



Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

"Business News You Can Use"

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New Concept, Same Great Food

Deer Park will soon welcome a second location for Fish Place Restaurant, opening in mid-June at 3811 Center St. in the Shoppes at Town Square. You might already enjoy eating at their first Deer Park location at 9001 Spencer Hwy., which will remain open. The new Fish Place will be much larger with a fresh, new design, walk-through serving line and drive-thru window. You will find the same great Cajun/Creole dishes plus some new selections, carefully created for you by their team of chefs. Enjoy the taste of New Orleans with menu items such as blackened, grilled or fried seafood, gumbo, and fish tacos. See the menu at www.fishplacetogo.com and look for the new eatery in two weeks.



Cigar Aficionados, Get Fired Up

The Tobacco Stop recently opened at 3408 Center St., stocking a wide selection of fine cigars, pipes, pipe tobacco and smoking accessories. They even have a drive-thru window. The owners chose Deer Park to locate one of their two new stores because of our low crime rate and business-friendly community. They are open Mon. – Sat., 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reach them at (281) 476-1008.

Deer Park Lumber is Business of the Year!

After working at Shell for 18 years, W.D. Lawther bought a struggling lumber company in 1955. Two years later the business officially became Deer Park Lumber Co. It started small, but now sits on 7 acres at 1600 Center St. and employs 50 people. W.D. used the business initially to supplement his desire for building residential homes, starting with Deer Park Terrace in 1957. Since that time, W.D. and his son, Dean Lawther, have developed or built over 2,500 lots and homes in Deer Park. Nowadays, Deer Park Lumber is the 2nd oldest Ace Hardware store in Harris County and is run by Jeff and Warren Lawther, W.D.'s grandsons. The bulk of their business is providing lumber to industries along the ship channel, although they also have contracts with some of the high-rise buildings being constructed downtown and in the medical center. What an amazing impact this business and family has had on Deer Park and the Houston region. Congratulations for 55 years of success and being named Deer Park Chamber's Business of the Year. Find them at www.deerparklumber.com.





Loads of Treasures at Lola's

Area native Carmen Chavez has recently opened Lola's Resale Shop at 4514 Center St., but it is different than most. Years ago, Carmen started perusing garage sales in Houston's River Oaks, West U. and Memorial areas as a hobby. She discovered she had a great eye for design and an uncanny ability to find surprisingly upscale, fashionable and nearly-new items for little cost. Her new resale shop is home to those treasures, where one will find a huge selection of adorable kids' clothing plus furniture, household and kitchen items, jewelry, toys, clothing for men and women and more. Come see the surprises at the corner of Center Street and Lambuth, open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call Lola's at (281) 309-8577.

It's Time for Plemons to Celebrate

Plemons Insurance Agency is widely known for their big sign at the corner of Center St. and San Augustine which does a great job keeping our community informed of upcoming events. The independent insurance agency has actually been waiting out a 1-year non-compete agreement with a previous company and unable to advertise on the sign, but the agreement ends this month. To finally celebrate their official grand-opening, Plemons will be holding an open-house/party-in-the-parking-lot on June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come join them for BBQ and all the fixin's. Plemons offers all types of insurance including life, auto, home, motorcycle, and more, plus they can shop lots of different companies and get great rates. Call them at (281) 930-2222 or visit www.plemonsagency.com.



Texas Coastal Gets Going

Texas Coastal Automotive has recently opened at 4840 Center St. The owner is Pasadena native, Tracy Sikes, who chose the location because of our proximity to industry and the fleet maintenance market. The general manager is Pasadena native Gary Price. Texas Coastal offers complete automotive service plus fleet maintenance and their motto is "Honesty & Excellence". Find them at www.texascoastalautomotive.com or call (281) 930-8703.



Ocean Breeze Stirs Up Business

Ocean Breeze Occupational Solutions moved to Deer Park last year from Kemah, hoping to find a better business location for their drug and alcohol testing company. What they found was so much business they have now expanded into a 4,000 square foot facility at 2110 Center Street. They are extending their hours and offering more services. Congratulations to owners JayLynne Touchton and her mom, Vivian Beard. To learn more, call (281) 478-4609 or visit www.oceanbreezecommunitysolutions.com.





Deer Park Bank Changes Hands

Texas Coastal Bank, 102 W. Pasadena in Deer Park (at the corner of Center St. and W. Pasadena), is being purchased by Texas First Bank, which originated 50 years ago in Hitchcock, Texas. After the transaction is finalized, Texas First Bank will have 22 branches in Galveston, Brazoria, Chambers, Jefferson and Harris counties. Texas First Bank will be Galveston County's largest independent banking group, topping \$750 million in assets after this purchase. The banks expect to finalize this purchase by August. You can learn more about Texas First Bank at www.texasfirstbank.com.

Ohmstede Moves Over to Deer Park

Ohmstede Industrial Services has moved their Turnaround Division from a former location in La Porte to 801 Georgia Ave. in Deer Park, bringing 30 new employees to town. In 1905, Ohmstede was founded as a small auto repair shop in Beaumont, Texas by German immigrant August Ohmstede. Today with more than 1,000 employees, they are the only company that offers fully integrated turnaround and specialty maintenance services with state-of-the-art shell and tube heat exchanger fabrication and repair under "one roof". Their Deer Park team is with you from the loosening of the first nut to the buttoning of the last bolt, and everything in between. Call their new Deer Park location at (281) 862-3260 or visit www.ohmstede.com.

New Group Arrives from Louisiana

Resource Power Group (RPG), a division of Louisiana Caterpillar, recently opened their first Texas location in a 21,000 square foot facility at 901 W. 13th St. in Deer Park. RPG is a certified dealer of MaK engines, which serve mostly marine vessels and industrial power plants. They can handle anything from routine maintenance to complete overhauls and provide a full range of parts and services catering to all of your engine needs. They plan to hire at least 30 employees for the new Deer Park location. Visit www.resourcepowergroup.com or call them at (281) 241-1252.



City's Cool Tool

Using state-of-the-art mapping technology, the City of Deer Park has designed an online geographical information system (GIS) application which enables the public to view citywide data. Viewers can now locate all Deer Park businesses with this online map, even singling out hotels and restaurants. Other viewable data includes parks, roads, addresses, City buildings, recycling sites, subdivisions, voter precincts, police beats and districts, zoning, and much more. You can see the city from an aerial view, measure the distance and area of a parcel of land, and display "street view" images. See this cool tool at <http://gis.deerparktx.gov>.

Pipelines Comin' Through

You might have noticed all the construction work being done in the pipeline right-of-ways around Deer Park and surrounding areas. Energy Transfer Partners is constructing a 129-mile natural gas liquids pipeline from Jackson County to Mont Belvieu (the hub of shale gas infrastructure). Once it is complete, another pipeline will be coming through Deer Park as DCP Midstream is constructing the longest Texas pipeline built in the past 50 years. This 700-mile natural gas liquids pipeline is being installed from West Texas to Mont Belvieu. Until recent years, shale gas was not easily accessible, but new extraction technology has created a necessity for pipelines like these.



Bits & Pieces



- Deer Park's new Chick-fil-A manager, Ron Acosta, interviewed 600 applicants and hired 90 people. The restaurant opens Thursday, June 7, 8:30 a.m.
- The Houston region has 18 Home Depots that use Deer Park's Mr. Electric as their contracted electrical installer. Congratulations to owner Brock Bihm and the crew at Mr. Electric-Deer Park as they received Home Depot's "Voice of the Customer" award for outstanding customer satisfaction and were also recently awarded by Mr. Electric's corporate office for a 96% net promoter score – the nation's highest.
- Great "date night" idea or cool birthday party location: Movie Galore at 3428 Center St. has a mini-movie theater for rent where you can privately watch a favorite movie or even have a video-game contest with your friends.
- Last quarter, Deer Park hotels reported their highest quarterly revenues to date.
- Curves is moving on June 4 - just across the parking lot to a larger building at 122 W. San Augustine, which is the former location of Swede Golf (who recently closed). Automated Logic, a premier controls company, will then move into the former location of Curves.
- Big Mikes' Motorcycle Shop at 5014 Luella has expanded by over 1,000 square feet and now offers motorcycle service and repair work.
- Ralston Liquor at 8315 Spencer Hwy. is currently moving to a new location within the same shopping center, but the new space is 2 ½ times larger.
- Two Cities Restaurant now has a "30 minutes or less" lunch menu with prices from just \$5.99, including gluten-free and other heart-healthy selections.
- Rainbow Bakery Store, 4227 Center St., closed recently as part of a nationwide closure of several hundred Rainbow outlet stores.

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

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