

[THEME MUSIC]

KIM SEVIER: Hi. I'm Kim Sevier.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** And I'm Suzanne Anderson. And welcome to *TV Montrose*.

KIM SEVIER: And tonight marks our sixth month anniversary on the air. Suzanne, I just can't get over that. It doesn't feel like six months.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** It's really hard to believe. And even though we'd like to be sitting around eating cake and blowing out candles, we have too many stories to present for you tonight. And so stay tuned.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. It's been a very busy week in our community.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** We'll be at the monthly meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce where Mayor Lee Brown was the keynote speaker.

KIM SEVIER: Also, we have a very entertaining look at the 23rd Annual Garden Party. And I don't think they're going to discuss how to keep your lawn beautiful.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** This segment is a hoot. You're really, really going to like it. And we're going to chat with the management at Rich's as they prepare for their 15th annual party, which is scheduled for August the 15th.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. Also coming up, we have a look at a promotional video that TV Montrose has put together for Empower 98, which will be coming up this November.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** And we got lots of other things in store for you tonight.

KIM SEVIER: Cool. What's up first, Suzanne?

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Well, let's start off with J.C. At the Chamber of Commerce meeting and see what the mayor had to say.

J.C. MICHELAK: The mayor spoke tonight to a crowd of about 200 people. It was one of the largest crowds that this organization has ever had. The mayor addressed a host of issues. He talked about rail. He talked about economic development, the importance of the new bringing of football team to Houston, and a baseball team.

He also went into other areas of development that they would like to look into with respect to basketball and new hockey arenas downtown to-- part of the revitalization for the downtown area. The mayor did not address any issues specifically relating to the gay and lesbian community.

**MAYOR LEE
BROWN:** And stay with me if you would a few years into the future. If you go into a neighborhood, prioritize the problem, do something about the number one problem, take it off the list, put another problem on, do something about that. Over a period of time, we're going to have a much better city because we solve problems. That's what a neighborhood-oriented government is about but also being accessible and making sure we deliver our services in a prompt and courteous way.

Speaking before your Chamber of Commerce is very consistent with many of the things I'm doing, many things I'm planning to do in our city. For those of you who have not been able to hear me speak before, I now have some priorities that I've outlined, and those priorities are reflected not only in the budget but also the things that I will be doing as mayor of this city.

And my priorities are quite clear-- I believe in neighborhoods. And therefore, I have as a priority a neighborhood-oriented government. But if we look at Houston right now from an economic standpoint, these are good times, like there are great times in our city. This is a good time to serve as the mayor of Houston, Texas.

Our unemployment is at a record low. People call it almost full employment because it's so low. We find that our housing starts are high. We find that new job creation is at a historical high. *The Wall Street Journal* recently reported that more businesses relocated in Houston than any other city in America.

ANITA RENTERIA: Your leadership of our city is an historic event, and your speaking to us tonight is certainly an historic event for our chamber. And to mark that occasion, I'd like to make you an honorary member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian chamber of Commerce.

MAYOR LEE BROWN: Thank you.

ANITA RENTERIA: Thank you. Thank you so much, mayor.

MAYOR LEE BROWN: That means I can come whenever I want to.

ANITA RENTERIA: He says, does that mean I can come whenever I want to? I said, I think so, right?

J.C. MICHELAK: Interestingly, the members of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce didn't ask any specific questions about gay and lesbian issues. Do you find that odd?

DALE CARPENTER: No, I don't. I mean, this is a business group, and their concerns were all related to various matters that have to do with the business health of the city. And, like I said, that affects everybody.

And also, I think the mayor, frankly, in the last six months, has addressed a lot of issues related to gay people. I mean, he's appointed a liaison to the gay community. He has issued an executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. So it's not like he came here tonight empty-handed.

ANITA RENTERIA: We were very excited to have the mayor with us as a speaker tonight. The chamber has been growing for the last three years. And I think that his election was certainly historic for the city, and his speaking to our chamber was a historic event for our young organization. And we had a great turnout. Everyone seemed very excited. I mean, it was a terrific meeting tonight.

FRANCISCO SANCHEZ: What I am happy about, though, in terms of the mayor's visit is I think economic development for any community ties in very strongly with his political empowerment, and I think we saw people here that interacted very well with the mayor. And I think the chamber has a good opportunity to be able to be a part of the mayor's agenda in economic development for Houston, and I think that'll benefit our community in the long run.

J.C. MICHELAK: This is J.C. Michelak reporting for *TV Montrose*.

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne, it's great to see the mayor so involved in our community.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Yes, that's right. And I don't think I've ever seen a mayor that really dedicated the time and energy to the lesbian and gay community that Mayor Brown had.

KIM SEVIER: No kidding. And he's also given *TV Montrose* an hour to do a personal interview in his office. So look for that on our show next week.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: And Mayor Brown is working hard living up to his campaign promises that he made to the lesbian and gay community.

KIM SEVIER: I'm ready to take a look at the promotional video for Empower 98.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Me too. I was an exhibitor at Empower 97, and I can give you personal testimony as to what my business gained. In fact, Kim, I wrote them a check yesterday for my exhibit for 98.

KIM SEVIER: Cool. Let's go take a look.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

COY TOW: Welcome to the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Empower 97. It's been a fantastic day. The turnout has been terrific in spite of the rain, and we're thrilled too that the vendor support has been really incredible. Our sponsors-- Shell, Texas Commerce Bank, and the other sponsors-- have been phenomenal. I think that is certainly one of the reasons why we've seen such a success.

MICHAEL KAPHINGST: Success today was phenomenal. It's an opportunity for Lobo to reach a clientele that maybe normally wouldn't come in and see us, maybe have preconceived notions about what Lobo is and what we have to offer. But today we got to meet a lot of new faces, got a lot of new customers, and made some new friends. It was very well worth its time.

DEBBIE PHINNEY: The advantage of the business being at Empower 97 is to let the gay community know that you support us, that you don't discriminate against us. And the gay community is very loyal to companies that are supportive of us. And I'm sure that all the companies that are here today are going to benefit from years to come from the visibility that they gained from this expo.

ANITA RENTERIA: The gay community is a great consumer group, and these companies are going to reap the benefits of that. One of the key points of the expo is the fact that the gay community is very loyal. It's a wonderful thing to have a business know that I'm gay, accept that I'm gay, and actually seek out my business. That's the kind of business where I'm comfortable and where if I've got money to spend, which we all do, that's where I'll spend it.

BILL GREEN: It's been very, very good for us, and I'm very pleased with the turnout and the number of people who have come in. And not only that. I had people that I've known in a social way that now see me in a business way. And I think that that's been a very, very big factor in making it successful for us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DEBBIE PHINNEY: We were very lucky with the corporate sponsorship that we received this year. Shell Oil was a major sponsor for us as well as the companies that are always involved in the gay community. The Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages were one of the first companies to step up. But what we need is corporate sponsorship from big corporations to be able to fund this and to help out with the AIDS Foundation or whatever organization that we make the beneficiary of the next shows.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: This is a great opportunity because this is the one place where the men and the women in this community can come together and we can promote our businesses and support each other. I know that we've spent as much time going around and dropping things in other people's little bowls and talking to them and just interacting and having a good time socially too. I mean, it's a unique opportunity. It's something that we wanted to do for years and years, and I know now that somebody's done it and established it. It'll be here for a while.

MICHAEL KAPHINGST: I think the companies should really take a good look at Empower because I'm sure the success far exceeded what anyone thought. Besides, not only customers, you get to meet great other vendors, you get to meet other businesses, make friends, and make contacts within the gay community, which never hurts anyone.

ANITA RENTERIA: I think the vendors are very happy with the turnout that they've gotten and the traffic that's going through. So for next year, I think it'll be a lot easier to get it done, and I think that it'll probably be doubled in size. I think word of mouth is going to be very powerful for us. So this is a very, very good event.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE ANDERSON: If you're not here this year and you need to jump on it next year, this is an opportunity that you don't often get. And it takes very little in the way of business to make up the small amount that they charge to exhibit here. The Chamber of Commerce was very clever in the way that they promoted this. If you join the chamber, that membership comes off of the fee that you have for your booth. Anyway, it is an opportunity, and it's something that we all should grasp.

CARY RUSSELL: And anybody who is anybody should be here. The reason why I'm here is to support the community and also for more business. All businesses should be here. The main reason for being here is to promote your business and create more business for yourself, not only within the gay community but within the whole community. Anybody who's anybody who's in business in Harris County should be here. If you're not here today, you should be here the next time, Empower 98.

COY TOW: Well, we're all looking forward to the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian's chamber-sponsored Empower 98. We all hope that you will look forward to that and that you will watch for the mailing and watch for the advertising for next year's event because it's going to be bigger and better than ever.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE ANDERSON: That's a great promo, Kim, for Empower 98. And let me tell you, Suzanne Anderson Properties will be there.

KIM SEVIER: That's cool. And there will be entertainment to enjoy also as you browse the exhibit, so be sure to visit.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Well, let's take a break for a commercial. And when we get back, we'll see what's happening at Rich's for their celebration, August the 15th.

KIM SEVIER: I can't wait.

PERFORMERS: We're glad you're watching. You're watching *TV Montrose*.

[THEME MUSIC]

AD VOICEOVER: *The Texas Triangle* is a free weekly newspaper reaching over 60,000 readers every week. Available every Thursday throughout Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas and 20 other Texas cities. The *Triangle* offers the best in news, features, and entertainment. A six-time award winner, it's the only gay newspaper to receive an outstanding journalism award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The *Houston Press* writes, "For gay and lesbian news, by far the best is *The Texas Triangle*." So pick up the *Triangle* every week. Quality makes a difference.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Don't even think about buying or selling a home without hiring a professional. A home is the biggest financial investment that you will ever make, and I am always amazed at how casually people select a realtor. They'll call the name off of a sign or take the name of a friend of a friend.

To be a good realtor, you have to be a good listener. And I listen to my clients, and I customize my services to fit your needs. We listen, present creative solutions, and help you make decisions in buying or selling a home.

AD VOICEOVER: Celebrating 15 years, it's Houston's premiere alternative dance club. Rich's has the hottest music hits, the largest dance floor, four huge bars, and the wildest theme parties. Rich's is the place to be for fun and action-- the only New York style dance club for the gay and lesbian scene. Rich's is where the real world ends and your imagination begins. Be a part of the fun at Rich's this week. Rich's, where you can always be yourself.

LANNIE GRIFFITH: Hi. I'm Lannie Griffith with 107.5 The Buzz, and you're watching *TV Montrose*.

[THEME MUSIC]

KIM SEVIER: Welcome back.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: And Kim, you missed the show that we did at Rich's. And the management and the staff were so nice to us, and it was so much fun. It was really cool.

KIM SEVIER: I know. I'm so sorry I missed that one. I was so looking forward to it. And I'm sorry that you couldn't be with Dan and I for the 4th of July party that we take from the top of the 3400 Montrose building. Oh, Suzanne, that was such a cool party. It was so fun.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: I guess we're even.

KIM SEVIER: Next up, we'd like to go to Steve Baker, who's at Rich's with some of our friends and finding out what they're planning for their 15th anniversary party and also some interesting bits of information on Rich's.

STEVE BAKER: We're here at Rich's. And in two weeks, on August the 15th, Rich's will be 15 years old. And with me is the staff of Rich's. And, well, we start here and work on down and find out who these gentlemen are.

GARY ARCHER: Hello. I'm Gary Archer, part owner, production director, a.k.a. Ms. Jill Thing.

STEVE BAKER: And how long you been here for?

GARY ARCHER: 15 years.

STACY: Hi. I'm Stacy. I'm the promotions person here, and I've been here about seven years.

GERRY: I'm Gerry. I'm the general manager. I've been here about nine years.

PHILLIP: And I'm Phillip Dennis Smith. I'm the bar manager, and I've been here about seven years also.

STEVE BAKER: And Phillip, what's it like for you at the bar on a really crazy, hairy, busy night?

PHILLIP: It gets pretty fast. I mean, it's very intense. You don't have time to really stop and socialize. You just have to keep moving and keep pumping those drinks out. This isn't a little country pub. This is a high-volume, intense nightclub.

STEVE BAKER: We all know we want our drinks, don't we?

PHILLIP: Yes, right. But it's an entirely different attitude to bartending. I call myself a slinger rather than a bartender. You do. I mean, there is a definite difference. We're not the stand-behind-the-bar and chat and carry on a conversation. It's not that kind of work. This is just, what do you want? Pump, pump, pump.

STACY: Faster. Faster. Where's my tip?

STEVE BAKER: Why don't you tell the audience what Rich's used to be?

GARY ARCHER: OK. The history of this building is it was originally the Rich's Fan Factory, and the name Rich's comes from the family name. This building was constructed in 1941. It was a warehouse for building Rich's fans, and Rich's fans are those gigantic warehouse fans that you have probably seen sometime in your life.

STEVE BAKER: What would you like to say to the customers that are always here at Rich's?

GARY ARCHER: Absolutely thank you for everything. There's a lot of people that come here that we, like you said earlier, pass by. We might not know their name. We know their face, and they're very well appreciated.

GERRY: Plus the other organizations like the Garden Party Outrage. Military ball is a great party. We're here to work for them and make the parties happen for them to have more fun.

STEVE BAKER: Gary, why don't you tell us a little bit about Ken McIntyre?

GARY ARCHER: Well, Ken came from Austin and brought his vision to Houston and developed Rich's. And along with Bart Johnson, who was the general manager in the beginning, all of us created this. And Ken passed away in February, and we are just keeping his vision alive.

STEVE BAKER: Like what can people expect on your anniversary night?

GERRY: Dancers, great entertainment. We have a special guest entertainer that's coming that night. And we have a regular drink, happy hour prices from 9:00 until 11:00. There's no cover from 9:00 until 10:00. After that, the regular Rich's Saturday night.

STACY: Party, party, party.

STEVE BAKER: I want to thank all of you guys on behalf of *TV Montrose*. You all are a wonderful bunch. And come out to Rich's on August the 15th, 9 o'clock, and be here for a great time. Steve Baker, *TV Montrose*.

KIM SEVIER: Well, we have saved our crazy, weirdest, funniest story for you-- now, at the end.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** It's the Garden Party.

KIM SEVIER: I can't wait. That's right. It's the drag event of the year-- big, huge hair, crazy costumes, and Suzanne and I missed it.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Well, you can see it now, and we'll watch it with you. It is funny.

KIM SEVIER: That's right.

[MUSIC - SPICE GIRLS, "SPICE UP YOUR LIFE"]

SPICE GIRLS: (SINGING) Spice up your life. People of the world, spice up your life. Ah, slam it to the left if you're having a good time. Shake it to the right if you know that you feel fine. Chicas to the front, ha ha, go round. Slam it to the left if you're having a good time. Shake it to the right if you know that you feel fine. Chicas to the front, ha ha. Hai, si ja! Hold tight!

Flamenco, lambada, but hip-hop is harder. We moonwalk then foxtrot then polka then salsa. Shake, shake it, shake it. Haka! Shake it, shake it, shake it. Haka! Arriba!

Colors of the world, spice up your life. Every boy and every girl, spice up your life. People of the world, spice up your life. Ah, slam it to the left if you're having a good time. Shake it to the right if you know that you feel fine. Chicas to the front, ha ha, go round. Slam it to the left if you're having a good time. Shake it to the right if you know that you feel fine. Chicas to the front, ha ha. Hai, si, ja! Hold tight!

STEVE BAKER: Here we are at the 23rd Annual Garden Party which is always hosted here at Rich's. You've been seeing that people are coming here by personal car, by taxicab, and by limo. They've worn just about every kind of attire that you can imagine. This year's theme is Rio. As you can tell, we have more newcomers arriving every few minutes.

Promises to be a very exciting evening inside, so we're going to take the camera inside here in just a minute and let you see the entire show. Across the street, we've had a number of different people, just spectators watching as everyone's been pulling in. And we'll hear from them as well and hear what they had to say.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

So why are you guys here today?

ONLOOKER 1: I want to see all the great-looking drag queens.

ONLOOKER 2: Yes.

ONLOOKER 1: I'm from Laguna Beach, and we don't get this kind of stuff out there, like you all get out here.

STEVE BAKER: I know Laguna Beach was California, and everything was happening there.

ONLOOKER: No. No, no, not like this. Houston is like a total different entity out here.

STEVE BAKER: Are there any of these celebrities here tonight that you're going to know personally?

ONLOOKER: I was looking to see for Priscilla-- or Queen of the Desert or whatever.

ONLOOKER 2: Maybe there'll be a Tina.

ONLOOKER: Or maybe a Tina Turner.

STEVE BAKER: I know you guys are out here to see the show today. What do you hope to see?

ONLOOKER 3: Drag queens. Big, buxom drag queens with big hair.

STEVE BAKER: I think there's plenty of that already here. Were you all here last year for this?

ONLOOKER 3: Yes. It's a yearly event. It's a lot more fun to watch them go than to participate.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PARTICIPANT: All right, *TV Montrose*. I watch you every Monday night at 8 o'clock. Yes.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Anyway, let's move on inside where it's a lot cooler.

[MUSIC - THE COMMUNARDS, "NEVER CAN SAY GOODBYE"]

THE COMMUNARDS: (SINGING) I never can say goodbye. No, no, no, no I. I never can say goodbye. Every time I think I've had enough, you start heading for the door. There's a very strange vibration piercing me right through the core. It says, turn around you fool, you know you love me more and more. Tell me why, tell me why, is it so? Don't want to let you go.

No, I never can say goodbye, boy. Ooh, no, no, no, no. I never can say goodbye. No, no, no. No, no, no. Hey, I never can say goodbye, boy. Ooh, no, no, no, no. I never can say goodbye. No, no, no. No, no, no. No, no, no. I never can say goodbye.

STEVE BAKER: So Daisy, what does the Garden Party mean to you?

DAISY: Oh, it's just a great party to have every year. Something fun, something great to do, just to have a lot of fun, get dressed up, make our crazy outfit like this.

STEVE BAKER: So are you in the lawn business or what?

DAISY: No, I'm not, actually. No lawn business here. I hate mowing the grass.

STEVE BAKER: I've never quite seen a temporary turf grass done quite that way before.

DAISY: Thank you. This was bought by a friend of mine, Gary, who's doing the lights tonight. He bought this for me several years ago, and I've just gotten around to doing something with it. Hey, this is a great cause. All the proceeds go to Stephen's house. Next year we'll have the same thing all over again, so come on out for next year too.

[MUSIC - CHERYL LYNN, "GOT TO BE REAL"]

CHERYL LYNN: (SINGING) What you find-ah, what you feel now, what you love-ah to be real. What you find-ah, I think I love you. What you feel now, I think I need you. What you love-ah to be real.

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne, that party was so cool.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: It was fun. But it's time to close another show.

KIM SEVIER: Are you sure we can't talk about our costume ideas for next year?

SUZANNE ANDERSON: I can't. I can't compete with the Garden Party costumes. No way. No way.

KIM SEVIER: Be sure to tune in next week because we'll have a personal interview with Mayor Lee Brown and our very own J.C.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Also, we're going to take you to the appreciation party that was thrown by the pride committee for its volunteers and its community supporters.

KIM SEVIER: And next week, we may have some surprises to announce in regards to our own show *TV Montrose*, so stay tuned for that.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Well, I'm Suzanne Anderson.

KIM SEVIER: And I'm Kim Sevier. Thanks for being with us. See you next week.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** We'll be at the monthly meeting at the Lesbian and-- shit. I'm sorry. And Mayor Brown is working hard on living up to his compra-- pane prem--

KIM SEVIER: [TEASING]

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Campaign promise.

KIM SEVIER: That's usually what I do. You can't do that.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Let's take the time to take it off. I can't get these two lines. I can't even do two words.

CREW: Three, two--

KIM SEVIER: Welcome back. Oops--

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Oh, I'm so sorry.

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne, those guys are really cool.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** They really are, and they give us so, somus-- much.

[THEME MUSIC]