

Economic Development March 2009

Business in town continues to hold its own. Several of the restaurants said they have seen dinner crowds slow down but lunch remains steady. With things quieting down at many of our larger employers, the restaurants remain hopeful that things will pick back up soon.

Old Ash Square strip center is complete and Ryan Cade's state farm office is open. The imaging center is working diligently and hopes to be in within the next two weeks. Technical Innovations is also coming along and they are still planning a mid-summer opening. Despite the down economy, their business is still doing extremely well and they had another record year in 2008!

We have awarded our first HOT funds request to the Brazoria County Historical Museum for a new log cabin at the Austin Town site. This will serve as a permanent structure at the site and allow them to further build on that site. Half of the \$6300 that was requested has been paid to them and the cabin is underway. After the project is complete and they turn in receipts, the remaining funds will be awarded.

The construction guidelines are complete and should go to the printer within the week. We made some changes on sizes and they look really great. I think they will serve as a great addition to our building department and ultimately to our development community.

I will be on vacation from March 19 – March 25 and therefore will not be at the Council meeting on the 24th. But as always, if you have any questions, let me know.