

Out With The Old, In With The New

NASA Exchange-JSC improves to better serve you



NASA JSC 2002e12466

NASA Exchange-JSC offers numerous benefits that improve the quality of life at the Center. Below are the Exchange managers. Seated, from left, is Lisa Rasco, Deborah Acosta Conder, Elva Ayers and Robin Fenneberg. Standing, from left, is Pete Del Buono, Gary Novominsky, David Adair, Mary O'Connell and Kevin Candee.

If quality, convenience and value are what you desire, then why not start using the program offered at Johnson Space Center designed to give you just that? This can be accomplished simply by using the services of the NASA Exchange-JSC.

"Within walking distance of most buildings, you can shop and have lunch," said Lisa Rasco, Retail Operations Manager. "You don't have to hike to your car, fight NASA Road 1 traffic, wait in a long line or hope your parking spot is still there when you get back. It's like a little community."

The Exchange also offers many benefits that improve the work experience and quality of life at JSC. New changes have been brought about thanks to a 2001 survey, which garnered feedback from the civil servant and contractor community as to what they would like to see changed or added. The Exchange staff is inviting everyone to check out their new look, experience new programs and be a part of turning ideas into new realities. Below is a list of what the Exchange offers:

Cafeteria

- ▶ Buildings 3 & 11
- ▶ Pizza/boxed lunch delivery
- ▶ Catering

Retail

- ▶ Buildings 3 & 11
- ▶ Online at ShopNASA.com
- ▶ Floral & balloon delivery
- ▶ UPS services
- ▶ Film processing
- ▶ Stamps
- ▶ Business cards
- ▶ Ticket sales
- ▶ Swap Shop

Employee Activities Association

- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Youth & social activities
- ▶ Publicity
- ▶ Clubs

Gilruth Center

- ▶ Catering: Business & private events
- ▶ Recreation: Leagues/classes
- ▶ Meeting & banquet rooms
- ▶ Massage therapy
- ▶ Health/nutrition education

Additional Services

- ▶ Vending
- ▶ Scholarship opportunities

NASA Exchange is a non-appropriated funded activity authorized by the Space Act to provide employees and patrons with convenient, quality products and services that support the health, welfare and morale of the Center's employees. Primary ventures include: Food service, catering, retail, recreation, vending and special events. All money earned through the Exchange operations is used to support further activities, services and opportunities offered by the Exchange.

The Exchange provides opportunities designed to make working at JSC a pleasurable experience. "We provide JSC employees with those 'extra' products, services and activities that help make JSC an overall great place to work," said Deborah Acosta Conder, Exchange Operations Manager. "As we all know, work here at JSC is exciting, but can sometimes be hectic and stressful. We offer fun, camaraderie and relaxation in this fast-paced environment."

Conder called the Exchange's contributions "a major 'non-pay' benefit to all JSC employees."

Employees may not realize the proceeds made from Exchange Operations help subsidize the Employee Activities Association (EAA) events. Within the EAA lie many opportunities to make new friends, spend time with the kids, get away for a while or just gather with co-workers to enjoy a night out.

EAA President Ginger Gibson and her officers are always planning an activity, whether it is an outing to explore the Texas bluebonnets, overseas trips to such hotspots as Germany and the Bahamas, or group tickets to local sporting events or performances. The youth activities are designed to bring families together for children's events.

To help employees get more involved in their careers or pursue a personal interest, EAA provides a list of area clubs that serves as a resource for the benefit of JSC civil service and contractor employees. For more information, please visit the EAA Website at: <http://eaa.jsc.nasa.gov/>

The cafeterias, located in Bldg. 3 and 11, offer a variety of choices for breakfast and lunch at tax-free prices.

"Most prices are below what you find elsewhere," Rasco said. "And when was the last time you ate a full meal for \$4.25?"

Even if you can't get away from your desk, the Exchange has got you covered. "If you find yourself unable to leave your office for lunch, delivery service is available for pizza and boxed lunches," said Gary Novominsky, Cafeteria Manager. "The cafeteria also caters within the Center and can provide made to order items not found on the regular menu."

Daily menus and delivery ordering can be found online at: <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/cafes/menus>

The Exchange Stores, located in each cafeteria, are stocked with specialty products, gifts and everyday items. Services such as floral and balloon bouquet delivery, UPS services, business cards and film processing are also available. Discount tickets to some of the area's best attractions can be purchased, as can stamps and cards for those last minute birthday or anniversary gift needs.

Stop by or check the Website at www.shopnasa.com to view the monthly specials and to see who might be displaying special products

and services. In the past the store has hosted book fairs and signings and cell phone specials.

The Exchange also operates the Gilruth Center. In an effort to make the center more user-friendly, a Space Center Boulevard entrance was opened May 1. New improvements have given way to a wider array of possible uses.

"Our recent renovation of the upstairs floor provides employees with a professional and pleasant environment to hold business meetings, training classes or private events, such as weddings and anniversary events," Conder said. "The fence provides for better utilization of the facility, especially for our off-site contractor employees who don't have badges. It allows access without going through the main gate."

Gilruth Catering is on-hand to provide exceptional service and quality meals at a competitive price. The menus are extensive and vary from continental breakfast selections to hors d'oeuvres and a cold meat and cheese buffet with assorted breads, to full course meals complete with soup or salad, vegetables, dessert, beverages, rolls and butter.

"Our goal has been to provide an economical food service experience to NASA, contractors and patrons of the Center," said Robin Fenneberg, Director of Catering Services. "The Gilruth Center has always prided itself on quality services at a reasonable price."

Fenneberg added, "With the expansion of our services for private parties, such as weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays, and the beautiful remodeling of the building, I can see a brand new era emerging for the Gilruth Center."

Gilruth Recreation offers numerous choices for health and fitness activity. There are leagues for soccer, volleyball, flag football, softball and basketball. Instructive classes include aerobics, aikido, ballroom dance, cardio kickboxing, hatha yoga and others.

Lunchtime sessions of select classes have been added to the schedule for added convenience. Health and nutrition classes are also offered, and a massage therapy program will begin soon. The facility features a weight room, men's and women's locker rooms, batting cages, playgrounds and running trails.

"Gilruth Recreation choices compare reasonably to outside gyms and our selection of classes is often more varied," said Pete Del Buono, Director of Athletic Services.

The ability to workout onsite after work hours is more convenient than going home first. "The demands of family, work and children are usually more pressing, and I've often found that people have trouble making it back to the gym after the comfort of home sinks in," he said. "This can get in the way of good health. We provide the opportunity to get the desired results in a convenient, safe environment."

Future endeavors for the program are essential and, as a result of the employee survey, a tremendous amount of insight and information was gained as to what the JSC community really wants.

"We are investigating all types of options," Conder said. "We are in the process of deciding how best to initiate and launch these recommendations for the benefit of our employees. We can start by enhancing our current offerings and introducing new programs and services."

"It is important that current and potential customers gain an understanding of the breadth of services and products we offer," said Greg Hayes, Director of Human Resources and Chairman of the Exchange Council. "Most people think we take care of the cafeterias, sponsor the picnic and run the stores but we're really about much more than that. We have a very strong interest in providing goods and services that will serve our employees better."

Story by Ami Blackwell
Photos by David DeHoyos



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Gilruth improvements

Recent renovations within the Gilruth Center have made the complex more functional and inviting than ever. The chain link fence that once barricaded the upstairs area is gone, and the walls have been newly painted and decorated with landscape portraits and longhorn mantelpieces. Vibrant blue carpet lines the halls and woody tables, lamps and benches nicely accent the Texas Country motif.

The small meeting rooms, which will hold a maximum of 12, have all been refurbished to match the new décor and have been outfitted with new furnishings, lighting, carpeting and wood blinds. For instance, The Rio Grande Room, once a storeroom, now features an executive style cherry wood table and chairs, end tables and a telephone for conference calls. The Trinity Room, with its large oval conference table and two serving tables, is ideal for a group needing a working lunch or a simple breakfast brainstorming session.

On a grander scale, the 2,700-square-foot Lone Star Room is designed to handle audio/visual capabilities for larger crowds. There is a built-in system with capabilities for additions such as an AM/FM Receiver/Tuner, a CD/DVD player, a wireless or plug-in microphone, a plug-in CATV drop and a VCR. New carpeting, flooring, crown molding, blinds, valences and chandeliers have been added to create a more personal atmosphere. The round tables can be decorated for a celebration or arranged for maximum visibility of speakers or presentations. With the capability to seat 80 people, this room is an attractive alternative to the standard windowless meeting room.

The Gilruth Center is available to all JSC employees and contractors and their families for a variety of business and personal needs and functions. Gilruth Catering is on hand to create delicious food for all occasions. With such service and care, the possibilities are endless. For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Robin Fenneberg, Director of Catering Services, at x30308.

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