



# Collin County Republican Review September 2007

**September Meeting:  
Thursday, September 20, 2007  
7:00 PM Meeting**

**September Meeting To Be Attendance  
At County Commissioner "Town Hall"  
Style Meeting**

Come hear opinions on the Collin County Bond package with the voting date of November 6. This is an important decision on how to spend the tax dollars in Collin County to relieve traffic congestion and prepare for the next decade.

City of Plano Municipal Center Council  
Chambers, 1520 K Avenue, Plano, Texas  
75074

**Upcoming Events:**

**Thursday, September 20—7:00 PM  
September Meeting CCRMC**

**Tuesday, September 25, CCRMC  
Collin County Charities Classic**  
Tribute Golf Course, The Colony  
1:00 Tee Time  
Florence Shapiro, Honorary Chairman  
Tee sponsors and foursomes needed!  
Brochure Available on-line at  
<http://www.ccrmc.org/down/Golf07.pdf>

**CCRMC Elections Coming @  
November Meeting**

If you are interested, chip your name in or someone else's name in now.

**President**—manages direction, board meetings, general meetings.

**President-elect**—Fills in and supports the President and is the usual replacement for the President the following year.

**VP Programs**—Coordinates the speakers and programs for the meeting

**VP Newsletter**—Communicates to the membership via email newsletter and print newsletter; coordinates membership lists with treasurer.

**VP Publicity**—Maintains public image for the club including outside events like the 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**VP Membership**—Works hard to boost membership from the local Collin County area.

**Secretary**—Maintains official minutes of board and regular meetings.

**Treasurer**—Deposits dues and ad receipts, disburses payments authorized by board. Maintains paid membership list.

**Sergeant at Arms**—Maintains order and procedure at all meetings.

**Past President**—Retired President, overseer of the board.

## Membership Roster Paid Membership For 2007

JOHN	BARRY	MCKINNEY, TX
JOHN	BECKER	
SCOTT	BECKER	MCKINNEY, TX
ROGER	BOLIN	PLANO, TX
JIM	BORTZFIELD	MELISSA, TX
GREG	BREWER	MCKINNEY, TX
JOSEPH	CELSO	PLANO, TX
CAROLYN	CHESNUTT	DALLAS, TX
CHARLES	CHESNUTT	DALLAS, TX
COLIN	CHOPIN	PLANO, TX
PHYLLIS	COLE	PLANO, TX
JONATHAN	COLE	
JOE	CORDINA	PARKER, TX
MARTY	DANEMAN	PLANO, TX
BILL	DOBIYANSKI	PLANO, TX
RICHARD	DODSON	PLANO, TX
ROBERT	DRY	
PHIL	DYER	PLANO, TX
MITCH	EASLEY	PLANO, TX
SHARON	EASLEY	PLANO, TX
PAUL	ELKINS	MCKINNEY, TX
MARC	FRIEDLAND	DALLAS, TX
CLARKE	GUILLIAMS	PLANO, TX
MARK	HAERR	PLANO, TX
PAUL	HUANG	RICHARDSON, TX
WILL	HARTNETT	DALLAS, TX
JERRY	HOAGLAND	PLANO, TX
RILEY	HOLLINGSWORTH	RICHARDSON, TX
NEAL	KATZ	PLANO, TX
JOHN	KELLEY	ALLEN, TX
TOM	KELLY	PLANO, TX
BILLY	LANIER	MCKINNEY, TX

JERRY	LEWIS	MCKINNEY, TX
JOHN	LEWIS	MURPHY, TX
AMOS	MAZZANT	SHERMAN, TX
BRIAN	MCCALL	PLANO, TX
TIM	MCCORD	WYLIE, TX
BLAKE	MOORE	PLANO, TX
JAMES	MURRELL	PLANO, TX
GREGORY	MYER	PLANO, TX
KARL	NINH	CARROLLTON, TX
ERIC	NOACK	PLANO, TX
JOHN	PAYTON	ALLEN, TX
DEINDE	PETERS	PLANO, TX
ALEX	PICTROSKI	RICHARDSON, TX
CHUCK	PRESLEY	RICHARDSON, TX
MICHAEL	PUHL	MCKINNEY, TX
DAVID	RALSTON	PLANO, TX
DOUGLAS	REEVES	MCKINNEY, TX
DAVID	RIPPEL	PLANO, TX
MARK	RUTLEDGE	MCKINNEY, TX
KEITH	SELF	MCKINNEY, TX
MATT	SHAHEEN	PLANO, TX
KYLE	SHAW	PLANO, TX
BILL	SMITH	PLANO, TX
LISSA	SMITH	PLANO, TX
JOHN	STEPHENS	DALLAS, TX
ERNEST	TSCHOEPE	PLANO, TX
TOM	VELON	PLANO, TX
DERK	WADAS	PLANO, TX
MICHAEL	WATSON	PLANO, TX
DANNY	WILSON	ALLEN, TX
DURAN	WORD	ALLEN, TX
RANDY	WRIGHT	PLANO, TX
JANE	YANCEY	PLANO, TX
JERRY	YANCEY	PLANO, TX

All annual dues were due by March 31. If you have not paid your dues, please do so now.

The CCRMC has two levels of new membership. Renewals are \$25 for members and \$10 for an associate spouse. New membership is \$30 and \$15

Business card ads are available for the entire year for \$35 including one free advertorial.

Send to: **CCRMC, P.O. Box 868014, Plano, TX 75086-8014**

## ***A Message From Newsletter***



**VP Newsletter  
Jim Bortzfield**

### **A Crude Awakening?**

I am reprinting an excellent copyright article from 9/12 by DFW's Ed Wallace who hosts an auto show on KLIF570 and has weekly stories in the *Star Telegram*. Listen to him Saturday morning from 8 AM to 1 PM on KLIF. You will find his show much more than automotive news.

### **Despite the media's general gloom, the numbers say August had a happy ending in Texas and most of the auto industry**

By Ed Wallace

#### **Special to the Star-Telegram**

"Actually, embarking on the very expensive process of getting oil from tar sands is simply proof that the high price of oil has made that industry financially viable."

"The United States will likely remain the pre-eminent global power for some time. But how we wield that unparalleled capability will determine exactly how long we remain at the front of the international pack."

— James A. Baker, *The Case for Pragmatic Idealism, August 2007*

I couldn't have asked for a better way to start the month. Incessant reporting on the nation's subprime mortgage mess — most inaccurately calling it the international banking system's major liquidity problem — has captivated the nation, leading some to speculate that a recession is right around the corner. Yet, when the final car sales numbers came out for August, five of the top 10 Chevrolet dealers in America were right here in Texas. Leading the pack once again were Tom Durant and his staff at Classic Chevrolet in Grapevine; and so decisive was their win that no other Chevy dealer in the nation came within 140 sales of Classic's total.

No one is suggesting that the nation doesn't have a real problem with subprime mortgages and housing devaluation. It's just that it looks worse than it is: in only five states (California, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan and Florida), the housing numbers are so bad that they drag down the entire nation's. Likewise, car sales are suffering in those states that they skew the national figures. But if you take out the Infamous Five's numbers as being statistical outliers, you find that most of the nation's car sales actually improved in August.

Need more proof? James Wood Chevrolet in Denton last month outsold every Chevy store in Miami. Meanwhile, Sewell Lexus of Fort Worth was purchasing truckloads of the extremely popular ES330 from a dealer near San Francisco, who could no longer justify paying interest to retain them for sale. That's because of California's housing problems, which I reported years ago.

### **We Must Be Living Right**

In an economic paper for our national radio group I wrote in the spring of 2005, I pointed out that the average price of a new home in San Diego had just hit \$483,000, which made it affordable by only 11% of the city's families. The fact is, when the average house is affordable by just 11% of the population, the market is unsustainable. By August of that year, the number of unsold homes in San Diego was up 250% from that spring. Yes, just as reporting on the sizzling hot housing market was becoming the norm, the seeds of its destruction had already sprouted for anyone to see. But, instead of letting that market find its way down to more affordable levels, we were offered all sorts of crazy mortgage plans to keep housing prices high. In a nutshell, many of the mortgages

written in 2005 and 2006 form the foundation of our current mortgage mess.

Texas is a slightly different story. Although subprime delinquencies are high here too, they're no worse than last year's. And our car sales have rebounded this year; the South Central Regional Zone for both GM and Honda was headed towards last place nationally just a couple of years ago, but this region is now firmly in first place again for both automakers.

### **A Hot Week for News**

The Texas market wasn't the only part of the auto industry to get wonderful news in the first week of September; the auto industry abounded with big moves. Chrysler succeeded in getting Jim Press to jump ship and become its new head of strategy, giving Press the title of vice chairman. It was a brilliant move, because Press had been Toyota's top executive in America and a board member in Japan. But even more brilliant was hiring away the former head of GM's Chinese operations, Phil Murtaugh. Press may have brought Chrysler instant respectability simply by leaving Toyota for Detroit, but Murtaugh took his employer from nothing in China to holding the dominant automotive position there. "Anybody" could have run Toyota in the U.S. over the last five years and done well, but Murtaugh actually created something where nothing existed before.

The same week Volkswagen announced that it would ditch its corporate digs in Michigan for a new home in Virginia. One big reason it's been so hard for the firm to hire young and talented individuals was that joining VW meant moving to Michigan, whose state slogan is parodied as, "America's First Line of Defense From the Canadians." A former Canadian herself, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm made an

eleventh-hour plea to keep VW in Auburn Hills, but failed. Granholm has to be the most rejected attractive woman in America.

Then came news out of Austin that a company named ESSstor was perfecting an ultracapacitor — a super-storage device that could, eventually, “let an electric car be plugged in for five minutes and then driven 500 miles.” The articles on the newswires even reported that a couple of venture capitalists had each thrown a couple million into the company, and so had a Canadian manufacturer of electric cars. While it would be wonderful if this story were true, since it would solve our mobility problems for all time, I have my doubts. After all, if there were such a thing as an ultracapacitor that could be charged in five minutes and then take a motorist all the way to Memphis, investors would line up throwing billions of dollars. Not a measly six million.

### **The End Is Here Not Yet!**

I made time that week to watch the documentary, “A Crude Awakening.” This bleak film discusses not only the end of oil, but how it will destroy the world’s economy when it gets here. While I don’t want to give away the ending, the people who made it lead you to believe that the end of the oil age is right now. The worst part is, I disagreed with only two statements in that documentary.

One claim that needs rebuttal is that mining the tar sands of Northern Canada proves that Peak Oil has already arrived. Actually, embarking on the very expensive process of getting oil from tar sands is simply proof that the high price of oil has made that industry financially viable. The second position I would dispute concerns when Peak Oil happens — as in, “It’s already here!” I think that’s jumping the gun by three or four decades.

The most surprising “fun fact” from this dismal portrayal of our future bears remembering, should any discussion arise about whether to become a hydrogen-based economy. Assuming that hydrogen would replace all of the oil we currently use, creating the electricity it would take to separate that much hydrogen out for use would require building 10,000 nuclear power plants. But there’s only enough uranium to run 10,000 nuclear power plants for a few years: Looking at that statistic up, it appears to be true.

Something in the back of my head insists that the end of oil is not here today and won’t be for some time: I sincerely doubt that the Saudis would be spending billions upon billions to expand their oil industry — building new refineries at home and in China, not to mention expanding their partial ownership of the Motiva refinery in Beaumont — if oil banker Matt Simmons is right and the Saudis are lying about how much oil they have left.

Likewise, while it’s true that we are not finding as much new oil as we are using, which is one definition of Peak Oil, sometimes it appears that the oil companies aren’t exploring for new, expensive-to-extract oil as much as they are waiting for stability in Iraq, where oil might be produced for less than \$2 a barrel. After all, why go looking for oil that’s expensive to produce, when cheaper crude in vast, untapped oil fields may lie right around the corner?

### **Optimism Isn’t Always Cockeyed**

That week too I finally got to read the latest work of former Secretary of State James A. Baker, “The Case for Pragmatic Idealism.” In my opinion, it reveals Baker as one of the nation’s great treasures, a brilliant strategist and one of our finest diplomats; our biggest fear should be

not running out of oil, but running out of exceptional Americans like Baker.

His is one of the most optimistic, but cautious, appraisals I've ever read of American power and prestige and our unique position as the leader of the Free World. It also discusses the pitfalls of power and, without naming names, explains how we have lost our way; reading it, one senses that Sec. Baker wrote it for whomever becomes our next President. Yet it's a reminder to the rest of us that no matter what comes our way, Americans customarily adapt, improvise, overcome and prevail.

It was a good week. I learned something from what could be considered a liberal-perspective film and reaffirmed my hopeful outlook for our country thanks to a conservative's writings. I looked at the negative of the housing market and saw that car sales were strong everywhere else. Most important of all, I looked at how many Texas new car dealers took Top Ten national sales slots in August and felt like cheering, because that great state of affairs has been a long time returning.

*Ed Wallace is a recipient of the Gerald R. Loeb Award for business journalism, given by the Anderson School of Business at UCLA, and is a member of the American Historical Society. He reviews new cars every Friday morning at 7:15 on Fox Four's Good Day, contributes articles to BusinessWeek Online and hosts the talk show, Wheels, 8:00 to 1:00 Saturdays on 570 KLIF. E-mail: wheels570@sbcglobal.net*

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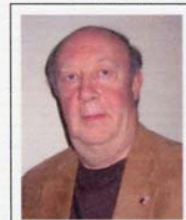


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