

UPTOWN UPDATE

REMEMBERING OUR LEADER, OUR FRIEND

William James "Bill" Miller, founder and Board Chairman of the Uptown Houston Association and the Uptown Houston District, passed away on July 18, 2006, at home.

Bill served as Vice Chairman and former President of Tanglewood Corporation and its affiliated companies. Founded in the mid-1930s, the Tanglewood Corporation traces its history in Houston for more than 50 years, and today is still wholly family owned.

Before joining the family-owned company, Bill served as President and CEO of Houston Engineers, Inc. and as Founding President of Miller Oil and Gas Operations. He received M.B.A. from Harvard and a Bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. In addition, he served his country as a Sergeant of the 11th Airborne Division of the United States Air Force.

A driving force behind the success of Uptown/Galleria area, Bill founded the Uptown Houston Association (formerly City Post Oak Association) in 1976 and the Uptown Houston District (Harris County Improvement District #1) in 1986. During his 30-year tenure, Bill was instrumental in transforming the area into what it is today – one of the world's leading urban districts and a welcoming and memorable destination of choice.



MOBILITY UPDATE

In August, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will close the right turn onto **Hidalgo Street** from the West Loop southbound frontage road until further notice. Following the closure, commuters using the frontage road south of Westheimer will be forced to enter the freeway, accessing either US 59-Southwest Freeway or the southbound West Loop to Bellaire. The West Loop Hidalgo exit ramp is not impacted.



THE GALLERIA TO UNVEIL RENOVATED LORD & TAYLOR SPACE

The Galleria, long known as Houston's best shopping destination for its fine retailers and convenient location, will unveil a newly renovated space, formerly Lord & Taylor, early next month.

The renovated space will feature 100,000 square feet of new signature restaurants, including **The Oceanaire Seafood Room**, **Del Frisco's** and **Kona Grill** as well as specialty shops and a children's soft play area.



With the barricade now taken down, store openings are not far behind. **J. Crew** and **Papyrus** will be the first stores open for business. Additional openings will continue throughout the end of this year and into 2007. "With this redevelopment project, we are excited to offer our shoppers a greater variety of fine dining choices and select specialty shops," said Art Spellmeyer, executive Vice President of development for Simon Property Group. "These additions continue to place The Galleria as one of the premier shopping destinations in the country."

OFFICE UPDATE

Black & Veatch, a global engineering, consulting and construction company, has leased approximately 10,000 square feet in Sage Plaza located at 5151 San Felipe. The company is moving to Uptown from its Richmond at Wilcrest location.

TAX-FREE SHOPPING WEEKEND HITS STORES ON AUGUST 4

On **August 4 – 6**, Houstonians, mostly back-to-school shoppers, will once again enjoy the state's annual sales tax holiday weekend. For the eighth consecutive year, a record number of shoppers are expected to visit the Uptown/Galleria area to take advantage of the wide variety of merchandise and price points as well as the numerous affordable shopping alternatives.

This year's sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 4 and ends at midnight on Sunday, August 6. For 72 hours, qualifying items, mostly clothing and footwear priced less than \$100, are exempt from local and state sales tax. For more information on tax-free shopping, visit www.window.state.tx.us.



RETAIL UPDATE

According to the Texas State Comptroller's office, retail sales in **Uptown Houston totaled \$1.8 billion** in 2005, accounting for more than 10 percent of the total sales tax revenue for the City of Houston.

Kharisma Hair Studio, a new chic salon, opened last month in Shops on Sage at 2800 Sage Road. The studio, owned by Eric Lindsey and Loris Fusi, combines a professional environment with unparalleled experience and artistry.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Todd Casper, Director of Asset Services for CB Richard Ellis, is responsible for the management of more than nine-million-square-feet of commercial property, including office and industrial buildings, as well as neighborhood and regional shopping centers.

Prior to joining CB Richard Ellis, Todd was employed for 14 years with Simon Property Group and Urban Retail Properties. While serving as Vice President and General Manager of The Galleria mixed-use complex, Todd oversaw the \$25 million renovation and \$100 million expansion of the shopping center, which currently boasts sales in excess of \$600 per square foot. Todd also served as Vice President and General Manager of 900 North Michigan, a 66-story, 2.7 million-square-foot, mixed-use complex in Chicago, which included a vertical shopping center on seven floors, a half-million square feet of Class A office space, a Four Seasons Hotel and 125 luxury condominiums.

Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois. He was appointed to the Uptown Houston District Board of Directors in 2000.



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