



# CHAMBER EXPRESS

Serving our members and enhancing economic and community development



June 2020



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**“As we open Texas, we are each called upon to be Texans: to act responsibly as we re-engage in the economy, to continue following all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines, and to care for our vulnerable neighbors. Lives depend on our actions. I know you will respond as Texans.” – Governor Greg Abbott**

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To serve our members and enhance economic and com-  
munity development

## Chamber Vision

To be recognized as a vital resource, providing relevant,  
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healthy business climate and an enhanced quality of  
life.



## Chamber Express Newsletter

Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce  
9702 E.F. Lowry Expressway  
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## MEMBER PROFILE

Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce members have amazing talents and stories to tell. With this series we want to introduce you to some of our members and spotlight their businesses. If you would like to be spotlighted in our Member Profile, contact Lorrie Koster at [lorrie@texascitychamber.com](mailto:lorrie@texascitychamber.com).



### Odyssey Academy

2412 61st St  
Galveston, TX 77551  
(409) 684-2351

#### Tell us a little about your background.

*Odyssey Academy is a free public charter school educating students from pre-k 3 through 12th grade. We celebrated our 20 year anniversary last year. Odyssey Academy is a free, open-enrollment, public charter school committed to helping each student find their passion and path to success. It is our goal to grow students into well-rounded young adults, who are ready to be productive members of society.*

*We do this in three ways. First, by offering our students diverse academic and life experiences on our campuses, in our culturally rich Galveston/Bay Area communities, and beyond. Second, by offering an academic curriculum that is strong in math, science, and technology to develop essential critical thinking and problem-solving skills. And third, by giving our students opportunities for enrichment through music, sports, art, technology, leadership and character development, career and college campus tours, and trips to Washington, D.C. and abroad.*

#### How would you summarize what you do?

*Odyssey Academy exists to inspire and develop the highest potential in every one of our students. Our teachers and staff work to build relationships with those in the Odyssey Academy Com-*



Dr. Jennifer Goodman  
Superintendent

*munity by caring for and supporting the whole person. They set high expectations for themselves and those around them, and they show passion by being fanatical about their craft.*

#### How has your business evolved over time?

*Since our founding in 1998 by Robert Mosbacher, Odyssey Academy has grown from a middle school campus on Galveston Island to a multi-campus district serving approximately 1,200 students in grades pre-kindergarten through high school! Our students come from over 15 school districts spread across Galveston and surrounding counties.*

#### What are you working on now?

*We are excited to announce the opening of a third campus at the Mall of the Mainland in August 2020 where we will service pre K-3 through 6th grade next year and bubble up the following 2 years, ending up with 8th grade on that campus at the beginning of the 3rd year.*

**Shrimp Boil**  
**AUGUST 21, 2020**

**Mark your  
Calendars**

## Cont. from page 1

Governor Greg Abbott announced the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase III, effective immediately, all businesses in Texas will be able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions. Business that previously have been able to operate at 100% capacity may continue to do so, and most outdoor areas are not subject to capacity limits. All businesses and customers should continue to follow minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

As with previous phases, the Phase III plan is based on the advice and support of the four doctors on the Strike Force to Open Texas medical team. Via Executive Order, Phase III begins immediately. A breakdown of Phase III can be found below.

"The people of Texas continue to prove that we can safely and responsibly open our state for business while containing COVID-19 and keeping our state safe," said Governor Abbott. "As anticipated, the new positive cases that we are seeing are largely the result of isolated hot spots in nursing homes, jails, and meat packing plants. Thanks to the effectiveness of our Surge Response Teams, we have the ability to contain those hot spots while opening up Texas for business. As we begin Phase III, I ask all Texans and Texas businesses to continue following the standard health protocols and to heed the guidance of our state and federal officials who continue to closely monitor COVID-19. If we remain vigilant, we will continue to mitigate the spread of this virus, protect public health, and get more Texans back to work and their daily activities."

Between May 26th and June 2nd, over 45% of new cases came from jails or prisons, meat packing plants and nursing homes. There are currently 1,487 Texans hospitalized due to COVID-19. There are 20,679 active cases in the state and 45,858 Texans are estimated to have recovered.

**Effective June 3:**

All businesses currently operating at 25% capacity can expand their occupancy to 50% with certain exceptions.

Bars and similar establishments may increase their capacity to 50% as long as patrons are seated.

Amusement parks and carnivals in counties with less than 1,000 confirmed positive cases may open at 50% capacity.

Restaurants may expand their maximum table size from 6 to 10 persons.

**Effective June 12:**

Restaurants may expand their occupancy levels to 75%.

Counties with 10 or less active COVID-19 cases may expand their occupancy limits to 75%. Counties that fit this category but have not previously filed an attestation with DSHS will need to do so.

**Effective June 19:**

Amusement parks and carnivals in counties with more than 1,000 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 may open at 50% capacity.

**Additional Openings:**

Special provisions have been made for outdoor gatherings, such as Fourth of July celebrations, but it is imperative that local officials and public health officials collaborate on safe standards. These provisions are included in the Governor's Executive Order and are also available on the [Open Texas webpage](#).

**Further Protocols:**

All businesses should continue to follow the minimum standard health protocols from DSHS. For details and a full list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates, visit <http://open.texas.gov>.

Reminders for those going out:

- Individuals are encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings.
  - People should not be in groups greater than ten when possible.
  - People over the age of 65 are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible.
- People are still asked to avoid nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities.



**Chamber  
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## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

*of the Mainland*



### US Health Advisors

7710 Stone Arbor Drive  
Sugar Land, Tx 77479  
(760) 449-8492

Enrique.Garza@ushadvisors.com  
Enrique Garza -Owner

Ricky and Chris are Texas City natives and have been friends for 20 years. Ricky started working at US Health Advisors first, but it wasn't long before he knew he had to get his friend, Chris, on board. Their love for helping out others makes them truly amazing at what they do.

US Health Advisors is a United Healthcare company. Not only do they offer a variety of plans, but because they are advisors, they can answer any questions you might have about your coverage or help you to understand it better. Since Ricky and Chris specialize in private healthcare coverage, there are options outside of open enrollment including supplementary plans and the ability to have a doctor's appointment without leaving the comfort of your own home.

Being a young professional, we believe it's our duty to step up and be leaders for the community. With COVID-19 looming over our heads, it's important to come together as a group to think outside of the box to keep the community thriving. Now, more than ever, we can utilize technology to continue to provide services to those in need. Social media is a great way of sharing our network with each young professional to be able to reach out to as many people as possible in the community.

Please feel free to contact Ricky or Chris if you have any questions about your health coverage or would like a free quote!

#### Ricky

[enrique.garza@ushadvisors.com](mailto:enrique.garza@ushadvisors.com)  
[www.ushagent.com/EnriqueGarza](http://www.ushagent.com/EnriqueGarza)  
760-449-8492

#### Chris

[chris.karan@ushadvisors.com](mailto:chris.karan@ushadvisors.com)  
[www.ushagent.com/ChrisKaran](http://www.ushagent.com/ChrisKaran)  
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The Texas City-La Marque  
Chamber of Commerce  
will continue to operate and bring you  
relevant information and resources to help  
your business succeed.

1

IF YOU'RE REOPENING, RUNNING A SPECIAL SALE OR OFFERING NEW SERVICES, MAKE A FACEBOOK POST AND TAG THE CHAMBER SO WE CAN SHARE YOUR POST AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD. WE CAN ALSO SEND IT OUT IN OUR E-BLASTS TO OUR CHAMBER MEMBERS.

2

SHOWCASE AND PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH OUR NEW GIFT CARD PROGRAM TO DRIVE REVENUE TO YOUR BUSINESS BY DIRECTLY CONNECTING THE PUBLIC TO YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF GIFT CARDS.

3

WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER AS AN INDUSTRY TO FIND NEW AND UNIQUE WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITIES. PARTNER WITH ONE ANOTHER AND IDENTIFY PROGRAMS OR SERVICES THAT ARE VALUABLE RIGHT NOW.

4

THE CHAMBER WEBSITE [WWW.TCLMCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.TCLMCHAMBER.COM) IS CONSTANTLY BEING UPDATED WITH INFORMATION FOR ALL BUSINESSES BIG OR SMALL TO FIND AND GET ANY INFORMATION OR HELP THEY REQUIRE.

## WHAT? IS THE NEW NORMAL?

- Your physical foot traffic may come back but not at the rates you've been used to. This isn't surprising, as online sales have seen large year-over-year growth, while brick and mortar sales rates haven't been nearly as high. That said, the propensity for online shopping is speeding up.
- Engaging consumers with relevant content and keeping your customers informed of how your business is adapting are the most important things businesses can do to preserve and grow their customer base.
- Focus your brand-your values, mission and purpose—and the things your business has to offer to consumers right now. Evaluate whether or not your target demographic has shifted or if there are special measures you may need to take to reach certain demographics.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:



### Sloane Witter— La Marque Fire Department Administrative Assistant

"Failure doesn't come to those who stick to it and never give up!" The success of the community is dependent upon all of its members to stand up and do the right thing.

In October 2019, I accepted the position as the Administrative Assistant in the Fire Department. I am currently enrolled in classes at the University of Houston, earning my Certificate of Public Management, and I am also the Co-Leader for the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Mainland.

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dates

to Remember

2020

Chamber

New Calendar of Events

- Aug 21—Shrimp Boil
- Sept 15—Industrial Trade Show
- Sept 30—Golf Tournament
- Oct 1—Golf Tournament
- Oct 8—Legislative Luncheon
- Oct 17—Bayou Fest
- Oct 22—Health & Wellness Expo & Luncheon
- Nov 5—Taste of the Town & Online Auction
- Dec 1—La Marque Christmas Parade
- Dec 8—Chamber Open House



*Brayden Torres*

Texas City-LaMarque Chamber

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Scholarship Winner



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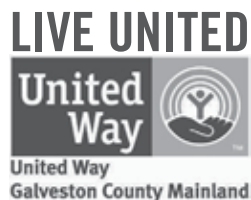
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