



Focus on Friendswood

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Summer 2009

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CNN/Money Magazine names Friendswood One of the Best Places to Live in the United States

Friendswood is the only community in the Houston area to receive this recognition

Money magazine and CNN/Money recently named Friendswood, Texas as one of the country's "Best Places to Live." Friendswood is the only community in the greater Houston area and one of only six Texas cities to make the list. The 2009 list, which ranks Friendswood as No. 32 out of 100 cities across the United States, focuses on smaller places that offer the best combination of economic opportunity, good schools, safe streets, things to do and a real sense of community.

This marks the second time in three years that Friendswood has made CNN/Money's "Best Places to Live" list. In 2007, Friendswood ranked No. 51 out of 100 cities in the U.S. and was the only community in the greater Houston area to make the list at that time as well.

The winning cities were chosen from a list with populations between 8,500 and 50,000. Job growth, cost of living, housing prices, education, arts and leisure options, safety, diversity and health care are all factors when considering America's best places to live.

For the complete list, visit <http://money.cnn.com>. For more information on the City of Friendswood, visit www.friendswood.com.



Friendswood Renews Household Hazardous Waste Contract with Pearland

Those Friendswood residents who wish to continue to dispose of their household hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally friendly fashion can continue to do so under a renewed contract with the City of Pearland.

In April of 2008, the City of Friendswood entered into a trial agreement with the City of Pearland to allow 100 residents to each dispose of up to 100 pounds of chemical materials at Pearland's Stella Roberts Recycling Center, located at 5800 Magnolia in Pearland. The trial agreement proved to be a resounding success, as many Friendswood residents took advantage of this partnership.

The new agreement between the Cities of Friendswood and Pearland now allows Friendswood residents to dispose of up to 10,000 pounds of household chemical materials at the Stella Roberts Recycling Center. Residents need only to bring identification proving that they are a Friendswood resident. Located at 5800 Magnolia (off of Harkey Road) in Pearland.

Household hazardous waste products shall include the following items:

- Flammable and combustibles – liquid and solid**
- Poison – liquid and solid**
- Corrosives – acids and bases**
- Oxidizers – pool chemicals**
- Lead acid batteries**
- Nickel Cadmium batteries, lithium batteries, mercury batteries**
- Motor oil, cooking oil**
- Car fluids**
- Latex paint, Oil based paint**

For more information on this program, Friendswood residents can call the City of Friendswood at 281-996-3250. For more specific information about Pearland's Stella Roberts Recycling Center, residents are encouraged to call the City of Pearland at 281-489-2795 or visit the City of Pearland's website at www.cityofpearland.com.

Friendswood Receives \$2 Million Federal Grant

The City of Friendswood successfully secured \$2 million in federal grant funding for the purposes of stimulating economic development activities that will benefit the regional economy. The grant funding, provided by the Economic Development Administration, will be used to create water and sewer infrastructure in the Harris County portion of Friendswood, near Beamer Road and FM 2351.

This infrastructure project is expected to facilitate development in this area, including new industry and jobs for the bay area economic base. Once complete, the new infrastructure will have the potential to diversify the local tax base with economic development along the FM 2351 corridor in Friendswood's north end—also known as the panhandle.

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City Manager's Office

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Mayor Pro Tem	Andy Rivera
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Council Position 2	Jim Barr
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Council Position 4	Leslie Reid
Council Position 5	Bill Holbert

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

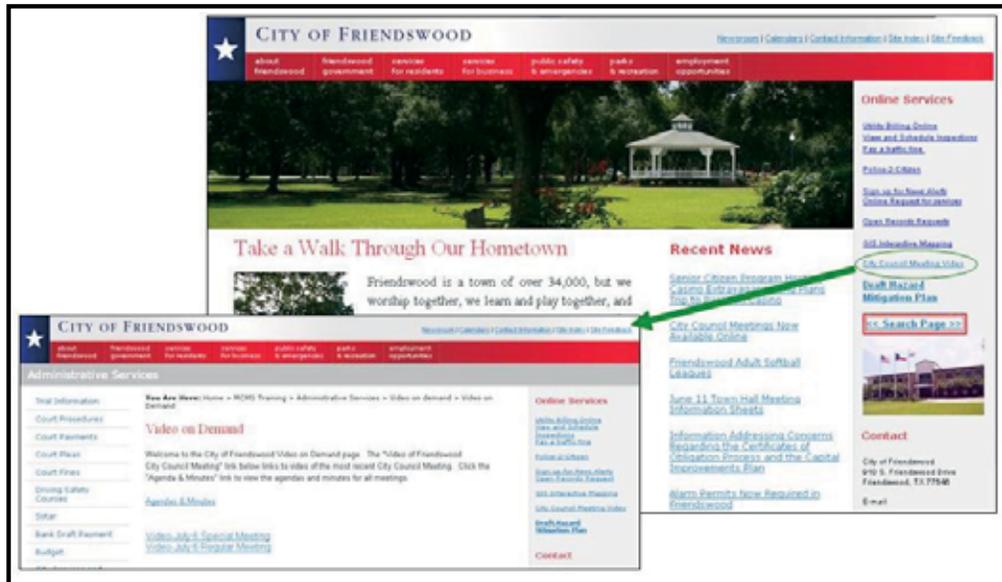
Friendswood City Council meetings available on the City's website

The City of Friendswood has recently made Friendswood City Council meetings available on the City's website, www.friendswood.com.

The videos, which are displayed in 'Windows Media' file format, can be accessed at the City's website by clicking on the City Council Meeting video link under 'Online Services' at the City's homepage. Those wishing to view the video can simply click on the video link at any time to view the most recent City Council meeting in its entirety.

The online availability of City Council meetings serves to provide all residents with access to City Council meetings, despite their television subscription preference. This newest form of media serves to further the City of Friendswood's continuous goal of increasing the level of communication between the City and Friendswood residents.

In addition, DVD's of past City Council meetings can be checked out at any time from the Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr.



Galveston County Satellite Tax Office to Provide Additional Day of Service at Friendswood City Hall

A recent expansion to the City's ongoing partnership with Galveston County will include an additional day of service at the Galveston County Tax Office satellite branch inside Friendswood City Hall. Beginning the first week of August, the Friendswood branch of the Galveston County Tax office will be open every Thursday and Friday providing full services to Galveston County residents.

Since the City's partnership began with Galveston County in 2007, both the City and County have heard numerous requests for additional days of service in Friendswood. A renewal of this contract between both entities provided the Friendswood City Council with an opportunity to provide funding for this additional day of service.

The office will be open on both days at Friendswood City Hall, 910 South Friendswood Drive from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Those with questions about the Galveston County Tax Office and the services offered can contact the office at 409-766-2284 or toll free at 877-766-2284.

Local Businesses Need to Stay in Touch with Friendswood Police

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

Business contact information should be updated with the Friendswood Police Department at 281-996-3314.

Five Star Spirit Award

The Five Star Spirit Award recipient for the first quarter of 2009 is Gerardo “Lalo” Aza, Parks and Maintenance worker in the City’s Community Services Department. Gerardo has served the City of Friendswood since June of 2006, starting as a laborer with the Community Services Department.

Gerardo was nominated by his co-workers for his ability to go above and beyond the requirements of his job, and for his continuous display of all five elements of the Five Star Spirit, including being courteous, competent, reliable, professional and enthusiastic.

We appreciate the service that “Lalo” has provided this community, and we congratulate him on being the recipient of the Five Star Spirit Award for the first quarter of 2009.



Cub Scout Pack #442, Den 1 Visit Municipal Court

The Friendswood Municipal Court, with the help of Judge Richard Flake and Prosecutor Steve Baker, hosted Friendswood Cub Scout Pack #442, Den #1. The eight scouts, along with their leaders visited the court on April 8 to observe the court and some of its operations. These Cub Scouts are working to earn their Criminal Justice badge.



Community Appearance Board Keeps Friendswood Beautiful

The Friendswood Community Appearance Board has been very busy this spring with a variety of projects aimed at making the City of Friendswood beautiful. They started off the year with the annual Tree Giveaway helping people replace trees lost during Hurricane Ike. Then in April, the CAB board held their annual Spring Sparkle, providing an opportunity for citizens to clean up around their homes and dispose of the debris in a safe and efficient fashion.

Ongoing projects included the building of a new flower bed in Stevenson Park and the continued beautification projects there. Also, the CAB board dressed up the Friendswood Activity Building by planting some flowers in the beds, which the board helped a local Eagle Scout candidate landscape. The Community Appearance Board worked with the City’s Community Services Department this spring in arranging for mulch to be placed in the medians along with tree replacement in the medians.

The recipient of the matching grant given each year by the Community Appearance Board was awarded to Friendswood Oaks subdivision for their beautiful new entrance. In addition, an ongoing project for the CAB board is the Business Beautification Award given recently to Hunter’s Creek subdivision. A new initiative implemented by the board this spring was to recognize Friendswood businesses that go above and beyond in their efforts to beautify their property with a letter of commendation from the board. The first letters went to Jack-in-the-box, Primrose School, and Perry’s and Sons Market and Grill. The board will continue to recognize businesses each month.

The community Appearance Board is working on a Keep Texas Beautiful grant that could result in a substantial amount of money for beautification projects for Friendswood. Board member Loretta Murphy and Community Services Department secretary Kimberly Ramirez recently attended the Keep Texas Beautiful annual conference in Houston to get ideas about the grant application process and to hear from other cities in this area who have been awarded the Keep Texas Beautiful grants in the past.

Fall events sponsored by the Community Appearance Board include Fall Haul-A-Day scheduled for November 7 in Centennial Park and Santa in the park in December.

The Community Appearance Board is made up of twelve volunteers who, along with help from Friendswood’s Community Services Department, give their time to beautify our community with flowers and landscaping projects in order to provide our citizens and visitors a pleasing environment as they travel within Friendswood. For information on how to volunteer in Friendswood, please call the City at 281-996-3270.

Keep Friendswood Beautiful

The Library Corner

Classic Movie Nights

Film is free and shown on an 8x10 ft. projection screen. Refreshments provided. Contact the library at 281-482-7135 for movie details.

Schedule:

Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Computer Classes

No registration needed. Some computers available to first arrivals on a first come, first serve basis. Computer class offered every other Thursday. The topics rotate and include Internet searching, Microsoft Word, E-mail, and free library database resources.

Schedule:

Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. Beginner's Internet Searching.

Thursday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m. Beginner's Microsoft Word

Thursday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. Beginner's E-mail

Library announces New Online Database

The Friendswood Public Library is pleased to announce that it now provides *Career Library* online database. *Career Library* offers a comprehensive information resource for career and college research. Four user-friendly components help users match their interests to occupations, education prospects, and more.

These four components include:

Exploration Center – This component lets users assess career interests and explore information pertaining to occupations and higher education. It contains interest and skills assessments, connecting results to a career cluster and/or occupation list. It provides various search options and important information including: occupation search, college search, financial aid information, apprenticeships, military occupations, college majors, state-specific data, occupation video library (English and Spanish), and more.

Planning Center – This component lets users obtain printable resources and gather information that will assist with planning to enter the higher education community or the workforce. It includes resources such as a resume builder, as well as college and career planning checklists.

Resource Center – This segment lets users search for web resources related to colleges/universities, careers, curriculum, and much more. It provides information on items including: “Cool Jobs” (job profiles on up and coming or out of the ordinary careers), web resources, full text articles, standards-aligned curriculum, occupation video library (English and Spanish), state specific data, and more.

Activity Center – This component offers ways for users to test their knowledge on History, Vocabulary, Math, English, and occupations in an engaging environment. It includes items such as interactive quizzes on history and vocabulary, online polls, sample proficiency and standardized test questions, GED sample tests and more.

Content features of *Career Library*:

Over 2,500 occupations, Cool Jobs, and post-secondary career paths

Nearly 4,000 2 year and 4 year colleges and universities

Surveys and assessments based on the 16 federal career clusters (also in Spanish)

ASVAB, COPS/CAPS, Holland Alignment

Multiple search entry points for career and college searching

Comprehensive financial aid center

Occupation video library (also in Spanish)

State-specific data on resources, job searches, scholarships and more

Regularly updated test preparation for GED, ACT/SAT and proficiency

Access *Career Library* from the Friendswood library's website:

<http://www.friendswood.lib.tx.us/>

Click on Electronic Library and look for the *Career Library* icon. Remote access requires your 14-digit Friendswood library barcode number. Scroll to the bottom for *Coin Career Library*. For assistance, contact the Friendswood Public Library at 281-482-7135.

City of Friendswood 2009 Flood Awareness Update

1. LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD - The purpose of this notification is to inform you of flood hazards associated with our local drainage-ways (Mary's Creek, Chigger Creek, Cowards Creek and Clear Creek) and suggest possible actions you can take to protect yourself.

Friendswood has a long history of flooding. In addition to our normal rainfall, we are often inundated by rain from Tropical Depressions, Storms, and Hurricanes. Some of the most devastating events include:

1961 – Hurricane Carla damaged 46 homes in the City of Friendswood

1979 – Tropical Storm Claudette flooded over 75 percent of the homes in Friendswood with 26” of rain

2001 – Tropical Storm Allison produced 27 inches of rain and damaged over 530 homes in the City

The City of Friendswood has FEMA maps that designate flood zones within the city. The maps are available for viewing on our website at www.ci.friendswood.tx.us under GIS Interactive Mapping, or from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Community Development, on the second floor of City Hall at 910 S. Friendswood Drive. Additionally, if you would like a flood zone determination, you can come by or call 281-996-3291.

2. FLOOD SAFETY - Flooding can occur with little warning. In order to mitigate the hazards of flooding:

Know the flood warning procedures.

Plan escape routes to high ground.

During heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water in the drainage-way. Stay tuned to radio or TV for possible flood warnings.

Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire departments.

Do not attempt to cross a flooding stream on foot or by car.

If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.

3. FLOOD INSURANCE - Your homeowner's insurance policy will not cover losses due to flooding. Friendswood participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the City. For many people, their home and its contents represent their greatest investment. *We strongly urge you to buy flood insurance to help protect yourself from devastating losses due to flooding.* Information about flood insurance can be obtained from your insurance agent. You do not have to live in the floodplain to qualify for

flood insurance. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents and renters can insure their possessions. Just because your house has not flooded in the past does not mean it won't in the future. *There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so you should call your insurance agent now to find out more.*

4. PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES - Methods are available for retrofitting flood prone property such as flood protection levees, elevating existing structures and protection barriers. Literature is available at the City of Friendswood Public Library from FEMA regarding retrofitting. Emergency measures that can be taken to minimize damage are also explained – including moving furniture and sand bagging.

5. NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS - The term “floodplain” often carries a negative connotation because of past experiences with flooding; however, the natural characteristics of a floodplain provide beneficial functions as well. Floodplains serve to protect the value of our water resources, living resources, and cultural resources. They protect natural flood storage and conveyance, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge. In our creeks in Friendswood, they also provide for breeding, nursery, and feeding grounds for fish and wildlife, as well as a source of nutrients for nearby wetlands.

6. MAP OF THE LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD - The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) shows the 100-year floodplain (AE), the 500-year floodplain (Shaded X), and areas outside of the designated floodplain (Unshaded X). It also shows the floodway in Friendswood. It is available for viewing on the City's website at www.ci.friendswood.tx.us under GIS Interactive Mapping. The 100-year floodplain is the area that is prone to flooding and has a one percent chance of being flooded in any given year. The 500-year floodplain is the area that is prone to flooding with a 0.2 percent chance of being flooded in any given year. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any year and can still create a significant flood hazard to people and property close to the creeks.

7. FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM - The City of Friendswood has the following programs in operation in the event of a major flooding event: A call down system has been established with most of the homeowners associations; the City provides news through the AM radio station 1650 WPMZ. Also, KTRH and KPRC provide current weather information for the Friendswood Area. The Police and Fire Departments use a mobile address system, a telephone-based warning system-First Call, and seven sirens located throughout the City to provide flood warnings.

8. FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMITS - The City of Friendswood has a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that requires a Development Permit for building,

City of Friendswood 2009 Flood Awareness Update - Continued

excavation, filling, paving, grading, or otherwise developing in the floodplain. A Development Permit submittal must contain a Grading Plan. The Grading Plan must show existing topographic information, all proposed development work, and be signed and sealed by a registered Professional Engineer. Contact Community Development or visit our website at www.ci.friendswood.tx.us prior to any such development to obtain permits and information. Citizens should also report any illegal floodplain development to our office at 281-996-3201.

9. SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE, SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT - Per the City's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance:

Substantial Damage means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

Substantial Improvement means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement or repair is started, or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred.

New construction and Substantial Improvements shall be constructed in compliance with the City's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance or be subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 per day per violation.

10. DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE - The City of Friendswood, Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District (GCCDD), and Harris County Flood Control (HCFC) all have jurisdiction within the City of Friendswood and provide regular maintenance to all of the drainage ways. **Citizens should report any debris or blockages to the appropriate agency for removal.** Keeping the drainage-ways clear in the event of a flood can help minimize potential damage.

For issues in Galveston County,
contact GCCDD at: (281) 482-0404
For issues in Harris County,
contact HCFC at: (713) 684-4000

11. OTHER INFORMATION

Federal Emergency Management Agency:
www.fema.gov
Texas Department of Emergency Management:
www.txdps.state.tx.us
Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District:
www.gccdd.dst.tx.us
Harris County Flood Control:
www.hcfc.org
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clear Creek Project:
www.clearcreekproject.com

Community Rating System (CRS)

The Community Rating System (CRS) program was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide further incentives for additional activities by communities that reduce flood losses and support the sale of flood insurance. Any community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may apply for CRS classification in order to obtain flood insurance premium rate credits for its residents. The community must demonstrate that it is implementing floodplain management and public information activities that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP.

Today, there are approximately 20,000 communities in the NFIP and more than 1,000 communities in the CRS. Based on these numbers, those in CRS represent the top five percent of the nation's flood prone communities. The City of Friendswood began participating in the CRS Program in 1991 and has maintained a classification of 8 since that time. However, effective October 1, 2003, the City of Friendswood achieved an unprecedented rating of 5, and is now ranked as one of the highest ranked communities participating in the NFIP. There are only three communities in Texas that are currently ranked with a CRS rating of 5.

Communities may apply for CRS classification in order to obtain flood insurance premium rate credits for their residents. Friendswood has demonstrated that it is implementing floodplain management and public information activities far exceeding the minimum requirements of the NFIP. If you carry flood insurance, check with your agent for the lower premium cost. If you do not participate in flood insurance, now is a great time to start.

This information has been compiled for citizens and property owners within the city limits of Friendswood as a part of this application process. The purpose of this article is to inform you of the flood hazards associated with flooding and suggest possible actions you can take to protect yourself.

NOTES:

1. The number below is the National Flood Insurance Program Community Number for the City of Friendswood. With this number referenced on your flood insurance policy, you are assured of getting the discount earned by the City's participation in the Community Rating System. Please be sure this number is referenced on your flood insurance policy: **Community Number: 485468**

2. Completed elevation certificates are available in the Community Development office.

This notice is a public awareness project as a part of the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. For more information, call 281-996-3291.

BE PREPARED FOR ANY TYPE OF EMERGENCY

Do you have a family emergency plan? Local, state and federal officials urge citizens to become better prepared by developing a plan, putting together an emergency supply kit, and learning what to do during natural disasters or any emergency situation.

The Friendswood Office of Emergency Management has many systems to warn citizens of an impending emergency, potential danger, or hazardous conditions. Please look to these warning devices for your information and protection.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

E-MAIL ALERTS

Citizens can register for instant e-mail alerts regarding emergency notices or other official city business. These notices will be generated automatically from the city to the e-mail address you have registered. Go to the city's website www.ci.friendswood.tx.us and click on "Sign Up for E-mail Alerts". Your personal information will remain private and you will receive e-mails involving only official city business.

WARNING SIRENS

A total of seven sirens are installed throughout the city to warn the public in case of a pipeline emergency or other serious emergency. The Outdoor Warning Siren System is tested on the first Friday of every month at noon.

RADIOS AND TELEVISION

- Radio: Friendswood Information Radio 1650 AM or KTRH-740 AM Radio
- Television: City of Friendswood PEG Channel 17 and all Houston local stations

FIRST CALL, NEWS & PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City of Friendswood is utilizing the First Call Notification System and the Harris County Neighborhood Early Warning System (NEWS). Both of these systems are telephone-based community warning systems for major emergencies in our city. These systems allow the City to quickly alert citizens in the area affected or if need be, the entire city, of an emergency, potential danger or hazardous condition. The system, when directed, will begin calling all the phone numbers in the affected area, alerting those individuals to the situation and how to protect themselves. **Citizens with unlisted numbers who wish to be part of the Notification System are encouraged to visit First Call's website, www.firstcall.net, and click on the tab titled "Unlisted Number Registration" and fill out all the required information. Residents can also call the registration line at 866-484-3264.**

BASIC EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Do not call 9-1-1 unless you need to report an emergency
- In the event of a power outage, do not call 9-1-1. Contact your local power provider.

EXTENDED POWER OUTAGES

Public service announcements (PSAs) will be posted on the doors of City Hall and the Friendswood Public Library.

EDUCATIONAL PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

Reference these websites: www.fema.gov/areyouready; www.ready.gov; www.redcross.org; www.disastercenter.com; www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem; www.gcoem.org; www.hcoem.org.

Friendswood Office of Emergency Management

Phone: 281-996-3335

E-mail: eoc@ci.friendswood.tx.us

City of Friendswood's website: www.ci.friendswood.tx.us.

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

BE PREPARED BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Know the storm surge history and elevation of the area. (Emergency Management and National Weather Service officials can help supply this information).
- Learn a safe primary and alternate route inland. If you decide to evacuate, decide ahead of time where you are going and know what to bring with you.
- Inventory all property with a camera or video equipment, review all your insurance policies (homeowner's, flood, wind storm). Remember, all policies must be in effect at least 30 days prior to a disaster.
- Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit
- Check food and water supplies. Have clean, air-tight containers to store at least 2 weeks of drinking water – 14 gallons per person.
- Stock up on canned and non-perishable food.
- Keep a cooler with frozen gel packs for packing refrigerated items.
- Check prescription medications – obtain at least 10 days to 2 weeks supply.
- Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights and lanterns.
- Check for ample first aid supplies.
- Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit for pets.
- Make plans for your livestock.
- Keep the trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that could fall against your house.
- Keep and store all legal documents in one secure container or safe which is easily moved. Make an inventory of documents, photos and other irreplaceable items that need to be taken in case of an evacuation.

WHEN A HURRICANE WATCH IS ISSUED

A **WATCH** means that hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to the area within 36 hours) Monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress.

- Fuel and service all vehicles
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Prepare to cover windows and door entrances with shutters or plywood.
- Store and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects (garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, etc.).
- Have an extra supply of cash on hand (ATM's may not be working during a storm or power outage).

WHEN A HURRICANE WARNING IS ISSUED

A **WARNING** means sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected within 24 hours or less

- Closely monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO**
- Complete preparation activities – putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, filling up water containers, etc.
- Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.
- If evacuating, turn off and disconnect appliances from outlets (a precaution to prevent further damage).
- If evacuating, leave early and if possible, during daylight hours.
- Leave all mobile homes in any case.
- Notify neighbors and family members outside of the warned area of evacuation plans.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY -- City of Friendswood

- Police/Fire/EMS 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY – City of Friendswood

- Police 281-996-3300
- Office of Emergency Management 281-996-3335

WEBSITES

Houston/Galveston National Weather Service www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx
National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center www.nhc.noaa.gov
Harris County Office of Homeland Security www.hcoem.org
Galveston County Emergency Management www.gcoem.org
TX Department of Emergency Management www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

IF YOU ARE EVACUATING

- Stay with friends or relatives or at a low-rise inland hotel/motel outside of flood zones.
- Leave early to avoid heavy traffic, roads blocked by floodwaters, and impassable bridges due to high winds.
- Unplug sensitive electrical appliances (computer, TVs, etc.)
- Put up shutters or plywood on windows and doors. Reinforce garage doors.
- Move all patio furniture, hanging plants, gas grills, etc. inside.
- Turn off the gas at each appliance (*Do not turn off gas at the gas meter as the proper pressure needs to be maintained in the gas piping*)
- Shelters will be available for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable, with no privacy and no electricity. ***Do not leave home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio and/or TV that a particular shelter is open.***

IF YOU ARE STAYING AT HOME

Reminder! Only stay home if a mandatory evacuation order has not been made. If told to leave, DO SO IMMEDIATELY

- Store water. Fill sterilized jugs and bottles with two weeks supply of drinking water.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes (this can be used for bathing, washing dishes, etc.)
- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug small appliances.
- Stay inside the home at all times.
- ***DO NOT CALL UTILITY COMPANIES WITHIN THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE STORM AS THEY WILL BE BUSY HANDLING EMERGENCIES. (Instead, call your answering machine to see if it picks up; call your neighbors; monitor the news; check the website www.CenterPointEnergy.com for general outage information).***

IF WINDS BECOME STRONG...

- Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small ground floor, interior room, closet, or hallway. Take a battery-powered radio, a NOAA Weather Radio, and a flashlight.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.
- If in a multiple-story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and the areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of a building.

NOTE: Be alert for tornadoes, which often are spawned by hurricanes. Also, if the "EYE" of the hurricane should pass over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are only temporary and that the storm conditions will return with winds coming from the opposite direction some times in a period of just a few minutes.

AFTER THE STORM PASSES...

- Stay in protected area until announcements are made on the radio or TV that the dangerous winds have passed.
- If already evacuated, do not return home until officials announce area is ready. Remember, proof of residency may be required in order to re-enter the evacuation areas.
- Do not drive through standing or flowing water.
- Avoid creeks, streams and drainage systems.
- Be aware of the surroundings when returning as extreme damage could render a familiar landscape unrecognizable.
- Avoid standing water – energized power lines could be submerged in water.
- Avoid low-hanging or downed power lines.
- If water has reached your electrical outlets, contact a licensed electrician before turning on the main circuit breaker. Any submerged appliances or equipment will need to dry for at least one week and be checked by qualified repair personnel prior to being turned on.

Public Works Projects

Utilities:

The City's Sewer Rehabilitation Program will be targeting FM 518 between FM 528 and FM 2351. The City's contractor has cleaned and inspected 11,849 linear feet of sewer line and 3,867 linear feet of sewer main. This program has immensely improved the sewer line infrastructure, resulting in the reduction of main line stoppages throughout the City.

The City is also currently auditing and painting fire hydrants located in the west area of town starting at Moore Road, and progressing to FM 518 for the Fire Hydrant Spacing and Auditing Program. In addition, Public Works will soon be installing additional fire hydrants in compliance with the State of Texas regulation requiring a fire hydrant be placed every three hundred feet.



Streets and Drainage:

This Summer, the City has been removing and replacing a 200 foot section of street on West Castlewood from the West Castlewood bridge to FM 518. The City will continue working in various areas of the city under the 2008/2009 Concrete Streets and Drainage Maintenance Project.

The City's newly purchased mud pump allows the City of Friendswood to raise sunken sections of street or sidewalk that is no longer flush with connecting sections. To date, the Public Works department has raised 2,979 linear feet and removed and replaced 645 linear feet of sidewalks throughout the city. In addition, 16,101 square feet of City streets have been raised in Friendswood.

Painting and striping streets and crosswalks are a continuous operation in the community. The striping of crosswalks, stop bars, and edge line in The Forest subdivision has been completed. Street and stop signs are being replaced in the Eagle Lakes and Friendswood Lakes subdivisions as well.

The Public Works department is also currently preparing for this year's hurricane season. Drainage crews are grading ditches while cleaning the City's drainage inlets, culverts and storm drains. Furthermore, the Public Works Operations section is checking and maintaining generators located at Friendswood water and lift station facilities in preparation for any power outage that might occur as a result of a storm. Generator power at the City's water and sewer facilities are one of the most important components of maintaining City services in the event of a Hurricane or other events that might knock out electrical power for an extended period of time.

For more information on Public Works activities, or to report water leaks, sign issues or other City infrastructure problems, contact the City's Public Works department at 281-996-3380.





New Rules Limit Home-Based Businesses

At the meeting on June 15, 2009, Friendswood's City Council voted to adopt changes to the "home occupation" portion of the City's Zoning Ordinance, limiting the location of parked vehicles related to home occupations and adding a provision to protect the residential character of Friendswood neighborhoods.

Some Friendswood citizens expressed concerns about traffic safety and access for emergency vehicles in their subdivisions at numerous public meetings. Large trucks, trailers and other vehicles parked on the streets have the potential to block the view of drivers on residential streets, and if vehicles are parked on both sides of the street, it may be difficult for emergency vehicles to maneuver the streets while rushing to an emergency situation. Many options were discussed in limiting the activities and operations of home occupations, however, restrictions such as limiting the number of trips per day to the residence and the number of employees are difficult for the City of Friendswood to enforce. The changes that were made regarding the parking of vehicles and maintaining the residential character of the area are clear and have definite parameters for the City to enforce.

The intent of the home occupation ordinance is to maintain the residential integrity of Friendswood. Provisions exist in the City's ordinance that prohibit on-premise advertising, external alterations to a residential structure, special construction or offensive equipment in relation to the home occupation. A home occupation is defined as an incidental and subordinate use to the residential or dwelling use and further prohibits retail businesses of any sort. For a copy of the complete home occupation ordinance, please contact the City of Friendswood at 281-996-3270 or go to www.municode.com.