

GSWIDA ★ Newsletter

corporate citizens building a better tomorrow

President's Message: A few savings for your bottom line...

We are all happy to have the past two years behind us and I am beginning to sense a feeling of cautious optimism amongst our business community. While plenty of obstacles may lie ahead, everywhere you look companies are once again working toward their future instead of just worrying about it.



Jim Hazard
GSWIDA President

Today's article will ensure you're not leaving money on the table as you build for the future by capitalizing on Triple Freeport, The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, Job Creation Act of 2010, and 179D Tax Deduction.

Triple Freeport is one of the easiest tax exemptions, but many companies forget they must file every year. How valuable is this tax exemption? For every \$1,000,000 worth of goods that are shipped out of Texas within 175 days of receiving the goods, approximately \$22,000 is exempt from business property taxes. While the deadline for this exemption is April 30, I recommend filing today to ensure vital capital does not slip away. Visit your central appraisal district's website for more information and to download a Triple Freeport Exemption form.

With the amount of uncertainty we've faced the past two years, the prudent decision was to cut spending and build cash reserves. While depleting those reserves is likely not the best course of action, the time may be right to proceed with capital expenditures that have been delayed. The bill, signed on Dec. 17, 2010, increases the immediate depreciation percentage to 100 percent for property acquired and placed in service after Sept. 8, 2010, and before Jan. 1, 2012. Of importance is the definition of "property," which includes machinery, furniture, computer software, and much more (consult your accountant). This may not create the expected \$50 billion in investments, but I hope many Texas companies take advantage so we may continue to lead the national recovery.

In an effort to improve the energy efficiency of commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020, the 179D Tax Deduction was passed in the Better Building Initiative. Of importance is the fact this was passed as a tax credit, not a deduction, which allows for dollar-for-

(President's Message, continued page 2)



Quarterly Luncheon

Healthcare Reform
Affecting You and Your Business

Featuring Michelle L. Dortch
Vice President
Resolution Benefits Design

Thursday, March 24, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Cacharel Restaurant
2221 E. Lamar, 7th Floor Ballroom

Spectacular views
overlooking Cowboy Stadium!

Register online at

www.gswida.org

Keep Texas Smart - Make Education a Top Priority

The financial situation facing our school district for the next school year is grim. This is a time in our lives when we need to stand together and realize what is important....*the education of our children*. The GSW Association is a community supporter in our local schools and has taken a stance on education as the children in our school district are our future workforce. *They will lead by the example we set now*. In addition to building and furnishing the Reading Literacy Library at Eisenhower, we have been instrumental in campus improvements at Roark. We want to continue this path by encouraging our businesses to be involved and share ideas with legislators.

According to the Save Texas Schools website, Texas schools are in financial crisis due to a projected \$27 billion hole in the state budget. In short, the state does not have enough money to continue funding public education at current levels without increasing taxes. Looming layoffs for thousands of teachers and school administra-

(Keep Texas Smart, continued page 2)



Terry Jones
GSWIDA Board Member

TMAC: Work Smart. Grow Smart.

I am excited to enter into a collaborative relationship as a new Board member with the Great Southwest Association. TMAC works with companies to improve productivity and profitable growth. We specialize in manufacturing process improvement projects. However many of the continuous improvement tools we use appropriately segue into administrative processes as well. From the Basic Tools of Lean 101 to advanced Lean Six Sigma methodologies, TMAC prides itself in providing object 3rd party assessment and consulting and training. TMAC also supports the Manufacturers Association of North Texas, MANT. MANT provides technical awareness workshops, facility tours and grassroots advocacy for industry and logistics in North Texas.

We look forward to a long and beneficial partnerships with GSWIDA – Let’s work together to make the Great Southwest Industrial Park a world-class business destination!

Deborreh M. Wallace
Customer Relations Manager and MANT Chair

The University of Texas at Arlington
Automation & Robotics Research Institute
7300 Jack Newell Blvd. South
Fort Worth, TX 76118



Road Update: SH-360 and Division Street



Artist rendering courtesy of txdot.gov

The artist conceptual drawing above shows how the SH-360/Division Street interchange should appear when construction is complete.

TxDOT began road construction in March of 2009 to alleviate a major bottleneck for motorists at the SH-360 and Division Street interchange. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011, the \$56 million project will reconstruct two Division Street bridges and the adjacent Union Pacific Railroad bridge. Also included is the addition of shoulders on SH-360, improved ramp access to Division Street, and new continuous frontage roads under the UP rail lines.

The main lanes of SH-360 (from I-30 to Abram Street) will be reconstructed as an eight lane highway, with allowance for possible future expansion to 10 lanes. SH-360 (from Abram Street to I-20) will be expanded to eight lanes using the existing median.

You can access daily lane closures at: www.txdot.gov (Keyword: Road Conditions)

(Keep Texas Smart, from page 1)

tors could be detrimental to public school districts, cause a dip in local customer confidence and stymie economic recovery, according to school finance experts.

A key factor of the state budget short-fall is due to an ongoing structural problem created in 2005 when the Texas Legislature reduced property taxes by one-third. State legislators increased the business tax and cigarette tax at the same time, but these changes did not produce enough money to offset funds lost due to property tax cuts.

In addition, the national economic downturn caused a drop in state sales tax collections, which are only now starting to rebound. Additionally, one-time general revenue funds and federal stimulus funds – both of which were used to help balance the previous state budget – are no longer available. Finally, enrollment in Texas schools and community colleges continues to grow, while at same time, declining property values have resulted in falling local property tax revenues.

On the plus side, the state does have a Rainy Day Fund of more than \$9 billion, and money has also been accumulating in the Permanent School Fund. It is crucial that legislators use these resources to help our schools until state and local revenues can rebound. The legislature could also choose to reduce some of the costly state mandates it has placed on Texas schools, to allow more local control and greater fiscal flexibility during the current crisis. Additionally, gaming could be considered as a new revenue source.

I encourage you to learn more and share your opinions with your elected representative today! To locate your elected representative, visit www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us.

(President’s Message, from page 1)

dollar returns. The immediate credit can be up to \$1.80 PSF for improvements to interior lighting, HVAC, water systems, and the building’s envelope. For more information, call me at (972) 774-2554.

I wish everyone the best this year, and hope we all have a very prosperous 2011!

Export Controls From A to Z: Everything You Need to Know About Export Compliance

March 8-10, 2011
Irving, Texas

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security will present a national three day export compliance seminar at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel in Irving on March 8-10, 2011. This is the only official BIS export administration regulations controls and compliance program that will be held in Texas in 2011. It is also only one of two official BIS ITAR events presently scheduled to be held in the entire U.S. in 2011.

The three day program will cover the entire spectrum of U.S. export controls for both commercial and defense-related exports. The basics of EAR and ITAR export controls will be discussed along with how to develop and implement an effective export compliance program.

For more information, visit www.exporttexas.com or contact the North Texas Export Assistance Center, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1450 Hughes, Grapevine, Texas, at (817) 310-3744.

 *ArlingtonAnswers.com*

JOB FAIR



With Employers on Site

- 50+ Employers on Site
- Resume Critiquing & Job Coaching
- Community Resources & More

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Grace Community Church
801 W. Bardin Road
Arlington, TX 76017

Employer Registration
begins at 8:30 am

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
FOR TARRANT COUNTY

**Please participate and register your company
by calling Arlington Answers at (817) 224-2277.**



BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFASTS

Free for members of the GSWIDA, \$10 for non-members.

RSVP to Jessica@pdqtemporaries.com

7:45 a.m. - Breakfast and informal networking

8:00 a.m. - Elevator pitches

8:45 a.m. - Small group networking

Door prizes at the end! Bring your business cards.

Board Member Spotlight

GSWIDA is proud to welcome Amber Gosser and the Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) to the Board of Directors. Under the direction of the Texas Workforce Commission, the WSTC is responsible for overseeing nearly \$55 million in employment and training dollars to benefit businesses and citizens in Tarrant County. The Tarrant County workforce development system consists of eight area Workforce Centers, two of which are recognized by national organizations as “model one-stop centers.” The Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County Board strives for continuous improvement in the workforce system and actively fosters economic development efforts throughout the region, and is committed to a philosophy of innovation, strategic and function integration to meet the needs of their customers now and in the future.

Amber has been in the workforce development arena for over 10 years, and currently serves as Business Services Director for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County where she works with more than 30,000 businesses throughout the county to assist with their recruiting and training needs by providing technical and financial assistance.



Amber Gosser
Business Services Director
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County
www.workforcesolutions.net



Consider joining the Association

Our Mission:

To promote, maintain and continue development of the park based on the common interests of the property owners and businesses of the Great Southwest Industrial Park.

Business Membership:

\$250 annually.

To join, visit us at www.gswida.org, click on “Membership,” pay online or download an application to mail.

Great Southwest Industrial District Association Newsletter • Editor: Terry Jones • Design: Whitney Fowler



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