



The Latest News

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

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West I-10 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 100
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Tel: 281.375.8100

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 Real Estate

Upcoming Events

2015 Calendar - Save the Dates

- Sept 8**-Member Luncheon/BOD Elections- Senator Kolkhorst at Ray’s Grill
- Oct 13**-Member Luncheon – Salt & Pepper Restaurant/ Program TBA
- Nov 13**– Annual Awards Banquet – Cane Island Amenity Village
- Dec 8**- State of County/District Luncheon – WC Judge Trey Duhon & Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.

President’s Message



Corinne Vahalik/Vahalik & Vahalik, P.C.

We took the month of August off from our monthly membership luncheon, but Chamber activity has continued through the month. The Chamber board of directors met earlier this month to discuss ongoing goals and brainstorm on ways to improve the Chamber.

We will hold elections for four Board of Directors positions at our September luncheon. If you are interested

in running for one of these positions, please contact Julie Ormond at chamber@westi10chamber.org.

The economic development committee met on August 20 at Brookshire Drying Company, one of our areas oldest businesses. Attendees were given an explanation of what the company does for area farmers and a demonstration on the milling and grading processes. It was a truly unique and informative meeting! The banquet committee is in full force planning this fall’s annual banquet. Watch for more announcements and sponsorship opportunities soon. We are looking forward to a new and exciting event this year!

Thank you for supporting your Chamber!

14th Annual Appreciation Awards Banquet

The Chamber welcomes **Cane Island** as the Title Sponsor of the 14th Annual Appreciation Awards Banquet. Our annual signature event will be held at Cane Island’s Amenity Village. It will be a most welcome and exiting new venue with a delicious banquet catered by Ray’s Grill and a fun evening with friends paying tribute to this year’s Appreciation Award Recipients. **Save the Date: November 13, 2015.** Watch for the upcoming press release announcing the names of the two local community leaders who will be receiving the 2015 Awards in recognition and appreciation for their long history of generous community service and contribution to the growth and wellbeing of our community. Sponsorship Opportunities are available - \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500 – Contact Julie Ormond at chamber@westi10chamber.org .

Committees & Chairs

Economic Development
Greg Turner/ Turner Duran
Arnold England/ Gateway Realty

Programs & Events
Open

PR & Marketing
Open

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
Open

Administrative Director
Julie Ormond

Contact us at

chamber@westi10chamber.org

West I-10 Gold Members

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

Bronze Members

Members news and events

First Service Credit Union You First Foundation hosts Inaugural Wendy Kwan Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser September 28, 2015.



Last year, First Service Credit Union lost a dear friend and co-worker, Wendy Kwan. She was a bright, vivacious, dedicated and talented woman. She was also a mother, expecting a second child.

Wendy, who was only 34, died from an undetected brain aneurism. The doctors were only able to save her unborn daughter, Olivia, through emergency surgery. Out of our love for Wendy and her family, the employees of First Service Credit Union came together to form the You First Foundation. The foundation's purpose is to support neurointensive care and neurointensive recovery centers to further their research on brain injuries and recovery solutions. The You First Foundation will also help the families of brain injury victims through scholarships.

On September 28, 2015, the You First Foundation will hold its first major fundraising event, the Inaugural Wendy Kwan Memorial Golf Tournament at BlackHorse Golf Club in Cypress.

The event will have many contests and prizes. With a hole in one, you could win a new car.

There are many ways to get involved including participating in the tournament, sponsoring the event, donating to the foundation and/ or volunteering.

For more information visit YouFirstFoundation.net

Waller County D.A. Elton Mathis

Open Carry Laws Class, Monday August 31, 2015 at 6:30PM at the Hempstead Theater. The D.A.'s Office will conduct a class for law enforcement and the public on the new Open Carry laws that go into effect January 1, 2016. If you or anyone you know has a concealed handgun license (to be known in the future as a handgun license) you should be at this class. Let's make Waller County the leader in smart handgun use! Merchants are especially encouraged to attend.

The class is free and the theater will have the concession stand open for purchases.

In Case You Missed It

Economic Development Committee Meeting

The Economic Development Committee met on Thursday, August 20 at the offices of the Brookshire Drying Co. We were treated to a very interesting and informative tour and demonstration by Pam Wostarek, Manager. Attendees from the West I-10 Chamber were Corrine Vahalik, Arnold England, Bill Fry, Commissioner Justin Beckendorff, and Greg Turner.

The Brookshire Drying Co. was founded in 1948 by local farmers and entrepreneurs, whose families remain active in its ownership. The company employs seven persons full time, as well as additional part time workers. Pam, originally from Mississippi, has been employed at the facility since 1993. Her duties include not only responsibility for drying and storing rice, but also monitoring quality and helping sell rice to the processing mills in the Houston region.

Locally, about 5,400 acres of land are farmed with rice. In Texas, 107 thousand acres were farmed last year, down from 140 thousand in 2013. Issues affecting pricing include the weather, the strength of the dollar (it is a global industry), quality, and government controls.

Ms. Wostarek described how more farming is done today on fewer acres, due to technology that increases yields. An example of this is the second crop. The first crop, harvested generally in July, was formerly about three times larger than the second crop brought in at October harvest time, but nowadays the second crop yield is close to the first.

The Economic Development Committee is grateful to Pam Wostarek for opening the doors of the Brookshire Drying Co. facilities to us for one of the best presentations we have seen.



Pictured above from left to right: WC Commissioner Justin Beckendorff, Bill Fry of Severn Trent Services, Arnold England of Gateway Realty, Pam Wostarek of Brookshire Drying Co. and Corinne Vahalik of Vahalik and Vahalik, P.C.

Allen Boone Humphries Robinson
Allen Samuels Katy Dodge
Brookshire Residence & Rehab Ctr.
Green Group Holdings, LLC
iEnergy North America
Jones & Carter
Ken Carter Photography
LJA Engineering, Inc.
Lloyd's Register Drilling Services PLLC
Main Stream Environmental Water Well
Services
Radcliffe Bobbitt Adams Polley PLLC
Ryan Ford

2015 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
Career & Recovery Resources
Cecil Bell, Jr. State Rep.
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
First Service Credit Union
First United Methodist Church/
Brookshire
Fort Bend Family Health Center
Gateway Realty
Goya
Green Group Holdings, LLC
Grundfos, CBS Inc
HDH Instruments, LP
Helping Hand Pharmacy
Hillsman & Vahalik
Houston Executive Airport
Igloo Products Corp
Invision Pools
J&J Packing Company
J.L. Rose
JNS Consulting Engineers

- Janet J. Montgomery, CFP,CWS
- Jhump & Associates, LLC
- Jones & Carter, Inc.
- Katy Family YMCA
- Ken Carter Photography
- Key Insurance Agency
- Kyle Custom Homes LLC
- LJA Engineering, Inc.
- La Quinta Inn & Suites, Brookshire
- Mainstream Environmental Water Well Services
- McDonald's Carmichael Ent.
- Memorial Hermann Katy
- NAVCON GROUP, LLC
- New Life Beginnings Church
- Oliver S. Kitzman, Sr.
- Orizon Industries, Inc.
- Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Dept
- Pattison United Methodist Church
- Priority Emergency Room
- Radcliffe Bobbitt Adams Polley PLLC
- Ray's Grill
- Repka's Grocery & Kitchen
- Right Time Real Estate LLC
- Rise Communities, LLC
- Rooms To Go
- Roosevelt Alexander
- Royal I.S.D.
- Ryan Ford
- Salt & Pepper Restaurant & Catering
- Saturn Machine, Inc.
- Seyn Trent Services, Inc.
- Shanco Equipment Specialists
- Southwest Properties
- Stan Kitzman
- 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
- Thomas Instrument
- Turner Duran Architects
- Vahalik & Vahalik, PC
- Waller County Economic Development Partnership
- Waller County A&M Club
- Waller County Commissioner
- Justin Beckendorff, Pct.4
- Waller County D.A. Elton Mathis
- Waller County Fair Association
- Waller County Judge Trey Duhon
- Wyatt Resources, Inc.



Pictured Left: Diagram showing all the storage and drying bins at Brookshire Drying
 Pictured Right: Samples of rice from local farmers which will be graded



Above: Manager Pam Wostarek explains the grading and drying process to the group.

September 8, 2015 Member Luncheon

The September 8th Member Luncheon will be held at
 Ray's Grill- Fulshear
 8502 FM 359 Rd., Fulshear, TX 77441

Guest Speaker: Senator Lois Kolkhorst



Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst is a fifth-generation Texan, with ancestral roots to the Texas War of Independence. A Brenham native, she went on to graduate from TCU where she played collegiate golf.

Working together for our future

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 chamber@west10chamber.org

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In December 2014, Kolkhorst was elected to the Texas Senate in a special election, after previously serving fourteen years in the Texas House. Recognized as a fiscal conservative, she is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, and has served three times on the state's budget conference-committee, most recently during the final negotiations on the states \$209 billion budget passed in 2015. She also serves as Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and has written landmark legislation to toughen Texas laws on medical privacy. She earned statewide attention for crafting alternatives to Obamacare for healthcare providers.

Senator Kolkhorst is a member of the Senate Committee on Education, and is considered a longtime friend to parents and teachers as well as colleges and universities. Representing all or part of twenty-one Texas counties, she serves on the Senate Transportation Committee as well as the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs, drafting many laws to protect private property rights. (Information obtained from www.senate.state.tx.us)

Please note: We will be holding Board of Director Elections for positions 1,3,5 and 7 during the September luncheon. If you are interested in running for a position on the board, please contact Julie Ormond at chamber@west10chamber.org

\$18 Member/ Guest; \$28 Non-Member.

RSVP for the September Luncheon [here](#).

Seating is limited for this event, so RSVP early.