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In this Edition...

Commercial/Office/Industrial Development
Retail / Hospitality Development
Residential Development
Infrastructure News and Everything Else!

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 and the Port of Houston Authority in southeast Texas to foster economic vitality through regional collaboration.

Commercial / Office / Industrial Development

Industrial News ...

Frontier Logistics will occupy a new 600,000 SF facility to be built at 225 RailPort, a new master-planned industrial distribution complex in **Pasadena** on SH 225 at Beltway 8. Avera, the developer, will break ground on the \$50 - \$70 million project this November with completion anticipated for third quarter of 2014. The structure will have nearly 20,000 linear feet of new rail on 46 acres. Frontier provides services to the plastics industry, including packaging, warehousing, trucking, logistics consultation and border crossing services.

Read more here: http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/blog/breaking-ground/2013/09/frontier-logistics-to-expand-port.html?ana=e_du_pub&s=article_du&ed=2013-10-01

Just announced ... Kaneka North America LLC plans to expand its CPVC (Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride) line with a \$50 million expansion that will double the capacity and bring 10-12 new permanent jobs as well as construction work. The plant is in **Pasadena's** Bayport Industrial District.

Linde North America, an industrial gas producer, announced a \$200 million expansion project at its **La Porte** operations. After the expansion and the addition of a new liquefier, Linde will produce liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon. All three are used in the food processing, metal fabrication and healthcare industries. The expanded facilities will employ more than 50 people. Completion is scheduled for first quarter of 2015.

Noltex, in **La Porte's** Battleground Industrial District, broke ground on a \$180 million expansion project. Up to 25 new full-time jobs are expected. The company anticipates that the construction will be completed by October 2014; they are planning to start operations by January 2015.

Lubline, a manufacturer of lubricants and additives used in the oil and gas industry, will open a new manufacturing facility on 30 rail-served acres in **Pasadena's** Bayport South business park on Red Bluff Road. The new \$60 million facility will be used to reprocess used lubricating oil. Thirty new jobs will be created.

WIKA Process Solutions LP, a state-of-the-art German manufacturer and world market leader in industrial measuring instruments, purchased 13 acres on Beltway Green Boulevard for its new hub location. The 87,900 SF, two-story building will have 44,025 SF of office and 43,875 SF of crane-served warehouse space. The site is in **Pasadena's** Park 225 Business Park, southeast corner of Beltway 8 and SH 225. BAHEP member GSL Welcome Group is developing the build-to-suit facility.

Plant Maintenance Services purchased 18 acres on Genoa Red Bluff Road in **Pasadena** to build an 80,000 SF office and manufacturing facility. It is a contracting company that provides corrosion protection and refractory solutions for multiple industries in the field. The company also provides industry standard and custom design fabrication solutions. The project will bring more than 150 new jobs. BAHEP worked this project with the City of Pasadena and Mark Nicholas / Jones Lang LaSalle.

All-Tube Fittings purchased a 12,000 SF design-build facility in Brittany Business Park at 1247 Butler Rd. in **League City**.

GSL Welcome Group's 15,000 SF spec building on New West Drive in **Bayport North** Industrial Park has been leased by Tracerco. Ground breaking is underway on a second spec building in the industrial park, this time on New Century Drive with the same blue print: tilt-wall, 10-ton crane ready, 26 ft. eave height, clear span, and visibility from Fairmont Parkway. Delivery for the second building is planned for first or second quarter of 2014.

Holman Boiler Works signed a 24,000 SF build-to-suit lease in **Bayport North** Industrial Park II. The 2.54 acre site is on the southeast corner of Underwood and New Decade Roads. The Dallas-based company serves customers in steam-intensive markets including food processing, refinery, petrochemical, utility, gas processing, energy, packaging, environmental, healthcare, education and government. Once the new building is operational, employment is expected to grow to over 100.

Red Ball Oxygen purchased five acres on SH 225 near Beltway 8 in **Pasadena** for a new company location.

Shipyards Supply plans to expand into **Pasadena**. The company purchased five acres at the southwest corner of Beltway 8 and Meadow Wood Drive.

Developers of the Lawrence Business Park at 820 Lawrence Road in **League City** plan five more office or warehouse buildings. They will build-to-suit or sell the build-ready sites.

Gulf Winds International is building a \$14 million, 180,000 SF warehouse in **Seabrook** between SH 146 and Old 146.

Developers of Global ICS industrial park in the **Bayport Industrial District** have prepared a conceptual plan for 20.7 acres that would include a trans-loading terminal, blending and packaging facility, and tank storage with a pipeline connection to nearby barge/ship docks. The industrial park is one of the few locations in the area offering sites for small to mid-size industrial companies. The site offers rail, major highway access, natural gas, nitrogen, hydrogen and other beneficial assets for a chemical production and distribution facility. Location is 10201 Bay Area Blvd. between Bayport Blvd. and Chemical Rd.

Infrastructure work will begin soon at Port Commerce Business Park on Genoa-Red Bluff Road east of Space Center Blvd. The **Houston** business park will be deed restricted for light industrial users. Build-to-suits are available on 2.5 to 20+ acre sites.

Plans are moving forward for Clearwood Business Park on 4.25 acres along FM 2351 in **Friendswood**. The developer has proposed two 6,000 SF freestanding office warehouses for lease or sale on approximately two acres of light industrial-zoned property. The front two acres are zoned commercial and could be used as office suites or condominiums.

Healthcare News ...

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic has started construction on a new medical office building at 1010 South Ponds Drive at **Baybrook** Passage. This location will consolidate the other two that are now in the immediate area. The three-story clinic is planned to be 55,000 SF with enough room for 25 physicians, possibly expanding to 37. Completion of the new facility is expected summer of 2014.

Medistar intends to develop property at the corner of Gemini Street and Buccaneer Lane as a new medical project. It's planned for the three buildings on the property to be redeveloped as a skilled nursing unit, a long-term acute care center and a medical office building. In the past, the buildings were all used by aerospace contractors – one building is 49,000 SF and was used as a laboratory; the other two are each 40,000 SF office buildings. The addresses are 1045 Gemini, 16840 and 16850 Buccaneer. More details as they emerge.

Nearly 10 acres on the southeast corner of SH 3 and Medical Center Blvd. in **Webster** have been purchased for a 45-bed rehabilitation hospital and medical office building. Medistar and Dallas-based Cobalt are partnering on this project.

Medistar and Surgical Development Partners have a new hospital underway in **Webster** – 373,000 SF Bay Area Regional Medical Center - a \$160 million facility that is expected to open next March.

Recently announced, Houston Methodist will acquire a majority stake in **Nassau Bay's** CHRISTUS St. John Hospital. The 100-bed facility could eventually expand by 50 percent, according to one report.

United Surgical Partners International purchased 5.25 acres on the northwest corner of Beltway 8 and Preston Road in **Pasadena** to build a 50,000 SF surgery center.

Congratulations! to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, one of eight Memorial Hermann Health System hospitals being named as a 2013 Top Performers on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America. These hospitals are eight of only 1,099 in the U.S. earning this distinction.

Recent lease transactions

- 104,300 SF - USA Wire and Cable leased space at Bay Area Business Park, 9311 Bay Area Blvd. in **Pasadena**. The Austin, TX-based company is a global distributor of electrical wire and cable.
- 32,500 SF – SGT, Inc. leased at 17155 Feathercraft Lane in **Webster**. The company will support the EVA (Extravehicular Activity) Space Operations Contract at this location.
- 30,000 SF – Seaway Crude Pipeline Co. leased a warehouse/distribution facility at 1605 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. in **Pasadena**.
- 25,000 SF – SCG Energia SA leased at 120 North Munger in **Pasadena**. It is a Portuguese company with its North American headquarters in **Houston**. The company is in the business of owning and operating mid-scale energy facilities that convert a wide range of low-cost, carbon-rich feedstock into clean fuels in a safe and economical manner. This location is for R&D and training; it will house a small pilot plant and laboratory.
- 20,127 SF - Flow-Cal Inc. has leased at One Corporate Plaza on Bay Area Blvd. BAHEP member Studley / Derrell Curry handled the transaction.
- 16,616 SF – The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health leased at 2000 Anders Lane in **Kemah**. The company specializes in the specific scientific expertise of toxicology, risk assessment, industrial hygiene, occupational health, claims and regulatory compliance, and response to emergencies or other events involving release or threat of release of chemicals.
- 16,000 SF - DaVita leased at 3333 Bayshore Blvd. in **Pasadena**. BAHEP member Colliers International / Ace Schlameus handled the transaction.
- 11,647 SF – Valspar Corp. leased at 16910 Texas Avenue in **Webster**. BAHEP member Colliers International / Bill Buntyn and Trey Erwin represented the tenant.
- 10,500 SF – FlexiPlus LLC at 1905 Jasmine St. in **Pasadena**.
- 10,212 SF – VI Engineering renewed at 18333 Egret Bay Blvd. and added an additional 4,875 SF. BAHEP member PM Realty Group / Courtney Knightstep represented the tenant.
- 10,000 SF – Scott Safety, a global manufacturer of respiratory, personal protective equipment and safety devices, leased space at East Belt Industrial Park in **Pasadena** on Beltway 8. The facility will also serve as a regional training location and resource for demonstrations and education relating to their flame and gas detection products.
- 8,200 SF – Stewart Tire and Auto leased at 1905 Jasmine in **Pasadena**.
- 7,724 SF – The Richard Industrial Group has leased at the 1200 SH 146 office building in **La Porte**

for its new office location. The company is a full-service engineering, procurement and construction firm and additionally provides pipe fabrication and electrical/automation services. The company is relocating eight employees and plans to hire more than 80 new employees within two to three years.

- 6,600 SF – First Choice ER leased a former Blockbuster building in **La Porte** on the corner of Fairmont Parkway and SH 146.
- 6,500 SF – Intuitive Machines Inc. leased space at 3700 Bay Area Blvd. in **Pasadena** at the Boeing building. The company, a subsidiary of SGT, is in the business of bringing unique expertise in the core competencies of control systems, motor control, robotics, advanced manufacturing, mechanics, electronics, software, computational analysis, and sensing, to solve significant challenges across multiple industries. BAHEP worked this project with Studley / Derrell Curry.
- 4,760 SF - SONGWON International Americas leased 4,760 SF at Barras Business Park in **Friendswood** on FM 528. The Korean-based company is the second largest manufacturer of polymer stabilizers in the world and operates manufacturing facilities in Korea, Germany, China and the U.S.
- 4,000 SF – Alpha Omega Human Resource Management at 915 S. 8th St. in **La Porte**.
- 4,000 SF – Instratek, Inc. leased at 15200 Middlebrook Drive. Headquartered in **Houston**, the company is a pioneer in developing minimally invasive endoscopic surgical techniques and surgical implants for extremity surgery in the medical industry.
- 3,772 SF – Force Specialty Services at 911 S. 8th St. in **La Porte**.
- 3,025 SF – An urgent care clinic has leased at **Friendswood** Crossing, FM 528 at FM 518.
- 2,500 SF – Paragon Space Development Corporation leased at 1322 Space Park Dr. in **Nassau Bay**.
- 1,762 SF – Fryoux Tankerman Services of Texas leased at 915 E. 8th St. in **La Porte** for a training facility for tanker and tugboat captains and crews.
- 1,335 SF - Clear Lake Regional Medical Center leased space at **League City's** Bay Colony Town Center

Recent sale transactions ...

AVAdex Walkway Cover Systems & Canopies purchased a 90,987 SF building at 12130 SH 3 (Bldg. #1), across from Ellington Airport. The company designs and builds an array of walkway and canopy options that provide unique designs.

Ventech Engineers International LLC, a global leader in the design and construction of modular refineries and headquartered in **Pasadena**, purchased a 110,000 SF building at the Pasadena Town Square mall. The company intends to use the building, a former Dillard's store, to expand its office operations. Ventech will continue to office in its current location, a 120,000 SF office at 1149 Ellsworth Drive.

- An undisclosed buyer purchased a 50,000 SF building on 4.8 acres at 12130 SH 3 (Bldg. #5).
- Corsair Investments purchased 5.9 acres – FM 518 and Westover Park in **League City**.
- A 55,000 SF building (former Albertson's) at 7430 Spencer Hwy. in **Pasadena** was purchased by a self-storage company.
- Tran Princess Corp. purchased 1.9 acres in Whispering Lakes at SH 96 and Lawrence Rd. in **League City**.
- Bhagia Collaborations purchased 3.5 acres at SH 96 and Lawrence Rd. in **League City**.
- LZ Properties purchased a 13,750 SF industrial warehouse at 11800 Fairmont Parkway in **La Porte**.
- An undisclosed buyer purchased a 15,908 SF office property in **Pasadena** at 2702-2706 Cherrybrook Lane.
- Fairmont Whitestone Group LLC purchased a 17,636 SF building (Harris Professional Pavilion) at 4600 Fairmont Parkway in **Pasadena**. The seller was represented by BAHEP member Marshall Clinkscales / Colliers International.

Now Open

League City - Immediate Medical Care at 2640 E. League City Pkwy.

Webster - Hamilton Vein Center leased 2,656 SF at 251 W. Medical Center Blvd.

FOR A BIRD'S EYE VIEW of what's going on in Bay Area Houston, click here: http://www.bayareahouston.com/Assets/documents/real_estate/hot%20projects%20-%20november%20%202013.pdf **There's always something new!**

Retail / Hospitality Development

Nordstrom Rack is coming to **Webster** in the spring of 2015! The new 31,000 SF store will open in Baybrook Square in the space now occupied by DSW. DSW will relocate to another space in that retail center.

New H-E-B for **League City**! Plans are in the works to build a 98,000 SF store on the southeast corner of League City Parkway and South Shore Boulevard. McDonald's, an urgent care clinic and Starbucks are planning stores in a strip center under construction on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Sears Outlet leased 33,494 SF for a new concept store at the Clear Lake Center in **Webster**, SWC of NASA Parkway and the Gulf Freeway. The retail center has two remaining spots for restaurants or other commercial tenants. BAHEP member United Equities/ Tim Sandifer handled the negotiations.

Chick-fil-A is under construction next to the new Firestone store in front of Home Depot on the Gulf Freeway at El Dorado.

Bombshells will open in **Webster** at 803 E. NASA Parkway near the corner of El Camino Real. This will be the second Texas restaurant; the other is in Dallas. Bombshells will have a military theme - old helmets and wings from fighter planes, just to name a few fun things. No date set yet – we'll keep you posted.

The Iron Eagle has landed at the **Kemah** Boardwalk! The new mega zip line is open – 100 foot off the ground and real fast!

Plans were unveiled for a \$15 million, 40,000 SF exhibition hall and visitors center at the San Jacinto Museum in **La Porte**. The building will be on 13 acres next to the historic battlefield site. Currently, only a small percentage of the museum's 18,000 artifacts are on display due to space restraints. Read more: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Battlefield-history-moving-next-door-4883483.php>

A developer has proposed a new multi-phase retail development on the southwest corner of Spencer Highway and SH 146 in **La Porte**. The first phase, about three acres, has an out parcel for a retail anchor. The site was a former car dealership; daily car counts are 70,000 north and south on SH 146 and 17,428 east and west on Spencer Highway.

An 8.25-acre site on the northeast corner of Fairmont Parkway and Canada Road has been proposed as a general commercial project by a developer and the city of **La Porte**. They are working with a prospective retail anchor.

Plans are coming along for the new six-story, \$12 million attraction to be built at Space Center Houston for the space shuttle replica and 747 shuttle carrier aircraft. The space shuttle 'Independence' will sit atop the carrier aircraft. It will be a sight to behold!

Recent real estate deals –

- Excel Trust purchased **League City** Towne Center, 194,736 SF, at the southeast corner of FM 646 and I-45 (Gulf Freeway). The property is 100%-leased.
- New owner and name -- Baskins at 3445 I-45 (Gulf Freeway) in **Dickinson** was purchased by California-based Boot Barn.
- A special event center has purchased a 5,200 SF building at 912 Main Street in **La Porte**.
- Perkins Station, 18,000+ SF in **League City** on FM 518, was purchased by a new owner who is revitalizing the building and changing the name to Walding Station. Sweet Shop Confectionery has leased 6,000 SF for a new location there. More than 8,000 SF is still available. BAHEP member Keller Williams Clear Lake NASA / Jeff George handled the transaction.

For a good time

November 16 – January 4th – Festival of Lights at Moody Gardens in **Galveston**.

Coming Soon

Webster - Slices and Ices (gourmet pizza) at 300 Bay Area Blvd.; ArtWorks at El Camino Real and NASA Pkwy.

Bay Brook Village - Zoes Kitchen at 1507 W. Bay Area Blvd.; Red Mango (frozen yogurt and smoothies)

Pasadena - Casa Ole Mexican Restaurant at 4018 Spencer Hwy.; Taco Bell at Pansy and Fairmont Parkway; The Donut Shop at 1901 Allen-Genoa Road

Houston - Blue Mountain Café & Bakery on Scarsdale and Beamer

League City - Dunkin Donuts at 2340 Marina Bay Dr.

Kemah - Aldi (grocery store) opens Nov. 7th at 222 FM 518

Nassau Bay - Five Guys Hamburgers opens in the next 2 weeks; Salata (salad bar) opens mid-December and Citris Nails opens end of November at Nassau Bay Town Square

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

League City - Claudio’s Restaurant & Piano Bar at 3202 Marina Bay Drive; Mathnasium South Shore at 2800 Marina Bay Drive; Hook Spit Fishing Gear at 2800 W. Main Plaza

Clear Lake Shores - Aspen on Aspen (restaurant) at Clear Lake Road and Aspen St.

Kemah - Tutti Frutti on FM 518; Teresa’s Taqueria at 1415 SH 146

Webster - Batteries Plus Bulbs at 599 West Bay Area Blvd., My Fit Foods at 1041 W. Bay Area Blvd.

Seabrook - Grand Central Station (shopping) at 1002 North Meyer

Friendswood - Silver Bee Boutique at 180 S. Friendswood Dr.

Pasadena - Panda Express at 5230 Fairmont Parkway

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

Residential Development

A new subdivision is in the works for **Friendswood**. Proposed by DR Horton is ‘Georgetown’, a 380 acre site on FM 528 close to Mandale Road. Plans include 589 lots, 90 x 130. At this time, approximately 25 acres are reserved for commercial. We’ll keep you posted on this development.

Two residential projects are proposed for **Seabrook**. One is The Commons at Seabrook, a 400-unit upscale multi-family project on SH 146 north of Seabrook Circle. There will be a general commercial reserve in the front of the property. The other project is Old Seabrook Village on North Meyer at First Street – approximately 100 single family lots.

More news about The Reserve at Clear Lake City – Trendmaker Homes has revealed plans for the first phase of this new 372-acre community in **Houston** off Clear Lake City Boulevard at El Dorado Boulevard. The first phase, 165 lots, will be delivered summer 2014 offering upscale single-family homes on 55, 70 and 80 foot sites as well as a gated section devoted exclusively to Trendmaker’s new Villas patio homes.

Mariposa Apartment Homes at Pecan Park will be built at the northeast corner of Fairmont Parkway and Canada Road in **La Porte**. The 18-acre site will have two acres reserved for general commercial development fronting Canada Road. Planned are 180 units for 55+ residents.

Village Builders has eight new townhomes under construction and four new decorated models at Edgewater in **Webster**. The ‘Shoreline’ collection starts at 2,500 SF and \$250,000.

Recent transactions:

- Greystar Real Estate Partners purchased the Seven Palms apartment community in **Webster**.
- Ashwood Park Apartments at 3520 Burke Road and Parkside Place Apartments at 3101 Spencer

Highway in **Pasadena** were sold to a new owner.

Infrastructure News and Everything Else!

City news ...

- **PASADENA** -- From a pool of 39 applicants, the City of Pasadena won the Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) for 2013 in the large-city (100,000 or more) category. Awarded by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC), the award recognizes excellence and the exceptional contributions of TEDC member cities toward the economic vitality of their communities and the State of Texas. Pasadena is being recognized for attracting Silver Eagle Distributors; the company is building a 400,000 SF LEED-registered facility on 50 acres along SH 225.

The City has revealed plans for a water park at Strawberry Park. The \$4 million project would add a new bath house, a 'lazy river', concession area, shaded areas and other pool features.

- **LA PORTE** -- The City is working to attract two new industrial expansion projects that would total \$440 million and would bring many new jobs to the area.

New to the city's website -- available land sites will be posted in the next week: <http://www.ci.la-porte.tx.us/gov/econ/>

La Porte ISD has a \$140 million bond election coming up that would fund a new replacement elementary school, athletic improvements and district-wide renovations.

- **SEABROOK** -- City plans to build a Public Works facility on 25.23 acres.
- **NASSAU BAY** -- The new city hall and conference center is under construction on Space Park Drive next to the Courtyard by Marriott. City employees will be located on the second floor of the 22,000 SF building.
- **TAYLOR LAKE VILLAGE** -- The City envisions new development on 5.4 acres at the corner of NASA Parkway and Kirby. The building that housed a boat store for many years has been demolished to make way for a new project. The land is for sale.
- **LEAGUE CITY** -- The City has launched a new and improved economic development website. See it for yourself: www.leaguecityedc.com.
- **DICKINSON** -- The City will now use 'Public Vendor' for managing all current and future city vendors. Not only is this a benefit to the Dickinson, but vendors that register with 'Public Purchase' will gain access to bid opportunities, not with the City of Dickinson but with other government entities. Any vendors that would like to be added to the city's vendor list or those that would like to remain on the list for future notifications should sign up with the Public Purchase/Public Vendor system. It's free for the vendors to sign-up ... visit the City of Dickinson's website (www.ci.dickinson.tx.us) and click the icon on the right side of the front page for becoming a vendor.
- **FRIENDSWOOD** -- The City has called a bond election for November 5th. The propositions include a new fire station and improvements to another, improvements to the city library, improvements to parks, trails, and recreation facilities, acquisition of land for new parks, and street improvements. The bond cost, if all four propositions are approved, will total \$24,085,000.

Did you know **La Porte, League City and Friendswood** are on the list of Texas' top 50 safest communities?
<http://www.safewise.com/blog/safewise-50-safest-cities-texas/>

Harris County's Sylvan Beach Pavilion in **La Porte** has reopened for business after a \$6 million, three-year-long restoration. The 10,000 SF pavilion is designated as a National Historic Building, a State Archeological Landmark and is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark. The construction cost was provided through a mix of federal Hurricane Ike recovery funds and Harris County Precinct Two Park Bond funds. Read more: <http://quidrynews.com/story.aspx?id=1000056204>

A new 'retro-Americana'-themed entertainment venue is planned for **Galveston County**. Playland Park will be built on 25 acres near the south side of Tanger Outlets in **Texas City**. The vision includes vintage trains (used for many years at the zoo in Hermann Park), a unique zip line, an Xtra-ice 'ice' skating rink, and fast Indy-type electric go-karts, picnic area and amphitheater plus other attractions. The project could include a hotel and restaurants. Plans are to open in Summer of 2015. More details as they emerge. Read more here: <http://blog.chron.com/primeproperty/2013/03/amusement-park-in-the-works-for-texas-city/>

Education news

- In anticipation of its first freshman and sophomore students, University of Houston-Clear Lake announced it is now accepting applications for the fall 2014 semester.
- San Jacinto College recently graduated 36 students from the school's medical assisting program. In the workplace, medical assistants perform both administrative and clinical duties in hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices. Average wage for full-time workers with medical assistant credentials is \$29,460 per year.
- Texas A&M University Maritime Academy at **Galveston** had the largest increase in enrollment in the academy's history 517 cadets! They learn and hone skills designed for earning their third mate license and/or for careers that include becoming an officer in the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine or the Sealift Command.
- The School of Health Professionals at the University of Texas Medical Branch at **Galveston** graduated its largest class ... 305 students! Health professionals include laboratory personnel, physician assistants, physical, occupational and respiratory therapists, among others ... representing 60% of the Texas health care workforce.
- San Jacinto College announced a new biomedical clinical equipment technician program. The course will provide training in computer and electronics technology in today's medical equipment operation and repair. Several certifications are achievable. Entry-level technicians earn an average of \$15.50/hr. and, with experience, can earn upwards of \$34/hr. Demand is high -- almost 25% of the local workforce in this field is approaching retirement.

Princess Cruises' new service begins early in November at the Port of Houston Authority's Bayport Cruise Terminal in **Pasadena**, a total of 27 departures for the season. The cruise line will offer two additional seasons (50 sailings) through 2016. Starting in 2014, the Emerald Princess will make Houston its home for western Caribbean sailings.

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 our Membership Director, Harriet Lukee, at 832.536.3255 or Harriet@bayareahouston.com.

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