

UPTOWN UPDATE

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Uptown Houston recently completed the spring planting around the District. Year after year, the flowers continue to be a signature icon for the area. Special care was taken to select groups of vibrant flowers to enhance the medians. Some featured groupings include:

- Indian Summer Rudbeckia, Rapid Blue Eyes Lobelia, Little Boy Orange Marigolds, White Petunias
- Golden Daisy Bush, Pink Gem Caladiums, Rosita Portulaca, Blue-Violet Tapien Verbena
- Indian Summer Rudbeckia, Butterfly White Penta, Vista Red Salvia, Million Gold Melampodium



RESIDENTIAL NEWS

Uptown Houston bids farewell to James Coney Island at **1600 Post Oak Boulevard**, which served customers its famous coney for nearly 30 years. In its place, Randall Davis has broken ground on a new high-rise tower, **The Cosmopolitan**. The 20-story residential condominium development will house 75 units ranging in size from 1,150 square feet to 3,000 square feet. Prices start in the high \$300,000s. The Cosmopolitan is scheduled to open Fall 2007.



HOTEL SPOTLIGHT

HILTON HOUSTON POST OAK SPREADS THE SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ITS WALLS

John Binick, General Manager of **Hilton Houston Post Oak**, encourages his team members to be hospitable in everything they do, both at work and in the community. He believes it's what makes his property stand apart from the rest and AAA Texas agrees.

Hilton Houston Post Oak was one of only eight hotels in the

greater Houston area to receive the **AAA Four Diamond Award in 2006**, an honor reserved for hotels that deliver

premier experiences, complete with superior personal service, first-class amenities and impressive surroundings according to Mark Bell, general manager for AAA Texas.

The Hilton Houston Post Oak also is a key partner in the annual Uptown Holiday Lighting event. Guests who book their rooms specifically for the event not only enjoy a spectacular show from the Hilton's central location, but also celebrate a unique and fun Thanksgiving tradition year after year.

For more information on the Hilton Houston Post Oak, call 713-961-9300 or visit www.hilton.com

Hilton Houston Post Oak's prime location in the heart of Uptown, combined with its newly renovated sophisticated interior and excellence in guest services keeps customers coming back for more.



RETAIL NEWS

Barneys New York opened its 10th CO-OP store in The Galleria on April 20th. The 7,000-square-foot store now occupies the former J. Crew space. Meanwhile, **J. Crew** has temporarily moved to the Galleria's recent expansion (between Foley's and Nordstrom) until its new space in the former Lord & Taylor wing opens this fall.

In August, **Elizabeth Anthony/ Esther Wolfe** will move from The Pavilion on Post Oak Boulevard to a new two-story, 5,500-square-foot space next door to David Brown Flowers in **Uptown Park**.

KUDOS

Uptown Houston congratulates the local **AAA Four Diamond Award Winners** in the hotel category: **InterContinental Houston, Hilton Houston Post Oak, The Houstonian, Westin Oaks** and **Westin Galleria**.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Louis S. Sklar has been with Hines for more than 35 years and currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Development and Operations for Hines. He also serves as a Director for AIM Funds-Houston.

Louis is an active board member on numerous civic and charitable organizations, including Central Houston, Friends of Hermann Park, Houston Music Hall Foundation, Houston Zoo Task Force, Rice University Jones Graduate School of Management Council of Overseers, Scenic Houston and the Stella Link Redevelopment Association. Louis served as a United States Naval Line Officer and received a Bachelor's degree from Rice University. He was appointed to, and has served on, the Uptown Houston District Board of Directors since the organization's creation in 1987.



OFFICE UPDATE

In a recent *REDNews* article, Michelle Wogan, Marketing Director for **Transwestern Commercial Services**, reported that Uptown Houston's office market has seen a tremendous amount of leasing activity over the past two quarters. Additionally, net absorption has almost doubled in the last year, from 232,000 square feet to 402,000 square feet. One of the most active properties in 2005 was **Williams Tower**, which reduced its availability to 64,000 square feet of contiguous available space, down from 500,000 square feet of contiguous space in 2004.

After decades in the Upper Kirby district, **Page Parkes Corporation**, the largest model and talent group in the Southwest, has moved to Uptown Houston. The spacious 9,000-square-foot office is located at **1535 West Loop South**.

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