

Jeremy Magnuson, Owner

Magnuson Ace Hardware



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In 2008, local entrepreneur and community leader, Jeremy Magnuson, opened Magnuson Ace Hardware in Friendswood, a year after making his home here. Located in the Captain's Corner Shopping Center at 105 W. Edgewood #101, the hardware store occupies 11,000 square feet of retail space and offers general hardware, Stihl lawn equipment, paint, propane, glass, and key cutting. Magnuson Ace Hardware employs 15 persons and is part of the Greater Houston Ace Retailer Group which consists of 32 Ace Hardware retailers including Harris and Galveston counties. Ace Hardware Stores are committed to being the most helpful hardware stores on the planet.

Jeremy was born and raised in Lake Jackson and graduated from high school there in 1995. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and later transferred to Texas State University where he earned a degree in Criminal Justice. While in college, he served in the Marine Corps Reserves as a 0311 rifleman. After graduation, Jeremy earned

his commission with the Air Force as a rated officer and concluded his military service as a Captain. As an Instructor Navigator, Jeremy flew an EC-130H with over 1,200 flight hours, 300 of which were combat hours in Iraq. He completed three tours with the USAF in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

When researching the location for his store, Jeremy said he compared Friendswood's demographics, educational attainment, home values, crime rate, and other key indicators to those in surrounding cities. Friendswood was at the top of the list for each decisive factor. Jeremy said "I personally chose Friendswood because it met all the criteria I was looking for, and the city is close enough to the rest of my family who live in Lake Jackson.

Jeremy believes there are many economic advantages of operating a business in Friendswood. "Friendswood seems to be insulated from the economic swings that most of my fellow retailers see in their neighborhoods. We have such a diverse economy here, and we are not reliant on any one sector. When NASA is experiencing budget constraints, other sectors like oil, construction, and petrochemicals pull their weight to keep the local economy churning."

Jeremy says his "claim to fame" in the Ace Hardware world is not exactly the kind you want to have. His store is known for having the worst soft opening of any store ever! He explains "We opened the day after Hurricane Ike, and I came to my store to find three inches of water in it and part of the roof missing. We lost over \$80,000 in inventory from damage and suffered over \$170,000 worth of total damage before we opened the doors. When people think they have a rough time opening a store from scratch, Ace always tells them it could be worse, recounting what happened to the Friendswood store.

Jeremy is a member of the City's Community and Economic Development Committee and the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Friendswood, having previously served as President, and has sponsored multiple organizations including the Boy Scouts, (local area) youth programs, as well as school-sponsored programs. Magnuson Ace Hardware is one of many stores in the Greater Houston area that fundraises year-round for Children's Miracle Network. Their primary focus is Texas Children's Hospital. Collectively the Houston retailer group is the #1 fundraiser of all Ace retailers.

