

\$100,000 Gift for PATRONS

PATRONS for Bellaire Parks has received the first payment on a generous \$100,000 pledge from First Surgical Partners. The pledge will go toward the development of Bellaire Town Square.

First Surgical Partners, which owns and operates First Street Sur-

gical Center and First Street Hospital, joined Centerpoint Energy and Chevron as "Gold Level" donors in PATRONS' fundraising campaign for Bellaire Town Square. "We are thrilled to see First Surgical Partners choose to make such a significant donation," said PATRONS

President Mandy Nathan. "Their support for Bellaire and their enthusiasm for Bellaire Town Square are wonderful," she added.

"First Surgical Partners' contribution reflects our support from the Bellaire business community, and we hope that other area businesses and corporations that have not yet donated will join First Surgical Partners in making this kind

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PATRONS for Bellaire Parks President Mandy Nathan thanks Tony Rotondo, president and CEO of First Street Surgical Center and First Surgical Partners, and Walter Leleux, CEO of First Street Hospital, for their "Gold Level" donation to the Bellaire Town Square project.

Bellaire's Parks Group Needs Help to Earn \$250,000 Grant

**By Mandy Nathan, President,
Patrons for Bellaire Parks**

On behalf of Patrons for Bellaire Parks, I would like to thank everyone who has already helped our effort to meet our \$250,000 Wortham Challenge Grant for Bellaire Town Square.

The rest of you? Please take a moment to read on.

We have only a few months more, until the end of June, to raise the remaining \$250,000 of our \$500,000 challenge so that The Wortham Foundation will give an

additional \$250,000 for Bellaire's new park.

It's all or nothing. If Bellaire supporters can't scrape together the money before June, Bellaire's parks get nothing — nada — from this challenge grant.

That's \$250,000 down the drain.

In case you haven't heard about Patrons, we are a volunteer-based, non-profit group that was started several years ago to raise money to improve Bellaire's parks.

Like many of you, we were concerned about aging parks and fa-

cilities. We wanted Bellaire's parks to continue serving as treasured gathering spots for families. We wanted Bellaire to be able to buy land for future parks and playing fields.

We were inspired especially by the vision of city leaders who took decades to painstakingly buy up the residential lots that eventually became Loftin Park.

Now, Loftin Park and adjacent Bellaire Park will merge into one large urban oasis called Bellaire Town Square, filled with unique

recreational spaces in which residents can gather and take a break from hectic city life.

The good news is that people are already stepping up and taking action to bring about that vision. As of mid-February, individuals and businesses had donated or pledged a total of more than \$750,000 for Bellaire Town Square through Patrons.

These donations included amounts of \$100,000 or more from corporations like CenterPoint, Chevron and First Street Surgical, as well as \$50 through \$50,000 from community groups, businesses and individuals just like yourself.

This is a tremendous amount of money to have raised in such a short time.

But we need your help now more than ever to meet the Wortham Challenge and bring in that \$250,000 donation. Because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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of commitment to their community.”

Rotondo and his First Surgical Partners co-founder Jacob Varon, M.D., also expressed the hope other Bellaire businesses and residents would join them in supporting the development of Bellaire Town Square. “Bellaire has been a good neighbor to us here at First Street Surgical Center and First Street Hospital,” expressed Rotondo. “We are more than happy to give back to our community. Bellaire responds to small businesses’ needs, and this is one way we can show our appreciation to Bellaire.”

First Surgical Partners’ contribution furthers PATRONS’ funding goals for the development of the aquatics center, playground, events lawn, pavilion, and skate park planned for Bellaire Town Square. “This major donation is especially important to PATRONS and Bellaire Town Square because it was made during PATRONS’ drive to meet The Wortham Foundation’s \$250,000 Challenge Grant,” explained Nathan. PATRONS needs to raise \$500,000 in the 12-month period ending June 30, 2007 to secure a \$250,000 donation from The Wortham Foundation. As of early March, PATRONS had raised over \$775,000 in donations and pledges, approximately \$250,000 of which qualifies for the Wortham Challenge Grant.

Co-founders Tony Rotondo and Jacob Varon, M.D. began building the Ambulatory Surgery Center at 411 First Street and the Outpatient

Surgery Facility at 4810 Bissonnet in 2002. Today the campus encompasses 30,000 sq. ft. at the corner of Bissonnet and First Streets.

Varon started his practice in Bellaire at Bellaire Hospital and Rotondo is a native Houstonian. “We are proud to say we are from Bellaire, Texas,” explained Rotondo, “this is where we are growing because this is where our people are.”