



# Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

*'Tis the Season to Shop Local*



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## **Just Like You Like It!**

Whataburger will soon start construction on their second Deer Park location at 715 Center St. (southeast corner of Center St. and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, formerly the location of the Wells Fargo drive-through building). This 3,942 square foot, 24-hour restaurant will be one of their larger floorplans with plenty of parking. Whataburger first started with a small take-out stand in Corpus Christi in 1950, but they now

have more than 670 stores in Texas and over 150 in New Mexico, Arizona and other southern states. Look for them to start demolition very soon and open by early summer.

## **Goodbye Norma's**

Norma Moses announced on November 1 that she is retiring and closing Norma's Country Dreams after 34 years in business. Norma started back in 1987 with 1,250 square feet in a modest retail space in Deer Park. Business flourished and in 2001, the current building at 4705 Center St. was constructed. A remodel in 2008 expanded the store to its existing 14,100 square feet, which was plenty of room for her beautiful furnishings, gifts and apparel. Upon

closing, the building, which sits on 1.06 acres, will be sold. For listing information, contact Alix Fox at (832) 687-7533. The store plans to officially close by the end of January. Congratulations to Norma and her family for their relentless dedication, professionalism and all of the countless blessings they brought to Deer Park.



## **New Retail on East Blvd.**

You likely have noticed construction at 3501 East Blvd. (northeast corner of East Blvd. and Pasadena Blvd.) The corner will soon be home to Buzzy Bee Convenience Store with Exxon gasoline. The owners are also constructing an additional 7,083 square feet of retail space that they hope to lease to retail or service businesses. Those interested in leasing information for this new shopping center should contact the owners at (281) 850-8755.

### **New HQ/Office Building**

Deer Park's Rockwell Wealth Management is constructing a new 5,634 square foot office building at 317 W. San Augustine (next door to Occucare and across the street from Optometrist Michelle Lamb). The new building will serve as the firm's expanded headquarters, as well as offering approximately 2,000 square feet of additional office rental space for local businesses.

Since 2005, Owner Aaron Obenberger has been serving high net worth individuals, their families, and local business owners in Deer Park, Houston and surrounding areas. Former Deer Park graduate and resident, Aaron Obenberger took over the firm from his founding partner and moved all operations to Deer Park from Denver, CO in 2013. He is currently located at 240 San Augustine, but needed to expand his space. "I saw a need for a new, modern office building in Deer Park that for Rockwell, would better serve our clients' needs and increased business demands, providing the latest in technology and conveniences—while also serving other established or up and coming Deer Park businesses with a professional office space to grow." If you are interested in the available office lease space, contact Aaron at (281) 757-4055 or email [nblueh20@gmail.com](mailto:nblueh20@gmail.com). The new office building has an anticipated completion date of late spring 2020. Visit [www.rockwellwealthmanagement.com](http://www.rockwellwealthmanagement.com) to learn more about Rockwell Wealth Management's extensive services.



### **Hospice Under Construction**

Serenity Gardens is now under construction at 4324 East Blvd., next door to Deer Park Animal Hospital and across the street from Heritage Elementary School. With 16 private rooms, this hospice will be committed to ensuring patients experience a peaceful passing, with a dedicated staff who are trained to be with patients in the final days and hours at the end of life. Ideally, patients are referred to hospice when their life expectancy is approximately six months or less. The hospice team is always there to guide them through the process and provide support. Look for Serenity Gardens to be open by summer 2020.



### **Mr. Electric Celebrates 10 Years**

Mr. Electric originally opened in November 2009 in Pasadena, but they quickly moved to 2318 Center Street in Deer Park. Brock Bihm is both the owner and an extremely experienced master electrician. Mr. Electric offers expert electrical service in the areas of residential and commercial repair and installation, and Brock's Deer Park franchise has routinely been honored with the Mr. Electric Top Gun Award. The award is presented to the franchisee who consistently sites in the top 10 percent of the Mr. Electric network, which includes almost 200 locations in several countries. Call them today for all your electrical needs at (713) 477-1770 or find them on Facebook at @MrElectricoftheBayArea.

### **Donny's: Established AND Expanding**

Family owned and operated Donny's Paint & Body has been proudly serving Deer Park for the past 32 years. They started in a small space on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, but 20 years ago they moved to the old JC Thomas building at 417 Center St. Owners Donny and Cindy Heckert make customer service a priority and pride themselves on quality collision repair; your satisfaction is their top priority. This long-established business just expanded their services even more by purchasing their neighbor, McBroom's Automotive earlier this year. After purchasing McBroom's at 305 Center Street, they have kept it mostly the same (including the name) – making only a few improvements by purchasing new equipment and modernizing some things. You will still receive the same excellent auto repair at McBroom's that the retired George McBroom provided for the past 42 years. Now you have the benefit of both businesses under one, committed ownership that can help you with virtually all of your automotive needs.



### **New to Deer Park**

Vac2Go recently leased 22,500 square feet at 1150 Hall Court in Deer Park. The company originally launched in 2011 in Kentucky, and now has six locations. Their mission is to serve customers looking to simplify their job processes by providing a variety of new model rentals for short and long-term rents without the upkeep and expense of owning a vacuum truck. Contact these specialists in the environmental cleaning and industrial service industry by visiting [www.Vac2Go.com](http://www.Vac2Go.com), call them at 1-855-VACS2GO (1-855-822-7246), or drop them a line at [rentals@vac2go.com](mailto:rentals@vac2go.com).



### **Talk About a Rebound!**

It was five years ago that 24Hr Safety's warehouse was gutted by fire during the early morning hours at 4912 Railroad St. in Deer Park. Over fifty firefighters responded to the scene and the building was a total loss. The fire happened at 3:00am, but this formidable company was up and running by 10:30am that same morning in their adjacent administrative building, and they never missed a beat. In fact, 24Hr Safety has spent the past five years not only rebuilding their warehouse, but they have now purchased two additional buildings on Georgia Ave. in Deer Park, allowing them to add a Fire Services Division, Human Resources Department, Equipment Sales & Safety Supplies locations. They have more than doubled their employee count in Deer Park, and added four other locations throughout the Gulf Coast. This company is fully committed to providing outstanding customer service and delivering quality safety products – 24/7. Their community involvement, professionalism and expertise have made them one of Deer Park's most notable companies. Find out more by visiting [www.24Hr-Safety.com](http://www.24Hr-Safety.com).

## Back to Nature

The Lawther-Deer Park Prairie is a 51-acre tallgrass prairie, which is one of the most endangered ecosystems in Texas, as less than 1% of the original 9 million acres remain. Purchased by the Native Prairies Assoc. of Texas in January 2014, this land is home to over 300 native species of plants and animals such as pocket gophers, three-toes box turtles, Eastern Meadowlarks, black bellied tree ducks, red-winged blackbirds and many others. It is located at 1222 E. Purdue Lane in Deer Park, near College Park Elementary School off Luella Ave. They operate an extensive education program with our local schools, teaching science and math through hands-on interactive learning in their education center. They also teach you how to have a small pocket prairie in your own back yard! For more information, send an email to their Director of Education, Della Barbato at [della\\_barbato@texasprairie.org](mailto:della_barbato@texasprairie.org). Visitors are welcome to walk on the prairie trails during workdays after they register and sign a release form. The prairie is also in need of donations, volunteers and materials such as fencing. Contact [HNPAT@TexasPrairie.org](mailto:HNPAT@TexasPrairie.org) to schedule a visit or volunteer.



## Bits & Pieces



- Sub-Zero Ice Cream at 9315 Spencer Highway has closed.
- Taqueria Chalupas is now open at 2020 Center Street (just north of the San Augustine intersection) for breakfast, lunch and dinner; plus they have a full bar.
- Antiques Decor & More at 8380 Spencer Hwy. is technically in La Porte, but it is home to several Deer Park entrepreneurs. Check out this antique and craft “mall” which has a wide selection of home décor, restored and painted furniture, floral, gifts, vintage and antiques. They have a Holiday Open House on Dec. 8.
- The former Chamber of Commerce building at 110 Center St. was purchased by next-door neighbor Romco, who recently demolished the building to make way for parking and storage.
- Deer Park will soon host another TICA Cat Show on January 24-26 at the Jimmy Burke Center, 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. This recurring event has been extremely successful and over 80% of the 1,000+ attendees come from outside our area.

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**Thank you for reading.** To see past issues of this bi-monthly newsletter, visit [www.deerparktx.gov/ed](http://www.deerparktx.gov/ed). To subscribe, submit ideas or comment, email Debbie Westbeld at [dwestbeld@deerparktx.org](mailto:dwestbeld@deerparktx.org). Subscribers receive this bi-monthly electronic newsletter via email.

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