

Local Business

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CORPUS CHRISTI — TXU won't unplug customers

TXU Energy will not disconnect services this summer for its low-income, ill or disabled customers.

It also will keep services on for customers ages 62 and older and will waive deposit requirements for all customers with a good record of timely payment.

Customers who foresee difficulty in paying their electricity bills should call TXU at 800-242-9113 to sign up for special, more flexible deferred payment plans. The moratorium will be in effect July 1 through Sept. 30.

The 2008 summer plan will allow these customers to continue to receive electric service by paying as little as 25 percent of the current month's electric charges, with the remaining balance to be paid in equal installments over the next five billing cycles (typically, balances must be paid in three billing cycles). For more information, visit www.txu.com.

Rental franchises

Construction spending in the Corpus Christi market is projected to reach \$1.2 billion in 2008 and Volvo Rents is offering a chance for people to cash in.

Volvo Rents, a division of Volvo Construction Equipment North America Inc., offers franchise opportunities in the construction equipment rental business.

Despite the declines in the national economy, projections indicate a robust future for construction in the Corpus Christi area, according to InfoTech Marketing, a Colorado-based firm that specializes in analyzing the construction industry. The area experienced aggressive growth in construction spending from 2003 to 2007, with a compound annual growth rate of 6.68 percent. Current predictions show this growth staying healthy, with a compound annual growth rate of 6.6 percent through 2012.

In addition to the use of the Volvo brand, qualified franchises are eligible for Volvo's comprehensive financial package that includes fleet financing, working capital, delivery vehicle financing and leasehold improvement financing. Applicants generally need a liquid net worth of at least \$750,000 per store to qualify for the financing. For more information, visit www.volvorents.com.

Moving out, and in

NAI Cravey Real Estate Services Inc., has sold the current RSC Equipment Rentals Inc. at 585 S. Padre Island Drive to a group of private investors. Josh Gaines, an agent with Cravey Real Estate Services, said for the next two months the building will be occupied by the current tenant RSC Equipment Rentals Inc., but the company currently has a new facility under construction next door. Once the company relocates, the building will undergo a renovation and be occupied by Facilities Solutions Group. The Facilities Solutions Group previously was known as American Light and Design Electric. The company has roots dating back to 1982 and has grown to more than \$110 million a year in revenues. It offers an array of lighting and electrical products, electrical contracting services and energy management solutions.

Have any buzz? Contact Business Editor Tom Whitehurst Jr. at 886-3619 or [nbusiness@ caller.com](mailto:nbusiness@caller.com). Business writers Elvia Aguilar and Fanny S. Chirinos contributed this week.