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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



AUGUST 2020

Taking care of business and each other

Workplace issues and the well-being of employees and customers has been weighing heavily on the minds of business owners and managers throughout the county. What can be done to let people know it's safe to continue doing business at your location?

The Texas City-La Marque Chamber and the City of Texas City have partnered along with the County of Galveston COVID-19 Business Task Force to encourage workplace safety awareness.

As businesses begin to reopen and citizens try to return to normal daily activities, we all must remain vigilant to protect the health and safety of the community from the impacts of COVID-19.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, Texas City is asking all businesses to commit to do their part to



protect everyone in the city, including the elderly and those who are most vulnerable.

Businesses that have reopened or are preparing to reopen can show their commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our community by signing and displaying the Texas City "Taking Care of Business" Workplace Protection Commitment.

By signing on, your organization promises to remain informed of the latest recommended health and safety guidelines, to sanitize your facility frequently, to provide personal protective equipment and sanitation tools to staff and to take all the steps you can to protect employees,



customers and the community.

Posters are being provided for chamber members to display at your location to show the community you have taken the pledge and highlight your commitment to workplace safety.

Want to find out how you can get involved? Contact Jessica Spangle at 409-935-1408 or jessica@texascitychamber.com.

Stay safe as you can at your workplace and gain some positive exposure for your organization at the same time. Your customers/clients/guests and the community will appreciate it!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New members	2
Video Power Package.....	3
Business of the Month	4
Member Profile.....	5
#AskWhyIMask.....	6
TCISD welcomes new superintendent.....	8
Chamber and community news	9
Shrimp Boil and Auction.....	10
Board of Directors	11

The official publication of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Art of Coffee

405 Laurel St.
La Marque, TX 77568
409-229-7105

Representative: Bill Minak

Category: Restaurants, Food, Beverage

Dee's Caribbean Cafe

6902 FM 1765
Texas City, TX 77591
281-907-2674

Representative: Damaris Diaz

Category: Restaurants, Food, Beverage

EnerMech Mechanical Services, Inc

218 N. Preston Rd.
Pasadena, TX 77503
281-477-7828
enermech.com

Representative: Carey Porche

Category: Industrial

Fairfield Inn & Suites - League City

1144 Pinnacle Park Dr.
League City, TX 77546
832-221-7998

mariott.com/hotels/travel/houlg-fairfield-inn-and-suites-houson-league-city/

Representative: Tejal Patel

Category: Hotels

The Germ Guy

1531 Nacogdoches Valley Dr.
League City, TX 77573
832-444-3588
thegermguy.net

Representative: Mike Rodriguez

Category: Commercial Cleaning

The Healthy Spot

2809 Palmer Highway
Texas City, TX 77590
409-771-0081

Representatives: Michele Castaneda, John Castaneda, Josh Lewis, Rachel Lewis

Category: Health & Wellness

Industrial Tent Systems

10934 Hazelhurst Dr.
Houston, TX 77043
936-689-9715
festivetents.com

Representative: Alanna Caffarel

Category: Industrial Scaffolding

Sure Flow Equipment Inc.

5010 North Service Rd.
Burlington, Ontario L7L 5R5
713-724-9929

Representative: Diana Sierk

Category: Industrial

Terry Bryant Accident and Injury Law

8584 Katy Fwy, STE 100
Houston, TX 77024
713-973-8888
terrybryant.com

jmintz@terrybryant.com

Representative: Joshua Mintz

Category: Attorneys

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VIDEO POWER PACKAGE

Own your own custom one-minute commercial video! Thanks to KHEA Radio's talented production team, the chamber is offering this exclusive new opportunity — the **Video Power Package**.

There are only two openings per month and, for a limited time (until December 2020), this powerful online promotion is available for only \$950 to current chamber members.

View the first two high-quality, high-impact videos that were produced for Trey Industries and Rust-Ewing Insurance on the TCLM Chamber website, YouTube channel, Facebook and Instagram.

Interested? Members, here is what you need to do

- Decide to get on the list for this great marketing opportunity.
- Call or email the chamber to reserve your time on the schedule.
- Prepare your talking points, location and personnel to appear in the video.

What the chamber will do

- Hold a pre-production meeting to collaborate on the creative plan for your video. Locations and marketing goals will be determined in advance (approx. two weeks prior to your video production day).
- Post your finished video online on the TCLM Chamber YouTube channel

and all chamber social media channels.

- Provide your video to you on a flash drive and a thumbnail image to add to your own website, along with a list of powerful promotional tips to further broaden your online exposure.

What KHEA will do

- Direct, record, edit and produce your video to perfection! You will have full input and approval of the video content.
- Conduct your on-camera interviews and guide you through the process to maximize your video's professional appearance.
- Cross-post your video for additional exposure on KHEA Radio online and other media outlets including i45 Now.

The key value of your **Video Power Package** comes from the sharing and cross-posting of your commercial content by the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce. Google ranks a link from a chamber among the most credible sources in any community. By having this highly credible third-party posting of your video, your search engine ranking will receive a HUGE boost!

Let the chamber and KHEA Radio help you create a killer video this year! Step up your marketing game and get your high-quality Video Power Package for this low price before the openings in 2020 fill up.

Contact information

For more information about the Video Power Package, contact Jessica Spangle at 409-935-1408 or jessica@texascitychamber.com.

AUGUST VIDEO POWER PACKAGE

View this video at www.TCLMchamber.com



Rust Ewing Insurance

7900 Emmett F. Lowry Expy
Texas City, TX 77591
409-934-8000

www.rustewing.com

Representative: Bob Senter

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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

The first Workforce Solutions office opened in 1997 at the Family Community Center on Texas Ave. In the early 2000s, the office relocated to its current location in the old Academy building on Palmer Highway. The business had a satellite office in Clear Lake, which served transitioning job seekers from the Aerospace Industry, and another office on Galveston Island to serve the community after Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Currently, more than 9,000 people walk through the doors of the Workforce Solutions office in Texas City per year, seeking assistance to get a job, keep a job or get a better job.

The office is part of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, serving as its operating affiliate, Workforce Solutions. The public workforce system serves the 13-county Houston-Galveston region of Texas.

The company helps employers meet their human resource needs while also helping individuals build careers so both can compete in the global economy. The team of workforce professionals provides indi-

vidualized service that helps employers find qualified applicants for specific jobs and develop custom solutions to strengthen their current workforce.

Workforce Solutions partners with the Texas Workforce Commission and other workforce boards in the largest job-matching database in the state — WorkInTexas.com. The business offers job search, job matching assistance, career counseling, financial aid for education/training and work support.

The company hosts the monthly Galveston County Workforce Partnership meeting on the last Tuesday of each month to connect community partners with each other and career office staff to provide 365-degree services to the local community. The business actively supports local school districts, career training vendors and chambers of commerce.

With more than 35 staff members working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, the business continues to provide virtual services and engage with the community through its Facebook page.



Workforce Solutions - Texas City

3549 Palmer Highway

Texas City, TX 77590

Phone: 409-949-9055

Fax: 409-949-9035

www.wrksolutions.com

Representative:

Jennifer Bridgeford, Career Office Manager

jennifer.bridgeford@wrksolutions.com



MEMBER PROFILE



Gulf Coast Water Authority

Gulf Coast Water Authority

3630 FM 1765

Texas City, TX 77590

409-935-2438

Representative: Brandon Wade

GCWA General Manager/CEO

Tell us a little about your background.

I've served as General Manager/CEO of the Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) for a year after serving as Deputy General Manager. I have more than 35 years of municipal experience, including Pflugerville City Manager; Galveston Deputy City Manager, Director of Public Works and City Engineer; and Alvin Director of Community Development and City Engineer.

I have a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

How would you describe what you do?

Our mission is to reliably deliver up to 200 million gallons of water a day to industrial, municipal and agricultural customers in Brazoria, Fort Bend and Galveston counties.

We draw water from the Brazos River Basin and maintain an extensive water delivery system that includes 315 miles of canals, 4 pump stations, 2 reservoirs totaling 12,000 acre-feet and 35 miles of pipelines.

Our major operations in Texas City include the following:

- Industrial pump station with 95 million-gallon daily capacity for Texas City industries
- Thomas Mackey Water Treatment Plant, which has a daily capacity of 57 million gallons and provides drinking water to most of Galveston County
- Administrative office

How has your business evolved over time?

Beginning with its legacy agricultural and industrial entities in the early 1900s, GCWA has evolved and grown to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities and businesses it serves.

In 1965, the Texas Legislature established GCWA as a water utility essential to the growth of communities, businesses and the petrochemical industry in our service area.

What are you working on now?

Water is a limited resource, but the need will continue to grow. We are focused on making sure that we can reliably deliver water to our customers now and in the future. We continue to identify new, long-term water resources and improve or replace aging infrastructure.

*Read more about GCWA at
www.gulfcoastwaterauthoritytx.gov*

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



#AskWhyIMask

Join along with the Texas City-La Marque Chamber, the City of Texas City and the City of La Marque in our campaign, "Ask Why I Mask!" Use the hashtag #AskWhyIMask with a picture of you masked up and let us know why you wear your mask. Don't forget to tag the Texas City - La Marque Chamber of Commerce !



"Our essential employees want to make sure we keep our members, family and ourselves protected" Coastal Community Federal Credit Union, Galveston, TX



"I wear a mask to protect my community from my germs...no matter how cute they are!" -'Lightning Rob' Balderas at Guaranteed Roofing & Remodeling with son, Korben, Texas City, TX



"We wear our mask to protect not only ourselves but our clients as well from Covid-19. It's simple.... Germ Free is the way to be!" -John Snow & his team at Texas First Bank, La Marque, TX



We 'mask up' for the safety of our community and employees! #staysafe " - Gus' in Texas City, TX

"Masks help us ALL stay safer." - Scribbles USA in Texas City, TX



"We wear our masks to protect our family, friends, and community!" -Tello Smiles in Texas City, TX

#AskWhyIMask

Join along with the Texas City-La Marque Chamber, the City of Texas City and the City of La Marque in our campaign, "Ask Why I Mask!" Use the hashtag #AskWhyIMask with a picture of you masked up and let us know why you wear your mask. Don't forget to tag the Texas City - La Marque Chamber of Commerce !



I wear a mask because I want to protect my family, my friends and everyone in the cities of Texas City and La Marque from this deadly virus. Let's work together to end community spread of COVID-19." **Ami Barzilay, Urban Gypsies, Texas City, TX**

We wear a mask because we want to protect our family and friends! Stay safe everyone!! **Roland Montelongo & Rick Martin Tycoon Trucking, Inc., Channelview, TX**



"We wear a mask because it's important to protect others from this awful disease I may unknowingly have. It's the least we can do to help stop the spread." **-Candice Towles, Texas First Bank, Texas City & La Marque, TX**



"I wear a mask to protect my elderly 92-year old father and my 26-year old daughter who is immune compromised due to Crohn's disease. The mask is not about me, but protecting the others." **- Leonard Woolsey, publisher, The Daily News and Coast Monthly, Galveston, TX**



"I wear a face mask because I want to exemplify my heart for the communities I service, I want to keep our essential associates safe, and spread love to my family and coworkers, not a virus." **-Renee Ethridge, Meador Staffing Services, Pasadena, TX**

NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Melissa Duarte has been named the new superintendent of Texas City Independent School District.

Duarte will become the 17th superintendent in Texas City ISD since 1913.

Duarte previously served as deputy superintendent in Goose Creek ISD. Her 28-year education career includes teaching at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, serving as a principal, an elementary curriculum coordinator, an executive director for curriculum and instruction and an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. She gained her 24 years of administrative experience in Sharyland ISD and Goose Creek ISD.

"Dr. Duarte has a strong proven track record with curriculum, academic accountability and financial accountability," said Bryan Thompson, TCISD School Board President. "She is a proven leader and has shown great leadership in her role as deputy superintendent in Goose Creek ISD. She implemented effective

academic measures in her current district that can be replicated in Texas City ISD."

She is known to be a turn-around administrator that takes campuses from unacceptable to exemplary. Some of Duarte's achievements include receiving national designations for academic programs, increasing dual credit and career and technology education participation, developing a community outreach early literacy program and a dual language program.

Duarte has a bachelor's degree in business administration and economics studies (1991), a Master's degree in education, administration/supervision (1996) and a doctorate in education, all from the University of Texas-Pan American (2005).

"The Chamber values its partnership with the school district, and we look forward to working with Dr. Duarte," said Jenny Senter, Texas City-La Marque Chamber president.

Join us in giving a big chamber welcome to Dr. Melissa Duarte, new Superintendent of Texas City ISD.



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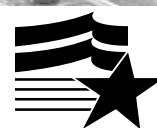
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CHAMBER AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Chamber Golf Classic

The Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce is excited to promote the 34th annual "Jimmy Hayley" Chamber Golf Classic, to be held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 at Bayou Golf Course in Texas City. The chamber looks forward to a safe and entertaining golf experience and hopes that you are ready as well. Sponsorships are available as well as team registrations. Contact Jessica Spangle at 409-935-1408 or jessica@texascitychamber.com for more information.



Congratulations

Mike Meyer has been promoted to Plant Manager for Ashland. Congrats from the chamber! Please join us in wishing the best for Aaron Cameron in his new position with Ashland.



College News

College of the Mainland is proud to join with other community colleges in the state to help 300,000 Texans get back to work in the next 300 days.

Construction update:

- The STEAM and Administration buildings are still on-track and on-schedule. The projected completion date is early 2021.
- Industrial Careers and Police Department – Both of these buildings are scheduled to break ground and begin construction in early 2021.

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Shape Your Future Take the 2020 Census

The Census Bureau strongly encourages you to respond online at 2020census.gov. Getting an accurate household count will affect future federal funding for our community. Households can respond online, by phone, or by mail using the questionnaire that was mailed out in April or on their own until these visits conclude on Oct. 31.



Bayou Fest 2020 canceled

That's right, folks. Charley Pride was ready to appear on the Bayou Fest stage, but COVID-19 had other plans. The City of La Marque and the chamber suggest that you mark your calendars now and plan to see Charley Pride Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, at Mac McGaffey Highland Bayou Park. All the fun will return next year with the barbecue cook-off, fair food, craft vendors, mutton bustin', pumpkin patch and free kids fishing festivities.

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SHRIMP BOIL AND AUCTION

The Shrimp Boil and Dance is being combined with the Annual Auction, with some changes being put in place due to COVID-19. The event will still have that true Cajun taste as James Bergeron and his crew prepare the shrimp and fixins'.

The event will take place Friday, Nov. 13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Nessler Park/Rotary Pavilion, 2010 Fifth Ave. N., Texas City, TX 77590.

The Auction is an important fundraiser for the year. Please consider supporting the event by donating gift certificates, merchandise or services.

For your contribution, you will receive publicity for your donation in the auction program as well as on social media, the chamber's website and during the auction.

Your generous support helps

the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce produce programs that foster economic development, promote tourism and improve the quality of life for the community.

For further information contact Jessica Spangle at Jessica@texascitychamber.com

Y'all come out and join the chamber! We look forward to seeing you there.

Your Donation

Your support of this event and our community is greatly appreciated. The chamber can arrange to pick up your item or it can be delivered to the Texas City-La Marque Chamber office. Contact Lorrie Koster at lorrie@texascitychamber.com for more information.

Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce

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Contact Jessica Spangle at jessica@texascitychamber.com for more sponsorship opportunities.

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TEXAS CITY-LA MARQUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**Chamber Mission**

To serve our members and enhance economic and community development

Chamber Vision

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



CHAMBER EXPRESS

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**Chamber Express Newsletter**

The publication of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce is published monthly (second Sunday of the month). Some content and photos provided as a courtesy by The Galveston County Daily News.

**Texas City-La Marque
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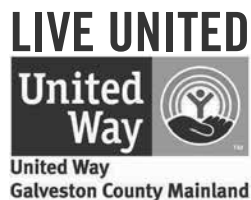


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