



Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

Santa says to Support Your Ho-Ho-Hometown!

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Bullritos; Tex-Mex that's Un-Believe-A-Bull!

Deer Park's Bullritos is celebrating their six-year anniversary in December. Located at 3709 Center St. (next door to Starbucks), Bullritos is a quick-casual, family-friendly burrito joint serving bag 'n' go burritos, bowls, tacos and all your Tex-Mex favorites like fajitas and tamales. Their unique "run with it" concept was inspired by the Running of the Bulls in Spain, and originated in 2008 by founder Russell Ybarra (also

founder of Gringo's Mexican restaurant and Jimmy Changas). Let Bullritos cater your next event with their yummy bags, trays or boxes. They have multiple catering options that fit any size budget. They also feature \$5 Chicken Burritos every Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.bullritos.com.

Now Open

Georgia's Catfish Kitchen is now open at 9001 Spencer Hwy. in Deer Park (former location of The Fish Place in the shopping center that sits in front of Walmart). There are two other locations; Crosby and Baytown. Georgia's offers great food like fried or grilled fish and shrimp, po-boy baskets, salads, red beans and gumbo. Menu items have wonderfully reasonable prices, plus they have weekly specials.



Buying from a STRANGER?

Many of us buy or sell items through online sites like Craig's List or EBay. When you have to meet in person to finalize the transaction, it is good to know that the Deer Park Police Department has set up a safety exchange zone, located in the first few parking spots near the front door of DPPD headquarters at 2911 Center St. These spots are in a well-lit area of the parking lot and under watch by a camera. You can also come into the building's lobby area, which

is under audio and visual surveillance 24/7. Although the parking lot zone is always available, play it safe by making these transactions between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Furniture Need a Makeover?

Deer Park's Mandie Morris has written several E-Books (how-to guides) showing you how to paint and faux-finish furniture. The E-Books are detailed guides of everything you need to know if you just want to update one piece or begin your own business. Mandie should know, since she started her Altar'd Market business in her garage and turned it into a thriving retail location at 122 W. San Augustine. Her experience and best practices are combined with a load of branding, design and social media knowledge from Christine

of Great Oak Circle. Join them for the truth about entrepreneurship and a dose of encouragement along the way. You can download the e-books at www.altard.com and click on the 'E-Book' tab.

New Hotel

The owners of the current Hampton Inn at 1450 Center St. will soon construct a second hotel that will sit adjacent to Hampton Inn – just west of the property with a driveway exiting to W. Helgra St. The four-story TownePlace Suites will have 72 rooms, and will cater to the extended-stay clients. TownePlace Suites is another Marriott brand hotel, but is specifically designed for guests whose travels require longer stays. These hotels offer spacious suites with living room areas, fully equipped kitchens and roomy work areas.



Deer Park's New Gateways

Construction has been completed on Deer Park's distinctive Gateway Monuments located on the north side at Hwy. 225 and Center St. and on the south side in front of Luby's restaurant. Shell Deer Park helped make this possible by sponsoring \$200,000 for construction, while Lubrizol donated \$50,000. Other funding sources were grants and donations from the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region and Houston-Galveston Area Council. The "Gateways" project is part



of the San Jacinto Historic District, and was conceived as a regional, themed beautification project designed to highlight the rich historic assets of the cities surrounding the ship channel. Other gateways have been constructed in Baytown, Jacinto City, Morgan's Point, Pearland, Seabrook, Shoreacres and South Houston. All gateways include the "star of San Jacinto" somewhere in their design.

Business of the Year 2015: Meador Staffing Services

Meador Staffing Services was recently named Deer Park Chamber's Business of the Year for 2015. Their local branch office is located at 4001 Center St. Meador is a 45-year old company first started in Pasadena as a personnel service, but it has grown to become a full-service human resource partner, and was even named as one of the "Top Ten Largest Staffing Firms in Houston" by the Houston Business Journal. Congratulations to the Meador family and their entire team. Let their experienced staff help you or your company today by calling them at (281) 542-7348, and see their extensive website at www.meador.com.



Industry of the Year 2015: Ameriflex Sealing Products

Ameriflex Sealing Products was recently named Deer Park Chamber's Industry of the Year for 2015. Located at 317 Georgia Avenue in Deer Park, Ameriflex has spent the last 50 years helping industrial customers "seal up tight" by offering rapid, quality service to the oil petro-chemical industry. Congratulations to the Cothran family for the sustained success of their family business.



Western Sales & Testing of Deer Park, Inc



Western Sales & Testing; 32 Years and Counting

Another local success story is Deer Park's family owned and operated Western Sales & Testing, Inc. at 2814 E. P Street (near Underwood), celebrating its 32-year anniversary. Long-time Deer Park residents, Roger and Janna Ponder, have owned the business for the past 25 years. Western Sales & Testing specializes in servicing compressed gas cylinders like scuba tanks, propane tanks, oxygen or CO2 tanks, or more industrial-use tanks like those used in welding, chemical, fire, safety or transportation industries. You can see their full list of services at www.westernsalesandtesting.com or call them at (281) 479-6700.

What's Being Built Next to Norma's on Center Street?

Fresenius Medical Care is the owner of the dialysis center at 4621 Center St. They have purchased the property between their current clinic and Norma's to construct a new dialysis clinic.



Fresenius Medical Care is actually a Germany-based kidney dialysis company with origins dating back to the year 1462 in Frankfurt, Germany. They operate in the fields of both dialysis care and dialysis products, seeing over 300,000 patients in their global network of more than 3,400 dialysis clinics worldwide.

Attention Beltway 8 Bridge Drivers!

The Harris County Toll Road Authority will transition the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8) Ship Channel Bridge to EZ TAG-only in January 2016, and the bridge will be closed the weekend of January 9 to allow for the conversion to be completed. A temporary EZ TAG store has been opened at the Ship Channel Bridge toll plaza to provide more convenience for cash customers who want to make the switch to an EZ Tag. HCTRA has indicated that cash users currently paying \$2 at the Ship Channel plaza would pay only \$1.50 with an EZ TAG. You can learn more at www.hctrta.org/shipchannel.

Bits & Pieces



- Shell Federal Credit Union purchased the old Purvis Automotive building at 1241 Center St. (corner of Center and 13th St.) The building was demolished and the land will be used for additional parking.
- Deer Park welcomes Marina's Dance Fitness studio at 2709 Center St. (next door to Beyond Beauté).
- Oliver's Pizza Buffet is coming to 3702 Center St., in the former location of CarQuest Auto Parts across the street from Starbucks. The restaurant will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet. They will not be leasing the entire building, so there is still 1,600 square feet available at that location.
- Taco Bell on Center St. encountered a setback when trying to engineer their new building, but demolition will start soon. The new Taco Bell building will be more "drive-thru" friendly.
- Barbie Bowtique and Kallie Kouture will soon vacate the 2816 Center St. location and move their businesses back to being home-based. Barbie Bowtique will also have a booth at area craft shows. Their 1,500 square foot retail location (across the street from the DP Police Department) is currently for lease. Call Crissy at (713) 824-1871 for information.
- Pipefitters Local 211 bought the former Houston Area Safety Council building at the corner of Georgia and 13th St. The organization will be moving here from Houston after carrying out some remodeling over the next several months.
- Exxon's Baytown refinery produces enough gasoline in one day to fill the gas tanks of half a million cars.
- Fun Space Fact: People have been orbiting earth continuously for past 15 years.

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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