Dear Members,

It is now public knowledge that the Chase Bank building on 19th Street, where the Chamber Office is located, is up for sale and most likely will be fully changed, renovated, or replaced by its new owner. This of course means that our office will be relocating sometime in the next year and a half.

This has been our home since the Chamber was founded, courtesy of our founder Jack Fields and then later the generosity of Chase Bank. The furniture is all different, the offices have all swapped around, and there are a few coats of different colored paint on the walls, but this is the same place where your Chamber staff – past and present – has walked in each morning to make the Greater Heights a better place for residents and businesses.

Change can be hard, but always in change opportunity can be found. And that is what is before us. The opportunity to make a statement that the Greater Heights is not just the Houston Heights alone, perhaps by moving outside of its footprint. The opportunity to put a fresh face on a well-storied and worthwhile organization. Wherever we end up and however we get there one thing will not change: this fantastic organization is here to help you, your neighbor, and your community thrive.

Onward to the future,

Jacob Milbore
Your Chamber President
website and social media outlets, the inclusion of business
The $1,000 level provides recognition on a stage banner, recogni-
provide exposure but will identify sponsors as providing valuable
Sponsorships are encouraged for this event which will not only
demonstrate and wear fashionable clothing that would be
appropriate for those special occasions. The show includes
attire in all clothing sizes and a variety of styles.

Career Fashion Show – “Catwalk for Success”
The Chamber’s first-ever career fashion show featuring professional young women’s attire will take place at the University of St Thomas Jones Hall, 3910 Vannak Boulevard from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for students.
As part of its commitment to community enrichment programs, the Chamber puts its emphasis on fashion with a goal of helping young women improve on an important part of their future. The event will be educational in nature for students and young women who will want to look their very best for special occasions and opportunities. For instance, being well-dressed for important occasions such as job interviews, college interviews and meeting events that could be critical to their future success. Models will demonstrate and wear fashionable clothing that would be appropriate for those special occasions. The show includes attire in all clothing sizes and a variety of styles.

Sponsorships are encouraged for this event which will not only provide exposure but will identify sponsors as providing valuable encouragements to students in the community. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at $1,000 down to $250. The $1,000 level provides recognition on a stage banner, recognition on the Step and Repeat, listing in LINKED and on Chamber Website and social media outlets, the inclusion of business information or giveaways in swag bags and 3 VIP seats at the show.

Fashion Show Sponsors Include:

$1,000
Eva Greer & Associates Law Firm
Linda Whittington, Carolsha Bamboo

$300
Bird’s Barber Shop, Blink Collective, Branche, Jan Stephenson Graphic Design, Shooting Star Promotions and T Shirt Works.

The Chamber Career Fashion Show Committee is coordinating the event and interested students and sponsors are invited to contact Tiffany Salinas at the Chamber, info@heightschamber.org or Ronda Ross at rondarondarossrealty.com. Fashion Show committee members include: Ronda Ross, Chair, VivianRusk, Lisa Acosta Bass, Emily Moore, Jan Stephenson, Vicki Martin, Natalie Coyle, John Frels, Bianca Williams, Nicki Pampell and Dee Farino.

Women’s Energy Network
Women’s Energy Network

This month we focus our non-profit spotlight on the Women’s Energy Network (WEN). This association has as its vision to be the premier organization that educates, attracts, retains, and develops professional women working across the value chain. WEN members represent a broad range of disciplines and experience levels within energy focused companies ranging from management and law to technology and engineering.

Currently with over 6,000 members across 33 Chapters, including Houston, WEN offers the opportunity to learn from some of the industry’s most experienced leaders in hopes of helping members advance their career and continue to develop their talent and business relationships. Unique programming for satisfying networking and career development needs are just one of the many benefits of membership. In addition, the organization offers monthly luncheons, an annual Mentoring program, outreach activities directed to students representing future energy professionals, Leadership Power House and philanthropic events.

WEN’s largest event is the WEN Biennial National Conference, with a theme of “Energy Resilience: Refueling Innovation” it will be held in Houston this year at the new Marriott Marquis from April 26-28, 2017. More than 500 participants are expected to attend the conference. To find out more about the conference, or WEN, please consult www.womensenergynetwork.org.

Familiar Faces
Ashley Burdette

Managing Partner of Zagotti & Burdette CPA, LLC was born in South Korea, but saw a chance to become more independent by moving to the United States. She was matched with a hosting family thru a foreign exchange program and lived in a small town near San Antonio. Ashley remembers “relearning English” all over again in a completely new environment. Displaying a strong work ethic, Ashley worked for a department store as assistant controller and for a food service conglomerate. A move to Houston in 2003 saw her attend the University of Houston with dreams of working on Wall Street. A chance discussion with Phillip Zagotti, who was destined to become her business partner in later years, resulted in a decision to pursue a double degree in Accounting and Finance. This decision saw her spend an extra year in college to earn both degrees which ultimately paid big dividends.

Before graduation Ashley worked for Ernst & Young LLP for 5 years. While there she split time between New York City and Houston, but found her true love to be the Heights and

Education Corner – April

The Catwalk to Success Fashion Show is April 29 so let’s see which school wins the prize for the most attendees and let’s also see which business wins for their support! In reviewing the end of the school year we all acknowledge that testing is here! Need a job—call April Petronella at Kumon! W altrip has WOW meetings on Thursday after school and Teen Mom group as well; these two groups address the needs and dreams of at risk young women. Heights High School has a Community Service organization and they are a UH partner for the lighted Bull Dog. Sinclair has their Yard Sale April 29 … set up and sell your items. Hamilton Middle has their Cam p… Garden Oaks has their Spring Fling on April 28 from 3-6 pm, need vendors and Extensharp week is May 15 and need companies for 8th graders to shadow.

Education Luncheon is May 18 at 11 am at the Brookhollow Sheraton and we will honor high school seniors with scholarships and those entering the military. We also honor teacher of the year and Educator of the Year! Black and Hamilton Middle school along with Sinclair Elementary and Garden Oaks Montessori will also have a part in making this event special.

Don’t you want to miss this event!
“Making a Difference” Education Luncheon Set for May 18

The Chamber Education luncheon and scholarship awards to deserving area high school students will be held May 18 at 11:00 at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel. Students will be the recipients of scholarships and students entering the military will be recognized. In addition the Chamber will recognize Teachers of the Year from each school plus the Staff and Educator of the Year. The Chamber awards scholarships annually to deserving area high school students who use them to pursue their goals and dreams. The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of luncheon sponsors, donors and attendees. Eligible students are from the following high schools: Northside, Memorial Hall, Heights, Scarborough, St. Pius X, St. Thomas, Waltrip, Booker T Washington, Lutheran High North, KIPP and YES academies.

Cindy Reibenstein, Reibenstein & Associates and Chair of the Education Committee, and her committee members are in the process of identifying prospective student candidates for the Chamber’s twentieth straight year of awarding scholarships. Students will be interviewed and evaluated on the basis of need, academics, leadership and service along with an essay on their goals and how they will make a difference in their communities.

The goal is to provide as many scholarships as possible to deserving students. Donors are being solicited as we would like to continue our $1,000 per scholarship but other levels will also be awarded. The number of scholarships and amount is determined by our donations. Donations of any amount are welcome and groups can combine donations toward a full scholarship. A variety of sponsorship packages are available. Summa Cum Laude are $1,500, Valedictorian are $1,000, Salutatorian are $2,500, Magna Cum Laude are $2,000, Cum Laude are $1,500, Valedictorian are $1,000, and Salutatorian are $500. The final deadline for inclusion in the event program is May 9. Non-attendee sponsors are welcome and for $100 businesses can be the sponsor of a lunch for a student. Thank You Bag items are welcome and a quantity of 100 are needed. Monetary donations to the scholarships are encouraged as well.

The members of the Education Committee are over 70 strong with schools and businesses who meet monthly to work towards making our community education strong at all levels. Elementary through high school, public, private and parochial. Donations or sponsorships can be obtained by contacting Jill Johnston at the Chamber, events@heightschamber.org. All sponsorship levels are Tax-Deductible and are the only annual Chamber event to provide this opportunity. The Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce Community Fund is a 501c3. Since the inception of the scholarship program, the Chamber has awarded scholarships representing over $350,000.

The Chamber proudly recognizes these sponsors and scholarship donors:

Summa Cum Laude
Adams Insurance Service, Inc.,
Cindy Reibenstein,
Houston Highway Credit Union,
Members Trust of the SW Federal Credit Union,
Memorial Hermann Greater Heights,
and PrimeWay Federal Credit Union.
Salutatorian
Allegiance Bank

Chamber “Buy Local First” Program Pays Off

The Chamber supported 19th street merchants at its recent Crawfish Festival with a program that encouraged and fostered sales at merchants. Customers making purchases in any of the participating merchants on March 4 were urged to bring their sales receipts to the festival before 3:00 where they were entered into a drawing for a $1,000 shopping card redeemable at any of the merchants.

Among the participating merchants were: Big Blue Whale, Bliss, Boomtown Coffee, Casa Ramirez, CODA, Cutthroat, Dramatica Custom Framing, Eclectic Home, Emerson Rose, Erica Delgado, Fly High Little Bunny, Gen’s Antiques, Harold’s, Julibree, Juice Girl, Mannersly Mercantile, POP Shop, Retropolis Vintage, Shade: The Lift, Torchy’s Tacos, Vanity Salon, Venus Hair, and Vinal Shade.

The Buy Local First Committee, chaired by John Freis, the Mortgage Guru, manned the booth and accepted receipts for the drawing. The program generated sales and the winner of the shopping card was Amanda Hard who accepted her award from John Freis as front of Emerson Rose where she made her purchase.
Festive 19th Street Parade Opened March 4 Crawfish Festival

The annual Crawfish Festival in the Heights took place on March 4 at 411 West 20th Street. Despite an occasional visit from rain drops, everyone including mudbug eaters, volunteers, vendors, and performers enjoyed the activities. The spirit of the 13th annual Crawfish Festival was intact and it continued to provide fun, food, festivities, events, and much more. The festivities got underway with a terrific parade down 19th street. Scott McClelland, President of HEB was the parade Grand Marshall and rode in the famous "HEB 10 items or less" shopping cart.

Parade viewers were treated to marchers of all types including: walking crawfish, numerous school bands, dance teams and cheerleaders, Idol of the Heights committee members, auto dealerships including Tommy Vaughan Ford and Westside Lexus, the Heights Line Dancers, First Church of Heights, Houston Roller Derby Girls, Arabs: Immersion Magnet School, and Chamber member businesses.

Although Crawfish may have been the main attraction, there were many other foods and beverages available that stole the spotlight. Folks enjoyed pizza from Papa Murphy’s, gourmet hot dogs and desserts from Happy Fatz and shaved ice from Mama House of Joe. Kids enjoyed the bounce house, baseball and basketball challenges and the train.

The Chamber greatly appreciates the support and sponsorships for these outstanding companies and organizations:

- $5,000
  - Avenue 360 Health & Wellness, Budweiser, CenterPoint Energy, Central Bank, Harris County Constables, Precinct 1 and HEB

- $2,500
  - Allegiance Bank, Heights Hospital, Jefferson Heights, Sign-Ups & Banners, StarTex Title Company, St. Joseph Medical Center in the Heights, Storage West, TIDCU Credit Union, Texas Outhouse and Way Better Sound

- $1,000
  - Green Mountain Energy, Happy Fatz, MAM’s Snowballs, Master Car Care, Padilla & Rodriguez, L.L.P., Papa Murphy’s Pizza, Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel and Yellow Cab.

- $500
  - Data & Mailing Resources, Harriet & Joe Foster Family YMCA, Northwest Chiropractic: Center, Reibenstein & Associates, Tommie Vaughan Ford and WorldPay US.

- $250
  - ESPN Radio 97.5 FM, Mix 96.5 FM and S B Nation 1560 AM.

- Media Sponsors

Our local talent was clearly on display. Among others, the day featured performances by the Garden Ouda Montessori singers and cheerleaders, three different squads from Sinclair including Ballet Folkloria, band and cheerleaders, the St. Pius X dance, band, and cheerleaders, the Heights High cheerleaders, HITS Theater, Schroeder dance, the Black Middle School ROTC and Drill team, Scarborough band and mariachi, and the Benbrook cheerleaders and dance.

Crawfish Festival parade sponsors recognized outstanding parade participants and awarded the following prizes: Showmanship and Spirit Award presented by Houston Highway Credit Union to St. Pius X High School. The Award of Creativity was presented by PrimeWay Federal Credit Union and it went to The Arabic Immersion Magnet School. The Overall Presentation Award was presented by Members Trust of the SW Federal Credit Union and the winner was Hamilton Middle School.

Crawfish Festival Committee members worked diligently on the event: Teresa Bridges of Houston Highway Credit Union was Chair and Matt Kelly with Memorial Hermann Greater Heights was Vice Chair. They are assisted by these committee members: Josh Alberto, Craig Atkinson, Dee Farino, Naro Mak, Vicki Martin, Chris Morgan, Austin McCafferty, Matthew McDonough, Neil McClone, April Petronella, Cindy Reibenstein, Amy Ritter, Jacky Tamoz, Nadia Troutenko, Jennifer Vickers, MaryBeth Wegner and Linda Whittington.

Media Sponsors: ESPN Radio 97.5 FM, Mix 96.5 FM and S B Nation 1560 AM.
Committee Leadership

Sara DelJay Willis became Chair of the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce’s Governmental Affairs Committee in January 2016. Politics and Community are two huge personal passions of mine; and it is a pleasure to work with my committee members who dedicate their time and efforts to promoting “what’s happening” in our local and state government to our members and local businesses. That said, I am proud to announce our existing 2017 committee members which include: Bill Hedrick of Rowland & Scott, Ashlea Quinonez of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, Jerry Guinn of CenterPoint Energy, Kathryn Van der Pol of Adult Hospil & Son Garage, and Neil McGlone of LegalShield.

The Governmental Affairs committee serves several purposes but most importantly we promote learning & development. Our mission is to create a non-partisan environment that allows our members to hear from local and state politicians about important issues facing our neighborhood, city or state. In the future, we plan to also function as an informational resource for our members where we hope to create a safe zone that would allow them to bring issues to us directly seeking our assistance, recommendations, or direction.

Our largest and most anticipated annual event is the Governmental Affairs Gateway to Local Government Luncheon where we work to give Houston businesses an opportunity to connect with, ask questions and gather information from several of our government departments on the city, state and national levels. Previous keynote speakers at this luncheon include former Mayor Annise Parker and the current Mayor of Houston, Sylvester Turner. During mayoral election years, we invite all participating mayoral candidates to join us for a debate style forum.

As a committee, we look forward to continuing to grow our responsibilities in hopes of offering additional services to our local businesses and members!

We are setting the pace in cardiovascular care.

Memorial Hermann treats the most hearts in Houston, with our affiliated physicians performing more than 50,000 procedures last year alone. This award-winning, innovative care includes nine accredited Chest Pain Centers. Our technologically advanced cardiac catheterization labs provide precise imagery that can be seen by your physician from anywhere in the world. So for true strength in cardiovascular care, contact the body of experts at Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital, part of the Memorial Hermann heart and vascular network. Learn more at heart.memorialhermann.org

Located at Loop 610 and Ella Boulevard

2. Steve Macalello of Town & City Brewing Company.

3. Lana Lawrence and Kelly Baldwin of Lane Property Tax Advisors.

4. Ron Servis with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett’s Office and Elizabeth Skinsman of Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle’s Office.

5. Addie and Teresa Briggs of Houston Highway Credit Union and Jill Johnston of the Chamber staff.


7. Board Member Tony Allman of Primeway Federal Credit Union and Deborah Haynie of Tommie Vaughn Ford.

8. Papa Deves of The Deves Firm, PLLC and Chamber President Jacob Millwee.

9. Board Member Linda Whittington of Cariloha Bamboo, Paula Hawkins of Master Car Care and Deborah Haynie of Tommie Vaughn Ford.

10. Board Member Craig Atkinson of Houston Highway Credit Union, Tami Harrison of Cadence Bank and Jack Van Pelt of JVP Jewelers.


12. Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel was the featured speaker at the March Breakfast Connection.

13. Kristin Krohn hosted a terrific Business After Hours at Elan Heights in March. Posing with her in the photo were Miranda Lenz and Hillary Nixon.


15. Patrick Page manned a display table at the Breakfast Connection to familiarize attendees with the benefits of using World Pay US.

16. Chris Ward and Ryan Proler of Incite Energy LLC.

17. Paula Hawkins and Byron Rusk of Master Car Care were the sponsors of the March Breakfast Connection and also the donors of (2) $250 gift cards for the door prize drawing. Thanks Byron.
**new members**

**CAMP GLADIATOR**
Haley Pennmott
1000 W 12th, 77008
832-366-1613
haley@pennmott@campgladiator.com
campgladiator.com

We are an outdoor group fitness organization that provides classes in a fun environment. At Camp Gladiator, the goal is to positively impact fitness and ultimately the lives of as many people as possible.

**ELEGANT ADDITIONS**
Richard Huhmbery
104 W 12th Suite A, 77008
713-522-8008
Richard@elegantadditions.net
Elegantadditions.net

We are a decorative plumbing and hardware showroom.

**EVERYTHING BUT THE HOUSE**
Christopher Wilson
12 Greenway Plaza Suite 1117, 77046
713-363-1123
Christopher.wilson@ebth.com

Everything But the House hosts new members... and guests to the opening of their Heights location. A large group enjoyed tasty samples and music.

**FUSION TACO**
Julia Govseman
4706 N Main, 77009
713-422-2992
info@fusontacos.com
fusontacos.com

Fusion Taco blends flavors from two of your favorite flavor cuisines, Asian and South American, into an artistic and delightful new food movement.

**HOU STON HEIG HTS HELPERS**
Herman Leeman
3200 Midlanddale St, Suite E18, 77002
houstonheightshelpers@gmail.com
houstonheightshelpers.com

Houston Heights Helpers, LLC is a strong home repair and remodeling contractor with the experience, ability, and resources to deliver quality home repairs and implementations of home remodels. We are owned and operated locally in the Heights to provide local support for your home and business projects, no matter how large or small.

**JOHNSON, JOHNSON, & BAER, P.C.**
Dane Johnson
1017 Heights Blvd, 77008
713-222-6480
info@danejohnson.com

Johnson, Johnson & Baer, P.C. is a criminal defense law firm, based in Houston, TX, concentrating in drunk driving cases including Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Intoxicated with a Child passenger, Public Intoxication, Boating While Intoxicated (BWI), Intoxicated Assault and Intoxication Manslaughter and all other alcohol related offenses.

**THE DEYE FIRM PLLC**
Papa Duyue
1201 Prince Street, 77008
832-301-2836
papa@deyefirm.com
deyefirm.com

We are a small, female, experienced family law attorney. I will be by your side through your divorce, custody, or child support case.

**Idol of the Heights Named Winners**

In spirited competition, six finalists in the annual Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce’s Idol of the Heights contest sang their hearts out at Little J’s Bar. Judging was difficult, however, the judges arrived at a decision and the winner of a first place sing-off, and $1,500 was awarded. Second place was won by Alison Sifflet and she received $700. Third place went to Monique Banda who took home $500. The Chamber appreciates all the contestants in this year’s competition. Proud sponsors of the Idols of the Heights were: Little J’s Bar, Hampton Inn & Suites, Jan Stephenson Graphic Design, Padilla Rodriguez, L.L.P., Ritual, Shooting Star Promotions and Woodard Financial Mgt. of Raymond James.

**KAYLEIGH COLEBROOKE**
A BES Fellow, Kayleigh Colebroke, is pleased to announce the opening of a Heights location. A large group enjoyed tasty samples and music.

**ELYSIA SCHMUR**
A Mod Pizza staffer greeted members and guests to the store located at 1111 Taylor Street, for their ribbon cutting. The restaurant offers individual artisan-style pizzas with any toppings for the same price and salads. Beverages round out the attractive menu.

**FROST BANK**
Frost Bank celebrated their new Heights banking facility with a ribbon cutting at 4606 North Shepherd Street. Jessica Leone welcomed members and guests and highlighted the philosophy and merits of relationship banking.

**KATHY SACCONE**
Kathy Saccone of Power in the Gap, Larry Plaune, Chamber Staff, and Jan Stephenson of Jan Stephenson Graphic Design.

**MIKE ESPINOZA**
Mike Espinoza, Marketing Supervisor for Costco hosted a ribbon cutting at their 1150 Banker Hill Road location. A large group enjoyed tasty samples and learned the advantages of membership.
LEADERSHIP LEVELS
The Leadership Levels, which includes, Gem, Platinum, Gold and Silver represent the most prestigious designation for member firms.
Without their financial support we would not be able to offer the wide variety of benefits to all of our members and our community.

GEM LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS
DIAMOND PATRONS

GOLD PATRONS
Adams Insurance Service, Inc.
Allison Jones and Associates
C & D Scrap Metal Recyclers, Co., Inc.
CenterPoint Energy
Cyclones Anaya’s Mexican Kitchen
Heights Medical Tower, Ltd.
Integrity
Mach Industrial Group

GOLDFamily of Companies
Merchandise Pickup Services, Inc.
Shipley Do-Nuts
St. Joseph Medical Center
Tommy Vaughn Ford
Westside Lexus

SILVER PATRONS
Allegiance Bank
Brookhollow Heights Transitional Care Center
Evan Heights
Evan Memorial Park
Fred Haas Toyota
Griffis BioMat
Reynolds & Associates, PLLC
Thai Spice Asian Cuisine

MORE THAN 25 YEARS
Harmony Electric Company TECU17609
Marshall Construction Co., Inc.
Northwest General Insurance
Silver Eagle Distributors

MORE THAN 15 YEARS
Office Systems of Texas
Texas Center of Dental Excellence

15 YEARS
Texas Loan Star, Inc.

MORE THAN 10 YEARS
Adolf Hoepfl & Son Garage
Moss Landscaping, Inc.
Reynolds & Associates, PLLC

10 YEARS
T-Shirts Etcetera

MORE THAN 5 YEARS
Houston Piano Company
Manning Pool Service, Inc.
Revival Market
Staples, Inc.

5 YEARS
Chick-fil-A
Edward Jones
Goldman Sachs
Hayos & Wilson, PLLC
John Frei - Mortgage Guru
Johnson, Johnson & Baer, P.C.
Western Inn
Westside Lexus*

MORE THAN 1 YEAR
R & B Group, Inc.
Salon in the Heights

MORE THAN 1 YEAR
American Legion-Garden Oaks Post 560
Big Blue Whale
New Heights Christian Academy
Project Rescue Ready
Send Out Cards – Mary Beth Wegner
The Pure Parenting Shop

*Gold Patron