

Winter 2013

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

# Economic Alliance



Sylvan Beach Pavillion Re-opened | Representative Wayne Smith Honored | Pink Forklifts  
The Generosity of Ship Channel Region Companies | Backpacks and Glasses for Children  
Food Drives | Racing, Walking, & Golfing for Funds | Volunteerism

# SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION GETS

Since 1893, in one form or another, the Sylvan Beach Pavilion, recently designated a historic landmark, has served La Porte residents and visitors wishing to enjoy the natural beauty of Galveston Bay. In 1956, due to extensive damage from multiple hurricanes, the community replaced the open air pavilion with a modern enclosed structure designed by the Houston architectural firm of Greacen and Brogniez. Local residents fondly recall enjoying dances, banquets, proms, and well-known musical acts over the decades at the pavilion. In 2008, after a successful 50+ year run, the pavilion was sealed due to damage sustained during Hurricane Ike.

Indeed at one point, it looked as though the pavilion might be leveled and replaced with a public storm shelter. However upon learning that the pavilion was eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, the local non-profit, Friends of Sylvan Beach Pavilion, led by Ted Powell, lobbied for and secured three separate historic designations at the state and federal levels.

In 2011, newly-elected Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, made the restoration of the Sylvan Beach Pavilion a priority. The process of restoring the pavilion would take nearly three years and six million dollars, funds that were acquired through a mix of federal Hurricane Ike Recovery funds and Precinct 2 Park Bond funds. The



*Interior of pavillion prior to rennovation.*

architectural firm of John Kirksey Associates was selected from a field of 15 respondents to the county's Request for Qualifications. SpawGlass Construction Corp was chosen to be the general contractor.

Great care was taken to ensure that the historical elements of the building were preserved while the

building was brought up to current coastal windstorm requirements. In consultation with the Texas Historic Commission, the design team reconstructed several classic structural elements of the building such as the floor-to-ceiling window wall, circular bar, hardwood dance floor, and outside deck.

**"AFTER YEARS OF EFFORT, WE FINALLY HAVE REOPENED THIS GRAND PAVILION. IN SAVING ANY HISTORIC STRUCTURE, THE WORK OF MANY PEOPLE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE. I CONGRATULATE TED POWELL AND THE FRIENDS OF SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION FOR THEIR TENACITY AND REFUSAL TO GIVE UP!"**



## Sylvan Beach Pavillion Historic Designations

September 10, 2010, NHR by the US Park Service on 9 September  
February 1, 2010 Recorded Texas Historical Landmark  
July 29, 2011 State Archeological Landmark

# RED RIBBON MAKE-OVER



*Interior of pavillion ready to host a crowd after the rennovation.*



*Commissioner Morman and Ted Powell.*



“After years of effort, we finally have reopened this grand pavilion. In saving any historic structure, the work of many people makes a big difference. I congratulate Ted Powell and the Friends of Sylvan Beach Pavilion for their tenacity and refusal to never give up.” - Commissioner Jack Morman, stated.

**PRESERVATION HOUSTON TOOK NOTE AND AWARDED SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION THE 2014 GOOD BRICK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**

Preservation Houston took note of the stellar work of Kirksey Architecture, SpawGlass, SWCA Environmental Consultants and the entire team of champions by awarding Sylvan Beach Pavilion the 2014 Good Brick Award for excellence in historic preservation.

On October 25, 2013, the restored pavilion and the historic plaque were officially unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by local business members, residents, and local officials. Later that evening, the pavilion once again welcomed a stream of guests dressed in black tie attire for a Grand Re-Opening Ball. The transformation of the newly-restored building has been substantial, and the restored Sylvan Beach Pavilion will no doubt host gatherings and parties of all sorts for years to come. 