

UPTOWN UPDATE



CONSTRUCTION REPORT: NEW ROADS AND NEW OPTIONS

The Uptown Houston District worked diligently this summer to ensure traffic continued to flow in and out of Uptown during a major construction project on **San Felipe**. After extensive utility work was completed on San Felipe, new pavement was poured to replace the deteriorating pavement, and a new westbound lane was added. All street work is scheduled for completion by early November 2009, six months ahead of schedule. Other improvements on San Felipe include new curbs, wider sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and landscaped medians; these will all be completed early next year.

Other roads in Uptown have been completed as well, making for more options and less congestion. **Post Oak Lane** and **Skylark**, the new roads dubbed the "missing link," which run north and south connecting San Felipe to Ambassador Way, are now open and allow commuters to get from the Galleria to Woodway without ever driving on Westheimer, Post Oak Boulevard or San Felipe. In addition, **Garretson** and **Ambassador Way** are now fully functioning streets offering more routes for travel around Uptown.



START THE HOLIDAYS WITH HOUSTON'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION

Mark your calendar and help us welcome the holidays to Houston at the **24th Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting** presented by **TXU Energy**, benefitting **Sheltering Arms Senior Services** and **Be An Angel**.

This FREE event on November 26, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., will feature holiday music from the **Houston Concert Band** and **Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir**, holiday characters and larger than life Santa's reindeer. Prepare to join in on Houston's largest sing-a-long which welcomes Santa for a special appearance to illuminate more than a half million lights on 80 trees and kick-off a magnificent fireworks finale.

Everyone's favorite start to the holidays is right around the corner – come be a part of the spirit! For more information, please visit www.uptown-houston.com.

MARKET NEWS:

Uptown Houston's Office Market continues to hold strong in this unpredictable economic climate. Second Quarter of 2009 showed an **88.4 percent occupancy rate**, in line with Houston's overall occupancy rate of 86 percent.

The Retail Market in Uptown is also at a healthy **98 percent occupancy rate** at the end of the second quarter 2009. And, Uptown's Hotel Market leads the city in revenue per available room (RevPAR) with a steady **\$96.81**.

RETAIL NEWS:

On October 31, from 1 - 4 p.m., enjoy family entertainment, costumes and tricks or treats from participating stores at the **Galleria Spooktacular**. For more information, visit www.simon.com.

The elegant **Hotel Derek** is now home to a brand new restaurant, **PS Valentino Vin Bar**. Under the direction of highly-acclaimed executive chef Luciano Pellegrini, Valentino serves creative Italian cooking which focuses on the traditional and seasonal food-of-the-region. For more information, please visit www.valentinorestaurant.com.



WALK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Uptown Houston recently **completed pedestrian improvements** on Ambassador Way and Garretson, including installing pedestrian lights, widening the sidewalks and landscaping; these improvements are the model for Uptown's new pedestrian friendly environment. To make the Uptown streets brighter and more comfortable for people walking around the area, the Uptown Houston Development Authority Board of Directors awarded a \$14 million contract to Kenmore Electric. Almost **700 new pedestrian lights** will be installed beginning this month on Post Oak Lane, Uptown Park Boulevard, McCue and San Felipe. Pedestrian improvements on Westheimer and West Alabama will begin in early 2010.

ALOFT FINDS A HOME IN UPTOWN

Uptown Houston now has a chic new hotel in the neighborhood, **Aloft Houston by the Galleria**. This 152-room hotel, located at 5433 Westheimer Rd., is a new concept in "lifestyle" hotels, with loft-like guestrooms, cutting-edge technology, urban-influenced design and expansive public spaces like the "re:mix" lounge. Aloft's modern accommodations mixed with their chic bar, "**wxyz**," offer a great option for both out-of-town travelers and locals looking for a quick get-away. For more information, visit www.alofthouston.com.



TXU ENERGY HELPS BRING THE LIGHTS TO UPTOWN

Uptown Holiday Lighting would not be possible year after year without the support of our sponsors. For the third consecutive year, **TXU Energy** will serve as the title sponsor, making this year's lighting even brighter than before. TXU Energy's generous donation not only helps to bring this FREE event of the season to Houston, but it also brings holiday cheer to two deserving charities, **Sheltering Arms Senior Services**, which provides services to the elderly, and **Be An Angel**, which lends a hand to Houston's youth.



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