

Higher Ed Options Abound at Nearby Schools

College degrees, certificates offered at several institutions in Westchase District



School's in Session (Clockwise from top left): Classes at the Interactive School of Technology are tailored for the busy schedules of adult students; Houston Community College's Robin Dahms stands in front of a green screen soundstage; Michael Murray can always recommend a Good Book at Fuller Theological Seminary; Danny Rinehart, criminal justice program chair at American InterContinental University shows students how to dust for fingerprints; and Eric Happe, Tom Swanson, Doyle Happe and James Scheffer are part of the administration at the Center for Advanced Legal Studies.

Whether you're graduating from high school, looking to take your career to the next level, returning to the workforce or simply wanting to explore new directions, Westchase District offers several degree-granting higher education options that are worth considering.

"I had looked at other schools downtown, but I didn't want to commute more than an hour each way for night school," said Rayshell Ford, a recent graduate of American InterContinental University, one of five undergraduate institutions located in the District. "AIU was about 15 minutes away from both my home and

my work, which allowed me to make it in time to attend evening classes. Plus, I felt I had the opportunity to get to know my course instructors personally."

Convenience and class size are just two of the attractions for area working students seeking to further their education. Here's a roundup of what's out there:

Arts, engineering and entrepreneurship

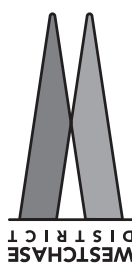
With state-of-the-art facilities and centers of excellence focusing on engineering, media arts and technology, and visual and performing arts, Houston Community College's Hayes Road campus is the preferred choice

for many area students. The media arts and technology center of excellence offers certificates and degrees in audio recording/video production, digital communication, filmmaking and music business. HCC has partnered with the University of Texas at Tyler so that students may earn a UT Tyler Bachelor's degree in either civil, electrical or mechanical engineering at a cost of less than \$20,000. Through the visual and performing arts programs, students can earn associate of arts degrees with emphasis in either art, dance, drama or music. Courses run between \$67 and \$156 per hour and financial aid is available for qualified students.

(Continued on Page 8)



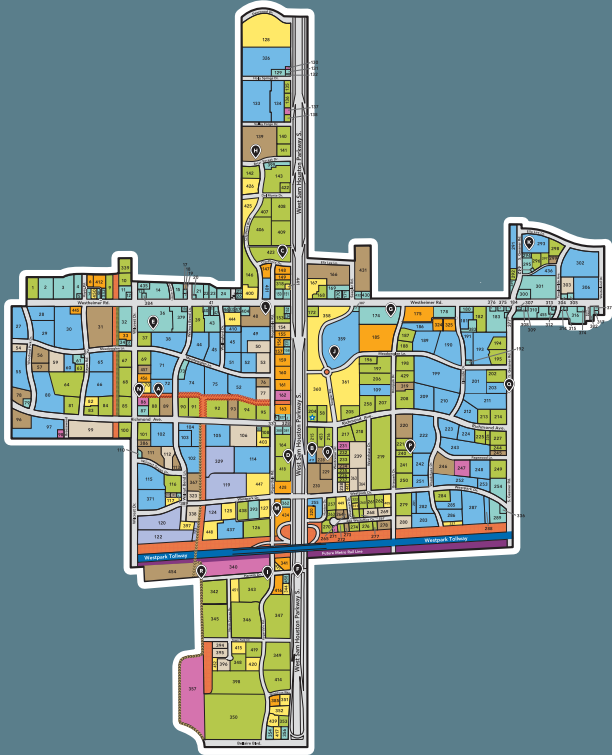
10370 Richmond
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Houston, Texas 77042
westchasedistrict.com



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WESTCHASE TODAY is published quarterly by Westchase District, a municipal management district funded by local property owners in a 4.2 square-mile area centered on the Sam Houston Tollway between I-10 and US-59 on the west side of Houston, Texas. We promote economic growth by enhancing mobility, beautification, public safety, planning and development of the District.



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VP, COO

Sherry Fox
VP, Communications

Irma Sanchez
VP, Projects

Don McKinney
Public Safety Director

Jonathan Lowe
Assistant
Communications Director

Louis Jullien
Projects Director

John Carey
Farmers Market Manager

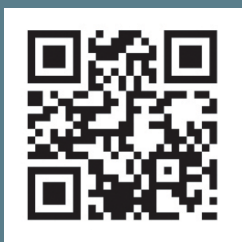
Rayshell Ford
Operations Assistant

Kathy Kaufman
Administrative Assistant

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The Story Within The Story

Many folks of a certain age may remember radio commentator Paul Harvey's famous sign off, "Now you know, the REST of the story." His stories ran the gamut and he always managed to find that wrinkle or angle that was insightful, surprising, or heartwarming - and sometimes all three.

Looking at the articles in this edition of *Westchase Today* inspired us to channel a bit of our inner Paul Harveys. And as he often did, we have a challenge for you at the end of this article.

Let's start with our new "Rock Star," Smart Financial Credit Union. The article talks about what you might already know, which is that they secured the naming rights for the new performing arts facility in Sugar Land. But what you will also learn in the article is that their corporate headquarters are located here. And while some would classify Smart Financial as a small business, we were ecstatic when they moved here with "only" 100 employees on site. It sure seems that they are now having an oversized impact on raising our profile and we could not be more pleased for them.

Frost Bank is announced in this issue as the new underwriter of the Westchase District Corporate Challenge and that is great news. But reading the article also reveals that the event has run for 21 years and raised nearly \$250,000 for charity (all proceeds to local causes). That is a story in itself and if you want to be part of it, act immediately - it is traditionally a sellout.

We must admit that we did not know about Accent Screen Printing and its twelve employees here. They have grown from a garage operation to a 3,000 square-foot production facility but here's a number that caught our attention - one million. That is the number of



Westchase District Board Chair Philip Schneidau (left) and General Manager Jim Murphy.

garments they embroidered, printed etc. last year. This makes us realize that "small business" is a relative term - and often misses the point.

Here's a trivia number for you - five. That is the number of degree-granting institutions of higher education here. They are a springboard for area residents and an amenity for companies looking to train or retrain their employees. But more significantly, they are a talent pool for a growing economy and can augment business and technical research and development activities.

Now for the last story within - yours. If you are reading this, you likely live, work or do business here. *Westchase Today* is our vehicle to drill down a bit, and get into the weeds regarding the people and companies here. As a stakeholder, we encourage you to share this newsletter and its stories with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. And we ask you to share your story with us. If there are companies or people that you would like to see featured in a future issue here, please let us know by sending an email to info@westchasedistrict.com.

Meet Our Chief Everything Officer

Whatever the task, COO Dave Gilkeson is game to play ball

A self-described jack of all trades, Westchase District's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Gilkeson has served the District since November 1999. In that time, he's discovered that office operations encompass a wide range of skills, well beyond those of balancing the books and forecasting budgets. And for 18 years, this sports fan has kept the District moving forward to meet its goals in whatever way he can.

Forty years in Houston

A Pennsylvania native, Gilkeson is a proud alumnus of William Penn Charter School in Germantown. "It's older than our country; it was founded in 1689 and it has the oldest continuous football rivalry in the nation with Germantown Academy," he said. "Alumni include many famous athletes, mayors and David Leebron, president of Rice University. It's a pretty neat school and I'm proud to have been a part of it."

After graduating from Cornell University, Gilkeson was working in the hospitality industry when he was relocated to Houston on

February 5, 1978. "I remember the date because I recently popped some champagne and celebrated 40 years that I've been living in the Houston area," he said.

While working other jobs, Gilkeson accumulated finance and accounting experience. Through his involvement with the Junior Chamber - also known as the Jaycees, a leadership training and civic organization for young professionals - he met Jim Murphy in 1986. The two kept in touch over the years and when an opening occurred with the District in 1999, Gilkeson requested an interview and was hired as financial director. "That was so last century," he said jokingly.

Gilkeson later was promoted to vice president of operations then chief operating officer. "Back then, the property value of the area - which was more vacant land than land with buildings - was about \$900 million, today it's around \$5.2 billion," he said. "I recognized that Westchase was a growing area and I sensed that this was something I could anchor onto for a while. I had no idea I would still be with the District 18 years later."

Tiny, Crunchy and Insanely Healthy

Home-based vendors grow microgreens in suburban environments

Smaller than baby greens and bigger than sprouts, microgreens are the tiny, edible greens grown from the seeds of vegetables and herbs. Harvested when they're seven to 14 days old, their flavor is often more intense than that of mature greens and can contain up to five times more nutrients than found in the leaves of the same full-grown plants. While Westchase District Farmers Market has several vendors who sell microgreens, two new vendors have made a splash in recent months with their delicious blends.

Eureka Acres Urban Farm

A former bartender turned microgreen gardener, Joseph Stark always enjoyed growing his own food. Watching "celebrity farmers" on YouTube gave him the confidence to strike out on his own last May with Eureka Acres Urban Farms (eurekaacres.com). "My neighborhood was built on the land of the old Eureka Oil Fields," he explained. Starting with a garden in his backyard, Stark began adapting varieties of plants and growing techniques to match the unique climate of Houston.

Stark grows seven different varieties of Asian greens, four different types of beets as well as carrots, kales, radishes, broccoli, mustard greens and Swiss chard. "Once I ran out of space in my backyard, I took out ads on Facebook, Craigslist and NextDoor, looking for people willing to donate land for gardening and offering vegetables in exchange for the space," he said. "I got about 100 responses and I selected the ones that worked best for my needs. I now farm about 10,000 to 12,000 square feet in 94 beds on six different garden sites at nearby homes and at an elementary school." Stark said he would ideally like to double that amount.

This winter, Houston experienced a hard freeze which hurt many of Stark's

crops, so he's diversified to offering pickles, mustards, jams and dried herbs until warmer temperatures will allow him to bounce back with more produce. "I'm planting more varieties that can turn quickly from seed to harvest," he said. "Also, I'm using certain beds to attract pests so that I can control them sustainably."

Stark said he's trying new plants he's discovered from seed catalogs, and plans to offer eggplant, hot peppers, sweet pepper and okra in the near future. "The first year I wanted to get my core crops dialed in, before I started growing things I'd never tried," he said. "I hope to fill the void between growing cycles with even more varieties for my customers."



Backyard Beds: Joseph Stark, owner of Eureka Acres Urban Farms checks on his crops of lettuce grown from his home.

Veggies in the Burbs

From the dining room and the backyard of their Lakewood Forest home in northwest Houston, husband and wife Don McMillan and Brenda Spurlock (along with Chloe, their Schnauzer) grow 26 varieties of microgreens and seven varieties of lettuce. Since May of last year, they've sold at three different farmers markets as Veggies in the Burbs (veggiesintheburbs.com). "We could probably work more markets, but then we'd have to split up, and we really like spending the time together," McMillan said.

One of the most popular products sold by Veggies in the Burbs came out of

natural disaster: the couple was ready to start selling in late August when Hurricane Harvey hit, which left them with lots of unsold inventory to eat. "We found a creative way to incorporate microgreens into our favorite taco recipes," Spurlock said. This led to them selling a pre-packaged "taco mix" blend of broccoli, red cabbage, cilantro, kale and onions, which has become a hit with customers.

Veggies in the Burbs supplies Season's Harvest Café in Cypress and The Juicy Fix in Jersey Village with microgreens for their juices, smoothies and salads. "We're visiting new restaurants every week and hope to make inroads with more restaurants," McMillan said. "Chefs really seem to love the citrus and Dijon flavors our varieties add to their dishes."

Those flavors are the result of quality ingredients at every step of the growing process, "We only use the best non-GMO seeds, the best organic soil and double-filtered water," McMillan said. "We only sell what we ourselves would want to eat." He said later this year, they will offer peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and jalapenos.

McMillan and Spurlock both said by the end of this year they plan to expand their growing facilities to a 10,000 to 12,000 square-foot building. "We're just looking for the right property because we also plan to live there," McMillan said. "We still want to keep our veggies in the suburbs."



Veggies in the Burbs: Don McMillan and Brenda Spurlock grow lettuce in 14 vertical towers in their backyard grow house in northwest Houston.



Rooted in Quality: By selling plants with the root structure intact, McMillan preserves the shelf life of his lettuce which, when refrigerated properly, can last up to three weeks.

Westchase District Farmers Market

Year-round, rain or shine, Thursdays @ 3 p.m.

St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church
10503 Westheimer Road
(at Rogerdale Road, one block west of Beltway 8)

www.westchasedistrictfarmersmarket.com

The variety of his work is what Gilkeson said has kept him around and makes his job rewarding. "I'm not just the financial guy, I'm doing a lot more than that," he said. "One minute I'm selling sponsorships for our annual Corporate Challenge, the next I'm organizing a committee to perform volunteer work. I may be giving a speech to a community organization one day and troubleshooting office-wide information technology issues the next and handling human resources tasks after that. A few years ago, I oversaw moving our entire office to a new location. So being conversant in a broad range of topics with different types of leaders has kept things interesting."

Fruit trees and football

Gilkeson lives in Katy with Lisa, his wife, their son Christopher and Pepper, their Welsh Corgi. "We have a peach tree that has yet to yield anything, but our grapefruit tree is quite popular with the neighborhood kids," he said. "It's on the other side of our fence, so they help themselves to our grapefruit whenever they want. In my retirement, I plan to stand guard over the tree and enjoy a few grapefruit myself."

An avid sports fan, Gilkeson holds season tickets for the Houston Texans and makes it to about five Astros games a year. However, his Pennsylvania roots run deep and his family was eagerly cheering for the Philadelphia Eagles to win this year's Super Bowl. "We wore our Eagles gear for the big game, but we had a Texans' flag flying in the house as well, so we were a household with divided loyalties," he said laughing.



Horned Eagles: Westchase District Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Gilkeson and his son Christopher celebrated the Philadelphia Eagles' Super Bowl win Texans-style.

Restaurant's Delicious Legacy Continues on Westheimer

Logan Farms moves four blocks west, keeps same great menu and service

Logan Farms Honey Glazed Hams & Market Café recently moved from the intersection of Westheimer and Blue Willow to the Lakeside Village shopping center at 10950 Westheimer. Though the address changed, the popular restaurant remains in Westchase District offering the same quality food and service customers have loved for decades.



Hamming It Up: Logan Farms franchise owner Adam Pisani sold more than 3,000 hams during last year's holiday season.

From Pink to Pisani

Since 1984, founder James "Pink" Logan has worked a threefold business model in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi: retail storefronts for the lunch crowd, event catering and nationwide delivery service for individual and corporate orders. Now in semi-retirement, Logan sold his former Westheimer location last year, creating an opportunity for Adam Pisani. "Pink and I both live in Richmond and we just started talking," he said. "I was impressed with the reputation and the number of corporate clients he had and I wanted to keep the legacy going."

Once Pisani and his business partner purchased the Westheimer franchise, they decided to set up shop as near as possible to the old

location. "There's great visibility on Westheimer and our parking is even better now for our lunchtime business," he said. "We also wanted to make it easy for loyal customers to find us."

Pisani originally planned to open in September, "but then Hurricane Harvey hit and everything got postponed," he said. "Fortunately, we were able to open in November just in time for the big holiday rush." Pisani estimates his location sold

about 3,000 hams in a two-month period.

Storage freezers and hot plates

Whether preparing large corporate gift orders of a variety of meats to glazing just the right ham for a single family, Logan Farms has plenty of room to work. At 5,800 square feet, their new flagship location is their largest to date and features three walk-in cooler/freezers and two kitchens. Employees in the second kitchen prepare daily such customer favorites as Cajun gumbo, shrimp po-boys and fresh market salads.

"There's not many places up and down Westheimer that do what I call southern down-home cooking," Pisani said. "It was really important to us that we keep our daily hot plate specials such as meatloaf, red beans and rice, rotisserie chicken or fish on Fridays."

So what's next? "When this next holiday season rolls around, I want to have more pop-up, satellite locations where people can purchase and pick up," Pisani said. "We think we have a fantastic product, it's just a matter of getting out the word that we're open and ready to serve more folks."



Elbow Room: At 5,800 square feet, Logan Farms' new location has a spacious storefront restaurant as well as two kitchens.

Logan Farms Honey Glazed Hams & Market Café

10950 Westheimer Road • 713-781-3773 • loganfarms.com

Meet the New Rock Stars of the Credit Union World

Smart Financial Credit Union expands its profile from corporate office in Westchase District

Dozens of companies are headquartered in Westchase District; one of the most prominent is Smart Financial Credit Union. What started in 1934 as a credit union for about 10 Houston ISD schoolteachers has grown into a 77,000-member financial cooperative with 18 locations and access to a network of more than 90 automated teller machines. In Westchase District, Smart Financial has a branch at 5840 W. Sam Houston Parkway.

The credit union is owned and operated by its members who put their money in a variety of savings accounts and that money, in turn, is lent to members. After operating expenses and reserve requirements are met, loan income is returned to all members equally in the form of dividends and comprehensive financial services. "While our roots are in education, we've opened our membership base to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in five different counties," said Susan Chapman, Smart Financial's vice president of community engagement.

Planting roots in Westchase District

In 2014, during its 80th anniversary year, Smart Financial moved its corporate office to Westchase District at 6051 North Course Drive. About 100 of Smart



Corporate HQ: Smart Financial Credit Union occupies about 85 percent of the building in Westchase District at 6051 North Course Drive.

Financial's 250 employees work at the corporate office, handling such duties as accounting, information technology and marketing as well as housing executive-level management. "Jacobs Engineering, which is located across the street from us, is one of our largest select employee groups, so that makes it nice that we're close by for those clients," Chapman said. "Also, this location is pretty centrally located for our employees, so it's been a really nice upgrade from where we were before."

Taking Centre stage

The credit union took a huge leap forward in visibility

this year when it secured the naming rights to the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land, a 200,000-square-foot state-of-the-art indoor performance venue that seats up to 6,400. Hosting a diverse lineup of national music and comedy artists, Broadway productions and performing arts attractions, the *Houston Press* ranked it as 2017's hottest music venue.

"We have two branches in Fort Bend County, so we already had a strong presence there, but when the opportunity came along, we decided the centre could provide amazing exposure for us, particularly in an area where we're growing," said Sara Rowe, marketing coordinator. "We have a 750-square-foot activation space that we call The Hub where people can charge their phones. At every show, we have employees who interact with the public in fun ways like via a selfie photo kiosk and through various giveaways. We've been able to reach out to so many individuals and business clients and educate them about what we offer. It's been exciting to be in on the ground floor of something so unique."

Continued expansion and customer service

Chapman said that continued expansion plans include opening a new branch this year in the Katy/Fulshear area. "We are a full-service financial institution and we can do anything for our clients that a bank does, only better," she said. "We make local decisions and we pride ourselves on providing a high level of personal service with all the products and services our customers might need on a personal or business level."



Smart Bankers: Gina Parker (left) and Katrina Rivera are ready to help customers at Smart Financial's storefront location in Westchase District at 5840 W. Sam Houston Pkwy.

Next Generation Office Space Opens on Briarpark

Lockton associates enjoy amenities at newest office building in Westchase District

As the world's largest privately-owned, independent insurance brokerage firm, Lockton Companies, Inc. provides insurance, risk management and employee benefits solutions from 85 locations in 26 countries. Recently, Lockton relocated its 280 Houston employees from the Galleria area to a brand new office building in Westchase District.

Building a better workspace

"Previously, it could take our associates 30 to 40 minutes sometimes to get to a major traffic artery," said Clay Brooks, senior vice president with Lockton. "When our lease came up, we decided to look at what made the most sense for our clients and our people in terms of accessibility."

Lockton conducted focus groups with its Houston employees to determine what they would want in their ideal office. The result of that feedback can be seen at Lockton Place, located at 3657 Briarpark Drive. "Our new location is close to both Beltway 8 and the Westpark Tollway, plus our new parking garage is much easier to get into." Working with Triten Real Estate Partners, Lockton - which occupies about 80,000 square feet on four floors of the eight-story building - had significant input into the design and amenities of the building.

Designers created for Lockton more open spaces with plenty of windows allowing in natural light. Instead of corner offices for executives, the glass corner windows of the building are reserved for employees at workstations to enjoy as much natural light as possible. "The next generation of insurance brokers works differently and so we want a space that will accommodate how they work, meet and even relax," Brooks said. "This building was designed to be scalable and flexible to

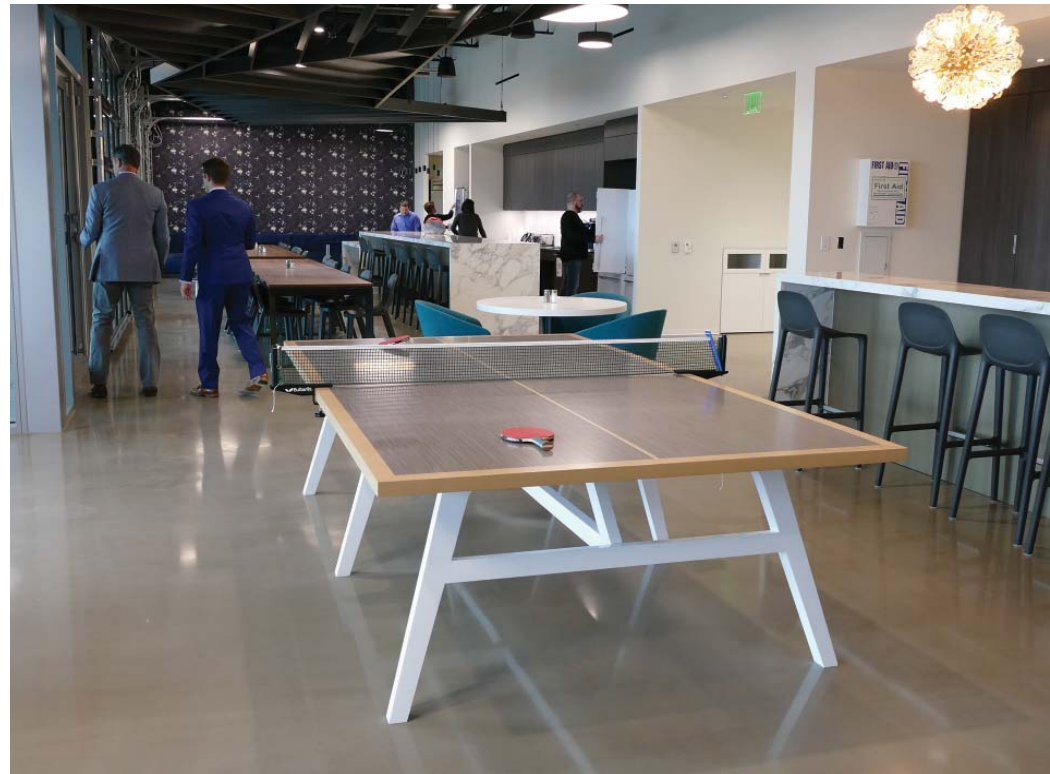


Table Tennis and Touchscreens: The break space at Lockton's office includes an outdoor patio as well as a ping pong table and a touchscreen soda machine.



Bright team, bright office: These Lockton associates enjoy lots of natural light illuminating their workstations at the new Lockton Place at 3657 Briarpark.

allow for growth within the company, whether that's adding more workstations or even utilizing coworking spaces."

Convenience and comfort

Lockton's eighth floor features an expansive break area that can be converted to host meetings as well as social functions and other business gatherings. A ping pong table and a touchscreen soda machine complement an outdoor patio fitted with glass garage-style doors and folding panels that can keep the area cool when the weather heats up. "The space is shaded all day long, so it really gives us options for fresh air with a great view," Brooks said. "It allows us to host events onsite that can better accommodate the schedules of working parents."

Other building amenities include a workout facility with showers, drop-off dry cleaning service, onsite car detailing and Grub, a café that offers beer taps, a ping pong table and catering services. "Whether we need food for small meetings or large events, we can simply order it from downstairs, which is really nice," Brooks said.

"Culture is important to us at Lockton and we wanted to create a workspace that is convenient and comfortable for our associates as well as our clients," said Yara Klimchak, communications specialist with Lockton. "We plan to continue to grow over the next 10 years, so we're looking at what our future associates and our future clients want in the design and aesthetics of their offices. We care not only about retaining our clients but retaining our associates so that we can continue to have those strong customer relationships."

Low-Key Approach Fits District Business to a T

Accent Screen Printing, Inc. quietly decorates millions from Westoffice location

Inside an unassuming service center in Westchase District on Westoffice Drive sits Accent Screen Printing, Inc., a woman-owned business that has quietly been decorating garments with screen printing and embroidery since 1994. Owner Paula Sidler estimates that in 2017 alone, her crew of 12 employees adorned about one million garments with logos, names, numbers and designs.

have to apply one ink color at a time, so it can be tricky lining up the colors just right," she said. A much cleaner process, Sidler said, is embroidery, which can be performed by her 33 computerized embroidery machines. "We can combine colors much easier with just about any color of thread that you want," she said.

Family and friends

Sidler employs an in-house graphic designer who creates original designs as well as marketing, team sales and product specialists. Many of Sidler's employees have been with her for 15 years or more. "We have a husband and wife doing the screen printing and sisters who handle the embroidery work, so it really is a family business," Sidler said. "We even had cribs and playrooms in the office and hired a nanny when our employees had small children. We've raised babies and puppies here."

The warm and friendly atmosphere of the business is heightened by the presence of Ruby, Sidler's dog who often can be found chasing a tennis ball in between machines. It's been quite a journey from a two-car garage to a 3,000 square-foot production facility and Sidler said she feels most rewarded by her extended family of long-term employees. "We're like the song 'Hotel California,'" she said. "Once you check in, people don't ever leave."

Accent Screen Printing, Inc.

10400 Westoffice Drive, Suite 110 • 713-782-6683 • accentscreenprint.com



Reviewing the Fine Print: Owner Paula Sidler holds up a finished product from one of her screen printers.

From P.E. to printing

A former health and physical education teacher, Sidler said she would take her children to sports activities and would order t-shirts for them. When one vendor decided to get out of the t-shirt printing business, Sidler and her friends purchased his small machine. They moved it into Sidler's garage and began a side business. "From there, it grew to the point where I had to decide which job I wanted to work full-time," she said. "This one gave me the flexibility to spend more time with my kids."

Leveraging her contacts in education, Sidler has worked with many schools and sports leagues. "I never wanted a walk-in storefront where people just want to buy two or three shirts today," she said. "I want customers who want several hundred shirts delivered next week. That said, we'll work with anyone who wants a logo on just about anything. We have a network of vendors who can print on various promotional items we don't carry in house."

Sidler has multiple machines that can screen print full-color images on t-shirts, jerseys and other fabrics. "It's a labor-intensive process because you



Ball Caps and a Blue Healer: Paula Sidler and her dog, Ruby, check on a stitching order with embroidery specialist Chela Saucedo.



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Two Generations of Jorsches on Patrol

Officers Jon Jorsch and Jonathan Jorsch, Jr. work the streets of Westchase District

Several of our Houston Police Department officers serving on Westchase District Patrol have tenures dating back a decade or longer and now we've even started to see a father/son trend among officers. Last year, we profiled Glen and Alex Mayo; this issue we introduce you to the Jorsches.



Older Model, Newer Model: HPD Sergeant Jonathan Jorsch (left) stands beside a 2004 Ford Expedition while his son, HPD Officer Jonathan Jorsch, Jr., (right) has the keys to one of the District's 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicles. Both men work for the Westchase District patrol.

Reconnection and relocation

Jon Jorsch, Sr. is a Wisconsin native who joined HPD in 2007 and was recently promoted to sergeant. Following a divorce in his early 20s, Jorsch was involuntarily separated from his young son for years until as a high school student, Jonathan Jorsch, Jr. located his father's MySpace page and

reached out to him. "It was like a plot twist out of a movie," the younger Jorsch said. On one visit to Houston, Jonathan was riding along with his dad when he watched him make an arrest of a suspect fleeing an accident scene. "That was when I knew that policework is what I wanted to get into," he said.

After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro with a bachelor's degree in international relations, Jonathan moved to Houston to attend the police academy in 2014. "My dad lived in Houston and was working for HPD. He really seemed to enjoy his work and it was an opportunity to establish a relationship with him," he said.

Police and people

Jorsch, Jr. moved on to vehicular crimes as a fatality crash investigator and currently is on the DWI task force, proactively looking for impaired drivers or investigating crash scenes and evaluating drivers' sobriety. "The best part of my job is when a drunk driver gets argumentative with me and tells me I should be out doing real police work. That's when I know I've helped to prevent that driver from potentially killing someone. That's when I know that I am doing real police work. Getting people off the street before they kill someone feels a lot better than arriving upon a crash scene when it's too late."

Both patrolmen said they appreciated meeting people when canvassing Westchase District. "It's a smaller area to cover, so I can get to calls faster," Jorsch, Sr. said. "Plus, I get to know some of the business owners and citizens who live here." Jorsch, Jr. agreed. "I like that I get to meet so many people and for the most part just check in on them," he said. "On my HPD night shift, I don't really encounter anyone who's having a good day. In Westchase District, I meet a lot of happy people having good days."

Rare reunions

Off-duty, Jorsch, Sr. enjoys taking cruises with his wife and seven-year-old daughter and has developed a passion for home improvement projects. "So far, I've gutted my kitchen and master bathroom," he said. When not working patrols, Jorsch, Jr. enjoys spending time as an advisor for the HPD Explorers program, which works with students ages 14 to 21 who are considering careers in law enforcement emphasizing career opportunities, life skills, service learning, character education and leadership experience.

With busy lives, it's a rare occasion the Jorsches see each other these days. "We've been on opposite shifts, but I do get to see him at work every once in a while," Jorsch, Sr. said. Sometimes mini-family reunions take place on Westchase District Patrol.

Frost Bank New Title Sponsor for Corporate Challenge

Outdoor fun fundraiser enters 21st year with new sponsors, events

As it approaches a sellout attendance, the 21st Annual Westchase District Corporate Challenge is shaping up to be one of the most exciting ever. The event - which will take place Friday, April 6 at Quillian Recreation Center - has a new title sponsor in Frost Bank, an organization with longtime Westchase District ties that has participated with a team competing all 21 years.

"We've always been big fans of the challenge and when the sponsorship opportunity became available, we jumped on it," said Scott Odom, Frost Bank community leader. "Frost is committed to serving the Westchase community and we think this event is a great way to bring members of the business community together for some fun times."

New events

Frost's title sponsorship isn't the only thing new in 2018. Along with returning favorites like dodgeball, the soccer kick and the barefoot briefcase relay, this year's "field day for adults" will feature three new competitive events: NBA Around the World; Kickball; and the "Crack the Code" Invisible Maze. Whether you're speedy and strong or just tagging along, a good time will be had by all, bonding and networking with other District business people while raising money for the Westchase District Community Fund.

"We're always looking for ways to keep Corporate Challenge fresh and exciting for our teams," said Sherry Fox, Westchase District's vice president of communications. "This year, we've partnered with Playworks Texas, a local nonprofit that works with elementary schools and youth organizations to encourage healthy activity and safe, meaningful play. They tweaked our basketball event and came up with two other new events that I think everyone will really enjoy."

Worthy cause

That mix of the sure-to-please with the surprising keeps many companies coming back year after year. "This is LAN's third year to participate and we love the challenge," said Ricky Gonzalez, senior project coordinator with engineering firm Lockwood Andrews and Newnam. Gonzalez is also a volunteer board member of the Westchase District Community Fund, the 501 (c)(3) charitable arm of Westchase District. Corporate Challenge is the nonprofit's largest fundraising event of the year. Since 1998, the event has raised more than \$243,000 for area charities, including the WDCF and the Quillian Center's summer day camps.

Gonzalez added that the fund's ability to help address community needs for those living in Westchase District is tied directly to the success of the event. "We simply couldn't distribute to as many worthwhile local organizations without the funds raised during the annual Corporate Challenge," he said.

Stiff competition

While the event is billed as "No Serious Athletics, Just Serious Fun," the friendly competition among some businesses can get intense. Teams from Costello Engineering have won the last seven consecutive challenges, which means other teams are gunning to upset their winning streak.

"Our company is community-minded, but we'd also love to knock Costello off their throne," said Connor Young with Pape-Dawson Engineers. Pape-Dawson will have four teams competing this year and the firm is also a major sponsor of the event. "I went to school with a lot of people who are now my colleagues at other engineering firms in the District, so it's fun to get competitive with them in a friendly way."

Thanks to all our major sponsors, who include: Amegy Bank; Camden; D.E. Harvey Builders; The Goodman Corporation;

Houston Marriott Westchase; Kuo & Associates; Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, Olympus Property Management; Pape-Dawson Engineers; Parkway Properties; Playworks; Premier America Credit Union; PS Lightwave; Quillian Center; Raba Kistner; Residences 2727; and Westchase Auto Repair Center, as well as our lunch provider, Cantina Laredo.



Feets of Strength: The barefoot briefcase relay will be a returning event to the 21st Annual Westchase District Corporate Challenge on April 6 at Quillian Center.

(Continued from Page 1)

Also housed at the Hayes Road campus is HCC's Center for Entrepreneurship. "We assist aspiring and existing entrepreneurs who are from all walks of life, age groups and backgrounds," said Sandra Louvier, the center's director. "Many have already been to college and are coming back to get just what they need to know, to do what they want to do, with what they already know, to turn it into a business, or to grow the business further."

The center offers small business workshops, seminars, quick online continuing education classes and college credit classes, certificates and a two-year degree in entrepreneurship.



Houston Community College
2811 Hayes Road • 713-718-6870 • hccs.edu

HCC Center for Entrepreneurship
2811 Hayes Road • 713-718-6650 • hccbizconnect.org

A flexible foundation

Regionally accredited through the Higher Learning Commission, American InterContinental University offers programs in accounting, business administration, criminal justice, healthcare management and information technology. Various degrees are offered at the associate's, bachelor's and master's level. "Whether needing a degree for an entry-level job or to promote within a current career, AIU can provide students with a quality education," said Brandye Cowan, associate director of admissions.

AIU has a student body of about 400, with a mix of domestic and international students. While many classes are offered online, at least 50 percent of classes must be taken on campus to graduate. Graduate degrees cost about \$25,000. AIU has partnerships with many companies which provide students with financial grants.

"We offer flexible scheduling for working students with families," Cowan said. "Our professors and department chairs have an open door policy for students needing extra support, we offer after-hours live chats through our website for answering questions and we have a learning center that offers free tutoring, which can be helpful for students who have been out of the classroom for a while."



American InterContinental University
9999 Richmond Avenue
832-201-3500 • aiuniv.edu

Prestigious. Professional. Paralegal.

Performing delegated work for which an attorney is ultimately responsible, paralegals perform a variety of tasks including maintaining and organizing files, drafting documents and conducting legal research. Following the recession of 2008, many law firms have replaced lawyers with paralegals on their staffs as a way to reduce costs, which has increased demand for paralegals. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of paralegals and legal assistants to grow 15 percent by 2025. Helping to meet the need for qualified paralegals is The Center for Advanced Legal Studies, located in Westchase District at 800 W. Sam Houston Pkwy.

Since 1987, the center has graduated more than 6,000 students as certified paralegals. It offers a paralegal certificate program for students with an associate's degree or higher for about \$9,300 as well as an associate of applied science degree

program for about \$23,500. Traditional daytime weekday classes accommodate the schedules of stay-at-home parents, though about 80 percent of the center's students take courses online. "Whether our students live in the Houston area or outside the Texas or U.S. borders, our online interactive instruction allows students real-time, face-to-face teaching with our instructors," said James Scheffer, director of admissions.



Center for Advanced Legal Studies
800 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. S., Suite 100
713-529-2778 • paralegal.edu

Affordable associate degrees

While new to the area, Interactive College of Technology has served students in Houston since 1987 from a location on Hillcroft. Last year, the college moved into 30,000 square feet in Westchase District. ICT offers two-year Associate of Science degrees in office technology with emphases in accounting, business information systems and administrative support. It also offers diplomas in accounting, business information systems, administrative support and medical office administration.

With courses costing about \$400 per credit hour, the college is ranked by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the best values for private, for-profit, two-year colleges. "Financial aid and work/study programs are available as well," said Cynthia Bryson, campus director. "We don't want to see our students in debt; we want to see them well-equipped to get jobs."



Interactive College of Technology
2950 South Gessner Road
713-771-5336 • ict.edu

Thinking Theologically

Founded in Pasadena, California, Fuller Theological Seminary established its Texas campus in Westchase District in 2007. Whether you're considering preparing for traditional Christian ministry or want to pursue graduate theological studies as an academic career, Fuller offers a nondenominational education that provides students with not so much as an answer book but rather a guidebook for addressing spiritual questions. Currently about 120 students take a mix of evening, weekend and online classes. A masters of theology costs \$33,000, while a masters of divinity costs about \$50,000.

"One of the most beneficial aspects of studying at Fuller is the broad spectrum of views found in the classroom," said Michael Murray, Fuller Texas regional director. "Because our coursework is designed to be multid denominational, there's a healthy exchange between students and a mutual respect that develops when recognizing their similarities and differences. We don't provide students with all the solutions, instead we teach them how to think theologically about topics in ways that are helpful and healthy."



Fuller Theological Seminary
10200 Richmond Avenue, Suite 170
713-360-3400 • fuller.edu/texas

Neighborhood News

Woodchase Park is becoming a reality! Recently, Westchase District General Manager Jim Murphy (left) inspected the site with Ali Choudhri (right), president of Jetall Companies. Choudhri sold the parcel to the City of Houston, which purchased the property on behalf of the District.

OJB Landscape Architecture will design the park and OJB, along with Westchase District, is seeking community input about what amenities should be included in the park. The 1.8-acre park site is located on Woodchase Drive just north of the Westpark Tollway.



Jonathan Lowe, Westchase District's assistant communications director (left), was recently installed as a member of the Houston West Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors by Board Chair Tony Samper (right). Lowe's appointment underscores the District's commitment to active involvement in the local business community.

Without being too wordy, we'd like to inform you of a Scrabble club that meets in Westchase District on Sundays at 2 p.m. at Jason's Deli, 11081 Westheimer Road. It's free to check out and players are encouraged to show up a few minutes early to ensure proper pairing.

Scrabble Club #359 is an official club of the North American Scrabble Players Association that plays four games every Sunday afternoon. Organizers welcome players of all skill levels. Current players range from 12 years old to 70+.

In addition to weekly club sessions, the club hosts tournaments twice a year. The next tournament, the H-Town Showdown Scrabble Tournament, will take place March 24 and 25 at the Hilton Houston Westchase, 9999 Westheimer. More than 50 players from across Texas are expected to attend.

Questions? Contact Judy Newhouse, 281-682-8781.

