

THE ILS TIMES

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Announcements

PAY YOUR FEES BY CREDIT CARD !!!

We are now able to take Application and/or Property Analysis Fee payments on-line via our website, over the telephone, or at our office. Avoid the mailing/drop off hassle or the check writing nightmare!!!

LET US SELL YOU A HOUSE !!!

Check out our website! We have investment property listed on our website for sale. Let us find you a house AND fund the deal!

Go to www.ilsfunding.com for more info.

ILS WILL BE AT THE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT CLUB OF HOUSTON'S MEETING THIS MONTH !!!

We'll have a table at the May 2007 RICH meeting - come by and say "hi"!

The meeting is at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel on May 5th and starts at 8:00am.

WATCH FOR EMAILS ABOUT OUR SEMINARS!

Once a month, we host informative seminars that cover a wide range of real estate investment topics. Our insider tricks and tips will SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY! We also always have FREE FAJITAS!

Information about our seminars, financing specials, and other topics are always sent out via email. To join our email list, sign up on our website.

To attend the seminar, please RSVP at
kfowler@ilsfunding.com

IMPORTANT! Bring a friend to the seminar, and if they sign up and do a loan with ILS, we'll give you a FREE Property Analysis on your next loan!!! A \$350 Value!!!

**As Always, Free To The Public
Limited Seating/RSVPs Mandatory**

ILS IS IN MANY MAJOR MARKETS !!!

ILS may be based out of Houston, but we have local offices in many major Metropolitan cities across the United States. Our local Marketing Representatives are well versed in their particular market and would love to loan you money to purchase investment real estate in their area. Go to our website's "Contact Us" page for more information.

News You Can Use

BAYOU CITY SURGES TO SIXTH

HOUSTON (Houston Business Journal) – New residents moving in from southern Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina have made Houston the sixth-largest metropolitan area in the United States, according to population estimates released by the Census Bureau.

Between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006, the 10-county Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) gained more than 187,000 residents, bringing the total to almost 5.54 million. Only the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas–Fort Worth and Philadelphia MSAs are larger.

Harris County, which grew 3.3 percent over the year, accounted for 66 percent of the area's population growth, but three suburban counties grew faster: Fort Bend, up almost 6 percent; Montgomery, up just over 5 percent; and Brazoria, up 3.6 percent.

Look for the article "Howdy Neighbors: Katrina Boosts Texas Population" in April's Tierra Grande magazine. It will discuss Texas' population growth in the wake of Katrina.

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION RISES; PERMITS DOWN

WASHINGTON (The Dallas Morning News) – Nationwide construction of new homes and apartments rose 9 percent in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.525 million units, the Commerce Department reported. Construction had fallen by 14.3 percent in January to the slowest pace in more than nine years.

However, activity remained 28.5 percent below the level of a year ago. Marking the 12th decline in the past 13 months, builders' applications for new permits continued falling in February. Permits dropped by 2.5 percent to an annual rate of 1.53 million units.

By region, the West led the gains in construction, posting a 26.4 percent jump, which was the best showing since January 1997. Construction activity was also up in the South, increasing by 18 percent, the biggest percentage gain in that region in nearly two years.

Construction fell by almost 30 percent in the Northeast, the biggest one-month plunge in that region since December 1990, while construction fell in the Midwest by 14.4 percent after a January decline of 16.4 percent.

STEADY AS SHE GOES

COLLEGE STATION (Real Estate Center) – The latest revised figures from the Texas Workforce Commission show steady job growth, which is good news for the Texas economy, according to the Real Estate Center's latest "Monthly Review of the Texas Economy."

"Texas' employment growth rate from February 2006 to February 2007 rose to 2.4 percent compared with 1.5 percent for the United States," reported Real Estate Center Research Economist Dr. Ali Anari.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent in February 2007 from 5.1 percent in February 2006.

Higher oil prices have boosted employment in Texas. The state's natural resource and mining industry, consisting mainly of oil and natural gas extraction, gained 20,500 jobs from February 2006 to February 2007. This translates to an annual growth rate of 11.7 percent and ranked first in job creation followed by leisure and hospitality industry, professional and business services, construction, and financial activities.

Most new jobs have been created in four major metropolitan areas: Austin–Round Rock, Dallas–Plano–Irving, Houston–Sugar Land–Baytown and San Antonio.

DROP IN REMODELING SPENDING PREDICTED

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (Joint Center for Housing Studies) – According to the new Leading Indicator for Remodeling Activity (LIRA) developed by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies, home improvement spending by homeowners in 2007 is projected to increase by 3.6 percent, which is down from 11.1 percent last year.

However, Dr. Mark Dotzour, chief economist with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, does not anticipate a significant drop in how much Texans will spend on remodeling this year.

"So far, the biggest blow to the Texas residential sales market has been isolated to the new home market, particularly houses valued at less than \$200,000," Dotzour said. "I don't think this segment of homebuyers spends a lot of money on remodeling. To the extent that the housing sales weakness stays focused in the new home market, I would expect Texas remodeling to continue to have strength."

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5				6			1	4
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			9		2			
	1					3		
9	5			3				1
7	6	1	5					9
		3	1				4	

What is Sudoku? The Sudoku puzzle is a Japanese logic game which entered the western world during the last few years and is gaining popularity very fast.

What makes Sudoku fun? The Sudoku puzzle can be anything from ridiculously easy to fiendishly difficult. It's a puzzle which comprises only of numbers - digits 1 to 9. You have no need for math knowledge – just solve it with reasoning and logic.

What are the rules? Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Still unsure? Go to: www.sudoku.org/sudoku-tutorial.php for more information on how to play.