



Starmount Life Insurance Co.

DISPATCHES

News from the companies, cities and people that make the corridor click.

ACADIANA

Bruce Foods Corp. has acquired the Summerfield and Summer Oaks peanut oil, cottonseed oil and olive oil brands from an Alabama firm. Bruce Foods says it bought the cooking oil line to complement its own Cajun Injector brand oils and outdoor fryers, smokers and ovens.

Acadian Ambulance Service is expanding its reach in Texas. The Lafayette-based firm has acquired Stat Care EMS, which provides emergency and non-emergency services in five counties in southeast Texas. Acadian, which began operating in the Lone Star State in 2006, assumed Stat Care's operations in Jefferson, Hardin, Jasper, Sabine and Newton counties. Acadian already provided service in Orange, Jefferson and Hardin counties.

Lafayette is the only Louisiana city to be counted among RelocateAmerica.com's latest "Top 100 Places to Live." The list recognizes communities as "a great place to live" based on details about neighborhoods, beauty of the area, school performance, recreational activities and economic growth. This year, RelocateAmerica.com focused on communities poised for recovery and future growth.

BATON ROUGE

Starmount Life Insurance Co. has opened a new, 24,500-square-foot national headquarters in Baton Rouge, marking the beginning of a new period of anticipated growth. The new Starmount Building at 8485 Goodwood Blvd. features high-tech telephonic and networking infrastructure—including software-controlled lights and heating and cooling systems, fast-response emergency power systems, a voice-over-Internet phone system, and a new call center management system.

NEW ORLEANS

An abandoned auto dealership in New Orleans is going green in a big way. The Bohn Ford building in Mid-City has been reclaimed as a hub for the sustainable industry movement in the Crescent City. A dozen companies already plan to move to the site, dubbed

Building Block, claiming more than 57,000 square feet. Green Coast Enterprises, a local real estate services firm, and EcoPark, a social entrepreneurship entity, have the building at 401 N. Carrollton Ave. under contract and plan to develop it into an office complex geared toward housing environmentally friendly businesses. The concept is similar to the Intellectual Property Building at 643 Magazine St., a cluster of high-tech and entrepreneurial firms.

Three New Orleans firms are among the nation's fastest-growing inner-city companies. *Bloomberg BusinessWeek* and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City ranked iSeatz No. 2, NewBath No. 6 and L&R Security Services No. 72. The Inner City 100 program recognizes successful urban companies and their CEOs as role models for entrepreneurship, innovative business practices and job creation. The companies were ranked on their compound annual growth rate from 2004 to 2008.

A Metairie businessman is considered one of the best small-business advocates in the nation. The National Small Business Association has named Michael Mitternacht the 2010 Lewis Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year. Mitternacht is president and owner of Factory Service Agency Inc., a commercial air conditioning service and construction company in Metairie.

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple, a New Orleans-based architectural design studio, is ranked No. 23 in *Architect* magazine's top 50 architectural practices in the country. Rankings are based on financial performance, environmental practices and design quality. Founded in 1989, Eskew+Dumez+Ripple is behind several major public projects, including the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and the Shaw Center for the Arts.

NORTHSHORE

Stirling Properties has unveiled plans for its latest development venture, River Chase. The master-planned, mixed-use development is in St. Tammany Parish on 168 acres at the southwest quadrant of the new I-12 and Brewster Road interchange in Covington. Plans call for more than 1 million square feet of office space, 1 million square feet of retail space, 240 apartments, 250-plus condos, two hotels, numerous restaurants and other retail uses.

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Southwest Louisiana may be exporting natural gas as early as 2015. Cheniere Energy Partners is adding liquefaction services at the Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal in Cameron Parish, which will allow it to export. The 853-acre Sabine Pass site is strategically situated to provide export services given its large acreage, proximity to unconventional gas plays in Louisiana and Texas, and its interconnections with multiple interstate and intrastate pipeline systems. Cheniere plans to work with Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals Inc. to design and construct the liquefaction facilities, using the ConocoPhillips Optimized Cascade liquefaction technology. 