

And the
winner is...

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of the pack for HBJ's
Inaugural C-Suite
Awards **SEE HOW** »



MEET HOUSTON'S LARGEST ENERGY COS. 40

Hurricane Katrina's lasting impact on Houston

Sallie Rainer's Entergy Texas was one of many energy companies hit by the devastating storm 10 years ago. Read how she and others rebuilt after Katrina. **SEE HOW** »



**EX-RESTAURANT
OWNER HAS
SOMETHING NEW
COOKING** **12A**

HEALTH CARE



**Meet the guy behind
one of Houston's
biggest hospitals**

One of Houston's biggest hospitals and general medical centers is looking for a new leader to take the helm. **SEE HOW** **12B**

RESIDENTIAL

**Large condo rises
from museum ashes**

The project is the largest property development in the city since the 2005 disaster. **SEE HOW** **12C**

DEAL OF THE WEEK



**Gilfield equipment
maker bought
for \$1.8B**

Oilfield equipment maker Gilfield is being acquired by ConocoPhillips. **SEE HOW** **12D**

POOL TIME

**Water park to
splash into suburb**

The new water park is set to open in the suburb of Humble. **SEE HOW** **12E**



**KPMG EXEC TAKES
THE REINS** **12F**



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INAUGURAL ISSUE



HONORING OUTSTANDING LOCAL EXECUTIVES

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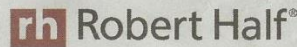
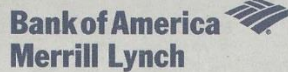
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★
WINNER

Edna Meyer-Nelson

Founder, president and CEO, The Richland Cos.

▶ THE MEYER-NELSON FILE

- Oversees:** 19 employees
- Company valued at:** More than \$250 million
- Education:** Bachelor's from Southern Methodist University and master's from University of Colorado and the University of Houston
- Boards and affiliations:** Houston Children's Charity, Houston Police Foundation, Crime Stoppers of Houston

Edna Meyer-Nelson started her company after about 20 years in the banking industry, bringing with her an expertise in money management. The Richland Cos., a Houston-based commercial real estate firm, owns and manages more than 2 million square feet of commercial space in Texas and three other states.

After more than 20 years at the helm of her company, Meyer-Nelson continues to revolutionize her industry. Richland provides many commercial real estate services in-house, including investments, management, mortgages, leasing, tenant representation and construction. With 90 percent occupancy across all its properties, it shows the

business model is working.

Meyer-Nelson finds the time to give back, even outside her for-profit company. For about 15 years, she has been on the board of the Houston Children's Charity and supported Crime Stoppers of Houston. She also serves as chair and board member on the advisory council of the Texas Heart Institute's Center for Women's Heart and Vascular Health.

In addition to her charitable work, she uses her career and experience as a guest lecturer at both Rice University and the University of Houston, and has hired many interns and employees from those universities.

What's your management style? "My management style is probably more hands-on. I have a very active approach in all aspects of the business."

What are some challenges you face in your industry? "In the beginning, the biggest challenge was me being a female in a male-dominated environment. Today, the biggest challenge is the growth that we are having in all the areas of the south, which is where we have all our properties. So, I think we face a lot of governmental issues and growth issues, especially here in Houston."

What are some challenges you face in your industry? "In the beginning, the biggest challenge was me being a female in a male-dominated environment. Today, the biggest challenge is the growth that we are having in all the areas of the south, which is where we have all our properties. So, I think we face a lot of governmental issues and growth issues, especially here in Houston."

What was a time you lost a job or an opportunity, and what did you learn from that? "I think in the beginning I missed some opportunities because people didn't want to sell to a woman-owned company. I know that sounds ridiculous or sexist, but I think I lost some opportunities to buy or sell some properties just because people were hesitant to sell to a woman-owned company. Since then, I haven't really had to face that, but it was something I had to deal with. And, just like everyone else, we've all lost jobs. I've lost my fair share of jobs when I was a banker — two or three I can remember — when the banks closed or were bought. It's very devastating and upsetting, but I think if you take that and use that as an opportunity to (consider) other things around you, you can use that to your best interest later on in life."

▶ OVERHEARD

"There are many people that support law enforcement and the community, yet Meyer-Nelson takes it many steps further by utilizing her business acumen, expertise, wisdom, institutional knowledge, can-do spirit and her heart to serve those in need and take it to a completely different level."

RAANIA MANKARIOUS, executive director of Crime Stoppers of Houston

"Edna is a prime example of practice what you preach — she has always stated that women can be just as successful as men if they are knowledgeable, tenacious and don't back down. She has proven this time and again throughout her career in male-dominated industries including banking and commercial real estate, not only blazing new trails for women that followed her, but actively encouraging women to begin new business ventures along the way."

FROM HER C-SUITE NOMINATION

