



Focus on Friendswood

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Winter 2005

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SPOTLIGHT on . . .

MAYOR KIM BRIZENDINE



Thursday, February 3, 2005, Mayor Kimball W. Brizendine gave his annual State of the City address to a crowd of approximately 200 guests and citizens of Friendswood. Held at the Friendswood Community Church, Mayor Brizendine was the guest speaker for the Chamber of Commerce's regular luncheon meeting.

This was not like any other address before. The various departments of the City were represented with display tables, PowerPoint presentations, charts, posters, signs, and information about what each division is responsible for, and current and future projects. Brochures were available outlining the city's projects and accomplishments. A PowerPoint presentation depicted photos of city projects. The

Mayor's speech was about his vision for the future of our city. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Ericsson also spoke addressing the progress the City has made thus far on capital projects, economic development, Main Street revitalization, growth, recreational amenities, and more.

HERE IS A PROFILE OF YOUR MAYOR:

Kimball W. Brizendine was born in Houston, Texas on March 14, 1953. He grew up in Pasadena, and graduated from Pasadena High School. He married his sweetheart, Jobeth, in 1974, and graduated from the University of Texas in 1975. They have a son Ben, a graduate of Baylor University, and a daughter Rachel, who will graduate this year from the University of Texas. Jobeth has taught in the Friendswood ISD for 24 years. They have been residents of Friendswood for 19 years.

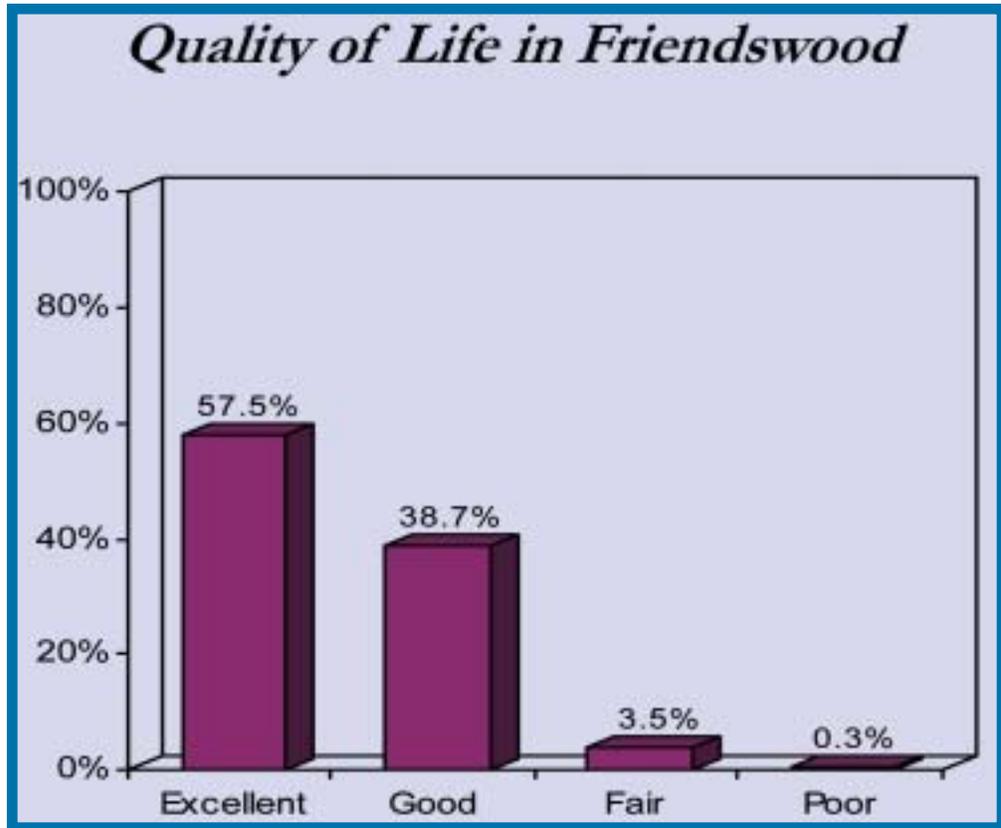
Mr. Brizendine is a business owner and an 11-year veteran of local public service. His experience includes serving as a YMCA board member from 1983 to 1986, Friendswood ISD Trustee from 1993 to 1996, FISD Bond Election Co-Chairman in 1997, Friendswood Mustang Athletic Booster Club Board in 1997 and 1998, FISD Education Improvement Committee in 2001, and Friendswood City Council from 1998 to the present. In 2000, Kim Brizendine was elected Mayor Pro Tem and in May 2003, he was elected Mayor of Friendswood.

In his own words, Kim Brizendine "has a passion for this job." Kim stated he wants to be the bridge between the citizens and the city government. He wants the Council and staff to communicate more, reach out to the citizens, participate in community events, and provide more information more often. His vision is one of a growing, thriving community that continues to move forward without losing the unique personality that defines Friendswood.

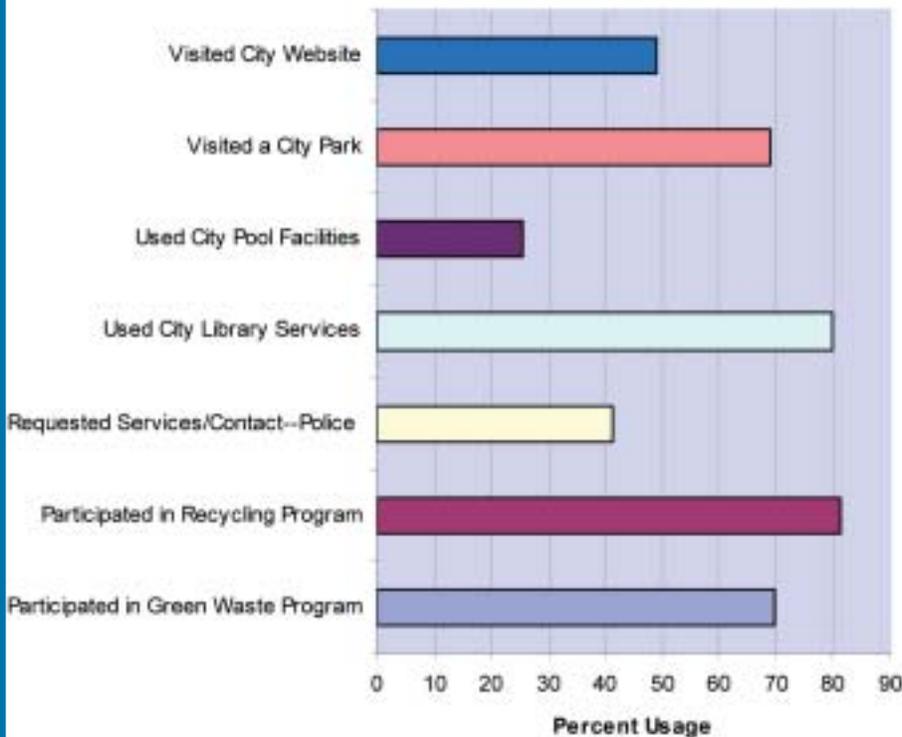
City Services Rate High in Citizen Survey

*High-Quality Community
96% rate the quality of life as excellent or good.*

*Quality Business Wanted
91% support the attraction of quality businesses to broaden the tax*



Use of Selected Services and Facilities



In a busy, growing suburban community like Friendswood, citizen input and feedback is a critical component in ensuring quality public services both now and in the future. Recommendations from citizen boards and committees, resident correspondence, and homeowner participation in City Council meetings help provide elected officials and staff with a wealth of information. To continue to improve communication and open another conduit for public participation, the City Council decided to conduct a comprehensive citizen survey.

To ensure the survey was a professional, valid and reliable snapshot of community opinion, the City contracted with the University of North Texas Survey

Research Center to conduct the project. In late fall 2004, 400 randomly selected residents participated in the telephone administered survey. Participants ranged across several demographic measures including: age, gender, education, income, county of residence, and length of residency.

The City of Friendswood 2004 Citizen Survey Results provide an additional tool for City officials and staff to help assess community needs, plan for the future, identify policy options, and evaluate programs and services. The results may also be used as a baseline for future survey projects.

Major findings from the survey are highlighted on the following pages. The full report and a copy of the survey instrument can be found on the City's website at www.ci.friendwood.tx.us.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey!

QUALITY OF LIFE

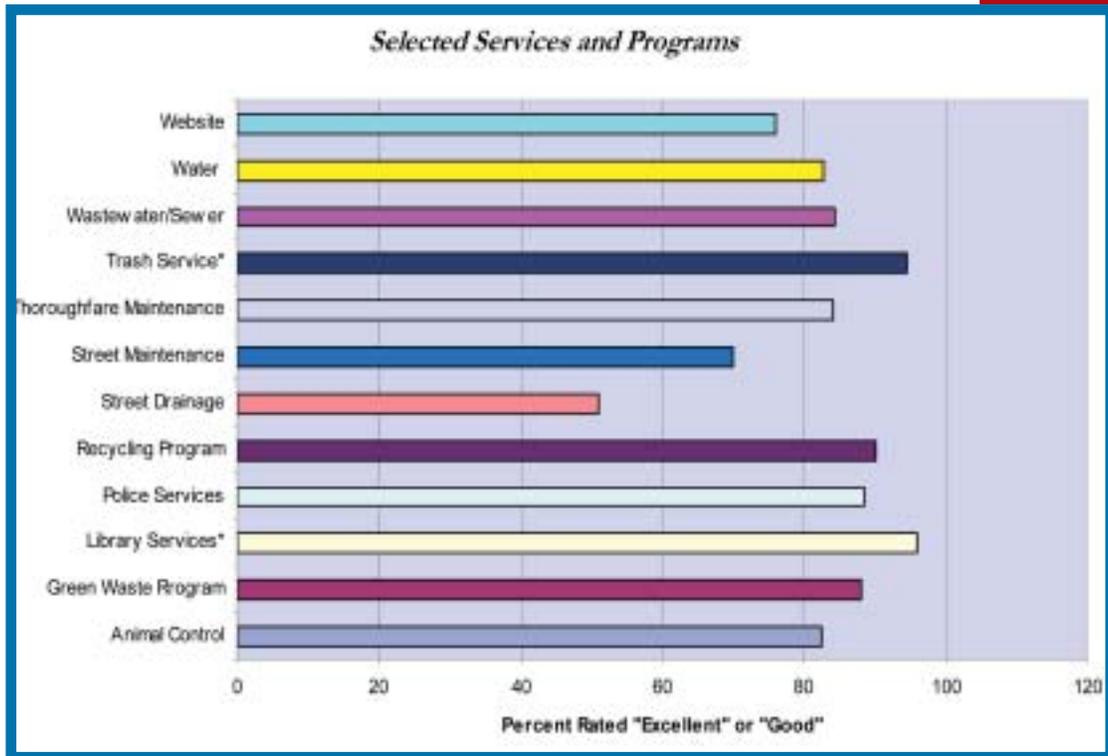
When asked to rate the overall quality of life in Friendswood, a large majority gave the city high marks. 96% of respondents said that the quality of life in Friendswood was "excellent" or "good".

Over 98% of surveyed residents felt safe or very safe in their own neighborhood and in the greater community.

SERVICE SATISFACTION

Overall the services provided by the City of

Friendswood received a large percentage of excellent or good ratings from interviewed residents. These results will be used as an additional tool to identify opportunities for improvement.



OPPORTUNITIES

The survey also included a few selected questions to gauge the perceived need for future services, programs, or projects.

Some highlights include:

- 91.3% supported attracting quality businesses to broaden the tax base
- Overall a majority of respondents were interested in the internet to conduct certain city-related business
- 77% indicated a need for more recreation programs for teens

For more information or to view the complete report, visit the City of Friendswood online at www.ci.friendwood.tx.us or contact the City Manager's Office at 281-996-3250.

*Residents Recycle
81% of residents aware of the City's recycling program actively participate.*

Mayor's Community Spirit Award

There is no doubt that Friendswood has spirit, and the Mayor finds it in our local residents. Mayor Kim Brizendine has created the **Community Spirit Award** to honor citizens within the community that have gone above and beyond to give to others and show true Friendswood spirit. Three awards have been given to deserving residents already.



*Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Robinson,
Mayor Brizendine*

Byron and Carol Fulk, coordinators of the Community Prayer Breakfast, were the first recipients of the award. The Fulks carried on the torch of this 35-year long tradition after the passing of Carol's father, Loren Wood. The second award was given to **Joycina Baker** for her efforts to preserve the history of Friendswood, in taking part in the Frank J. Brown Museum Barn project. The third award was recently presented to **Wayne Robinson** at the January 17, 2005 Council meeting. Wayne donated his time, labor, and materials to re-build an existing building at Hope Village. The building is a resale shop and will give the residents another opportunity to work on location.

These are a select group of Friendswood residents who represent the true spirit of the community. It is the intention of this award to acknowledge these silent partners and recognize them for their endeavors. The generous donation and selfless giving of these individuals certainly displays the character in which the **Community Spirit Award** was intended.

SCOTT DERR PAINTING BEAUTIFIES OUR CITY AGAIN!

One of Friendswood's most generous and talented sons, Scott Derr, has made his mark on the city again! During November 2004, Scott's crew painted the Mary's Creek Bridge on FM 2351, and added the five-point star to either side of the FRIENDSWOOD. The stars were so popular, Scott continued the pattern with the Chigger Creek Bridge on FM 518 at Eagle Lakes Drive. Work began in December 2004, and by the end of the month, the longest bridge so far had been completed. Be sure to check out Scott's website at ScottDerrPainting.com, and let him know how much you appreciate his work!



Focus on Friendswood • Winter 2005

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Mayor	Kim W. Brizendine
Mayor Pro Tem	Jerry Ericsson
Council Position 1	Laura Ewing
Council Position 3	Tracy Goza
Council Position 4	Dave Smith
Council Position 5	Shannon Kimmel
Council Position 6	Mel Measeles

City of Friendswood Mission Statement

It is the Mission of the Council and Staff of the City of Friendswood to provide the highest level of service to our citizens at the greatest value.

Adopted: July 9, 1990
Revised: January 4, 1993
Revised: August 18, 1997
Revised: January 12, 2004

Friendswood Public Library hosts Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher

Mark your calendar for an evening of wonderful music! Classical Guitarist, Peter Fletcher, will be performing at the Friendswood Public Library on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at 7 p.m.

In demand as a performer at cultural venues throughout the country, Fletcher has been invited to give recitals at the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY; Emory University in Atlanta, GA; Furman University in South Carolina; the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, DE; Fairhope Concert Series in Alabama; Spivey Hall and many others. The Atlanta Virtuosi invited him to perform as a soloist at the 1997 Hispanic Festival of the Arts. In 2003 he performed at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, IL, and in 2005 he will be on the panel of judges for the Ninth Annual Schadt String Competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Many radio and television appearances have included

Studio GPR of Georgia Public Radio, Fox-affiliate WAGA-TV's "Good Day Atlanta" and *Storyline* on Turner Broadcasting System (TBS).

Peter Fletcher's two recordings, *The Art of Classical Guitar*, and *Federico Mompou: Guitar Works*, have received critical acclaim. Wrote Steven Rings of *The American Record Guide*: "He has strong technique, a consistent tone, and a strong interpretive imagination." Proclaimed John C. Falstaff of *Creative Loafing*: "Fletcher's playing exhibits an impressive command of the considerable dynamic range which is possible with just one guitar, and the flow is uniformly effortless and occasionally breathtaking."

The concert will feature selections from Fletcher's newest recording, as well as the popular *Sunburst* by Andrew York; *Leyenda* by Isaac Albeniz; new transcriptions of the French composers Eric Satie and Francois Couperin, and will culminate with a powerful new work for classical guitar by the Italian guitarist and composer Carlo Domeniconi entitled *Koyunbaba*.

For more information, contact the Friendswood Public Library at 281-482-7135.

NEW LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM GOES LIVE!

December 1, 2004 was the "Go Live" day for the Friendswood Public Library's new automation system. The Horizon Information Portal (HIP), which is the public access catalog, is still undergoing some tweaking to make it more user friendly. It does offer many features not available in the old catalog.

For newer titles, there are pictures of book covers, links to reviews, summaries, first chapters and/or the table of contents of some titles. The catalog is also available from home or office through the library's web page at www.friendswood.lib.tx.us. Citizens may request and renew items online. They may also create lists of titles to check out.

For additional information or help using the new system, please call the Library at 281-482-7135.

AARP Tax Assistance at the Friendswood Public Library

AARP Tax Assistance will begin at the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, February 1, 2005 through April 12, 2005, every Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. This service is provided through TAX-AIDE/TCE for low or moderate income tax payers age 60 or older. Other citizens are also welcome to make use of this service. Those seeking assistance will need to bring current tax records and a copy of last year's income tax return. Individuals will be served on a first-come first-serve basis.

The Friendswood Public Library carries selected 2004 tax forms and publications as well as Reproducible Federal Tax Forms and instructions back to 1995. For more information, contact the Friendswood Public Library at 281-482-7135.

Preventing Theft of Mail

The theft of mail from residential mailboxes and collection boxes is an increasing problem. It is a means employed by fraudulent con artists to steal checks and other items of value. This problem can be reduced or minimized if members of the community will adopt the following measures or practices.

- Do not leave “outgoing” mail in your unlocked mailbox.
- Do deposit mail in a blue collection box or inside at your local post office. Use a collection box that is not full.
- Make sure your mailbox is in good condition. Mailboxes in poor condition often expose mail to theft and bad weather. Your local postmaster can advise you on current postal regulations and steps you can take to improve the condition of your mailbox.
- Promptly pick up your “incoming” mail once it is delivered to your mailbox.
- Get together with neighbors and the Postal Service and arrange for the installation of locked group mailboxes for neighborhood delivery. These group mailboxes are known as Neighborhood Delivery and Collection Box Units (NDCBU). With a NDCBU mailbox, each address has an individual locked unit for delivery and collection (A minimum of seven neighbors is needed to sign a petition requesting a NDCBU).
- Purchase a locked mailbox or convert your unlocked box to the lockable type (Look in the telephone directory yellow pages under “Mailboxes-Retain”). On your locked box, make sure the mail slot is large enough and safe enough for the letter carrier to insert your mail (Note the mail carrier cannot pick-up mail from this type of unit).
- Arrange for your mail to be delivered to a Post Office Box for a small fee.
- Consider having regular income checks deposited electronically right into your bank account via Direct Deposit. It’s easy, and in most cases, it’s free! Contact your bank for details.
- In case your mail is stolen - (from your mailbox, from a blue collection box, from a postal vehicle or from your letter carrier) to avoid fraudulent use of your checking account – when writing checks to pay your bills:
 - Write out in full the “payee” and “memo” portions. Fill up the entire lines with letters or squiggly lines
 - Use thick, dark ink; red ink is best (not felt pen) to write your checks. Roller-ball pens are best.
 - Purchase checks through institutions that use tamper-resistant paper and ink.
 - Never send cash or coins through the mail. Always send a check or money order.
- Promptly report non-receipt of credit cards, checks, and other valuable mail to the senders.
- Immediately notify the post office and mailers if you change your address. If you are going on vacation, notify the post office, or have a trusted friend or neighbor pick-up your mail promptly after delivery.
- Join a Neighborhood Watch Program. Remember, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.
- Be observant of activities on your street, including those near your letter carrier, his or her postal vehicle, residential mailboxes, and collection boxes.
- Immediately report any suspicious persons or activity by calling 9-1-1 while suspects are still present.

Remember - do not jeopardize your safety, but BE A GOOD WITNESS!

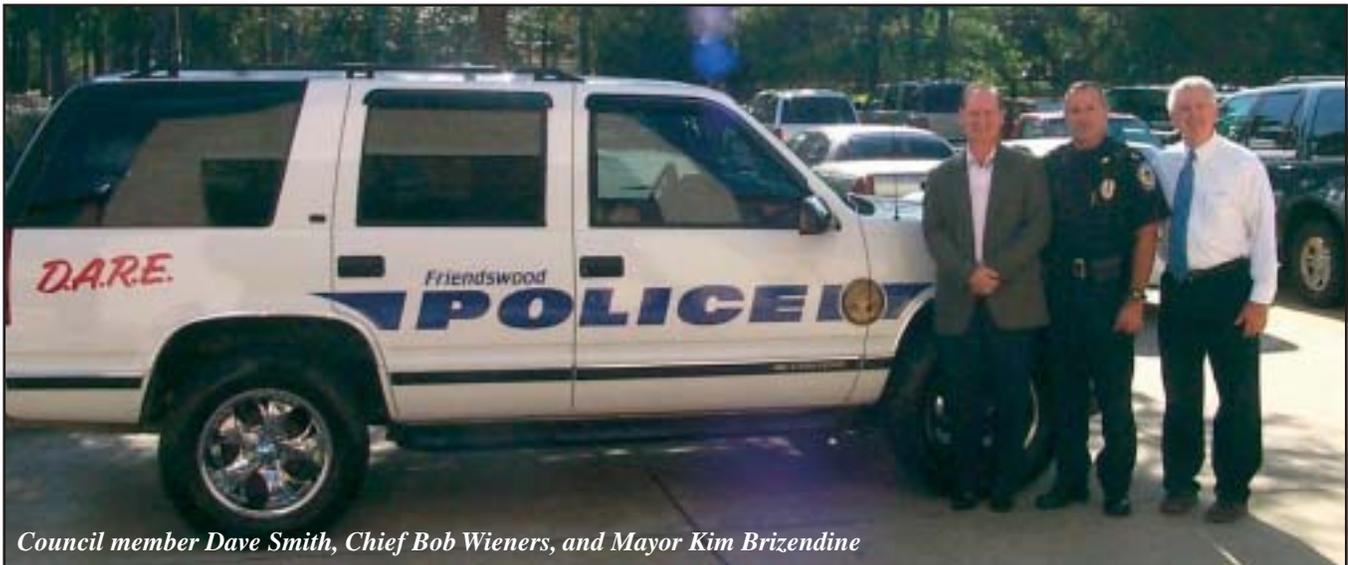
The Postal Service pays rewards up to \$10,000 for information and services leading to the arrest and conviction of mail thieves. Report suspect or crime information to Postal inspectors, 24 hours a day.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has completed construction of the traffic signal approved by City Council for the intersection of FM 518 and Eagle Lakes Drive. Work began the latter part of November 2004, and usually takes 30-60 days for completion, weather permitting. The signal should be tested, timed and fully activated sometime in February. A maintenance period will be in effect for one year.





Council member Dave Smith, Chief Bob Wieners, and Mayor Kim Brizendine

Drug Awareness Resistance Education Program

The Friendswood Police Department will soon have two new D.A.R.E. officers. January 10-21, 2005 Officer Justin Waggoner and Officer Renita Glaze attended the 80-hour D.A.R.E. School. D.A.R.E. is taught in all Friendswood public schools, reaching hundreds of students each school year. Officers who successfully complete the 80 hours of intense training will receive training in K-4, Elementary and Middle School curriculum as well as School Resource Officer (SRO) training. Gone is the old-style approach to prevention in which an officer stands behind a podium and lectures students in straight rows. New D.A.R.E. officers are trained as “coaches” to support kids who are using research-based refusal strategies in high-stakes, peer-pressure environments. The two officers join Friendswood’s elite group of instructors, which also includes Officer Judi Pree, Officer Tim Morton and

Officer James Dement.

The Friendswood Police Department’s D.A.R.E. Program has a new tool in their fight to keep kids off drugs. The D.A.R.E. Officer is now driving a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe. The SUV is decorated with the new Friendswood Police graphics, the D.A.R.E. logo on the side, and the following message on the back: “This vehicle seized from a drug offender.” The vehicle is equipped with a dash mount light bar and siren so that it can be used for enforcement if necessary.

In 2004, the vehicle was seized through the state court system because the owner was using the vehicle to transport illegal drugs for the purpose of selling drugs. Because of the involvement of the Friendswood Police Department in the investigation and subsequent arrest of the drug dealer, the courts transferred ownership of the vehicle to the department in the summer of 2004.

Solicitor Regulations

New amendments were recently made to the solicitor ordinance, which is Chapter 18 of the City Code of Ordinances written to regulate solicitation activities in the City of Friendswood. This ordinance required amendments to Section 18-77 in order to provide for the equal protection of all persons who want to conduct solicitation activities in the City of Friendswood.

Regulation and enforcement activities contained in the amended ordinance are now consistent with the standards contained in a U. S. Supreme Court decision relating to such activity rendered in June 2002 (*Watchtower Tract and Bible Society of New York v. the Village of Stratton*). Section 18-77 specifically addresses exemptions from the ordinance.

Changes were made to provide an exemption only to persons soliciting for religious, political or civic causes. Commercial (for profit) and non-commercial (non-profit) solicitors are now required to apply for permits and to pay permit fees. Also, commercial and non-commercial solicitors must fully comply with all other sections of the ordinance as originally published. The standards provided in this solicitor ordinance will be administered and enforced by the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESSES LOCATE IN FRIENDSWOOD

As you drive through Friendswood, you can see many new businesses opening and many more to open soon! The old buildings came down at the corner of FM 2351 and Pecan Dr. on Sunday, January 23. **Pecan Plaza**, a 12,000 sq. ft. Office Building will be built for office lease space. Across the street in the old **Original**



Pecan Plaza-before and after

Pasta Company location, a new Italian restaurant will be moving in after some minor remodeling of the interior. The name of the new restaurant is **Gourmet Express** and plans are to open early to mid-March. **Cornerstone Maintenance** has moved into new offices at 104 Pecan. Visit them for your irrigation, landscaping, and maintenance needs.



Texture (formerly Gallatin Hair Salon) is in their new location at 104 B-1 S. Friendswood Dr. (next to TCBY). Be sure to find them and stop in for your hair styling needs.

East on FM 2351, **Timber Creek Golf Club** is constructing a new building addition for the relocation of



Timber Creek Golf Club expansion

Timber Creek's corporate office to Friendswood. The addition to their current Clubhouse should be completed by the end of March.

Friends Knoll Commercial Center, west on FM 2351, has three new tenants. Recently opened for business are **Pagauche Hair Salon & Gift Shop**, the **Higher Hands & Day Spa**, and **Dr. Brian Kearns' office of Family Counseling**.



North on FM 518 is the location for the new 9.7-acres, mixed-use project of **Banfield Properties**. This \$10 million project will break ground in early 2005 and will include two 10,000 sq. ft. professional office buildings, with 39 upscale, single-story town homes behind them. Also north on FM 518, is the new location for **Chicago Title**, at 401 N. Friendswood Dr.

Chicago Title had to move from their previous location due to the purchase and demolition of the building to locate a new **Walgreen's Pharmacy** at the corner of FM 2351 and FM 518.

The Friendswood Village Shopping Center is the location for the new **Laurie's Art Gallery** (see more about Laurie on

NEW BUSINESSES LOCATE IN FRIENDSWOOD



page 12). Continuing down Friendswood Dr., look for the new **Primrose School of Friendswood** under construction. Left on Winding Way, on a one-acre lot, is the 10,000 sq. ft. location for the new **Riley-Sherman Shipping Agency (RSSA)**, a worldwide shipping logistics company.



Take your health concerns to **Friendswood Urgent Care** where they have leased a 3,111 sq. ft space at the **Texas Station** on FM 518. They provide a variety of health care services including emergency minor care and laboratory services.



In the **Parkwood Professional Building** on FM 528, two new tenants have moved in. **Meetings and Events Network**, handles group travel accommodations, hotel site selection and event management. Try them for free at www.meetingsandeventsnetwork.com! Also welcome **T. Ellis Fine Art**, a new gallery showcasing the work of one of the most

celebrated artists of the 21st century, Ted Ellis, a Friendswood resident.



Traveling west on FM 528, next to The Lighthouse, demolition was done to make way for a new **mini-warehouse storage facility** that is planned.

Further down FM 528 on Townes Road immediately on the left is the new **Townes Road Complex**, where **American National Insurance, Happy Feet Floors, and Samson Custom Homes, Inc.** are located. Continuing west on FM 528, at Bay Area Boulevard, in the Autumn Creek retail center, the new **Wing Stop** restaurant will be serving hot wings of all flavors soon.



Traveling east on FM 528, construction is progressing on the new \$5 million **Raton Plaza**, a 34,000 sq. ft. retail center being built on 4.25 acres. The center will feature retail outlets, two restaurants, and patio seating with umbrellas. Plans are to open in late spring 2005.



CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE TAKING SHAPE!

In the last two and a half years the City has funded \$14.3 million on Capital Projects. Currently, there is almost \$5 million in projects under construction, \$12.5 million (construction costs) in engineering, and another \$6.8 million in the budget for this year. These are combined totals for General Fund and Water/Sewer projects. Progress reports on some of those projects follow.



Whitaker Drive is a new street constructed to access the City's new Public Safety Building in conjunction with the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District for access to their new facilities. The new street is about 600 feet long and has a median at the intersection with FM 528.

The **Annalea-Kingspark-Whitehall Drainage Improvement** project began in September 2004. The project consisted of a new 6 x 6 reinforced concrete box outfall to Mary's Creek from the end of the existing Whitehall ditch



and a number of localized drainage improvements consisting mostly of larger underground piping. The subdivision's second outfall is scheduled for improvement by the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District in the near future.



The City combined two drainage projects and one street improvement project with the **Woodlawn-Shadowbend projects**. Conrad Construction was awarded the contract in May and began construction shortly after school ended for the summer. The intersection of Woodlawn and Shadowbend was re-constructed to lower it for drainage purposes. New underground drainage was installed under the intersection of Woodlawn and Spreading Oaks and the outfall was improved downstream. The section of Shadowbend from Woodlawn to Sunset Drive is being reconstructed as a curb and gutter street with underground drainage. Improvements were also installed at the drainage ditch crossings there and on Spreading Oaks. Recently the north-bound lane was re-opened and the south-bound lane should be complete by the end of February.



After months of work, the **Sunmeadow Drainage Improvements** project is beginning to get underway. Troy Construction is currently making preparations to begin laying the outfall piping. The work started in late January and will cost \$2.18 million dollars. The major piece of the project actually sits outside of the Sunmeadow Subdivision, but there are a number of smaller pieces that will be constructed within the subdivision in this phase of the project which is expected to take up to nine months to complete.

City's Main Street Committee examines key development issues

City Council adopted the **Main Street Implementation Plan** in September 2004. This past November, the Main Street project went into its fourth phase of work, when the general Committee met and addressed specific strategies and recommendations that will spur development of the project. The Committee will recommend programs and ordinances to help commercial and residential activities flourish in the Main Street District.

Issues of importance to developers and brokers that will be examined by the Committee in the coming months include:

- Mixed-use zoning
- Regional off-site detention
- Current infrastructure, including water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, amenities
- Facilitating development - including financial, land assembly, permitting, plan review procedures

A series of sub-committees was appointed to address the three most important recommendations outlined in the Plan. The **“Entity”** sub-committee will research the possibility of creating a separate, not-for-profit entity to oversee the Implementation Plan. The sub-committee for a **“Director Search”** will define the qualifications for an Executive Director and begin the search process. The **“Main Street**



Business Environment” sub-committee will address such issues such as retaining existing businesses, attracting new businesses, and providing programs that will encourage economic incentive programs, and zoning.

The initial phase of the Main Street project will be centered on Friendswood Drive from Spreading Oaks to Shadowbend, and east/west from Morningside to Laurel. Ultimately, the Main Street revitalization is expected to extend from FM 2351 south along FM 518 to Cowards Creek and several blocks either side of FM 518.

For more information on the Main Street development project, visit www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/content_pages/Econ_Dev/Main_Street/Mainstreet.asp.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE BOARD'S ANNUAL TREE GIVE-AWAY BIG SUCCESS

Saturday morning, January 22, 2005, the Friendswood Community Appearance Board members held the Annual Tree Give Away at the Friendswood City Hall. Enthusiastic members handed out 100 one-gallon, container-grown, Live Oak trees, as well as 750 trees of different varieties to citizens in a little over three hours. The “Junior Gardeners” distributed instructions for planting and information about each species.

For more information, please call 281-996-3220.



LAURIE'S ART GALLERY OPENS



Laurie Whitehead, local artist, and ambassador of Friendswood, opened a new art gallery in the Friendswood Village Shopping Center behind Chase Bank. Operating hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The art gallery will also contain pieces created from Floral

Trends who previously occupied the space, and possibly other artists in the future. The artwork inside Laurie's Art Gallery is work that she created before this past year.

Laurie's Art Gallery will have 46 various images on display. Several of the art pieces can be sold with frames, but custom framing will not be offered at the gallery. The Gallery will also be the site for field trips for local students, just as before at the Lighthouse. Laurie uses these opportunities to teach the children about art and instill a love of patriotism.

Laurie was introduced in 1984 by the International Art Appraisers Association as a master artist and describes her paintings as a combination of several styles. For more than 14 years, Laurie's studio was located on the top two floors of the State Farm Lighthouse building on FM 528. Laurie closed her gallery and began working from her home following an automobile accident. Although she will continue to create the artwork at home, Laurie wanted the new gallery to showcase her work.

DR. DAVID HEARN RECOGNIZED

At the January 17, 2005 City Council Meeting, Mayor Kim Brizendine honored Dr. David Hearn for his 32 years of service as the Medical Director for the Friendswood Emergency Medical Service, a division of the Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department. Council member Dave Smith read the proclamation announcing "Dr. David Hearn Day" in the City of Friendswood.

Dr. Hearn is the only medical director EMS has had in its history, but he has been instrumental in the development of the Pearland, Southeast and Clear Lake EMS departments and sponsored the first EMS program at San Jacinto College. In March of 1973, Dr. Hearn helped coordinate the first EMT class made up of FVFD Rescue Squad members along with members from the newly-formed Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps (CLEMC).

It is because of the dedication of caring professionals like Dr. Hearn and the department's hard work that the Friendswood EMS was named

the top volunteer EMS provider in the State in 2001. The director, Chief Lisa Camp, was named the EMS Administrator of the Year in 2002. In addition to the proclamation, Chief Camp presented Dr. Hearn with a plaque and an official department jacket.



Council member Dave Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Hearn, Mayor

CITY EMPLOYEES ACHIEVE CERTIFICATIONS

At the January 17, 2005 City Council meeting, two additional city employees received recognition for the certifications they received in their respective fields - Cindy Edge, the city's Utility Billing/Accounting Supervisor, and Karen Renfrow, the city's Court Administrator. Congratulations to you both!

Cindy Edge began her career with the City almost 20 years ago ultimately becoming responsible for supervising the City's accounting, financial reporting and utility billing division of Administrative Services. She has recently achieved a significant milestone having attained the designation of Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO). The certification program is designed to promote professionalism among the government finance community and is achieved through a combination of testing, experience, education and involvement in the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas. The testing requirement is a series of exams covering the areas of Accounting, Budgeting, Cash Management, Debt and Financial Administration.

Karen Renfrow began working as an assistant court clerk in the City's Municipal Court seven and a half years ago. She was promoted to Municipal Court Administrator four years ago and recently achieved the highest level of certification through the Municipal Court Clerk Certification Program, earning the title of Certified



City Manager Ron Cox, Court Administrator Karen Renfrow, and UB/Accounting Supervisor Cindy Edge

Municipal Court Clerk. Participants achieve certification upon successful completion of each of three levels, earning the titles of Certified Clerk Level I, Certified Clerk Level II and Certified Municipal Court Clerk. Participants in the program must pass a certification test to advance at each of the three levels. In addition to testing, the successful participant must have completed 40 hours of training sponsored by TCCA, TMCA or TMCEC. Maintaining the certification requires participating in ongoing judicial education programs annually. Karen is one of only 19 Certified Municipal Court Clerks in the State of Texas!

Karen Capps receives CEcD Certification

Karen Capps has been the Economic Development Coordinator for Friendswood since July 1999. Karen has worked hard to help improve the city's regulatory environment, the city's image through a strong marketing campaign, to fill empty buildings with vital businesses, and to bring new businesses to our city. She has been successful in all these endeavors.

In this time, Karen has also worked to sharpen her skills by continuing her training and education in the field of economic development. Recently, she has been successful in completing the testing to become a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), sponsored by the International Economic Development Council. This national recognition goes to those dedicated to

the profession who through detailed testing and questioning from a panel of professionals successfully complete the rigorous requirements for the certification.

Karen successfully completed that testing on her first try – only a small percentage of those taking this test are able to do this. Karen was only one of 20 Texans who tested for certification, and only one of seven who passed the exam. She is now among 1,155 people throughout the United States who can carry this title. There are less than 100 CEcDs in Texas.

Karen was presented with her certificate and pin at the December 6, 2004 Council Meeting, and credits her achievement to the support of city leaders that promote and support personal development. Congratulations, Karen!

A WHITE CHRISTMAS IN FRIENDSWOOD

Old Man Winter astonished most Friendswood residents when he made a surprise appearance the evening of Friday, December 24, 2004, Christmas Eve. The National Weather Service reported three inches of snow fell in the city, and it stayed until Christmas morning and early afternoon in most areas. It was a major event in that it gave the residents their first white Christmas in recorded history.



Entrance to the Friendswood SportsPark, top right is: Gazebo at Stevenson Park, bottom right is: Soccer fields at Centennial Park.



Development Review Committee is ready to help you

Did you know that the City's Development Review Committee meets weekly just to help you? This is a great opportunity to influence how the city supports your development initiatives.

- Held every Wednesday by appointment at City Hall
- Attended by key city staff involved in various aspects of the development process
- Opportunity for prospective developers and property owners to ask ALL of their questions concerning the development of commercial property at one time

Bring your concerns and questions to a meeting soon!
For more information please call 281-996-3201.



Members of the City of Friendswood's Development Review Committee discuss initiatives currently taking place within the city. Pictured from left to right: Cheri Skelton, Diana Steelquist, Dan Johnson, Kaz Hamidian, Jimmy Holland, Brian Mansfield, Randy Mason (back to camera) and Tracey McGurr (back to camera).

Sewer Utility Billing Changes

By now, the majority of Utility customers have received their first bill calculated under the new billing method and rate. This is the first change in the sewer rate or billing method in ten years and is needed to ensure this utility remains in sound financial condition.

WHY CHANGE NOW?

During the past ten years, our water utility has helped support the sewer utility. However, both systems must prepare to pay for large capital needs in the future. In the next five years, capital improvements are scheduled totaling \$7.6 million for the sewer utility and \$20.6 million for the water utility. At least \$14 million of the water system improvements is needed to pay the City's share of the Southeast Water Purification Plant (SEWPP) expansion, giving us an additional six million gallons per day of surface water capacity. This capacity will become more and more important as we approach build out and are required to move exclusively to a surface water source for our water supply.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Historically, sewer bills were based on the water you consumed during the winter months. The intent was to acknowledge that some portion of the water consumed does not enter the City's sanitary sewer system. This method seemed difficult for new customers to understand and at times resulted in more gallons of sewer treatment being charged for than water actually consumed during the billing period.

Sewer charges are now based on 80 percent of your actual water consumption above the monthly minimum of 3,000 gallons. For the first 3,000 gallons, the charge for single-family

residential customers is \$12.00 per month. For each 1,000 gallons above the minimum (based on 80 percent of water consumption), the charge is \$2.61 per 1,000 gallons. A sample calculation, based on the average customer's consumption of 10,000 gallons of water per month, follows.

10,000 gallons	
-3,000 (minimum)	\$12.00
7,000 gallons over the minimum x 80%	
= 5.6 x \$2.61	= <u>\$14.62</u>
Total monthly sewer bill	\$26.62

Conserve water and save money! Conserving this precious resource will help ensure we have an adequate supply in the future and save you dollars today. If you routinely use a large amount of water irrigating your yard and landscaping, and this water is not separately metered, it may be to your benefit to investigate doing so. No sewer charges are applied for water that is used outside the household and metered separately. To learn more about metering requirements, please contact the Building Division at 281-996-3201.

The billing method is simply a means to generate sufficient revenue to make the water and sewer utilities financially self-sufficient. Different billing methods will impact different customers in different ways, depending on your consumption habits. Please look forward to the summer months and analyze the impact of these changes. If you would like assistance in this analysis, please contact Utility Billing Customer Service at 281-996-3232.

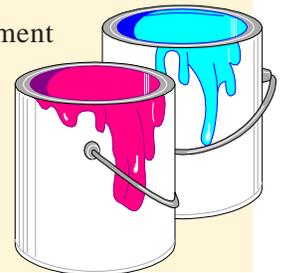
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

In conjunction with the 2005 Spring Sparkle, sponsored by the Community Appearance Board, the cities of Friendswood and League City are sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. This event will provide Friendswood and League City residents an opportunity for the safe, proper disposal of these items. This will be the first event of this kind for both communities.

Spring Sparkle activities, including the Household Hazardous Waste collection, are planned for Saturday, April 16, 2005, at Centennial Park. A private contractor will manage the HHW portion of the event and they will collect the following types of materials:

- Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze
- Household Batteries (Alkaline and Ni-Cad, *no gel batteries*)
- Household Chemicals
- Mercury (*Thermometer exchange*)
- No commercial or institutional waste will be accepted

The 2005 Solid Waste Management Implementation Grant Program is funded through H-GAC and TCEQ. For more information on HHW disposal and reduction, visit Earth 911 at www.1800cleanup.org.



Join Us!

Community Calendar

CLEAR CREEK CLEANUP

Saturday, February 26, 2005, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Every year, the Clear Creek Environmental Foundation, sponsors a cleanup of debris and waste in Clear Creek. Volunteers will pick up tires, paper, and any other debris along the creek, including the area in Friendswood. If you are interested in helping with this effort, meet at the boat ramp at Walter Hall Park in League City on Highway 3. For more information, contact the Foundation at 281-334-3196 or 281-334-8929, or check the website www.clearcreekcleanup.org.

EASTER BAKE SALE

Friday, March 25, 2005 at 9 a.m.

Chase Bank in Friendswood

The Friendswood Heritage Gardeners will be hosting the 14th Annual Easter Bake Sale. There will be pies, cakes, and Easter craft items. For more information, contact the Heritage Gardeners at 281-992-4438.

SPRING SPARKLE & HHW COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, April 16, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Sparkle activities, sponsored by the Community Appearance Board, will be held in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on April 16, 2005, at Centennial Park. The Community Appearance Board works in conjunction with IESI to provide the

opportunity to assist citizens with removal of large-scale trash and debris removal. Citizens are encouraged to come out to Centennial Park to properly dispose of hazardous household items such as batteries, household chemicals, oil, and paint. Large appliances and furniture will also be accepted. No commercial or institutional waste will be accepted. For additional information, please contact the Community Services Department at (281) 996-3220.

FLOWER SHOW

Friday, April 22, 2005

On April 22, the Heritage Gardeners will be hosting a Flower Show and will remain on display throughout the tour. Presale tickets are available for \$6/person. Tickets purchased on the day of the tour will be \$8/person. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact the Heritage Gardeners at 281-992-4438.

SPRING GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, April 24 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

112 W. Spreading Oaks

The Heritage Gardeners will be hosting a Spring Garden Tour. The theme this year is "Through the Garden Gate." The tour will include viewing six Friendswood gardens, a plant sale, and a Garden Bazaar. For more information, contact the Heritage Gardeners at 281-992-4438.

City of Friendswood
City Manager's Office
910 S. Friendswood Drive
Friendswood, Texas 77546



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