

April
May
June
2005

Volume 1
Number 3



Chairman's Message

Tyler – What Separates Us From Other Communities!

As we come to the end of a beautiful and busy spring in our community, I am amazed at all the volunteer time that is given by so many of our citizens – such as the hundreds of volunteers who made this year's Azalea

Trail a great success. In addition, approximately 1200 volunteers helped with tours of the HGTV Dream Home which brought in 25,000 visitors to our community. As an added benefit, proceeds from the Dream Home tours provided \$200,000 to 4 local non-profit agencies in our community.

Thanks to Mike Thomas for Chairing the Vision 2010 Committee and to the dozens of individuals who volunteered their time and talent to develop this plan. We look forward to ensuring that the goals are met to ensure that Tyler and Smith County is a better place to live and work.

And thanks also to Walter Wilhelmi, Chair-Elect of the Chamber, for his work with The Long Range Planning Committee as they develop and implement an internal plan for the Chamber's future.

Recently I had the privilege to present the Partners in Education/Teacher of the Year Awards and was overwhelmed at the obvious dedication of educators, administrators and businesses that all work together each and every day to educate our children.

On a sad note, we pause to remember Don Pinkerton, a great servant of our community. His leadership on so many non-profit and community boards as well as his dedicated service as a City Councilmember and County Commissioner was tireless. He will be missed by many! Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

We also take a minute to thank our law enforcement officials for their commitment each and every day to make our community a safe place to live.

Tyler is a special place – keep up the great work!

Jeff Austin III



Senator Kevin Eltife swears in members of the Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Authority Board including Jay Stokes (Gladewater City Manager), Jeff Austin III, (Chairman), Jeff Warr, and Tab Beall.

CONTACTORS

OF THE MONTH



Sheila Billingsley

FEBRUARY

Sheila has been a member of the Contact Club for 8 months and was named Contactor of the Month for February. She was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2004 at the Chamber Annual Meeting. Sheila has been an Account Executive with KLTV for 13 years and is active in many community activities such as Meals on Wheels, Junior Achievement and Heart of Tyler. She has one son and two grandchildren and is an active member of Christian Faith Fellowship in Whitehouse.



Blu Monday

MARCH

Contactor of the Month for March, Blu is new member of the Contact Club. She has also been a member of the CVB Tourism Committee. Retired from the U.S. Postal Service, she is an active community volunteer serving on the Boards of Leadership Tyler, The McClendon House, and United Credit Union. In addition, Blu is also active with the Tyler Museum of Art, the Smith County Historical Society and Make -A- Wish Foundation.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19TH

Start working on your backswing and get ready for Monday September 19th. Chamber members will once again tee it up again for the Eighth Annual TACC Membership Golf Tournament.

The unique tournament will allow for members to meet and network with other Chamber members and potential members. Sponsorships are available including lunch,

beverage and hole sponsors. Information on the tournament will be mailed to the membership in August. For information call the Chamber at 903-596-0106 or mtynes@tylertexas.com.

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION



The Chamber's Life Members were recently recognized with a reception which also recognized Johnny Wright (fourth from left, first row) for whom the award is named.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS SOLICITING NOMINEES FOR CHAMBER BOARD

The Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Nominating Committee is soliciting nominees for election to the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee selects fourteen names, seven of which will be elected by three-year terms beginning October 1, 2005. The committee is outlined in the Chamber's bylaws to include the Chairman of the Board, Chairman-elect of the Board, the Council Chairmen, the Chairman of the nominating committee, who is an appointed member of the Executive Committee, and three at-large members.

Directors who are retiring in September include: Leslie Bookman, Dean Cagle, Kevin Eltife, Sheila Billingsley, Bill Morales, Robert Owens and Preston Smith. Anyone wishing to submit names for nomination is urged to contact Henry Bell at the Chamber at 903-592-1018 or by mail.

CALENDAR OF EVENT INFORMATION NEEDED

The Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce maintains a calendar of events which is to inform the public of special events in the Tyler area which they can attend. Information is needed from various organizations and groups on these special events to keep the calendar current. The calendar is updated on a regular basis and events must meet the following criteria to be placed on this calendar: The event must be open to the public, there must be a contact and phone number for further information and there must be an event name, date and location. Groups wanting to place information on the calendar may call Sherry Watson at 903-592-1661 or email swatson@tylertexas.com. This calendar is also maintained on the Chamber's web site at www.tylertexas.com.

THE VISION 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED

The Vision 2010 Strategic Plan was adopted by the Boards of both the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tyler Economic Development Council in March. Mike Thomas, who chaired the Vision Task Force, presented the report at the meetings which identified the following priorities:

Economy	Education	Loop 49
Biotech	Educational Destination	Quality of Life
Hispanic Incorporation	Exemplary Schools	County Master Development Plan
Retail Destination	Infrastructure	Downtown Master Plan
Tax Strategy	Arena/Convention Center	

The strategic planning process was facilitated by TIP Strategies, Inc., Austin, TX and was sponsored by the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce and Tyler Economic Development Council.

Task Force meetings were held last fall and participating organizations were surveyed in January. They included the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Economic Development Council, Tyler Metro Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Business Forum, and local elected officials in Smith County.

The priorities listed were designed to address a variety of community issues from a "business perspective" and will be monitored over the next five to ten years for progress and completion. Copies of the plan are available at the TEDC and Chamber offices.



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARDS PRESENTED

One of the goals and objectives of the Chamber is to support quality education and one way we do this is working closer with TISD and other educational institutions on programs such as Partners in Education and Teacher of the Year awards. Partners in Education brings the business community together with the educational community to work on a common goal: educating the workforce of tomorrow.

Each year the Chamber in conjunction with TISD presents four Partners in Education awards to those businesses, organizations and individuals who have exhibited outstanding achievement in partnering with the TISD elementary, middle and high schools. At a banquet on April 12th Chamber Chairman Jeff Austin III presented this year's awards to "Rookie of the Year"-Carrier Air Conditioning, "Excellence in Corporate Service" to Tyler Rotary Club, "Most Valuable Partner" to Christ Episcopal Church and "Someone Special" to Dr. Paul Andrews.

TYLER AIRPORT USES GRANT TO EDUCATE CITIZENS

East Texans can book flights directly from Tyler Pounds Regional Airport to almost anywhere in the world.

This concept seems simple enough, but Airport Manager Davis Dickson said there are still people who don't realize they can conveniently book flights from Tyler's airport to their destination.

"You'd be surprised how many people think they have to book their flight from Tyler to Dallas or Houston, and then book their flight from those hubs to their final destination. That makes it a two-step process. It's often less expensive to make it a one-step process. Simply book the flight directly from Tyler to the final destination," Dickson said.

The connection is still in Dallas or Houston, but the savings come from booking the flight once – from Tyler to the destination.

Even when fares from Dallas or Houston are comparable, Dickson said parking at Tyler Pounds Regional Airport is less expensive and more convenient than parking at either of the larger airports. Additionally, lines for security and baggage claim are much shorter and less of a hassle.

To educate the public about the benefits of flying from Tyler's airport, the City has used a U.S. Department of Transportation grant awarded last year to develop commercials, advertisements and billboards. The commercials recently began airing on local TV stations. Advertisements have already appeared in newspapers across the region and radio commercials will begin airing soon. A billboard on U.S. 69 communicates the same message – that the Tyler airport is a gateway to the world.

"We just want people to be aware of what a resource their airport actually is and encourage them to use it," Dickson said.

Tyler Pounds Regional Airport offers frequent daily service to DFW through American Eagle and George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston through Continental Connection.

Leadership Tyler Class 19 Applications NOW Available

The mission of Leadership Tyler is to foster a commitment to a life of community service.

Accordingly, its programs are designed to help participants acquire an understanding of the critical issues affecting the region and the leadership and stewardship capabilities necessary to resolve them. Our model, which focuses on a wide knowledge base, leadership skills, and trusteeship, guides our curriculum and motivates participants to become faithful community leaders.

If you'd like to learn more about the curriculum for the 2005-06 Leadership Tyler class or if you have questions about the application process, please attend one of the following information luncheons:

Tuesday, May 10, 2005 at noon

or

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at noon

Luncheons are held at the Chamber of Commerce building in the Genevov Room. Please call to reserve your seat, as seating is limited. RSVP to **903-535-9242** or email cklein@tylertexas.com.

If you cannot attend one of the luncheons, please go online to www.leadershiptyler.org to obtain an application. Applications are due on **June 1, 2005**.

05-06 Curriculum Highlights

Knowledge Topics

Diversity
Area Economy
Government
Quality of Life
Arts/Culture
Education
Healthcare

Leadership Skills

Team Building
Crisis Media Communications
Leadership Communications
Strategic Thinking
Diversity Simulation

Community Trusteeship

Tyler's Past, Present & Future



315 N. Broadway, Ste 202
Tyler, TX 75702
903.535.9242 office
903.593.2746 fax
cklein@tylertexas.com
www.leadershiptyler.org

VOLUNTEER

OF THE QUARTER



SKIP OGLE SELECTED FOR 2ND QUARTER

The Volunteer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2004-2005 is Skip Ogle of Cox Communications. Skip is serving as Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee this year and recently hosted Tyler Day in Austin February 28-March 1. Skip has volunteered for the Chamber for many years. He currently is a member of the Board of Tyler Economic Development Council. "We had one of the best ever legislative days in Austin this year and much of the success if owed to Skip," said TACC Chairman Jeff Austin III.

NEW

MEMBERS

Ms. Denise R. Oliver
A.D.D.I.C.T. Ministries
(A Dedicated Disciple In Christ Today)
1106 Tresevant St.
Tyler TX 75702
(903) 593-4554
Sponsor: Sheila Billingsley

Mr. William Oliver
Abode Construction Inc.
14619 Foxwood
Tyler TX 75703
(903) 521-9350
Sponsor: Sheila Billingsley

Cheryl L. Way
Atmos Energy
2009 E Cotton
Longview TX 75602
(903) 242-4830
Sponsor: Robert Hancock

Nitaya Russell
Baan Nitaya Exotic Thai Cuisine
109 E Erwin
Tyler TX 75702
(903) 535-7850
Sponsor: Stan Nolley

Mr. Eric K. Barns
Barnes Realty LLC
120 W Fifth St Ste 210
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(903) 533-8917
Sponsor: Nancy Brown Larson

Ms. Mary Ramos
East Texas Radio Group KOOI KKUS KOYE KYKX
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(903) 581-9966
Sponsor: T Derfelt

Mr. Butch Hall
East Texas Waste Management
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(903) 530-0023
Sponsor: Kitty Springer

Wendy Vanderwater
East TX Assn. of Health Underwriters
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Sponsor: Kathy Rainwater

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Sponsor: T Derfelt

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Sponsor: Blu Monday

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Sponsor: Charlott Mapes

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Sponsor: Paula Fambrough

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Sponsor: Shawn Haney

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Sponsor: Michael Lavender

Daniel R. Willson
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Sponsor: Robin McRae

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Penny Smitherman
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Sponsor: Paula Fambrough

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(903) 534-4906
Sponsor: Robert Hancock

Randy Shelton
Randy Shelton Real Estate Services
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Sponsor: Robert Hancock

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Sponsor: Gillian Brasfield

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Henderson TX 75653
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Sponsor: Blu Monday

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Tim Halcomb
Tim Halcomb
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Sponsor: Charlott Mapes

Robert B. Rowlett
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Sponsor: Charlott Mapes

Mr. John Springer
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Sponsor: Kitty Springer

Dr. Michael and Michelle Briscoe
Veritas Chiropractic
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TACC OFFICERS 2004-2005

- Chairman of the BoardJeff Austin III
- Chairman-Elect of the Board.....Walter Wilhelmi
- Past Chairman of the BoardMike Thomas
- President/CEOTom Mullins
- Executive Vice President.....Henry Bell
- TreasurerGary Penkilo
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- Area Development Council Chairman.....Tony Cain
- Business Development Council Chairman.....Aubrey Sharpe
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