



# The Latest News

from **The West I-10 Chamber of Commerce**

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West I-10 Chamber of Commerce  
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[www.westi10chamber.org](http://www.westi10chamber.org)

## Board of Directors

- Corinne Vahalik . . . . . President  
Vahalik & Vahalik, P.C.
- Adam Traweek . . . . . Vice President  
Amegy Bank
- Kathryn McAdams Wilson. . . . . Secretary
- Arnold England. . . . . Director  
Gateway Realty
- Barry Koch . . . . . Director  
Ryan Ford- Sealy
- Jim Vaughn . . . . . Director  
Lloyds Register/West Engineering
- Mary Garbett . . . . . Director  
Keller Williams Memorial Real Estate

## Upcoming Events

### 2015 Calendar - Save the Dates

- Jan 13-** Member Luncheon – State of the Chamber
- Feb 3-** Austin Trip- Waller County Day at the Capital
- Feb 10-** Member Luncheon

## President’s Message

**Corinne Vahalik/Vahalik & Vahalik, P.C.**



Thank you to all of you who attended our annual State of the County and State of the District Luncheon at Brookwood last week. We had great attendance, and it was packed to say the least!

It was wonderful to hear from retiring Judge Glenn Beckendorff about all Waller County has accomplished in the last eight years. We are truly grateful to Judge Beckendorff for his service to the County and his involvement with the Chamber.

Representative Cecil Bell, Jr. reported on his office’s efforts in the last legislative session in both education and emergency and volunteer service. Representative Bell has been a champion for our area, and we look forward to meeting with him at Waller County Day in Austin on February 03, 2015.

The Board of Directors and committee chairpersons also met last week in a planning session for the 2015 year. We hope to build on the successes of 2014 and prior years and continue to provide value to our members.

Our next luncheon will be the State of the Chamber Luncheon on January 13, 2015 at LaQuinta. We will discuss the plans for 2015 and recap 2014. If you have thoughts on what you would like to see in 2015, please feel free to email me at [cori@vahaliklaw.com](mailto:cori@vahaliklaw.com). I am happy to hear your thoughts.

The Chamber greatly appreciates our members and your continued support!

## Chamber Welcomes New Board Member

The Chamber welcomes new director Mary Garbett of Keller Williams Memorial Realty. Mary's focus is on residential, ranch and equestrian real estate in the areas surrounding Houston and Katy; including the Texas counties of Harris, Ft. Bend, Waller, Austin and Washington. Mary also serves as the membership chairperson for the Chamber.

Mary will fill the position of retiring director Rich Gussert of Grundfos CBS Inc. While Rich is retiring from the board, he and Grundfos will continue to be active Chamber members.

Rich, thank you for your service to the Chamber! Mary, welcome to the Board!



Mary Garbett was sworn in by Waller County Justice of the Peace Pct.4 Ted Krenk

### Committees & Chairs

#### Ambassador

Stephen Alaniz/Enterprise Bank

#### Economic Development

Greg Turner/ Turner Duran  
Arnold England/ Gateway Realty

#### Programs & Events

Open

#### PR & Marketing

Michele Moore/ Brookshire's Best Auto

#### Website

Paul McConnell/Key Insurance Agency

#### Annual Banquet

Roberta Meader/Cotton Gin LLC

#### Fundraising

Barry Koch/Ryan Ford

#### Nominating

Anthony Francis/LJA Engineering

#### Governmental Affairs

Adam Traweek/Amegy Bank  
Jason Holmes/Wyatt Resources

#### Education

Rachel Hillsman

#### Membership

Mary Garbett/ Real Estate

#### Administrative Director

Julie Ormond

### Contact us at

chamber@westi10chamber.org

### West I-10 Sustaining Members

Igloo Products Corp  
Rooms To Go  
Turner Duran Architects  
Brookshire Economic  
Development Corporation  
Severn Trent Services  
City of Katy  
Goya  
Grundfos

### Silver Members

Texas Children's Hospital  
Janet J. Montgomery, CFP, CWS  
Amegy Bank  
Memorial Hermann Katy  
Texas Automotive Muscle, LLC  
Rise Communities, LLC  
Helping Hand Pharmacy

## Members news and events

### Grundfos News:

For all of the exciting news happening at Grundfos [Click here.](#)

### Cane Island: A new Master Planned Community in Katy

Cane Island held its official groundbreaking in November and revealed details about the exciting new community coming to Waller County. The community's new website is now live. Visit [caneisland.com](http://caneisland.com) for more info on this community coming soon.



Rise Communities/Photographer

### Brookwood Community:

#### Meet Brookwood's New Executive Chef, Michael Fernandez

as we start the new year with a  
*Healthy Gourmet Cooking Demonstration*

**Thursday, January 15th ~ 11:00 am**

**\$21.95 plus tax**

Reservations required 281-375-2100



#### **Rodeo Fashion Show**

*Enjoy fashions from your favorite stores that will  
take you from everyday chic to Rodeo Ready!!!*

**Produced by**

**Rebecca Matthews, Fashion & Image Consultant**

**Friday, February 20th ~ 11:00 am**

**\$28.95 plus tax**

Reservations required 281-375-2100

***Click for more information***

## 2014 Members

907 Cotton Gin LLC  
Allen Boone Humphries Robinson  
Allen Samuels Katy Dodge  
Amegy Bank  
Aradyne Industries, Inc.  
BES Engineering  
Belleza by Patti  
Blinn College – Sealy Campus  
Brookshire Economic Development  
Brookshire Family Medical  
Brookshire Municipal Water District  
Brookshire Steel  
Brookshire's Best Auto Repair  
Brookshire Residence & Rehab Ctr.  
Brookshire Smile Dental  
The Brookwood Community  
Burger King-30/Brookshire  
Career & Recovery Resources  
Cecil Bell, Jr.  
CenterPoint Energy  
City of Katy  
City of Pattison  
Comfy Home, Inc  
Consolidated Communications  
Dalton Discovery Park  
Darleen St. Jean  
Days Inn, Brookshire  
Daystar Publishing, Inc  
Dustin Harwell-Texas Farm Bureau  
Edward Jones  
Enterprise Bank  
Eve's Garden  
Family Medical of Brookshire  
Farmers Insurance Group  
Fast Tags Engraving  
First Service Credit Union  
First United Methodist Church/  
Brookshire  
Fort Bend Family Health Center  
Galileo's Mexican Grill  
Gary Gates  
Gateway Realty  
Goya  
Green Group Holdings, LLC  
Grundfos, CBS Inc  
HDH Instruments, LP  
Helping Hand Pharmacy  
Hillsman & Vahalik  
Houston Executive Airport  
iEnergy North America  
Igloo Products Corp  
L.N. Jones Outreach Ministries  
La Quinta Inn & Suites  
J&J Packing Company  
J.L. Rose  
JNS Consulting Engineers  
Janet J. Montgomery, CFP,CWS  
Jhump & Associates, LLC  
Joe Garcia  
Joe Trimm, Jr.  
Johnson Radcliffe Petrov & Bobbit  
Jones & Carter, Inc.  
Katy Area EDC

## West I-10 Committee News

**Governmental Affairs Committee: Co-Chairs Adam Traweek (Amegy Bank) and Jason Holmes (Wyatt Resources).** The Governmental Affairs Committee would like to offer sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 Austin/Capital Trip for Waller County Day. The upcoming event is scheduled for **Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>** and will be a fun day filled with history, acknowledgement from Rep. Cecil Bell during House Session, and various political speakers as well as plenty of food, drinks, and networking opportunities with fellow Chamber members, Waller County Economic Development Council members, and other Waller County Residents.

If anyone is interested in sponsorship of the trip, transportation, food & beverages, or thank you awards, please contact Adam Traweek at [adam.traweek@amegybank.com](mailto:adam.traweek@amegybank.com) or 713-724-3509.

Sponsorships from \$100-\$500 available but are limited, so hurry!

The **Programs Committee** is still in need of a Chairperson providing interesting and informative speakers for the monthly luncheon. Members interested in chairing the Programs Committee and/or members who have suggestions for topics of interest or speakers for future programs, please speak with any board member or contact chamber at [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org).

**Economic Development Committee: Arnold England (Gateway Realty) and Greg Turner (Turner Duran)** will co-chair this committee. Information on January's upcoming EDC meeting will be coming soon.

**Education Committee: Chairwoman Rachel Hillsman-Valis (Waller County)**

The Education Committee is continuing the At-Risk Student Luncheons with dates for the spring semester coming soon. If you are interested in joining this mentoring luncheon please contact Rachel through the chamber at [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org)

**Fundraising Committee: (Barry Koch)** The Fundraising Committee will be gearing up in January for the Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser to be held in May. If you are interested in joining this fun committee please contact Barry through the chamber at [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org)

## In Case You Missed It

### December Luncheon at The Café at Brookwood

More than 50 Chamber Members and guests came out to hear what Waller County Judge Glenn Beckendorff and State Representative Cecil Bell, Jr. had to report.





Waller County Judge Glenn Beckendorff gave an update on the county and all of the changes the county has been going through in the last few years including the tri-county fires, new businesses and residential developments, hiring a fire marshal and an animal control officer, building a cover over the DPS Weigh Station on I10, landfill ordinances, contracts and litigation, and building/ infrastructure assessments. With his retirement from his political office coming soon, he gave heartfelt thanks to all of his supporters and will be enjoying hunting, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren.



State Representative Cecil Bell Jr. reported that his office is gearing up for the upcoming legislative session and he gave a rundown of key legislation that was passed in the last session including House Bill 5 that reduced the number of end-of-course student exams from 15 to five giving teachers more time to teach. Representative Bell also informed attendees about House Bill 487 filed by himself that is designed to increase the flexibility of fire departments and emergency personnel to utilize volunteers, heavy equipment, and other resources during hazardous or dangerous situations, such as wildfires. In exchange for their services, volunteers are explicitly granted liability protection under Chapter 79 of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code.

Thanks to Judge Beckendorff, Representative Bell and everyone that made this a wonderful event!

## January 13, 2015 Luncheon/Meeting

**State of the Chamber** on January 13th at 11:30AM at LaQuinta Inn & Suites. Directors and Committee Chairs will be giving a review of 2014 and plans for 2015.

**Save the date and bring a guest!**



Board of Directors: Mary Garbett, Corinne Hillsman Vahalik, Barry Koch, Kathryn McAdam Wilson, Jim Vaughn, Arnold England (not pictured: Adam Traweek)

**Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!**

Katy Family YMCA  
Katy Heritage Society  
Ken Carter Photography  
Key Insurance Agency  
Kyle Custom Homes LLC  
LJA Engineering, Inc.  
La Quinta Inn & Suites, Brookshire  
McDonald's Carmichael Ent.  
Memorial Hermann Katy  
NAVCON GROUP, LLC  
New Life Beginnings Church  
Oliver S. Kitzman, Sr.  
One 2 mini Ranch Tack & Feed  
Orizon Industries, Inc.  
Patriots Junk Removal & Hauling  
Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Dept  
Pattison United Methodist Church  
Priority Emergency Room  
Ray's Grill  
Repka's Grocery & Kitchen  
Rhino Solutions  
Right Time Real Estate LLC  
Rise Communities, LLC  
Rooms To Go  
Roosevelt Alexander  
Rose Hill Ranch  
Royal I.S.D.  
Ryan Ford  
Saturn Machine, Inc.  
Severn Trent Services, Inc.  
Shanco Equipment Specialists  
Shelter House America  
Southwest Properties  
Stan Kitzman, Commissioner Pct 4  
State Rep. John Zerwas MD  
Stewart Title, Fulshear  
Ted Krenk, JP, WC Pct 4  
Texas Automotive Muscle LLC  
Texas Children's Hospital  
Texas First Industrial Corporation  
Texas Landman, Inc.  
Thomas Instrument  
Turner Duran Architects  
Vahalik & Vahalik, PC  
Waller County Economic Development  
Partners  
Waller County D.A. Elton Mathis  
Waller County Fair Association  
West Engineering Services  
Wyatt Resources, Inc.

*Working together for our future*

**Send us your news**  
chamber@westil10chamber.org

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