



# The Latest News

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

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 Brookshire, Texas

[www.westi10chamber.org](http://www.westi10chamber.org)

## Board of Directors

- Bill Fry . . . . . President  
 Severn Trent Services
- Adam Traweck . . . . . Vice President  
 Amegy Bank
- Corinne Hillsman Vahalik . . . . . Secretary  
 Vahalik & Vahalik
- Steve Pierson. . . . . Director  
 Katy Family YMCA
- Jim Vaughn . . . . . Director  
 Loyds Register/West Engineering
- Rich Gussert . . . . . Director  
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## Committees & Chairs

- Ambassador  
 Stephen Alaniz/Enterprise Bank

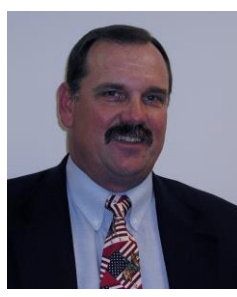
## Upcoming Events

### 2014 Calendar – Save the Dates

- March 4 – 2014 Primary Election Day**  
**Mar 11** – Member Luncheon- Guest Speaker: Dan Naef / The Cane Island Project  
**April 8** – Member Luncheon – Program TBA  
**May 6** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social FUNdraiser  
**May 13**- Member Luncheon – TBA  
**June 10** – Member Luncheon  
**July 8** – Member Luncheon  
**Sept 9** – Member Luncheon/Annual BOD Elections  
**Oct 14** – Member Luncheon  
**Nov 8** – Annual Appreciation Awards Banquet  
**Dec 9** – Member Luncheon – State of the County & District – State Rep. Cecil Bell

## President’s Message

### Bill Fry/Severn Trent Services



Thanks to all that attended our Chamber Meeting on February 11 at La Quinta Inn and Suites. We had an excellent turn out for our program concerning the “Affordable Care Act” presented by Criselda Valdez, with Access Health.

I was pleased to announce our new Executive Director, Jack Gindorf. I encourage each member of the Chamber to contact Jack starting March 1. I am excited about the future of our Chamber. However, I would be remised to not thank Kathryn

Wilson for her dedication and hard work to our Chamber to keep us on track in moving this Chamber forward to where we are today.

Since our meeting, our Government Affairs committee held a Candidates Forum at Royal High School on February 13. I want to thank Adam Traweck and Jason Holmes as Co-Chairs and organizers of this event. The forum was well attended and Jason did a great job as the moderator. Please vote March 4<sup>th</sup> in the primary election.

Save the Dates - May 6, 2014 – Third Annual Ice Cream Social and November 8, 2014- Annual Awards Banquet. Both events need sponsors and volunteers to help make these events possible. Please volunteer, your Chamber works for you.

Our next meeting will be at La Quinta on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

**Stay Safe and Live Life.**

## March 11, 2014 Luncheon/Meeting

Guest speaker will be Dan Naef, President of Rise Development which is developing the Cane Island master-planned community between Hwy. 90 and Morton Road in the Katy ETJ of eastern Waller County. The 1,000 acre project to include over a thousand homes and multiple parks is more than just a subdivision. The project broke ground this month;

Economic Development  
Jon Strange/JNS Engineers

Programs & Events  
Open

PR & Marketing  
Michele Moore/Brookshire's Best Auto

Website  
Paul McConnell/Key Insurance Agency

Annual Banquet  
Roberta Meader/West Engineering

Fundraising  
Steve Pierson/Katy Family YMCA  
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/Right Time Real Estate

Administrative  
Kathryn McAdams Wilson  
Until March 31, 2014

Contact us at  
[chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org)

### West I-10 Sustaining Members

Igloo Products Corp  
Rooms To Go  
Turner Duran Architects  
Brookshire Economic  
Development Corporation  
Severn Trent Services

### Silver Members

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

### 2013-2014 Members

907 Cotton Gin LLC  
ABX Distributing  
Allen Boone Humphries Robinson  
Allen Samuels Katy Dodge  
Amegy Bank  
Aradyne Industries, Inc.  
BES Engineering  
Blinn College – Sealy Campus  
Brookshire Economic Development

and the estimated grand opening is early 2015.

The March 11 luncheon is being held at LaQuinta/Brookshire and catered by Galileo's. Seating is limited. Reservations are required by March 7<sup>th</sup>. 281.375.8000 or [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org) or register online [www.westi10chamber.org](http://www.westi10chamber.org). Members/Member Guest \$15, Non-Members \$25 by cash or check at door or Pay by PayPal or credit card when registering online.

## Chamber welcomes new member

**Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center**, formerly known as The Oaks at Brookshire, announces that it is under the new ownership of Paragon Healthcare Group. The new ownership means that the senior living facility is receiving an array of improvements, including new amenities and more staff training. Plans are being implemented to upgrade Brookshire's memory care unit, short-term rehab program and training for staff based on the needs of the community and feedback from local physicians, family and staff. Paragon Healthcare Group will continue to emphasize the importance of the nurses and aides who work at Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center. Healthcare improvements include hiring a new regional clinical director who is bringing more training for complex care cases such as respiratory and tracheostomy care, and a new therapy program. More amenities will be introduced for patients such as expanded dining menus with home-cooked meals as well as Wi-Fi access. There will also be upgrades to the aesthetics of the facility including renovations to residents' rooms and common areas to create a pleasant and welcoming environment. To learn more about Brookshire Residence and Rehabilitation Center, located at 710 Highway 359 (P.O. 638), Brookshire, TX 77423 visit online at [www.BrookshireCare.com](http://www.BrookshireCare.com) or call 281-375-5272. Rick Carr, Regional Director of Marketing [Rick.Carr@brookshirecare.com](mailto:Rick.Carr@brookshirecare.com)

## Members news and events

**Royal I.S.D** Superintendent Stacy Ackley at the West I-10 Chamber's February 11 luncheon shared his goal to design and implement a school district that will meet the educational needs of every student – by proposing that Royal ISD look at revamping the educational day as we know it and address the needs of every student through the use of facilities, personnel, and educational programs. He proposes opening a STEM (study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) academy starting with grades 3-8 and an Early College campus for grades 9-12. This campus will be open to all students that maintain expectations while attending the STEM Academy and the Early College Campus. Students that fail to maintain academic expectations will return to home campus. The STEM Academy and Early College will be housed on the old MS camps and will share space with the Boys and Girls Club. Traditional Program will be AP, Pre AP, Dual Credit, and regular course work, which is the academic program currently in place today. In addition, there will be an RTI Academy on each of the current campuses designed to assist struggling students. The students have access to the traditional program but will also have additional support given in specific areas that they struggle with. This is a mandatory placement until the student demonstrates on grade level academic achievement. ECC will remain as is. The ECC must look at accepting only those that qualify for Pre-K. Mr. Ackley stressed that all students regardless of program will have access to participate in all extra and co-curricular programs and that the purpose of this proposed structure is to address the needs of every child that attends Royal ISD.

Royal HS Principal, Dr. Jimmy Golden, announced in late January that another exciting development at Royal High School, and in Royal ISD, is the acquisition of the KBCP (Keeping Brookshire Community Proud) Radio Station. Dr. Skip Miller, formerly of KBCP Radio, has graciously donated the equipment, license, and antenna. Our RHS Audio Video department has a new class for students interested in radio broadcasting; we expect to "go live" sometime in mid-February. Our RHS radio station will partner with community organizations to deliver pertinent news, education, and information. Various RHS and Royal ISD games and events will be broadcast live as well. The radio station has approximately a 24-mile range; so folks 10-12 miles in each direction from Royal High School should be able to hear the broadcasts. We are also looking at the possibility of an on-line broadcast in the not-too-distant future as well.

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 Fulshear  
 City of Pattison  
 Comfy Home, Inc  
 Consolidated Communications  
 Darleen St. Jean  
 Days Inn, Brookshire  
 Daystar Publishing, Inc  
 Dennis W. Homolka, CPA  
 Dustin Harwell-Texas Farm Bureau  
 Edward Jones  
 Enterprise Bank  
 Eve's Garden  
 Family Freedom Festival  
 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  
 Gateway Realty  
 Gr8 Insurance  
 Green Group Holdings, LLC  
 Grundfos, CBS Inc  
 Hasta La Pasta Italian Grill  
 HDH Instruments, LP  
 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  
 Joe Garcia  
 Joe Trimm, Jr.  
 Johnson Radcliffe Petrov & Bobbit  
 Jones & Carter, Inc.  
 Katy Area EDC  
 Katy Family YMCA  
 Katy Heritage Society  
 Keep Waller County Beautiful  
 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.

## West I-10 Committee news

**Governmental Affairs Committee Co-Chairs Adam Traweek (Amegy Bank) and Jason Holmes (Wyatt Resources)** facilitated the 2014 Political Candidates Forum on February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Royal HS auditorium. All candidates for Waller County Judge, Waller County Commissioner Pct. 4, and Waller County Pct. 3 Justice of the Peace were invited to participate. The GA Committee meets the third Thursday of every other month and welcomes all interested members to attend.

**The Fundraising Committee**, chaired by **Steve Pierson (Katy Family YMCA)** and Co-Chair **Barry Koch (Ryan Ford/Sealy)**, is diligently completing plans for a third successful **Annual Ice Cream Social FUNdraiser** being held at the Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 5:00-7:30pm. Being involved in this "It Takes a Community" event which raises funds for scholarships and educational programs for the school district is fun and rewarding. Members wishing sponsor or to join the fun team of volunteers facilitating this year's event should contact Steve at [steveinkaty@consolidated.net](mailto:steveinkaty@consolidated.net) or 832.661.8800 – [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org).

**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).

**The Economic Development Committee, Chairman Jon Strange (JNS Engineering)** is seeking a volunteer to Co-Chair and assist with obtaining speakers for the committee meetings held every other month and open to all interested members. Contact Jon at [jnstrange@jnscellc.com](mailto:jnstrange@jnscellc.com) or [chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org) if you are interested or have contacts and/or suggestions for speakers relating to the economic development of our area.

## In Case You Missed It

**February 11<sup>th</sup> Member Luncheon/Meeting:** Special thanks to Criselda Valdez, assisted by Debbie Zagala from AccessHealth, who stepped in at the last minute for the scheduled guest speaker for her presentation on the Affordable Care Act.



Continuing discussing and visiting at close of the meeting - Guest Chad Peshke with Harvey Laas/Access Health and Corinne Vahalik/Vahalik & Vahalik. and Stacy Ackley, Royal ISD Superintendent (Photo below L). Charlie Myer, Vice President of Advancement at YMCA of Greater Houston, Regional Advancement Officer at YMCA of Greater Houston, and Michele Moore of Brookshire's Best Auto Repair (Photo below R). Photos by Vickie Casto, BEDC.



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  
 Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve  
 Rooms To Go  
 Roosevelt Alexander  
 Rose Hill Ranch  
 Royal I.S.D.  
 Ryan Ford  
 Saturn Machine, Inc.  
 Severn Trent Services, Inc.  
 Shanco Equipment Specialists  
 Southwest Properties  
 Stan Kitzman, Commissioner Pct 4  
 State Rep. John Zerwas MD  
 Stewart Title, Fulshear  
 Ted Krenek, 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 Fair Association  
 West Engineering Services  
 Weston Lakes Country Club  
 Wyatt Resources, Inc.

Please join us in welcoming Jack Gindorf, the Chamber's new Executive Director (pictured on right with Bill Fry and Kathryn). Jack and Cindy Gindorf moved to Katy seven years ago from Pampa, Texas where they had lived for 50 years. Jack is no stranger to this area as his mother was from Sealy and his dad from Bellville and a ton of relatives in the immediate area. Jack says he goes back to rice paddy days and even hunted geese on the property where he now resides in Firethorne. Jack and Cindy have three grown children, one son and two daughters with seven grandchildren and adding more to the list soon. Jack is an avid sportsman, having played basketball and golf for most of his life. He said they also got acclimated to the Katy Tigers right away. Look forward to seeing Jack come by for a visit soon. Jack will bring new energy and lots of new programs, plans, and procedures to the West I-10 Chamber.



**2014 Primary Candidates Forum held on February 13.**

Dr. Jimmy Golden, Royal HS Principal, welcomed over 100 attendees to Royal's Jimmy Davis Performing Art Center and thanked The West I-10 Chamber for sponsoring this most important public service event (below left photo). Candidates who attended to participate were Waller County Judge Candidates Stan Kitzman and Trey Duhon (pictured below, top far right) and Waller County Commissioner Pct. 4 Candidates Larry Jones and Justin Beckendorff (bottom photo far right). Waller County Judge Candidate Sam Eng had planned to attend but came down with the flu the day before the forum.



Videos of the forum are posted on the Chamber's website homepage, as well as the Chamber's Facebook page. More photos of the Candidates Forum are also posted on the Chamber's Facebook page. Click "Like" on the Facebook page to receive future postings. Thanks go to Amegy Bank for providing the refreshments.

For voting locations: <http://www.wallercountyelections.com/votelocations.php>  
 To see what's on the ballot: <http://www.wallervoterinfo.com/waller-county-political-races.html> (A link on the page will direct you what is on the ballot for state-wide.)

**Vote on March 4<sup>th</sup> – First, be well informed. Every vote counts!**

*Working together for our future*

**Send us your news**  
[chamber@westi10chamber.org](mailto:chamber@westi10chamber.org)

Like us on Facebook



"It Takes a Community"

**Working together for our future!**