

*Joe and Mary Prihoda, Owners*

# Friendswood Frame and Gallery



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Joe and Mary Prihoda met while attending the University of Texas at Austin. Joe earned an engineering degree and Mary majored in English and Biology. Joe moved to the Clear Lake area and worked for NASA for several years during the Apollo mission era. In 1971, they opened their first business named the Art Corner which was located on NASA Road One at Upper Bay Road with just two employees. In 1973, Joe was looking at expanding in the area and saw the need in Friendswood for a picture framing company. At that time, the Captain's Corner Shopping Center on Friendswood Drive was being constructed which Joe liked because it had large window panes that allowed customers to window shop and he had also heard that a new movie theatre would also be erected in the center. Shortly thereafter, Joe and Mary relocated both their home and business to Friendswood, naming the company, Friendswood Frame Shop.

Since that time, Friendswood Frame and Gallery has expanded lease space, products, and services through the years but has thrived in the shopping center and now occupies 6,000 square feet and employs seven persons. In addition to framing, the business also carries home décor and accent furniture which now represents about thirty-five percent of sales. Joe stated that "with Friendswood's central location, my business has grown and serves clientele in Pearland, League City, and Alvin." Joe and Mary see Friendswood's location as an advantage since it is a small town community but

in the heart of the Houston area. Also, the business has many new and repeat customers due to Friendswood's strong demographics and affluent residential base with a steady stream of new families moving into the community.

Both Joe and Mary have been active members in the community through the years. Joe served as City Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem for two consecutive years in 1987 and 1988. Mary served as the Chair of the Board of the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce, and Friendswood Frame and Gallery was awarded Business of the Year in 1982 and Joe was recognized as Business Man of the Year in 1988. They are also involved in many charity events that have provided their proceeds to organizations over the years including the Laura Recovery Center, Friendswood Education Foundation, Hope Village, and area churches.