



# The Blastoff

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Space Center  
 P. O. Box 58862, Houston, Texas 77058  
 Meeting Monday Noon at Bay Oaks Country Club  
 14545 Bay Oaks Blvd., Clear Lake City  
 Phone: 281.488.7888 \* Chartered 1964  
 Volume 43 Number 17 November 20, 2006

## PROGRAMS:

Today ----

Ford Motor Co rep re: biodiesel & alternative fuels & impact on future designs

Nov. 27th -- Stan Galanski - Rotary Water Project in Bolivia

Dec. 4th - Carol Stevens re: Boys & Girls Harbor in La Porte

Dec. 11th - Charlie Jenkins, Dir. Planning & Development, Port of Houston Authority

Dec. 18th - Dick Meyer re: Youth Exchange

Jan. 8th - John Wilson re: School Safety

Jan. 15th -- Scott Rozell of Texans for Lawsuit Reform

Jan. 29th - Robert Smith, III, VP Federal Reserve Bank

- ◆ Long time member, Dr. Roger Lyons, is very infirm and needs encouragement through your prayers & cards.
- ◆ Pat Doughty received her blue badge in record time.

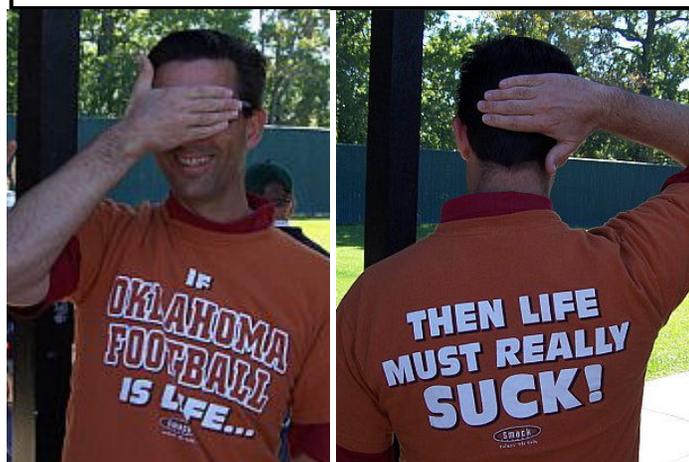
### New member proposals posted:

- ◆ Hillary Di Renzo, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Houston
- ◆ Laura Godwin, Sheraton South Padre Island
- ◆ James R. Leslie, Crossing the City
- ◆ Robert A. Jones (request for reinstatement)



## Agenda

Luncheon Begins .....	11:45
Call to Order .....	12:00
Song .....	Debby McBride
Invocation ..	Carlos Villagomez
Pledge .....	
4-Way Test .....	
Introductions .....	
Announcements .....	12:10
Program .....	12:30
Adjourn .....	1:00



## Has Scott changed his colors?

Photos by Dick Gregg, III

*The Sooners & Corn Huskers both left College Station breathing a sigh of relief & a 1 point margin of victory. (Editorial opinion)*



*The Rotary Clubs of  
Seabrook • Space Center • Harrisburg*

Invite you to our Annual Christmas Party

Friday, December 15, 2006

Lakewood Yacht Club

2425 NASA Parkway  Seabrook, TX 77586

*Reception/Social: 6 – 7 pm*

*Dinner: 7 – 8 pm*

*Dancing: 8 – 10:30 pm*

*Dress: black tie optional*

*Menu:*

- Caesar Salad
- Breast of Chicken Oscar
- Roast Baby Red Potatoes
- Fresh Vegetable Medley
- Crème Brulee with raspberries

*Cash Bar:*

- House and premium liquor, wines and beer.
- Wines by the bottle will also be available

*Dancing to the fabulous music of*

 **THE KURLAND STREET BAND** 

*Club Contacts:*

Dee Wright  
2515-B NASA Parkway, Ste 5  
Seabrook, TX 77586  
(281) 326-0500

Bill Taylor  
15943 Meadowside Dr.  
Houston, TX 77062  
(281) 422-2733

Gayle Jircik  
1709 Orlando  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
(281) 992-9983

*Reservations will be by check only - \$50 per person and must be received by Wednesday, December 6.*

Limited Seating – Please send reservations with check to:

Seabrook Rotary Club - Christmas Party  
2515-B NASA Parkway, Suite 5  
Seabrook, TX 77586

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





# Gov. Suzi's Calendar

[www.rotary5890.org/DistEvents/PostEvents.htm](http://www.rotary5890.org/DistEvents/PostEvents.htm)

**Suzi Howe, District Governor 2006-2007.** E-mail: [suzihowe@earthlink.net](mailto:suzihowe@earthlink.net)  
281.334.7345 (Work & Work Fax); 713.553.5890 (Rotary Mobile);  
281.482.2653 (Home & Rotary Fax); 713.408.0145 (Work Mobile).

## Suzi Says.....

Please join me in my vision to support a Montessori program in the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush*—a state of the art literacy center that will be part of a major expansion for the Community Family Center and make a huge difference for East End families. This multi-club project will equip a **Montessori classroom** and also establish a **ROTARY PARK** in the *St Luke's playground* that adjoins the *Casa de los Ninos Barbara Bush* and the *John D. McGovern Gymnasium*. I have already pledged \$25,000 from District funds and am asking interested Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians to also contribute funds. Donations of \$1,000 and higher from Rotary Clubs and individual donors will be recognized on a plaque in the **ROTARY PARK**. Pledge your support NOW!

### April 26-29 – District Conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Fiesta Mixicana Hotel.

All Rotarians Invited. Reserve NOW for fun, fellowship, and a wealth of Rotary information. Registration form, airline information available at [www.rotary5890.org](http://www.rotary5890.org).



**Rotary Theme  
2006-2007**

### **“Every Rotarian, Every Year”**

Support the **Rotary Foundation** as a sustaining member by donating \$100 each year.

**PolioPlus**



**Rotary International**

## *The Rotarian*

**Have you read the November issue?**



- ✓ Tommy Lasorda gets a major league honor - page 10.
- ✓ Do you need calcium supplements? - page 13
- ✓ Did you know that November is Rotary Foundation month? see the article beginning on page 29 for the A to Z of the Foundation.
- ✓ Frank Huezo, recipient of the Service Above Self Award & member of the Kingwood Rotary Club. See page 43. Our club members, Laura Hale, Dick Kidder, Jerome Bourgeois, Vissett Sun, Suzi Howe and others have made several trips with him to Chinandega, Nicaragua.
- ✓ Polio outbreak in Nambia is quashed by quick action - page 57
- ✓ Dong Kurn Lee, member of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang, Seoul, Korea will be RI President 2008-2009 - page 59
- ✓ **Remember, when you are finished reading, turn your issue into the check-in desk for use by the Red Badge Committee.**

# Members' Voice



This page is devoted to the opinions, suggestions, gripes, inquiries, concerns, advisories, etc. of the members of SCRC. This is your voice. Email submissions to the Editor at [Billys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Billys@sbcglobal.net)

## Support for Suzi

Space Center Rotary Club is honored to have a member representing our District as Governor, Suzi Howe. Our club voted to give financial and MEMBER support for Suzi to fulfill this prestigious position. It is our club's responsibility to support her in many district functions such as the All Club Meeting and The District Conference. The All Club Meeting has passed and now we need to have a big showing of support in Puerto Vallarta at the District Conference. I know many of you have been to Puerto Villarta and to District Conferences in the past, but this is different. Our club's image needs your support. You can put down the grand kids, golf clubs, and fishing rods for a couple of days and come to Puerto Vallarta. Better yet, you can bring them to Puerto Vallarta with you. Many Rotarians come to District Conferences with out their spouses when it's hard for both to get away. Rotary members have excuses and Rotarians go the extra mile, which one are you?? *A Concerned Rotarian*

## Selecting Club Officers

Do you have an opinion about this club's method or system of selecting its officers? For as long as I have been a member (ca. 1974), selection has been by use of the "ladder system". For newer members and those of you not sure of the meaning, let me explain. Our officers are, in ascending order, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President/President Elect, President and Past President. All are members of the Board of Directors. The ladder system dictates that, once elected, officers will ascend from Sgt. @ Arms to President; the Past President is not an elected position, but merely the circumstance of having been president the year before. The President is elected by choosing the Vice President/President Elect who automatically becomes the next President. Thus, in theory, if not always in fact, club members elect the future president by electing the Sgt. @ Arms. My belief is that this system served the club well for many years as it provided a training system for the person who would, after four years on the ladder and often three previous years as a director, would be ready for the presidency. However, in the last 10 years, several persons have resigned before becoming President, thus moving others in lower offices upward faster than expected. I, for instance, moved from Sgt. @ Arms to Secretary without ever serving as Treasurer. Also, when I joined the club, a member was and continued to serve as the "permanent" Secretary.

Recently, a member served two years as Treasurer before choosing not to ascend further.

While the ladder serves us well to train and prepare a member to become the President, it contrarily has prevented some qualified members from ever getting that opportunity. Let me explain. Traditionally, the President has formed a nominating committee in October to suggest a slate of officers for nomination by the members and then to be presented for election the first Monday in December. Using a nominating committee is tradition and not mandated by the bylaws. Until a few years ago, this process resulted in the nomination of only one new person to be put on the ladder, i.e., a nominee for Sgt. @ Arms. A few years ago the nominating committee began presenting 2 or 3 nominees. However, for election to the offices of Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President/President Elect, only one person was suggested for each office, i.e., the person who, for the previous year, served in the office immediately below on the ladder. Although not a rule, usually only those persons who were finishing their term as director were considered for nomination. Typically, three directors finish their term each year. Consequently, the ladder system has passed over many qualified members who would make good Presidents and they never again have been given the opportunity to serve us in that position. Further, often not given consideration are persons coming to this club from many years of Rotary service in one or more other clubs. For these reasons, although I have been a strong advocate for the ladder system, it is now my belief that it no longer serves the club well and it is time for a change.

At its November meeting, this issue came before the Board with no action and will continue on the agenda for consideration in December. Share your thoughts with the Board members before they meet again. They represent you. You can also share your thoughts with all the members by emailing them to me for publication on this page of the next edition of *The Blastoff*. Let us know that you care. I know you are out there and have opinions because you have shared them with me.

The nomination process has been delayed and so will the election. Instead of nominations this month and elections in December, at its earliest, the election will occur in January.

*Billy R. Smith*

*"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" -- Mark Twain*



**ROTARY CLUB**  
OF  
**SPACE CENTER**  
"Service Above Self"



**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**November 7, 2006**

**Members Present:** Geoff Atwater, Rafael Lugo, J. B. Fox, Bill Taylor, Scott Rainey, Pam Culpepper, Jerrold Dewease, Dick Kidder, Art Wood, Gary Johnson & Mike Cornett.

**Members absent:** Dick Gregg III, Mike Hernandez, Tony Bloomfield, and Mark Humphrey

**Visitors:** Vic Maria (Rotarian), and Tony Vinson, Phil Sandlin (Red Badgers)

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of Space Center Rotary Club (Club) Board of Director's meeting of October 17, 2006 were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer's report consists of the Club's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss by Class. The data is being organized based on the new structure of the Board and is incomplete at this time. It is expected that the financial documents will be current by the next Board meeting. A review was made of the delinquent dues payments to the Club. The Secretary is to determine the status of Hector Marin and A. L. Brady. Both have health problems.

**Membership:** Bill Taylor reviewed the status of the Red Badgers and noted that the backlog has essentially been eliminated. Three persons were submitted to the Board for approval as new member proposals, Laura Godwin, James Leslie, and Robert Jones. All were unanimously approved by the Board. Roger Lyons and Ray Smiley requested leave of absences. The Club received a letter from Roger Lyons' wife stating that Roger had severe health problems, but wanted to continue paying his dues and would very much like to attend the Club meetings. The Board expressed their sympathy for Roger and support for his wife, and recommended that the President read the letter to the entire membership at a Club meeting. The Board noted that Roger exemplifies the real meaning of being a Rotarian. Ray Smiley's mother is very ill and has moved in with him precluding his attending the Club meetings. The Board unanimously approved to include Roger under the 85 rule and to grant Ray a leave of absence.

**Shrimporee:** The President reported that the Shrimporee netted about \$55,000 similar to that of last year. Jerrold Dewease noted the excellent work that the Red Badgers and the volunteers did during the Shrimporee.

**New Business:** The President presented the status of the Bolivia Water on behalf of Stan Galanski. It was noted that a water well is sorely needed for an orphanage which houses approximately 200 girls who have been abandoned by their parents. Currently their water supply is from a river a couple of kilometers away which flows only part of the year. The project is estimated to cost \$45,000 USD. Direct funding and matching funding is well under way. Stan requested that the Club fund \$5,000 toward the project. It was unanimously approved. Stan will make a presentation on the project at a Club meeting.

Dick Gregg requested that the Board grant him \$1000 from the Shrimporee funds to use at his discretion for a donation. There was a general discussion without any Board action and the President decided to table it until the next meeting.

The President reminded the Board of the articles that each member is to write for the Club's newsletter, Blastoff.

The President noted that starting on January 8, a passport will be required to leave the country. Requesting a passport that is normally a two week wait is now 8 weeks. Members needing a new passport to attend the District Conference at Puerto Vallarta in April should submit their application as soon as possible.

Vic Maria discussed the election of Club officers. He stated that he disagrees with the "ladder" concept and that the Board officer positions should open to the Club membership. The President cited the position of Club Treasurer as one which some persons may have difficulty with and could not effectively carry it out under the "ladder" concept. The Club's by-laws do not prohibit the open membership election. There was a general discussion but no Board action. The Board will take the subject up at the next meeting.

**Old Business:** Rafael Lugo noted that a new projector screen has been purchased and that he would work at placing it at an optimum location in the meeting room. Also he discussed obtaining a PA system that would plug into the electrical receptacles to enhance the current system. The President stated that he will talk with the Bay Oaks Country Club personnel in regard to the PA system and other matters associated with meetings at the facility.

Rafael continues to work with Bay Oaks Country Club personnel in placing Rotary signs within the club and at the entrance of the club.

#### **Director Reports:**

**Membership** (Bill Taylor) – Reported that the front desk processing at the Club meetings is better but there are some improvements that still need to be made.

**Public Relations** (Scott Rainey) – Noted that he is working on PR.

**Club Service** (Mark Humphrey) – Not present

**Grants** (Mike Cornett) – Looking for a person to head up the Black Tie fundraiser. Also continues to work on a grant associated with the Armand Bayou Nature Center

**Community Service A** (Tony Bloomfield) - Not present

**Community Service B** (Pam Culpepper) – Reported that a third round of immunizations will be given under the Blane Grant Immunization project.

**International Service A** (Jerrold Dewease) – No Report

**International Service B** (Dick Kidder) – No Report

**Vocational Service** (Art Wood) – Peter Wuenschel will head up the Excellence in Education program and the Excellence in Law Enforcement will be starting up after the first of the year. Phil Sandlin will assist in obtaining public service candidates.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Monday, February 12, 2007 – D. G. Suzi Howe official visit to SCRC February-March 2007 - Boots and Black Tie Ball

Friday, April 20, 2007 - RNASA Banquet and Awards Ceremony

April 26-29, 2007 - District 5890 Conference in Puerto Vallarta

Prepared by Jerrold Dewease for  
Miguel A. Hernandez, Jr., Secretary

Prepared by Jerrold Dewease for  
Miguel A. Hernandez, Jr., Secretary

The next regular SCRC board meeting will be on held on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 7am at Bay Oaks Country Club.

## *Events Calendar*

- Christmas Party ..... Dec. 15th
- Club Board of Directors..1st Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees  
.....2nd Tues @ 7 a.m.
- Pancake Breakfast.....Feb 3rd '07
- Boots & Black Tie Event .....Feb or Mar '07
- National Space Award Banquet.....Apr 20,'07
- District 5890 Conference in Puerta  
Villarta, Mexico ..... April 26-29, 2007
- RI Convention, Salt Lake City .....June 2007



Dr. Leland Williams, DISD, our speaker, explains Texas School Financing as adopted by the Texas Legislature during recent sessions. Is it smoke & mirrors or advancement? You decide based on the speaker's in depth analysis.

## Say Happy Birthday to ----

Mary Alys Cherry.....Nov 20  
Vince Lipovsky.....Nov 28  
Dave Sincox.....Nov 29

**Is your November birthday not included? Email the Editor:  
[billys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billys@sbcglobal.net)**

### Highlights of Endowment Foundation Meeting November 14th, 2006

Assets Value in October = \$163,068.66  
Assets Value in November = \$167,450.90  
Gain = \$4,382.24  
Return on investment 2005 = 21.28%  
Return on investment YTD = 35.08%

Those present: Bob Wren, Jerrold Dewease, Phil Sandlin, Bill Lowes, J. B. Fox, Vic Maria, Jack Lister, Al Ligrani, Jon McKinnie, Billy Smith

## MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES:

### Tuesday @ noon

Pearland  
Golfcrest Country Club  
2501 Country Club Drive

LaPorte @ 12:10 p.m.  
St John Episcopal Church  
Broadway @ Ave. G

### Wednesday @ noon

Pasadena South  
Baywood Country Club  
5500 Genoa Red Bluff

### Friendswood @ noon

Village on the Park  
Retirement Center  
400 E. Parkwood

### Thursday @ &:7:00 a.m.

Seabrook  
Lakewood Yacht Club  
2425 NASA Parkway

### Thursday @ noon

League City  
Estaban's Fiesta Shack  
131 League Street

### Friday @ noon

Pasadena  
First United Methodist Church  
1062 Farimont Pkwy

### Make up @ an E-club

[http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/eclub\\_list.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/eclub_list.pdf)

**Mr. Rotary, Floyd Boze,  
57 years of perfect attendance.**

## The Rotary Motto:

# *Service Above Self*

### OFFICERS

President: Geoff Atwater  
President Elect: Dick Gregg, III  
Secretary: Mike Hernandez  
Treasurer: Gary Johnson  
Sgt @ Arms: Rafael Lugo

### DIRECTORS

Club Administration:	Mark Humphrey
Public Relations:	Scott Rainey
Membership	Bill Taylor
Fundraising	Mike Cornett
Community Svc A	Tony Bloomfield
Community Svc B	Pam Culpepper
International Svc A	Jerrold Dewease
International Svc B	Dick Kidder
Vocational Service	Art Wood

### OTHERS

Bill Lowes	Programs
Attendance	Murray Epstein
Bulletin Editor	Billy Smith
Photographer	Bob Mitchell
Song Leader	Debby McBride
Pianist	Job Open
Laura Hale	Red Badgers

### DISTRICT GOVERNORS

Suzie Howe	2006-2007
Billy Weseman	1993-1994
Floyd Boze	1981-1982

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5890 RAFFLE

**Win a trip to South Africa!**

### The trip includes:

- ◆ round trip airfare from Houston.
- ◆ accommodations furnished by the Rotary Club of South Africa.
- ◆ 3-day pass to Kruger National Park.
- ◆ Total value \$7,500.
- ◆ Drawing on April 28, 2007 (you need not be present to win).
- ◆ Tickets are \$10 each or \$100 for a book of 10.
- ◆ Your purchase of a book of tickets will make you a Paul Harris Sustaining Member.

**Rotary on the Web**  
**[www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)**

**Meal Tickets for 10 meals are available at the check-in table.  
The price is \$150.**

### *The Blastoff Staff*

Editor: Billy Smith  
Photographer: Bob Mitchell  
Deadline for submission of material for publication:  
5:00 p.m. Wednesday  
Distribution via email on Friday

**DISCARDED EYEGASSES (RX OR NOT) & CASES & HOTEL TOILETRIES ARE NEEDED. BRING THEM TO A MEETING & DEPOSIT THEM IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED BY VIC MARIA.**

## **Paul Harris Fellows** **Wear your medallion each meeting in November.**

### **Keep Our Club Alive & Healthy Infuse New Blood & Offer To Others The Opportunity to Serve**

Do you know a friend or colleague who has all the qualities of a good Rotarian? If you do, then consider proposing them for membership. Every Rotarian has the privilege and obligation of seeking qualified Rotary Club members. In this way, all Rotarians can help the club achieve a full representation of the business and professional life of this community. A full roster of dedicated member enhances fellowship and helps our club carry out our worthwhile service projects. Think about the expertise you can add to the club's profile. Ever new Rotarian brings a range of personal and professional resources that can greatly strengthen this club's ability to serve throughout the greater Clear Lake - Bay Area and the world. General Qualifications: Rotarians are adults of good character and good business or professional reputation, who hold or have an executive position with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession.

### **The Object of Rotary:**

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster —

- ★ The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- ★ High ethical standards in business and professions;
- ★ The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations;
- ★ and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- ★ The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;
- ★ The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

**STOP WAR!! MAKE EVERYONE  
JOIN ROTARY.**

**November is Rotary  
Foundation Month.  
Are you a Paul Harris  
Fellow yet; a sustaining  
member; a benefactor; a  
major donor?**

### **The Mission of the Rotary Foundation:**

The Mission of The Rotary Foundation is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfillment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary's Mission, and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national, and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. Specifically, the R I Board and the Trustees are committed to achieving the goals of eradicating polio through the completion of the PolioPlus program; to emphasizing and strengthening educational and cultural programs, which enhance goodwill and understanding; to making grants which fulfill humanitarian needs in all areas of the world; and to expanding programs intended to strengthen peaceful relations among people.

# Shrimporee Sponsors

## \$5,000 Sponsors



**Tony & Sharon  
Bloomfield**

## \$2,500 Sponsors

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- \* The Citizen
- \* Mike J. Moliere Security Services
- \* Bay Area Houston Magazine
- \* Lexus of Clear Lake

## \$1,000 Sponsors

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- \* Waldron & Schneider, Attorneys
- \* Shelley Sekula Gibbs, Houston City Council
- \* Bill Bailey, Constable Pct. 8, Harris County
- \* Steve Phelps, Port of Houston Commissioner
- \* Louie Ditta, Justice of Peace, Pct. 8, Pos. 2
- \* John & Suzanne Urbanek
- \* Benson's Wheel Alignment



**Phil Sandlin**  
Chief Deputy

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### Rotary Information

The president shall be elected as provided in the bylaws, not more than two (2) years but not less than eighteen (18) months prior to the day of taking office and shall serve as president-nominee upon election. The nominee shall take the title of president-elect upon the election of a successor. The president shall take office on 1 July and shall serve a period of one (1) year or until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

The president-elect shall attend the district presidents-elect training seminar and the district assembly unless excused by the governor-elect. If so excused, the president-elect shall send a designated club representative who shall report back to the president-elect. If the president-elect does not attend the presidents-elect training seminar and the district assembly and has not been excused by the governor-elect or, if so excused, does not send a designated club representative to such meetings, the president-elect shall not be able to serve as club president.

[Rotary Club Constitution]

## JSC Federal Credit Union

**Michael Brown, President**

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Attorneys at Law

**Marc Schneider**

# The Citizen

**Mary Alys Cherry**

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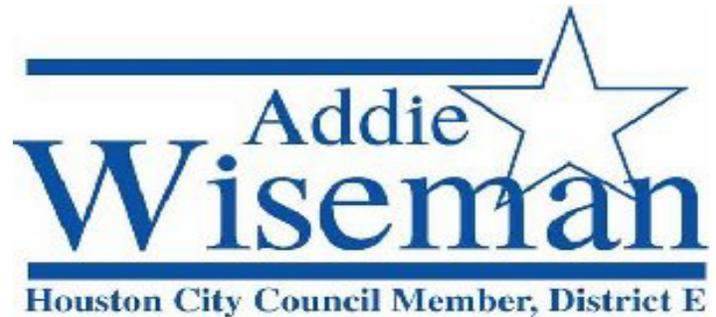
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*Benson's Wheel Alignment*

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**Wells Fargo Bank**

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**Lexus of Clear Lake**

**Joey Dupuis**

**Lockheed Martin**

**Rick Hieb  
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