

THE PORT REPORT

APRIL 2004

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

Delivering an Expanded College Internship Program

Program offers exposure, practical career experience

The program is open to students who are permanent residents of Harris County, Texas and currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs at accredited colleges and universities.

Internship positions are available for the summer and fall 2004 semesters in all PHA divisions, including administration, trade development, facilities, operations, small business development and public affairs. Housing and transportation are not included. Pre-employment drug screening is mandatory for all selected candidates.

The deadlines for applications are 5 p.m. on April 23, 2004, for summer positions and 5 p.m. on August 2, 2004, for fall positions. Students may submit resumes via e-mail addressed to PHA-Resumes@poha.com or via fax to 713-670-2479. Resumes may also be submitted in person during normal business hours from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at PHA's executive office building located at 111 East Loop North (exit 29 off Loop 610) in Houston.

For more information, call Deborah Garner, PHA human resources generalist, at 713-670-2816 or visit <http://www.portofhouston.com/employment/employment.html>.



Lighting the Way to Volunteerism



PHA Managing Director Wade Battles, left, and Chairman Jim Edmonds, right, congratulate Scott Aspelin for his award-winning volunteer name.

Being a good neighbor means supporting the community. That's the message the PHA conveys in its newly unveiled volunteer organization: PHA Community SupPORTers. Scott Aspelin submitted the winning name, which was revealed during employee celebrations at the executive office building and Barbours Cut Terminal on April 22. For his creative efforts, Aspelin received a \$100 Wal-Mart gift certificate, and his department received a free lunch courtesy of Ninfa's Restaurant. Aspelin, who began working at the port authority in January, said he was very surprised to hear his entry called out as the winner.

"I wanted to submit a name that had the word 'port' in it, but one that didn't start with port," he said. "My wife helped me brainstorm through different words that might have the word 'port' in it somewhere. That's when I put the two words together to get 'Community SupPORTers.'" Aspelin said his former employer did not encourage volunteerism, so he is eager to get involved in PHA projects.

"My first volunteer activity with the port will be in May when I will speak at an elementary school," he said. "My church is active in the community as well as my wife's company, so I've had opportunities to participate with them. Now that I'm at the port, where there is a culture of community service and involvement, I look forward to more participation throughout my career."

Based on Aspelin's winning name, graphics firm Gilbreath Communications Inc. created a logo that features a ship's wheel in navy blue and gold. Linda Henry and Walt Kleczkowski submitted the honorable mention names.



March Commission Highlights

- Advertising was authorized for receipt of qualifications for environmental and engineering firms to design two earthen levees and two associated spillways for the creation and enhancement of wetlands and prairie restoration of the Memorial Tract.
- Advertising was authorized for receipt of CSPs to perform tallow control on the West Memorial Tract along Red Bluff Road.
- Advertising was authorized for receipt of qualifications for professional water quality consulting services.
- The acquisition of a remote height assessment system that will detect and alert the U.S. Coast Guard when vessels along the Houston Ship Channel are too tall to pass under the Loop 610 bridge was approved. The \$85,000 proprietary laser system will be purchased from Smart Light Devices Ireland, Ltd. for installation on top of a coast (transmission) tower located on Kinder Morgan property.
- Tariff No.14 was amended for consistency in the way stevedoring and steamship companies handle credit for gang detention, crane breakdowns, and other operational interruptions.
- Infrastructure Services, Inc. was awarded an estimated \$2.5 million construction contract for C1-C4 Return Road at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal.



Give a Hoot — Don't Pollute!

Scraps of trash may not seem like much, but they add up to a mound of garbage. In all, 200 bags of rubble such as old tires, plastic bottles, shoes and basketballs were collected at the Seabrook Trash Bash. Volunteers picked up trash by canoe or by foot.

"It was more work than we thought, steering that canoe, but we had a blast," said Kelly Kuzniarek. "When you first get on the water, it doesn't seem like there's much trash to pick up. But once you start along the shoreline, you see how much trash there really is."

Ila Morrison was the bag counter. "When we reached 80 bags of trash, we set a goal of 100," she said. "When 100 were in, we increased our hopes to 125. With each new wave of people, more trash was collected. We doubled our original goal."

Elementary Students Fair Well in Science Contest

Commissioner Jimmy Burke and PHA employees Dana Blume, Gloria Ramsbottom and Forbes Baker judged the experimental entries, including:

- Boiled eggs dyed brown to test the whitening capabilities of various brands of toothpaste
- Presenting different flavors of cheese to a hamster to see which one the rodent would prefer (monterrey jack was the pick)
- A test comparing whether the sun or a candle would heat up a marshmallow the fastest

In all, 18 winning projects advanced to the HISD East Region Science Fair.



Questions?

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