A 1979 Building Gets a New Look

Major renovations are underway to a two-story building located at 3526 E. FM 528 (NASA Parkway) near the intersection of Blackhawk. City staff worked with the property owner to retrofit the 1979 building to meet current zoning and building code requirements. The 11,850 square foot building should be ready later this year for lease to retail and office uses, and includes 5,950 square feet for lease on the first floor and 5,900 square feet on the second floor.

Save the Date—8th Annual Broker and Developer Day

Mark your calendar for this year’s 8th Annual Broker and Developer Day workshop hosted by the Friendswood Community and Economic Development Committee. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 19 at Timber Creek Golf Club which includes a morning workshop with guest speakers Dr. Bill Gilmer – Senior Economist and Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Bob Mitchell – President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Workshop guests golf for free in the afternoon in partnership with the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce’s 13th Annual “Swing Into Fall” golf tournament. Click here to RSVP now – space is limited.

CEDC Elects Chair and Vice Chair

During the August Community and Economic Development Committee meeting, the committee elected Donald “Skip” Evans as Chair and Pauline Moore as Vice Chair. Skip, a Friendswood resident since 1981, previously served as Vice Chair and has been a committee member since January 2009. Skip said that he “looks forward to continuing to work on expanding the untapped economic potential of Friendswood.” He spent thirty-five years working with Bausch and Lomb in sales management positions and traveled all over the country, recently retiring from that position. Early in Skip’s career after graduating from UT, he also worked at NASA-JSC during the Apollo program, was involved with the moon landing program, and is still very passionate about manned spaceflight.

Pauline has been a member of the CEDC twice, the first time between 2000-2001 and again beginning in April of 2006. Pauline said about serving on the committee, “Being a member of the CEDC has provided me with a better understanding of economic development. Since I live and work in Friendswood, I have enjoyed being involved in a committee that is focused on the well-being of the community and the people who live here.”
Robin Hall is the owner and principal consultant of VARC Solutions, located at 820 S. Friendswood Drive, Suite 201, specializing in systems consulting and training for small/mid-size businesses. VARC Solutions offers training on all QuickBooks/Intuit products, database development and computer/network services. In addition to computer experts, Robin also employs workflow experts and can help get your new business back-office organized and off on “the right foot” or can do an in depth review of an existing business and suggest proven methods to increase efficiency and productivity while reducing costs.

Robin has recently expanded her business, adding a new training facility and a separate consulting group for EMR and other medical systems consulting.

Robin began her practice in Pearland in 1999 and moved the business to Friendswood in 2005, currently employing seven people. About living and working in Friendswood, Robin said “Friendswood offers a hometown feeling, and working with other businesses in town gives you the opportunity to meet and work with people that make up your community. We have found that clients are more comfortable working with people that they know and trust instead of a stranger out of the phone book or someone off of the internet.”

Robin is active in the community as a member of the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce, Friendswood Rotary Club, and the City’s Fourth of July Steering Committee. She has earned many awards including Intuit’s 2009 Partner of the Year, Intuit’s Customer Satisfaction Award 2008, Bob Scott’s Insights 2009 VAR Stars, Intuit’s Customer Delight Performance Award 2008, and Friendswood Chamber of Commerce Business Woman of the Year 2002.

Friendswood Veterans Memorial

A new Veterans memorial was erected in Friendswood next to City Hall and dedicated earlier this year on Memorial Day. The Friendswood Veterans Memorial covers 3,500 square feet of space and includes a waving stainless steel American flag that is 8 feet tall and 16 feet wide, as well as two 7-foot granite columns on either side of the flag that features emblems of all U.S. military branches. Atop one of these columns is a 3 foot diameter stainless steel globe while the other column features a bronze eagle sculpture. An arched entry and limestone benches are also located at the site.

At the base of the steel American Flag, an inscription explains not only the purpose of this memorial, but the sentiments of those who will visit the site in the years to come, “Honor, Gratitude, Respect and Remembrance to the Men and Women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States.”
Quality News You Can Use

New Businesses:
- Family Dollar Store, 214 S. Friendswood Dr.
- Fit Fight Gyms, 607 S. Friendswood Dr. #17
- Painting with a Twist, 607 S. Friendswood Dr. #18
- Pizza Stop, 108 W. Edgewood Dr., Ste. O
- Friendswood Fine Arts Institute, 306 W. Edgewood Dr., Ste G.
- Haute Looks Salon, 1501 W. Parkwood Ave.
- Friendswood Women/Dr. Amber Shamburger, 215 E. Edgewood

Business Remodels:
- Jack in the Box, 101 E. Parkwood Ave.

Business Expansions/Additions:
- Shear Pleasure, 904 S. Friendswood Dr.
- Texas Children’s Pediatrics, 411 E. Parkwood
- Christus St. John Hospital Sports Medicine Center, 415 E. Parkwood Ave.
- Championship Golf Center, 2920 W. Parkwood Ave.

Business Relocations:
- Dr. Pete Lessenger, 306 S. Friendswood Dr.
- Buzbee Property Development, 306 S. Friendswood Dr.

Residential Development

Final plats for the following subdivisions have been approved:
- Wilderness Estates—46 lots
- The Reserve at West Ranch—45 lots

2010 Single-family home building permits

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