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Staff photo by Jason Fochtman

Construction workers dig around a pipe at a new Hyatt Place hotel site off Research Forest Dr. and Grogans Mill road in The Woodlands. As ExxonMobil and other companies prepare to move to the area, the local hotel industry expects an increase in hotel demand from business travelers.

Hyatt Place to open in December

By CHRIS COTELESSE
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The Houston area's third Hyatt Place will open in December on Research Forest Dr. near Grogan's Mill road, amid increasing demands for corporate hotel space.

Fred Domenick, chair of The Woodlands board of directors for the Hotel and Lodging Association of Greater Houston, said as businesses continue to move in and around the township, particularly the ExxonMobil campus, they'll need more rooms for traveling employ-

ees and conference space for meetings and other business functions.

"Houston is one of the hottest markets in the country, and The Woodlands is hot on top of that," he said.

He said businesses use 60,000 room nights a year in Houston. Many of them commute to The Woodlands, because there isn't enough space for them within the township.

The 146 rooms and 7,000 square feet of meeting space at the Hyatt Place will alleviate some of the demand, but Domenick said the township

could use more, especially full-service hotels with meeting space.

"There's no question the market is underserved right now," he said.

About 733,000 square feet of retail space is currently under construction in greater Houston, but a developing trend shows new development in grocery related centers like the HEB-anchored Creekside Park Village Center, according to CBRE Market Reports.

Nick Wolda, president of

See HYATT, Page 4A



Staff photo by Jason Fochtman

A new Hyatt Place hotel is under construction off Research Forest Dr. and Grogans Mill road in The Woodlands. As ExxonMobil and other companies prepare to move to the area, the local hotel industry expects an increase in hotel demand from business travelers.

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BY CHRIS COTELESSE

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