



Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

"Business News You Can Use"

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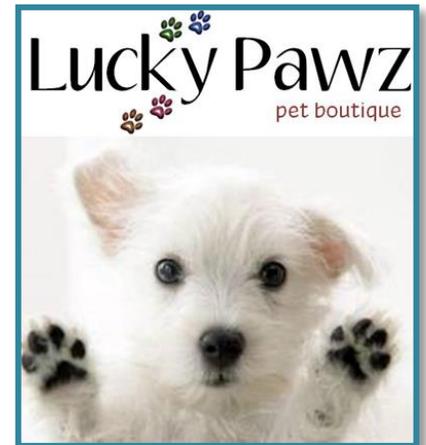


Gina's Italian is Comin'

The owners of The Fish Place at 3811 Center St. closed that location after deciding to make a switch and bring in a different type of franchise. Gina's Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria will open mid-May, complete with a wine bar area and covered patio. This will be their fourth location in the Houston area. Gina's is home to freshly prepared Italian classics and delicious specialties including their huge 30" pizza (fun for parties). Check out their lunch, dinner and catering menu online at www.ginasitalizankitchen.com.

Deer Park's Lucky

If you have a pet with paws, you are going to love the new Lucky Pawz pet boutique at 3811 Center Street (close to Baskin-Robbins). The owners are Deer Park residents Brett and Stacey Roy, who were inspired when they visited a similar boutique during a California vacation. Lucky Pawz will offer unique, high quality products for pets and their owners, as well as the everyday necessities your dog or cat may need. The store is set to open in late April. Contact them at luckypawz@comcast.net.



Ken's Celebrates 43 Years

Ken Voltz opened Ken's Taco Burger in 1970 on Center St. (in the Boot Barn shopping center) and the kitchenette's home-style cooking was an immediate hit with the locals. Ken's son, Randy, opened the current location at 1122 Center St. in 1990 and has been serving the same great food ever since. Their chicken & dumplings received accolades from the Houston Chronicle in past years, as well as the hot roast-beef sandwich. Open to the public for breakfast and lunch, Ken's continues serving "overtime meals" to their industrial customers until late in the evening. What an icon this restaurant has become in our community for over 4 decades. Congratulations Voltz family.



Cats Love DPAH

The Deer Park Animal Hospital at 2822 Center St. has proudly served our community for 39 years, staying current and giving the highest standard of care. They recently went a step further, becoming a Certified Cat Friendly Practice (CCFP) by the American Association of Feline Practitioners. There are only eight CCFP practices in the entire Houston region. Under the supervision of its 4 veterinarians including Dr. Dale Lonsford and his daughter, Dr. Charmel Rodick, their staff of 20 employees worked to make the facility meet a wide range of cats' unique needs. Cats are not the only ones receiving excellent care, as Dr. Lonsford's expertise is in more exotic pets such as small mammals, turtles, lizards, birds, etc. See their extensive website for more information at www.deerparkvets.com or call them at (281) 479-0405.



Spin Classes and More at Summit



Deer Park residents Steve and Suzanne McDaniel have opened Summit Athletics at 1806-F Battleground (at the intersection of X Street). This 5,000 square foot, 24-hour-access gym offers state-of-the-art equipment, personal training and a wide variety of classes including Zumba®, boot camps and kickboxing, plus free tanning with membership. Spin classes are scheduled to start later this year. They also offer AdvoCare all-natural supplements and great discounts for couples, families and corporate groups of 5 or more. Find them at www.summit-gym.com or call (281) 930-7166.



Market Days

Entrepreneurs abound in Deer Park. We have over 500 home-based businesses according to the State Comptroller's office, which likely contributes to the success of Market Days of Deer Park. This local marketplace is actually co-founded by two Deer Park locals, Becky Geck and Miranda Brown. They wanted to give residents a place to show off their homemade, homegrown or readymade items including food, clothes, jewelry and plants, while earning extra cash.

The monthly event has grown over the past 2 years and now consistently has over 30 vendors. It takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Dow Park, 610 E. San Augustine (behind City Hall near the Pavilion), from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you would like to reserve a booth or get more information, find them on Facebook or email Becky Geck at marketdays@yahoo.com.



And the Winners are.....

Congratulations to these Deer Park businesses which won 2012 Reader's Choice awards, as chosen by subscribers of the Deer Park Broadcaster and Pasadena Citizen newspapers.

Best Car Wash:	Simonize Car Wash
Best Auto Repair:	Deer Park Automotive (tied)
Best Day Spa:	Beyond Beaute (runner up)
Best Hair Salon:	Hair Palace (runner up)
Best Tanning Salon:	Perfextion – Deer Park
Best Bakery:	Somethin' Sweet (runner up)
Best Barbeque:	Cattle Drive (runner up)
Best Breakfast Spot:	Ken's Restaurant (runner up)
Best Caterer:	Antonio's Italian - Deer Park
Best Hamburger Joint:	Charburger
Best Happy Hour:	Capt. Benny's Seafood & Oyster Bar
Best Hot Wings:	Wing Stop
Best Ice Cream/Yogurt:	Baskin-Robbins
Best Italian:	Antonio's Italian - Deer Park
Best Pizzeria:	Antonio's Italian - Deer Park
Best Sandwich Shop:	Firehouse Subs
Best Service:	Chick-fil-A
Best Specialty Food Store:	The Health Nut
Best Health Food Store:	The Health Nut (runner up)
Best Boutique:	Norma's Country Dreams
Best Gift Shop:	Norma's Country Dreams
Best Children's Store:	Lola's Resale Shop (runner up)
Best Resale Shop:	Lola's Resale Shop (runner up)
Best Western Store:	Deer Park Boot Barn (runner up)
Best Assisted Living Home:	The Waterford
Best Hardware Store:	Deer Park Lumber
Best Plumber:	Deer Park Plumbing (runner up)
Best Doggie Daycare:	Deer Park Animal Hospital
Best Doggie Daycare:	Red Bluff Pet Resort (runner up)
Best Grooming:	Deer Park Animal Hospital
Best Vet:	Deer Park Animal Hospital
Best Realtor:	Troy Cothran, Victory Properties
Best Real Estate Company:	Victory Properties (tied)

You may request the complete list by emailing Debbie at dwestbeld@deerparktx.org.



Robert's Jug & Muffin to Re-Open

John and Patty Garcia will re-open Robert's Jug & Muffin restaurant at 1242 Center St. in mid-April. Come celebrate with their family at the pre-opening party on Saturday, March 30 in the restaurant's parking lot. Starting at 11 a.m., join them for a mini-carnival including games, moonwalk, face painting, barbeque and more. Watch for signs in early April posting the exact opening date.

Bits & Pieces



- Baskin-Robbins at 3811 Center St. surpassed 195 other locations in both sales and performance during 4th quarter 2012, earning them the Best Team of 4th Quarter award by their corporate office.
- You might catch a glimpse of Santa Anna eating breakfast at the Hampton Inn on April 20. The hotel at 1450 Center St. was selected (again) as the preferred hotel for the San Jacinto Museum of History. Hampton Inn will host the reenactment participants during the upcoming San Jacinto Festival and Battle Reenactment on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Brisket House's Wayne Kammerl was recently recognized for his talent and style, being among 15 of Houston's top barbeque pitmasters selected to participate in the first annual Houston Barbeque Festival.
- A couple from Sweeney, Texas (75 miles away) drove to Deer Park just to visit Eclipse Massage and Spa's new facility at 4321 Center St, which has seen curious new customers streaming in from all over the region. Some people come for the infrared sauna. Dr. Oz says this type of sauna is one of the best life-extension tools and there is only 1 other infrared sauna in the Houston region. Some brides come to take their photo on the gorgeous spiral staircase. Some come to check out the party room – perfect for any occasion.
- Small businesses wanting to speak directly to procurement people from our area's large organizations might consider attending the Economic Alliance's Procurement Network Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Contact Marisela at (281) 476-9176 ext. 13.
- Want to hire a vet? There is a National Guard & Reserve hiring event on April 11 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, 10949 Aerospace Ave., in Houston. Employers incur no cost, but are asked to have a minimum of 5 positions available to offer. Call Jerry at (281) 929-2151 for more information.

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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