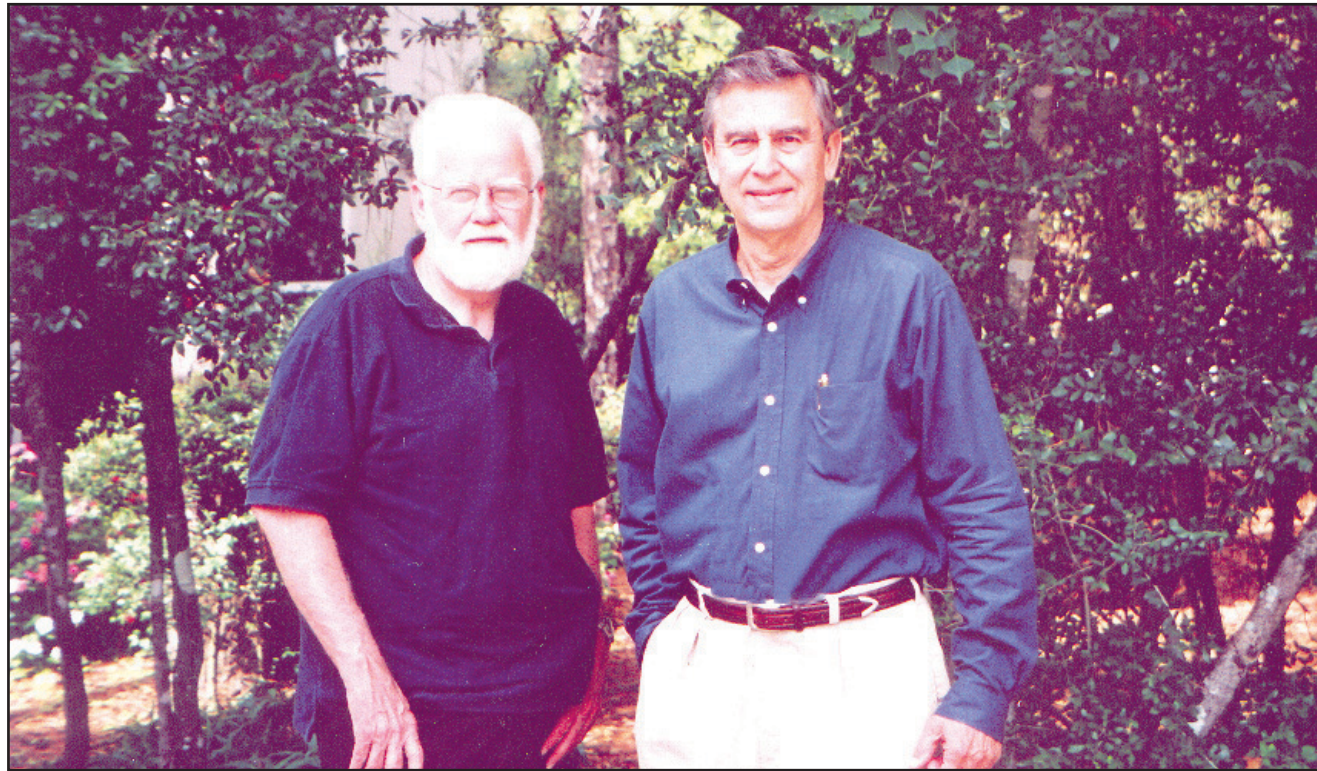




News tips: Call Andy DuBois at (936) 442-3419, fax to (936) 756-6729, or e-mail: couriernews@hcnonline.com

RECORDING HISTORY



Courtesy photo

Co-authors Jim Barlow, left, and Roger Galatas have written a book about The Woodlands to be published in the fall.

Men who were there write book about The Woodlands

BY BURTON SPEAKMAN
COURIER STAFF

Roger Galatas, former president and CEO of The Woodlands Corporation, now The Woodlands Operating Company, wrote a book about the master-planned community.

There are a lot of interesting stories about the people involved in The Woodlands and the institutions they built, he said. With so many new people moving into the area, a lot of the stories are disappearing.

"I felt the book was a good opportunity to record those stories in a more permanent method," Galatas said.

Institutions such as The John Cooper School, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion and Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital are things that impact all residents' lives, he said. These institutions were created because of the efforts of early residents of The Woodlands.

"I wanted to record the notion that people that live in The

Woodlands make a difference in the community," Galatas said. "I worked for The Woodlands for 20 years and have been able to watch the development for the past five."

He helped develop two master-planned communities, Kingwood and Woodlake, before being hired by The Woodlands in 1979. He left the company in 1998 after it was sold to Crescent Real Estate Equities and Morgan Stanley.

The co-author of the book is Jim Barlow, a retired business columnist at the Houston Chronicle.

Barlow was chosen because he was familiar with business as well as The Woodlands and George Mitchell, the developer of The Woodlands, Galatas said.

"He brought a discipline and professional approach to the writing," Galatas said.

Without Barlow it wouldn't have been as interesting a book, he said.

The writing process continues on the book, Barlow said. The deadline for submission is May 1 and three or four chapters still

remain to be finished.

"Roger had an interesting idea to focus on the human stories," he said. "Normally the Urban Land Institute only publishes nuts and bolts books, but this one has a lot of great stories in it."

Some of the stories include that of Charles Lively, a land man for George Mitchell, and John Gelbert, a lutheran preacher that was involved in the development of much of the social infrastructure present in The Woodlands, he said.

"The human stores are what this book is all about. The human side of developing a new town," Barlow said. "I hope that people in The Woodlands, Montgomery County and North Houston are interested in the book."

The book, "The Woodlands: The Human Side of Development," will be published in fall of this year by the Urban Land Institute.

To purchase the book or for more information contact the Urban Land Institute at www.uli.org.