

Hawthorne, from page 12A

Riley explained that the county will begin some of the site prep soon. Hawthorne said that construction of the structures should start toward the end of October when the fall baseball season is completed.

"We're involved locally and we continue to give back to the community that we work in," Hawthorne said. "That's a big part of our philosophy."

Hawthorne's investment in the community goes even further than the goodwill he spreads with cash contributions and donated steel buildings.

Located about three miles west of Magnolia on FM 1488 is the home of Hawthorne Steel Buildings, a multi-million dollar facility used for manufacturing, storage and distribution of the steel buildings.

"We buy everything as raw bulk material," Hawthorne said. "We don't buy kit buildings or pre-fabed components

and just put them together. We manufacture almost all of our own products, so that we can control quality and cost. Both of which we pass on to our customers."

While construction of phase one of this facility west of Magnolia was completed only in January of this year, Hawthorne is already expanding into phase two as well as looking at other locations in the Houston area.

"I made an offer on some property on the west side of Houston," he said.

This location would be between Katy and the SH 36 exit for the town of Sealy off of Interstate 10 on the West bound feeder.

"The business is almost demanding that we're there," Hawthorne said.

Hawthorne said that his steel buildings are well-liked because of the quality involved

in putting them together.

"We only build 'em one way – the best," he said. "Quality and price has always been our deal. When customers see our buildings, what they love is our Smartframe™ Building System and the quality they see throughout our buildings," he said. "Our buildings are totally welded, totally galvanized and they incorporate a V-truss frame system."

And, he said, "we're competitively priced – especially when you're talking about steel buildings. And we rarely get beat price-wise by wood frame buildings."

This new manufacturing facility has enabled Hawthorne, who lives in High Meadow Ranch, to better move toward his goal of becoming the largest supplier of residential out buildings in the greater Houston area. Previously the

company was working from leased property in Pinehurst.

Hawthorne has a patent pending for the Smartframe™ frame of his steel buildings and for a devise called the "Soldier Clip™" which he says has tested substantially stronger than a welded joint.

With all that going on, and the fast pace that his company is moving forward, Hawthorne is not one for standing still nor remaining with the status quo.

"We've got two new product lines coming out next year," he said.

While he didn't want to elaborate prematurely on the new products because of competitive reasons, he said these products will "substantially benefit our customers."

Hawthorne Steel Buildings is located on FM 1488 west of Magnolia. The phone number is 281-252-6400.



Photo by DUSTIN BASS

Dan Parsons, Executive Director of the Better Business Bureau, spoke to the Magnolia Chamber on Sept. 28. "You should get on your knees and kiss the ground and be thankful you live in Magnolia. It's a great town," Parsons said. Parson spoke on the dangers of fraud and how to make local businesses smarter.

Chamber active in shaping laws

"Grassroots"—it's a word used to describe something as coming from the people, and grassroots results come from the Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce.



BRUCE HILLIGEIST
Guest Columnist

We're made up of over 750 businesses, some large, some small, all sharing similarities, yet each completely individual. And as a Chamber, it is our job to represent the interests of every one of them.

We represent the varied interests of our members by following a specified Program of Work, wherein we define our mission, values and goals. The mission of any Chamber of Commerce is to be the best promoter of its businesses. We know that Tomball is a premier community, already attractive to business, and we strive to better the quality of life through and for business. Tomball is in a prime location with easy access to highways and airports, and with excellent schools and remarkable health-care. We at the Chamber promote positive growth and posi-

tive change. We have the opportunity to be proactive rather than reactive, at the grassroots level!

The Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce is a power organization. Our Mobility & Transportation and Governmental & Legislative Affairs Committees meet monthly and each has the reputation for getting results. The SH 249 Bypass is one such very notable result. We have excellent relationships with our local, state and federal officials and agencies. Our alliances and partnerships with other Chambers of Commerce to the north and northwest, including membership in the Alliance of North Houston Chambers of Commerce (ANHOC), help us push a strong pro-business legislative agenda each session, and promote the Tomball area.

By being involved and making the needs and interests of your business known, the Chamber can represent you—all the way to the federal level. So as you can see, over 750 businesses working together can bring about some serious grassroots changes! Get involved!

Bruce Hillegeist is the President of the Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce. To join the Chamber, call 281-351-7222.