

Grissom has been a consultant for 20 years, specializing in the food processing industry and works to certify megasites (500 to 1,000 acres) with economic development entities.

Gray Construction's main focus is on manufacturing facilities, automotive, warehouses, distribution and the aerospace segments. Florence has developed a niche as a consultant for many companies, due to his knowledge of the area, especially with Japanese specialty chemical companies.

Informex tradeshow

Paul Chavez, marketing director for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, will be prospecting at the Informex Specialty Chemical tradeshow in New Orleans at the end of January. Chavez will be the regions representative at the show, which focuses on the global specialty chemical sector.

Celebrating 50 years

Over the next year, NASA will celebrate 50 years of scientific and technological excellence. NASA has powered us into the 21st century through signature accomplishments that are enduring icons of human achievement.

Among those accomplishments are technological innovations and scientific discoveries that have improved and shaped our lives on Earth in a myriad of ways. Please join us as we celebrate the past and look forward to a promising new era of inspiration, innovation, and discovery.

State of the Economy

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Small Business Committee is hosting an Annual State of the Economy Address for the members.

The event will feature analysis of U.S. and Texas economies, recent economic trends and projections for Bay Area Houston business sectors.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Ray Perryman, founder and president of the Perryman Group; Dr. Robert Hodgin, associate professor of economics for the University of Houston-Clear Lake and Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

Those interested in participating should contact Harriet Lukee at 281-486-5535.

Solutions for small businesses

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered through Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It provides technical assistance to small businesses at no charge, and is funded by NASA and the State of Texas.

SATOP is currently assisting a company to refine a device that would that permanently anchor mobile homes to prevent excess damage in the case of hurricane force winds. For information on SATOP contact Nick Gardner at 281-486-5535.

Year in review, economic highlights

Economic Partnership ends year with the highest level of investment in the organizations history

As the year closed and the new year began, many took the opportunity to reflect on their past achievements as well as created goals for the next year.

For the cities, counties and business investors of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, it is a time to reflect on more than simple numbers, but on the results that stand as a testament to leadership and regional cooperation at its best.

With the addition of the newest investor city, Clear Lake Shores, the organization now represents 13 cities, two counties and a show of regional solidarity.

Although numbers do offer a tangible means of measurement, often it is the work that takes place behind the scenes that makes the difference.

2007 closed with the highest level of investment in the history of the organization with a total of 266 investors and an overall increase in revenue of \$74,500.

On average, the organization gen-

erally works on 40 potential project leads at a time; however, only a couple of those actually materialize. Through its efforts, the organization created 2, 575 jobs and more than \$517 million in capital investments - utilizing a recognized international standard for economic impact and investments.

The organization worked with multiple national site selectors on projects, including the redevelopment initiative for the city of Nassau Bay, which is one of the most significant redevelopment programs in the region since the founding of Johnson Space Center. This project is expected to increase the assessed property tax from \$10 million to more than \$150 million when completed.

"This year, the organization has led projects involved in biodiesel production, redevelopment and a call center operation located in Pasadena," said Paul Chavez, marketing director for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

"All three are firsts for our region. We are also starting to see the first wave of inquires into office space for aerospace subcontractors involved with the Crew Exploration Vehicle project. The region is seeing a diversification of industries calling the Bay Area of Houston home."

In the area of workforce development, the organization worked with the San Jacinto College's Aerospace Academy to secure \$1.47 million

Meeting workforce demands

grant to develop engineering education opportunities to support NASA Johnson Space Center employers and the aerospace industry.

This kind of training will benefit companies and workers, and pipeline students into higher education to ensure a well-trained and ready workforce.

The organizations efforts in supporting local aerospace companies led to the development of a Masters program at the University of Hous-

ton-Clear Lake for aerospace engineering.

Leadership Advocacy

neers in program management fields.

Space Day in Austin, coordinated by the organization, resulted in a 60 percent increase in funding for the Texas Aerospace Scholars and the Technology Outreach Program. TAS programs are designed to reach out to young students to provide educational opportunities in the science, technology engineering and math fields.

The Citizens for Space Exploration, a grass roots committee comprised of students and citizens, embarked on its most successful trip to Capitol Hill in support of a fully funded human space flight program and the fulfillment of America's Vision for Space Exploration. The trip to Washington, D.C., was made by 150 travelers, including 36 students from 26 states. More than 300 congressional offices were visited dur-

ing this year's trip.

The organization's effort to promote smart growth in the specialty chemical industry led to a coordinated initiative with the Texas Chemical Council to support the Texas Chemical Day in Austin. This initiative involved meeting with elected officials to advocate for legislation that encourages industry and state agencies to work smarter on growth strategies.

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is publicly funded initiative that connects small business owners with a technical issue to a professional in the U.S. space program. In 2007, SATOP helped more than 52 companies in Harris and Galveston Counties.

After 30 years, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership continues to push the limits of opportunities in succeeding to adding jobs, investments and quality of place for the Bay Area Houston region.



Representatives from NASA, Lockheed Martin, the State of Texas and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership participated in the opening of a new space Exploration Development Laboratory, which will support the Orion project and the Constellation. Left, Richard O. Covey, president and CEO of United Space Alliance; Cleon Lacefield, vice president and program manager of Project Orion for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company; Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Keith Graf, director of Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense for the Office of the Governor and John Karas, vice president and general manager of Human Space Flight for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company.

"This project is a great success story of how the state, local community and industry can partner to create good jobs and expand economic development. Bob Mitchell and Jim Reinhartsen and their team at Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership should be commended for the yeomen's work they put into this project -- this was a true economic development partnership."

-Keith Graf

Director of Aerospace, Aviation and Defense for the Office of the Governor

Small business means big business in Bay Area Houston

Small businesses, impact local economy

Responding to the needs of its members, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership created a Small Business Committee to address topics that are of high interest to member companies with less than 100 employees.

"The success of small business in our community, as well as the country is vital to the health of our economy," said Mark Conrad, chair for the Small Business Committee and president of Express Personnel Services. "America's small businesses - some 25 million strong - are the strength of our nation's economy and account for 51 percent of the private-sector business share of the nation's domestic product."

"Small businesses create three out of every four new jobs, and produce two and one half times as many innovations per employee as do large firms. In fact within the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, roughly 40 percent of its member companies fall within our defined 'business' category."

The mission of the committee is to create an environment for opportunity and advancement for small businesses.

Topics of interest include employee development and employee benefits, customer service, sales management, and marketing. The group will also include mentoring by other leaders of successful small

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-Mark Conrad
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businesses.

"Our interaction allows us a forum to benchmark each other, expand ideas, discuss challenges, gain exposure and most importantly to each of us - help our businesses grow to become big businesses," Conrad said.

One of its myriad events this year, the committee will sponsor the world renowned economist and publisher of the Perryman Report, Dr. Ray Perryman, who will discuss the local economy.

Conrad said, "This program is the first of several coordinated events planned for 2008 by our committee to attain some of our group's objectives."

The committee is open to members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Those interested in participating in activities should contact Harriet Lukee at 281-486-5535.

2008 elected officers: Milstein, Burkett, Bowers

Distinguished economic organization with distinguished leadership

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently elected Dr. Bernard A. Milstein as its chairman.

Milstein is a LASIK surgeon and clinical professor of ophthalmology at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and president of The Eye Clinic of Texas in League City.

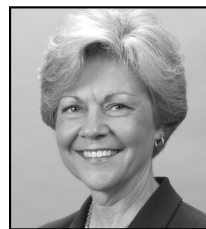
The board of directors for the regional economic development organization also elected Mary Ainslie as vice chairman, Gale E. Burkett as secretary and re-elected Jennifer Bowers as treasurer.

Ainslie received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and received her Master of Science in Finance from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Currently, she is senior vice president of Amegy Bank of Texas and is responsible for developing commercial lending in the Bay Area Houston region.

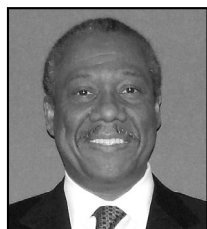
Burkett is the founder/ Chief Executive Officer of GB Tech, Inc., a science and engineering firm. In his role as CEO, Burkett is charged with overseeing new market development, long-term strategic direction and overall vision of the company. Burkett also devotes a large



Chair: Dr. Bernard A. Milstein, president of The Eye Clinic of Texas



Vice Chair: Mary Ainslie, senior vice president of Amegy Bank of Texas



Secretary: Gale E. Burkett, president/CEO of GB Tech, Inc.



Treasurer: Jennifer Bowers, partner of Bowers & Sadler, LLP

portion of his time and energy to civic and community affairs.

Bowers is a partner in the law firm Bowers & Sadler.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a nonprofit organization that promotes the growth of the Bay Area Houston region through the retention, expansion and recruitment of target industries.

Bay Area Houston is an economically and internationally diversified, high-tech region that is home to the NASA Johnson Space Center and numerous industries including its prime industry clusters of aerospace and specialty chemical.

The organization boasts more than 260 investors from other job-intensive industries such as healthcare, education, recreation, tourism and the arts. The region also looks to capitalize on the emerging industry clusters of technology and biotechnology.

Thirteen cities and two counties also comprise the membership. City members are Clear Lake Shores, Dickinson, El Lago, Friendswood, Kemah, Houston, La Porte, League City, Nassau Bay, Pasadena, Seabrook, Taylor Lake Village and Webster. Counties include Galveston and Harris.

Included in its service to its municipal members is the Space Alliance

Technology Outreach Program, which offers free technical assistance to small businesses from experts in the aerospace industry.

Milstein named 'Super Doctor'

For the third consecutive year, Dr. Bernard A. Milstein, chairman for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, has been named by his peers as a Texas Monthly Magazine Super Doctor.

The Super Doctors list was compiled by Key Professional Media, which asked more than 37,000 medical professionals' one question: "To whom would you refer a loved one or one of your patients for medical diagnosis and/or treatment?"

After tallying the replies, the research team identified those Texas doctors who earned special recognition from their peers or demonstrated other indications of expertise in their specialties. In the end, KPM established a list of Texas Super Doctors in 29 specialty areas.

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