

# Remembering Roger Galatas



The Woodlands lost a treasure when Roger Galatas, long-time resident, past president of The Woodlands Corporation and a member of George Mitchell's team, passed away in August 2019 at the age of 83. Mr. Galatas led The Woodlands Corporation during early growth of the community and remained president of the company for a time after George Mitchell sold The Woodlands, providing for a smooth



Roger Galatas hoists a sign over a time capsule in honor of the opening of the Village of Cochran's Crossing on July 9, 1983. If you look carefully, you can see The Woodlands founder George Mitchell, fourth from left.

transition to new ownership of the development company. Originally from Louisiana, and a graduate of Louisiana Tech, Mr. Galatas joined Mr. Mitchell's team in 1979 and remained an active and well-respected member of the community, along with being a mentor and advisor to area leaders, until his death.

One of Mr. Galatas's passions was sharing the history of The Woodlands with others, especially newer residents who may not know the story of the founding of The Woodlands. To that end, he wrote a book with Jim Barlow, called *The Woodlands: The Inside Story of Creating a Better Hometown*. The book was published by the Urban Land Institute.

In 2011, The Woodlands Community Magazine was fortunate to publish a year-long series of excerpts from the book, which are available to read online.

Historical subjects include *About George Mitchell, Land Acquisition, Inspiration and Federal Funding, The Vision and its Building Blocks, Development Starts, Town Center Emerges from Vision to Reality, The Education Building Block, The Interfaith Building Block, The Healthcare Building Block, The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, Art in Public Places, The Name Game* and last, but not least, *Why George Mitchell Sold The Woodlands*.

To view the articles, please visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/) magazine and scroll to the *Article Series* section.

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors and staff extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Galatas, and remember with gratitude the insight and knowledge he shared with us.

– Mary Connell, Editor