



# Focus on Friendswood

Volume 17 Number 2

[www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us)

Summer 2004

## Inside This Issue...

Page 2

Yield to Emergency Vehicles

Page 3

Free Computer Classes at the Friendswood Public Library

Page 4

Improved zoning regulations pave the way for new amenities

Page 5

Friendswood ... A FEMA Success Story

Page 6

Did You Know????

Page 7

City's Holiday Hustle Fun Run Raises Money for Laura Recovery Center Foundation

Pages 8 to 9

New Business Developments Flourish in Friendswood

Page 10

City Launches Drainage Work

Page 11

The Public Library Has Plans for Expansion

Page 12

National Night Out gearing up

Page 13

Support Friendswood Businesses

Page 14

Help Keep Friendswood Beautiful!

Page 15

Fire Department Unveils Newest Hands-on Teaching Tool

Page 16

Sign Up for E-Mail Alerts

## Local Artist Paints City Bridge

Anyone driving through town knows when they have arrived in Friendswood for certain! Four City Emblems over the Texas Flag have been painted on the Cowards Creek bridge on Friendswood Drive (FM 518) along with the word, "FRIENDSWOOD".

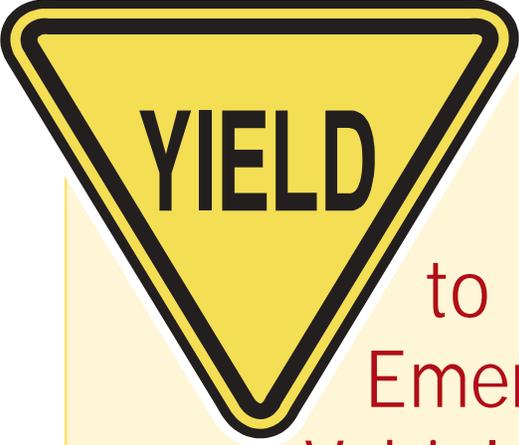
Friendswood resident Scott Derr, contracts with TxDOT, METRO and others to paint 70 percent of the bridges and overpasses all over the state. The painted bridges over freeways in the Houston-Galveston area are his work. But, his latest creation has Friendswood residents feeling a new flavor of pride.

As he becomes better known, Scott's talents are in demand outside the state. He has done work in Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. His company was recently hired for a two-year project in Washington D.C. painting the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Scott's work is very creative, and adds a local heritage and colorful touch to an otherwise drab site. The City appreciates his work and his 100 percent volunteer donation of labor and materials to the beautification of the community.

More of Scott's handiwork can be viewed on his website at [www.scottderrpainting.com](http://www.scottderrpainting.com). City officials hope to see more of his flair for originality around Friendswood!





YIELD

## to Emergency Vehicles

Seeing the lights and hearing the sirens of emergency vehicles can be startling sometimes. Some people either become confused about what to do, or maybe they never knew in the first place. But it is not okay, as some drivers apparently think, to slow down and continue driving.

**State law says that drivers must yield to emergency vehicles by driving to the right and then stopping.** Leave the center lanes open for the emergency vehicles.

This should apply to traffic in the same direction and the opposite direction as the emergency vehicle. When cars keep moving, fire truck drivers do not know if the drivers see them. Another reason drivers in oncoming traffic need to stop is that the emergency vehicles may need to make a sudden left turn!

What about traffic that is stopped at a red light when the emergency vehicle pulls up behind them? There is no hard and fast rule, but **emergency responders want drivers to make a clear lane for the vehicle as soon as it is safe.** If traffic is light enough, paramedics would like for a car to move through the intersection and let the ambulance through. However, if the driver does not feel safe doing that, he or she should wait until the light changes to move through the intersection and let the emergency vehicle through.

Emergency vehicles, mostly ambulances and fire trucks, rush through the City every day, but most drivers encounter them infrequently. When they do, we remind them to **pull to the right and stop.** Let the emergency personnel get to their very important business as soon as possible.

## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD AND IESI PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of the contract between the City of Friendswood and IESI, \$2,000 in college scholarship money is awarded to students from Friendswood High School and Clear Brook High School. The applicants are judged on community involvement, academic achievement and financial need.

***Congratulations to this year's recipients, who were selected in May by each school's scholarship committee!***

- Jared Berber, \$1,000, Friendswood High School
- Gary Hall, \$500, Clear Brook High School
- Katie Warren, \$500, Clear Brook High School

Thanks to IESI for supporting our school districts and assisting these students in furthering their education!

### Focus on Friendswood • Summer 2004

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Toni Yeager, Editor

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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

The Mission of the Council and Staff of the City of Friendswood is to provide the highest level of service to our citizens at the greatest value in a manner that warrants the highest degree of public confidence in our integrity and efficiency to produce the greatest level of satisfaction to the citizens.

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

Free

Free

## Computer Classes at the Friendswood Public Library

The Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, offers computer classes in Internet searching, Beginner's Microsoft Word, and an Online Genealogy class. Classes do not require prior computer skills, but it is recommended to start with the Beginner's Internet course if you do not have experience with using a mouse or computer keyboard.

The Beginner's Internet courses cover topics such as: what is a web browser, how to use a mouse, how to use the button bar, surfing the web, what is a URL address, how to use Subject Directories and Search Engines.

The Beginner's Microsoft Word class is designed to introduce letter and report writing, resume creation, envelopes and labels, as well as demonstrating the various templates within the program.

The Online Genealogy class provides great websites and helpful tips to make genealogy research more efficient and productive. Classes are held weekly on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information or to sign up for a class, contact the Friendswood Public Library at 281-482-7135, or visit the Library's Reference department.

# Library's

# Corner

## Library's Summer Reading Club Offers REWARDS!

Join the Library's Summer Reading Program and win prizes as well as tickets to reward parties! The theme for this summer is "Color your world-READ!!!" There is a reading club for everyone! Detailed information is available in the Children's Department.

### READ-TO-ME CLUB

This club is for children who listen to books. Prizes are awarded for reading up to 30 books, and kids who read 10 books get to participate in the club's award program, *Color Your World Party!*

### TEXAS READING CLUB

This club is for youngsters who already know how to read. Prizes are awarded up to 30 books, and kids who read 10 books get to participate in one of two club award programs, *Share the Treasure Parties*, one for kids ages 6-8, and one for kids ages 9-14!

### THE CLUB "60"

This club is to challenge youngsters to read 60 books. Kids are automatically enrolled in the club once they have read 30 books. Prizes are awarded for reading 40 and 60 books, and kids who read 60 books will participate in the Club "60" Award Program, *Meet Artist Larry Dyke*, with the local artist creating an impressionistic painting and discussing the art of painting.

On Tuesday, August 3, all children ages 4 and up, are invited to attend a program on stamps presented by Herb Wignall of the Johnson Space Center Stamp Club. Those attending will receive a free stamp!

For more information about how to obtain tickets to these programs and others, call the Friendswood Public Library, 281-482-7135.

## Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department 2004-2006 Elected Officers - Executive Board

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer



Rick McFee  
Roy Hunter  
Nancy Eubanks  
Helen McFee

Fire Chief  
First Assistant Fire Chief  
Second Assistant Fire Chief

Jeff Smith  
Marc Faber  
Mike Jankowski

EMS Chief  
First Assistant EMS Chief  
Second Assistant EMS Chief

Lisa Camp  
Cissy Matthews  
Andrew Yee

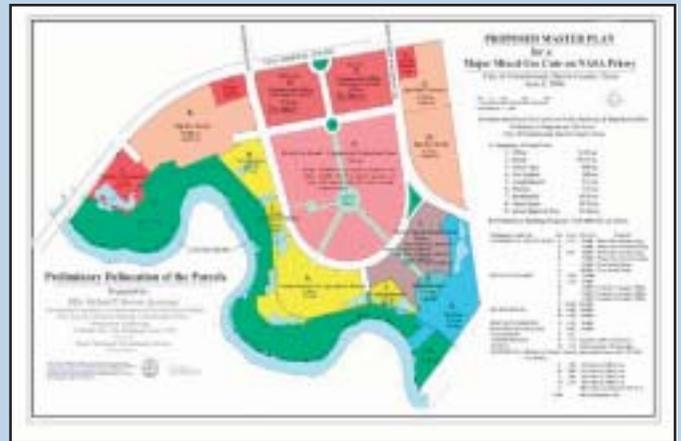
# Improved zoning regulations pave the way for new amenities

Staff members at the City of Friendswood are meeting weekly to modify current zoning regulations to accommodate new projects like the major mixed-use center proposed for the Whitcomb Clear Creek Farms site. This project would provide mixed-use amenities to residents such as specialty retail, entertainment, commercial offices, and restaurant offerings.

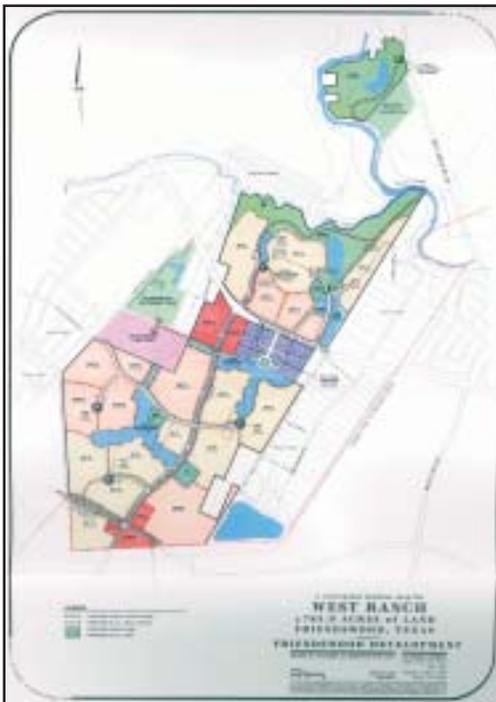
The project is a 1.8 million-square-foot, mixed-use urban center located on 130 acres of land on FM 528, west of Blackhawk Boulevard and bordered by Clear Creek. Veteran land planner, Richard Browne, who spent 26 years as senior vice president of planning for The Woodlands, is a part owner in the project and is serving as the development manager.

Mr. Browne envisions a pedestrian mall at the center of the development. The open concept would feature retail outlets on the first and second levels, office space on part of the second level, and residential lofts located on the second and third levels. The total land space also includes a boutique hotel, marina and quaint amphitheater. The entire initiative carries an estimated value of \$200 million providing strong economic impact to the community.

The new mixed-use zoning plans were presented at a public hearing in mid-June as part of a City Council meeting. If plans move according to schedule, the zoning change would go into effect in August 2004. From there, work would begin on the Whitcomb project, including engineering and subdividing the land into parcels. Infrastructure development should begin before the end of 2004.



## Friendswood Development plans WEST RANCH



The conceptual plan for a 766-acre residential development on FM 518 in Friendswood was recently presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The presentation consisted of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for a cluster home development. The project is proposed to include standard Single Family lots and Garden Home lots with approximately 1,500 residential lots developed overall. A large percentage of the land is proposed to be developed as parks and open or “green” space. The many park spaces are to be connected by a hike and bike trail system to include areas along Chigger and Clear Creeks.

Approximately 74 acres of the development is proposed to be zoned for commercial development. A Mixed Use town center along FM 518 is scheduled to be developed once the residential sections are established. Zoning changes require a Joint Public Hearing between the City Council and P&Z Commission. A legal ad is published at least 15 days before the hearing date. Property owners within 200 ft. of the area to be rezoned are notified and signs are posted 10 days before the hearing, which is set for July 19, 2004, 7 p.m. Citizens may send written comments and speak at the hearing regarding the proposed land use changes.

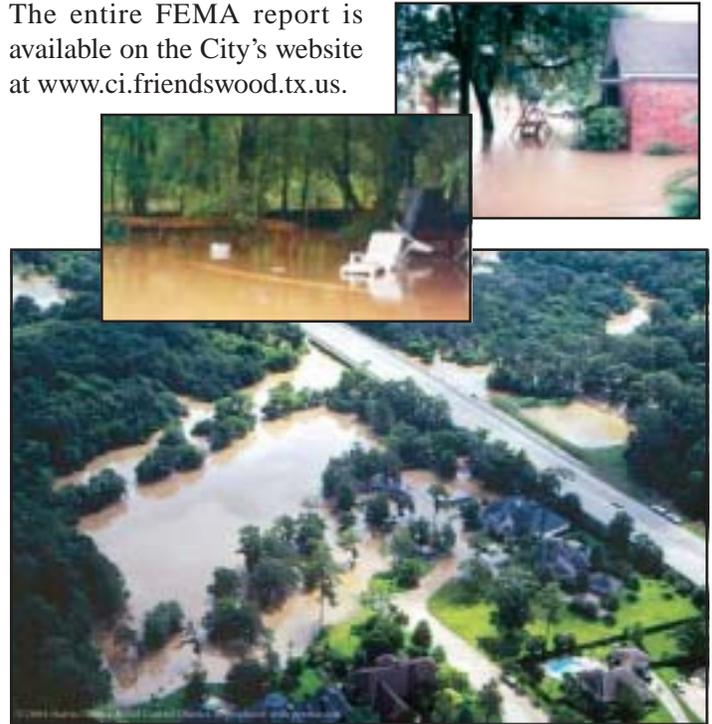
**For more information about this and other planned projects, please contact Diana Steelquist, Planner, at 281-996-3290.**

# FRIENDSWOOD . . . A FEMA SUCCESS STORY

In June 2004, the City of Friendswood received a copy of a FEMA-initiated Success Story for the City's efforts in the Tropical Storm Allison Buyout Project. The purpose of the report was to evaluate the success of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as undertaken by the City, the State of Texas, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VI in the summer of 2001.

The report compared the response and recovery efforts of two Presidential disaster declarations, the first after the severe storms and flooding in October 1994, and the second after Tropical Storm Allison in June 2001. The report further documents how mitigation efforts that the City undertook after the 1994 storms proved crucial to its ability to respond quickly and effectively to Tropical Storm Allison. Some of the setbacks that the City encountered after the 1994 storms motivated the community to seek long-term solutions to help break the cycle of disruption to the community as a result of chronic flooding. The hazard mitigation planning and projects completed in the seven years between disasters enabled the City to successfully complete a buyout of damaged homes in record time after Tropical Storm Allison.

The entire FEMA report is available on the City's website at [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us).



## What is a junk vehicle?

**A junk vehicle means any motor vehicle that is:**

1. Inoperable and has an expired license plate or an expired inspection sticker and which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, or discarded; or
2. Has remained inoperable for a continuous period of more than:
  - a. Seventy-two consecutive hours if the vehicle is on public property; or
  - b. Thirty consecutive days, if the vehicle is on private property.

A violation for having an unauthorized junk vehicle on your property visible from any city street is punishable by a fine.

### **Who do I call to report a junk vehicle?**

The City of Friendswood has two separate departments that enforce the City's junk vehicle ordinance depending on where the vehicle is located.

For vehicles on a city street [public right of way] please call the **Friendswood Police Department: (281) 996-3300**.

For vehicles on a yard or private residence visible from any city street please call the **Community Development Division, Code Enforcement: (281) 996-3201**.

### **What happens when I call in a junk vehicle?**

Vehicles on city streets: During the time a complaint is filed with the dispatcher, the caller will be asked to provide the license plate, make, model and vehicle color if available,

and the street or address where it is parked. An officer will go out and investigate. If it is determined that the vehicle meets the criteria of a junk vehicle, a notice is attached to the vehicle and attempts are made to notify the owner. After 72 hours, vehicles still on city right of way are subject to immediate removal and disposal by the City. A city-approved tow company will then remove the vehicle.

Vehicles on property visible from city streets: Once Community Development receives a complaint regarding a junk vehicle on private property visible from any city street, Code Enforcement will go to the location and investigate the complaint. If it is determined that the vehicle meets the criteria of a junk vehicle and is visible from any city street, Code Enforcement will attempt to locate the last known address of the registered and legal owner of the vehicle. Notices will then be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle, as well as the owner of the property on which the vehicle resides and must be removed within 10 days. After notice has been sent and if no hearing has been requested, if the vehicle remains on the residence after the 10-day period, the owner will be subject to a fine. If the vehicle continues to remain, the City seeks to remove the vehicle, dispose of it by a licensed vehicle wrecker, and recover any costs from the owner.

# DID YOU KNOW????

## The City of Friendswood has a Juvenile Curfew....

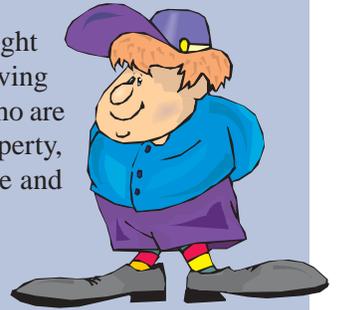
Persons under the age of 17 years within the City of Friendswood must not be out in the community on their own between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. on any day of the week.

### The Purpose of the Juvenile Curfew

The curfew is designed to protect minors from the potential dangers associated with late night activities; to reduce the number of juvenile crime victims; to reduce injury from accidents involving juveniles; control gang-related activity and address other suspicious activities; control youth who are observed loitering late at night without adult supervision resulting in littering, damage to property, loud noise, fights, and other disturbances; and to reduce juvenile peer pressure to stay out late and participate in criminal activities.

### Violation Penalties

Class C Misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$500, plus court costs  
Each day of the violation shall constitute a separate offense



## Galveston County LEPC Gives Awards

Galveston County Commissioner's Court is where the Local Emergency Planning Committee Chair and City of Friendswood Fire Marshal Terry Byrd presented Conoco Phillips Pipeline Company and employee Darryl Denison with plaques of appreciation for their dedication and financial support of the LEPC's efforts. Assistant Fire Marshal Brian Mansfield is a member of the LEPC Education Committee and was on hand as Wally the Wise Guy. Brian has portrayed Wally for three years now.



## NEW OPTIONS TO PAY YOUR CITY UTILITIES

### Credit Card Payments

The City now accepts credit cards for the following transactions: City utility bills, municipal court fines and fees, and parks and recreation fees. The following credit cards may be used: MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express. Payment can be made in person or on the telephone. In order to pay by credit card, the transaction must be at least \$20.

### On-line Payments

Customers can now pay utility bills without leaving home by taking advantage of the City's new on-line payment service. Visit the City's website at [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) for additional information on paying on-line by credit card. Click "on-line services" and follow the instructions. For more information, contact the **Utility Billing office at 281-996-3232.**

## CITY'S HOLIDAY HUSTLE FUN RUN RAISES MONEY FOR LAURA RECOVERY CENTER FOUNDATION

The City's 2003 Holiday Hustle Fun Run/Walk was an enormous success! With the participant fees and the sponsor's contributions, the Fun Run raised \$4,339.46! Sponsored by the Community Services Department, the goal was to surpass last year's effort that raised \$4,083.81.

The money goes to the Laura Recovery Center Foundation to aid in their efforts to help find missing/abducted children. The Center was founded in memory of Laura Kate Smither, a 12-year old Friendswood girl.

Chuck Jennings, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, presented Laura's parents, Gay and Bob Smither, with a check at the June 21, 2004 City Council meeting.



## CENTENNIAL PARK TO BE COMPLETED!

The Mayor and City Council approved the bid award and contract for the completion of Centennial Park, at their June 21, 2004 meeting. The consultant for the \$3,075,000 project is Hall, Barnum & Lucchesi Architects.

This is a big step for the multi-phase project for which funding for the completion was approved in the 2003 Bond Election. Construction will begin in July on the Evelyn B. Newman Amphitheatre, which will be located on a mound area adjacent to the lake. It will have an open area and permanent stadium-type seating for 200. In addition, the amphitheater will have lighting and a stage area, and will be able to host performances with up to 1,000 seated in the lawn area. It



will become home to many community gatherings and special events.

Other improvements will be a three-quarter-mile jogging trail, and two restroom/concession picnic pavilions. The existing parking lot will be expanded and a new parking lot will be constructed. A new playground designed for children ages two to twelve, two regulation-sized soccer fields, a lighted football field, and two multipurpose fields will be constructed, fashioning the park into a multi-use facility. The completion date is projected for August of 2005.

For more information on this project and other Capital Improvement Projects, check the City's website at [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us).

# New Business Developments Flourish in Friendswood

Several new businesses plan to open this summer and a few others are expanding their operations due to increased demand from growth in our City. Be watching for the **Dollar General Store** to open very soon in the



Friendswood Square Shopping Center on FM 2351 and FM 518. Further down FM 2351, the **Friends Knoll**



**Commercial Center** is nearly complete and will provide 8,880 square feet of lease space.

The new **Sonic Drive-In** will be open for business this summer on Friendswood Drive next door to First Community



Bank, and the old one will close to relocate to the new location.

Three Friendswood-based companies will expand in the City, supporting quality economic development for the area. The businesses include **Dinner Creations, Emerald Springs Wellness Med Spa, and Wrinkle, Gardner and Co.**

What began as a small, at-home business venture quickly became a popular concept with local families. In less than one year, **Dinner Creations** (a meal preparation business formerly known as What's for Dinner?) outgrew the family home with more than 200 clients. Recently, Dinner Creations leased 1,800 square feet of space at the Friendswood Village Shopping Center on Friendswood Drive (FM



518) to accommodate the growing demand for convenient meal preparation for busy families. The new space, which is slated to open in July, will allow the company to house their meal preparation division, as well as their full-service cooking school.

**Emerald Springs Wellness Med Spa** recently announced its expansion to a larger office space within Friendswood. The co-owners recently leased 2,700 square feet at Friendswood Crossing Shopping Center located at FM 528 and FM 518, and plan to open in their new location



in the next several weeks. In the same Center, a new restaurant has opened for business, **Rancho Mexican Restaurant.**

# New Business Developments Flourish in Friendswood

Veteran Friendswood business, **Wrinkle, Gardner and Co.**, a certified public accounting firm, is constructing a new 5,525-square-foot building on FM 528 in the new Autumn Creek master-planned development near Bay Area Boulevard. The new space will be ready in the fall of 2004.



The Fall of 2004 should see the completion of construction on **Southwest Bank of Texas'** 4,800 square foot building on FM 528, and a new 8,330 square foot **Shopping Center** that will include **Papa John's Pizza**, relocating from their FM 518 location, a nail salon and a cleaners, in addition to other tenants.



Further down on Bay Area Boulevard, the **Galloway School**, a private school for pre-schoolers through eighth grade, is constructing a new nearly 27,000 square foot building that will be built in two phases. Phase I is the main structure and should be completed by September 1, 2004.



The City of Friendswood offers continuous assistance to business owners to help them expand or relocate their businesses to the area through a variety of economic development incentives, such as property tax abatement, municipal grant incentives and tax increment financing. For more information, visit [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us), or call Economic Development Coordinator Karen Capps at 281-996-3250.

# City Launches Drainage Work

The City of Friendswood will begin work this week on the Woodlawn-Shadowbend Drainage Project. The project will address street drainage problems along Woodlawn Drive, West Shadowbend, and West Spreading Oaks. Project improvements will include storm sewer enlargements, storm drain and ditch improvements, and street channel reconstruction.

During construction, lane closures will be necessary. The speed limit may be lowered to 25 mph in affected areas. Use of alternate routes will be encouraged for through traffic. Motorists should expect delays and exercise caution in the work area.

Project completion is scheduled for December 2004. For any additional information, please contact Capital Projects at 281-996-3201.



## CLEAR CREEK CROSSING GETS A FACELIFT!

This spring the City of Friendswood hired contractors to renovate the waterline crossing at Clear Creek, located in the Polly Ranch subdivision. Due to weather delays, project time was a little longer than expected, but was still completed in less than two weeks.



The pipeline was sandblasted, cleaned, and painted which really improved the overall appearance of the old pipe tremendously. Before and after pictures tell the whole story.

# THE PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS PLANS FOR EXPANSION

In September 2000, the Library Board formed a Planning Committee consisting of citizens, Board members, Council members and City staff. The Committee identified three strengths of the Library:

1. Providing excellent children's programs
2. Maintaining an educated, professional, friendly staff
3. Providing a wide variety of resources

In addition, the Committee made three recommendations for the Library:

1. Educating the public about the Library's services
2. Expanding the funding base
3. Providing an adequate, expanded facility

From these six determinations, the Committee was able to develop a Long-Range Plan for the Library. In March 2002, the City Council approved the Plan and adopted it by Resolution.

A facility assessment performed by the Houston Area Library System (HALS) was completed in March 2002 to determine what the Library's needs are. The recommended space needs for this size community far exceed the current facility. In September 2002, an architect was hired to prepare a conceptual

plan for expansion. The Library's Expansion Plan was presented to City Council on July 14, 2003 in a special work session with Library Board members, city staff, and the architect, Steve Lucchesi.

The plan includes the following:

- Expansion of the circulation desk and collection area, fiction department, children's area and activity room
- Renovation of the workroom and the book drop with expanded storage area
- Creation of a Young Adult section, a common room, and courtyards

The Library's Expansion Plan is on the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2008. To learn more about the Library's Plan, or how you can help, call Mary Perroni at 281-482-7135, or write to Mary Perroni, Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546. Check out the Library's website at [www.friendswood.lib.tx.us](http://www.friendswood.lib.tx.us).

To join the **Friends of the Library**, complete a membership form at the Library. An individual membership is only \$5 per person.



PARKING LOT VIEW



FRIENDSWOOD DRIVE VIEW



SPREADING OAKS VIEW

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT gearing up



*Officer Niki Bender with Regency Estates residents last year.*

On Tuesday, August 3, neighborhoods throughout Friendswood are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the “21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Night Out” (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Friendswood Police Department, will involve over 10,000 communities from all 50 states.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anticrime efforts, strengthen neighborhood and police partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on August 3, residents in neighborhoods throughout Friendswood are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods will be sponsoring a variety of special activities such as block parties, cookouts, youth activities and visits from

local police.

Friendswood residents who would like to host an event should call Judi Pree, Friendswood Police Crime Prevention Officer, to register. Registration is free and helps police coordinate which neighborhoods are hosting activities. Officer Pree urges residents to call the Friendswood Police Department at 281-996-3300, prior to the end of July to schedule an event.

## Bike Patrol Used in Traffic Enforcement

**Traffic enforcement?** How can an officer on a bicycle catch motor vehicles and enforce traffic laws? It is neither as difficult or ridiculous as it seems. Who is more adept to settings where congestion is high? Bike officers can easily ride between lines of bumper-to-bumper traffic, looking down into the passenger compartment of the stopped vehicles as they slowly pass. Numerous seat belt violations and open container tickets have been tallied in areas where there are many businesses and large intersections. As a bonus, these traffic stops more often than not lead to other charges such as DWLS, open warrants, and other non-traffic related arrests.

The “STEP Wave” grant funded occupant protection program sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Municipal Peace Officer’s Association is the first such use of bike officers for traffic enforcement in Friendswood. While police bicycle officers continue to be an integral and essential part of the community policing initiative, the Friendswood Police Department is beginning to

explore ways to incorporate them into various types of operations and discover new and creative uses for the police bicycle.



# SUPPORT FRIENDSWOOD BUSINESSES

To encourage consumers to shop with the local business community, the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce is initiating a “**Shop Local**” campaign. The idea is to increase the awareness that shopping locally helps Friendswood and also the surrounding communities.

By increasing dollars spent in our local economy, this benefits jobs and the city’s tax base growth, which helps to support local services and infrastructure. In addition, spending consumer’s dollars locally has a multiple effect on local businesses. The city relies on two revenue sources - property taxes and sales taxes - to fund the essential services the community needs.



The first step of the campaign will be the unveiling of the “**Shop Local**” decal to encourage consumers to think and shop locally. According to Chamber President, Carol Jones, the Chamber’s Economic Development Division is encouraging all Chamber Members to display this decal on the front door of their business or to display it where customers are paying for items or services.

For more information, stop by the Chamber Office, located at 1100 South Friendswood Drive or call 281-482-3329. Check out the Chamber’s website at [www.Friendswood-Chamber.com](http://www.Friendswood-Chamber.com) and you can send e-mail to [fwdchmber@swbell.net](mailto:fwdchmber@swbell.net).

## *The Mission Statement of the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce is-*

To provide opportunity for development, growth and success within the business community

## REMINDER . . . Local Businesses Need to Stay In Touch!

Friendswood Police want to remind local business owners and managers that the Police Department needs to have current **emergency contact information** on file.

Unfortunately, the need often arises where the police must make contact with business representatives when a burglary, fire or other emergency occurs overnight, on weekends or holidays.

Having the current contact information on file with the Police Department, helps to ensure that a timely contact can be made.

Your businesses’ information should be updated with Crime Prevention Officer Judi Pree, at the Friendswood Police Department, 109 E. Willowick, or call 281-996-3300.

## KNOW YOUR CITY ORDINANCES Some Repairs Require a Permit

Most residents know a permit is needed to add a room or garage to their house, but did you know that you need to get a permit if you plan to replace your water heater, put up a storage building in your back yard, or even add an electrical outlet inside your house? Homeowners need to get a permit for virtually **any add-on** involving electrical, plumbing, mechanical and any kind of structural work.

The purpose of the permitting and inspection process is to help ensure that at least the minimum requirements are met to safeguard life or limb, health, and public welfare as established in the International Series of Building Codes. Additionally, local officials can raise those standards by passing ordinances designed to minimize the dangers that are not necessarily covered by the broader codes, but still a potential threat to residents due to local conditions such as **flooding and windstorm issues**.

Did you know that improperly installed water heaters could explode and destroy an entire home? Not just natural gas, but also electric. Have you ever thought about your tool

shed or storage building becoming a projectile in a hurricane? Projects such as those involving **accessory buildings** like storage sheds, carports, and patio covers as well as new sidewalks, driveways, fences, and patios can all affect neighborhood drainage. These are some of the things that are addressed in the permitting and inspection process.

The permitting process also involves submittal of a site plan to the Building Division showing the proposed location of all existing structures and pools on the site and the location of any **proposed new structures**. **The purpose of the site plan is to verify that** setback requirements are being met and that there will be no encroachments into utility or drainage easements.

It is important to point out that a five-minute phone call to the Community Development Department about any project you are planning around your home can save you time, money, and frustration down the line. Simply call 281-996-3201 to learn more about the City building codes and ordinances.

# HELP KEEP FRIENDSWOOD Beautiful!

With summertime here, what follows are some questions and answers to help keep your neighborhood clean and beautiful, while complying with City Ordinances.

## **Will the City's solid waste provider pick up tree limbs?**

Yes, for **FREE** as long as they are tied and bundled in four-foot lengths and do not exceed 50 pounds. The residential pick-up day is on the first day of your garbage pickup service. The Customer Service Department at IESI can be reached at 281-331-0810.

## **How should I dispose of lawn clippings?**

Recycle your leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste and do not blow grass, leaves and lawn clippings in the streets and storm sewers. This contributes to storm water pollution. Try grass recycling. Let grass clippings drop or blow them around on your lawn. The clippings act as a natural fertilizer and because of its high water content, the clippings irrigate your lawn and also conserve water.

If you prefer to collect your clippings, bag them in translucent (see-through) bags and place with your trash on the first day of garbage pick up. The bags can be purchased locally at Walgreen's, Eckerd's, Kroger's on FM 518, Friendswood Hardware, and Lowe's in Pearland.

## **What about recycling?**

IESI collects recyclables once per week on your first garbage pick up day. Items acceptable for recycling include newspaper, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and steel cans. Do not place household garbage in your recycle bin at the curb. This will result in the trash not being picked up. The recycling collection truck will be unable to collect it because the recyclables are contaminated. The regular truck will not pick it up because it is not in a garbage can and appears to be recyclables.

## **Where can I take large trash items?**

IESI offers a location for City of Friendswood customers to discard large/heavy trash items. Regular heavy trash (furniture, appliances that have had freon removed by a certified technician, large limbs or tree trunks, etc.) can be delivered to the IESI service center. The service center is located at 550 W. Highway 6 in Alvin, and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Directions:** From Friendswood take FM 528 to Hwy 35. Go south on Hwy. 35 to Hwy. 6. Turn right on Hwy. 6 and proceed under the railroad overpass. The service center is located immediately on your left after passing under the overpass. Items that cannot be accepted at the center include: tires, paint, oil, batteries, freon, appliances containing freon, or any other material identified as hazardous waste by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. To utilize this free service, you must present a driver's license or City of Friendswood water bill to document your residency. For more information or to contact IESI regarding a specific item, please call 281-331-0810.

## **How should I dispose of used paint products?**

If at all possible, use water-based paints and clean brushes and equipment in a sink. Dispose of paints and paint thinners at hazardous waste collection sites. To locate the nearest household hazardous waste facility, **call 1-800-CLEANUP**. Never dispose of paint and other hazardous materials into driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.

## **What are the rules governing vehicles for sale?**

It is an Ordinance violation to park your vehicle on any tract of land in the City that you do not own for the principal purpose of advertizing your vehicle for sale.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT UNVEILS NEWEST HANDS-ON TEACHING TOOL

The City of Friendswood and the Volunteer Fire Department recently took delivery of new educational tool known as the **Fire Safety House**. The **Fire Safety House** is a mobile trailer that represents a child-sized functional house. Children are able to walk through a kitchen, living room, and bedroom locating fire hazards and practicing simple methods of eliminating them.

The **Fire Safety House** is equipped with a nontoxic smoke generator. Children can feel a hot door and practice locating emergency escape routes. The mobile **Fire Safety House** is a great way to bring fire safety tactics to children in their environment.

The Safety House was purchased through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant which covered most of the costs. Application for the grant was completed through the combined efforts of the Fire Marshal's Office and the Volunteer Fire Department.

For more information on this Fire Prevention program



and others, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 281-996-3335.

## Wally Wise Guy Program

For the past three years, the Friendswood Office of Emergency Management has been active with the Galveston County LEPC, Education Sub-Committee presenting the Wally Wise Guy Program to elementary schools throughout the county. The LEPC and Wally travel to schools and educate elementary school students on sheltering in place for chemical and pipeline emergencies. Wally teaches the students that there are three steps to sheltering in place:

1. Go inside and close all your doors and windows.
2. Turn on your radio to the local news like AM 740 or Friendswood Radio AM 1650.
3. Stay off the phone. Emergency Management officials may try to contact you through the First Call notification system.

For more information on the LEPC and Wally the Wise Guy, visit

[www.gclepc.org](http://www.gclepc.org).



## Sign Up for E-MAIL ALERTS

Would you like to be alerted via e-mail with emergency information and the most current City news events? Of course you would! Then you should sign up now for the latest and greatest news group!

Go to the City's website - [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) - and click on the "Sign Up for E-mail Alerts" icon at the bottom of the "Latest News" box on the homepage.

Simply give us your name, e-mail address and optionally a mobile e-mail address to be used only in emergency situations. Then select the type(s) of news and information you would like to receive. Choose from:

- City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Agendas
- Construction Updates
- Economic Development News
- Emergency Management News
- Events and Recreation News
- General City News
- Job Postings
- Law Enforcement News

Your personal information will remain private and you will receive e-mails only involving official City business.

## PLEASE DISPLAY YOUR STREET ADDRESS!

Primarily, a street address number is to assist emergency services in responding to emergency calls. A street address that is posted helps emergency services to locate residents. A faster response time can make a significant difference in survival and degree of recovery. However, street addresses also assist utility service, building permits, mail delivery, and purposes requiring a site location.

The city recommends that a street address be placed on the structure, the mailbox, or the curb and be of sufficient size so that it may be seen from the street.

## Helpful MOSQUITO PREVENTION Tips

### In your lawn and garden area:

- Discourage mosquitoes from breeding by draining areas of standing water
- Mosquitoes seek shady places during the hot, daytime hours, so remove debris, such as leaves and grass clippings
- Use repellent products based on how much area you need to cover

### For yourself and your family:

- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Avoid peak biting periods, which generally occur just before and after sunset, and again just before dawn
- Apply insect repellent to thin clothing and exposed skin

**City of Friendswood**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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