



THE WOODLANDS

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nick Wolda
The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau
281-363-2447

THE WOODLANDS VOTED ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST SHOPPING DESTINATIONS

THE WOODLANDS, TX (January 12, 2009) . . . The Woodlands – located 40 minutes north of Houston – has as been selected as one of America's best shopping destinations, according to the results of Southern Living Magazine's 2009 Readers' Choice Awards.

The Woodlands was ranked #8 in the category "Best Neighborhood for Shopping," joining the likes of Buckhead in Atlanta, the Georgetown area in Washington, D.C. and the French Quarter in New Orleans.

More than 50,000 ballots were submitted to the premier lifestyle magazine by Southern Living readers who provided their recommendations for the best places to eat, shop and stay in the south and southeast United States.

"To be recognized in a poll stretching across the southeast speaks volumes for the appeal of The Woodlands as a regional shopping destination," says Nick Wolda, president of The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Wolda credits the collection of specialty boutiques and iconic national retailers nestled in a family-friendly, pedestrian setting as the primary reason for the area's popularity as a world-class shopping destination. Among the great finds in The Woodlands is Texas' only Tommy Bahama's Tropical Café & Emporium and Houston's only Lilly Pulitzer retail store.

Shoppers in The Woodlands also enjoy the convenience of The Woodlands Waterway Trolleys and The Woodlands Waterway Taxis, both of which make stops at points throughout The Woodlands Town Center.

Requests for information at The Woodlands Mall Information Center and the Concierge Desk & Information Center at Market Street also continue to grow. In 2008, more than 72,000 visitors from 49 states and 67 countries visited the two information centers.

For more information on dining, shopping, entertainment and hotel options in The Woodlands, log onto www.visithewoodlands.com

#