



CHAMBER EXPRESS

SERVING OUR MEMBERS AND
ENHANCING ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



JANUARY 2021

Pandemic recovery assistance and government affairs: Top priorities of new President Page Michel

The Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce has a new president this month. Page Michel (pronounced mi-shell) took over the helm Jan. 1, following the retirement of Jenny Senter on Dec. 31.

After observing the past several months of impact from pandemic restrictions and closures, Michel is focusing on how to help chamber members recover and prosper in the new year.

"I'm excited to be officially taking over the reins," Michel said. "Jenny steered this chamber through all the unknowns and hardships of 2020. We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we're eager to help members with special promotions to boost their business."

"We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and we're eager to help members with special promotions to boost their business."

PAGE MICHEL,
chamber president



At the last Chamber Board of Directors meeting in mid-December, Michel laid out plans for a calendar full of special events and projects. In addition to the annual banquet, business luncheons, industrial trade show and golf tournament, there will be a couple of new events.

Plans include a Health & Lifestyle Expo in May and a Women in Leadership Awards luncheon in September. There are a couple of multi-media projects planned (print and online) to promote "Shop Local" awareness and an Industrial Directory to showcase vendors to the major petrochemical plants.

Layered on top of all these plans, Michel is busy with the Galveston County Legislative Task Force and

is primed to promote local priorities at the state level during the 87th legislative session in Austin.

Leadership development is another top goal. The chamber's Leadership Mainland program will "reboot" in 2021 with more than 20 participants. The program had to take a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic. It's a vital program for area businesses that want to help key staff develop leadership skills and abilities.

"It may be a bumpy ride getting started in 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic and a legislative session in Austin," Michel said. "But I'm confident as the year unfolds, with strong leadership from our Board of Directors and our talented staff, we will reach our goals for the year."



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LETTER FROM THE 2021 CHAIRMAN

Dear Chamber members and friends
in the community,

Happy New Year! It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the Chamber Express newsletter in 2021. I am honored to be the Chamber Board Chair this year and, as many of you know, this is my second time serving as Chair!

It was 24 years ago when I first held this leadership position on the Board, and I am excited about having a second opportunity to lead and serve.

Over the next few months, the Chamber will be highly focused on providing pandemic recovery assistance to all members. We will accomplish this by providing meaningful ways for you to promote your products/services in the marketplace. Included with your annual membership dues will be valuable promotion options, and there is a long list of additional cost-effective activities and sponsorships.

Please take a few minutes each week to read the Chamber emails that are sent out on Tuesdays and Thursdays. That is where you will always find the most up-to-date information.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person in the coming months at luncheons, networking events and, of



course, the Annual Chamber Banquet on March 25.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce and for allowing us to be your partner in progress.

Sincerely,

Georgia Meyer Barzilay

2021 Chairman
of the Chamber Board

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sgay@gayfamilyauto.com

Shane Gay, Owner

Kevin Lardie, Manager



Gay Buick GMC and KIA has been in business since 1948. Carl and Marie Gay started out on HWY 3 as a Pontiac dealership. In 1966 they moved to the newly built Gulf Freeway. In 1970 they added GMC and in 2010 KIA. The business is now owned by the 3rd generation, Shane Gay and his wife Kate.

The dealership employs just under 100 people throughout the two dealerships which include

sales, Service departments, Parts and Body Shop. General Manager Kevin Lardie has been there for 25 years and stresses the importance of the employees being involved in the community and taking care of their customers.

They believe the customer is king and customer satisfaction is the main goal. Stop by and see why it really is "The Best Place to Buy!" We have two locations

that sit side by side on i45 South; our Buick and GMC building and the newly added KIA building. If you are looking for a new vehicle in Houston, Galveston County, Brazoria County or Harris County Gay Family Auto Group is ready to serve you. The Staff will treat you professionally, with respect, and honesty while giving you the best price possible on a new or pre-owned vehicle.

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MEMBER PROFILE



Gulf Coast Water Authority

3630 FM 1765
Texas City, TX 77590
409-935-2438

www.gulfcoastwaterauthoritytx.gov

Representative:

Brandon Wade, general manager

The Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) has dedicated its new \$19 million Industrial Pump Station in honor of its first general manager, Joseph A. (Joe) Willhelm.

“Mr. Willhelm spearheaded GCWA’s considerable expansion to become the wholesale water utility it is today, providing a reliable supply of water to industries, communities and agriculture across Brazoria, Fort Bend and Galveston counties,” GCWA Board President Russell C. Jones said at the Dec. 9 dedication ceremony.

The new Joseph A. Willhelm Industrial Pump Station provides water to major refining and petrochemical industries in Texas City. The single largest capital investment by the water authority in decades, this new pump station expands

pumping capacity by almost 25 percent, ensuring long-term reliability and the capacity to accommodate future industrial growth. It replaces the original pump station built in 1949.

Willhelm was general manager when the water authority was established by the Texas Legislature in 1965. He led acquisition of Industrial Division assets in 1971 and of the Thomas Mackey Water Treatment Plant in 1981.

“Today, GCWA enjoys perpetual senior water rights from the Brazos River because Mr. Willhelm led the purchase of Brazos River Authority water rights and Canal Division assets in 1988,” said Brandon Wade, current general manager and chief executive officer. “This allowed GCWA to further expand its services to customers in all three counties



Courtesy/Gulf Coast Water Authority

Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) employees at the dedication of the new industrial pump station in Texas City. Pictured, from left, are Brandon Wade, current general manager; GCWA’s first general manager, Joseph A. Willhelm; Ivan Langford, former GCWA general manager.

and to acquire a second office in Alvin, now home to our Canal Division.”

In his remarks, Willhelm, who retired in 1995, spoke of the dedication of GCWA employees to ensure reliable water delivery to customers and of how much he enjoyed his years at the water authority.

GCWA maintains an extensive system of canals, pump stations, pipelines, reservoirs and a water treatment plant to deliver up to 200 million gallons of water a day from the Brazos River Basin to its customers.

— Gulf Cost Water Authority

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

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Jenny's Retirement
and final Board Meeting



Drive-Thru Breakfast with Santa for the Golden Division



'ADVENTURE AWAITS' AT ANNUAL CHAMBER GALA

Be sure to save the date and get your ticket for a fun adventure in the new year! The Chamber's annual Membership Gala will be held on Thursday, March 5 at the Doyle Convention Center.

The theme is "Adventure Awaits," and, amidst iconic images of faraway lands and traveling machines, you will feel transported and inspired.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber invite you to celebrate this adventure-filled night with colleagues and friends, delicious food and drinks, festive entertainment and prestigious awards.

The banquet also will feature a special celebration with outgoing Chamber President Jenny Senter that you won't want to miss! We look forward to sharing an exciting evening of appreciation with you!

A private VIP reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. for sponsors, and the banquet will begin at 7 p.m.

At this event, the outgoing Chair of the Board, Rusty Plackemeier with Lyons & Plackemeier, will pass the gavel to the 2021 Chair, Georgia Meyer Barzilai of Karat Creations Jewelry.

The banquet program will include the installation of 2021 Chamber officers and directors, as well as naming

the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Large Business of the Year and the Jimmy Hayley Community Service Award winners.

Your input is needed to nominate citizens and businesses for these prestigious awards. Deliver nominations to the Chamber office by Jan. 4 in person or by mail, email or fax 409-316-0901.

Outstanding Citizen Award - based on accomplishments and community involvement for the year 2020.

Jimmy Hayley Community Service Award- a citizen who has continually demonstrated an unselfish commitment to our community over the past several years.

Small Business of the Year- A locally owned business with less than 100 employees that has experienced outstanding growth, demonstrated community involvement and service, and had accomplishments or awards during 2020.

Large Business of the Year- A locally owned business with more than 100 employees that has experienced outstanding growth, demonstrated community involvement and service, and had accomplishments or awards during 2020.

View banquet details online at TCLMchamber.com/annual-banquet. To reserve your seat or table at the gala, call the Chamber at 409-935-1408 or email us at reservations@texascitychamber.com.



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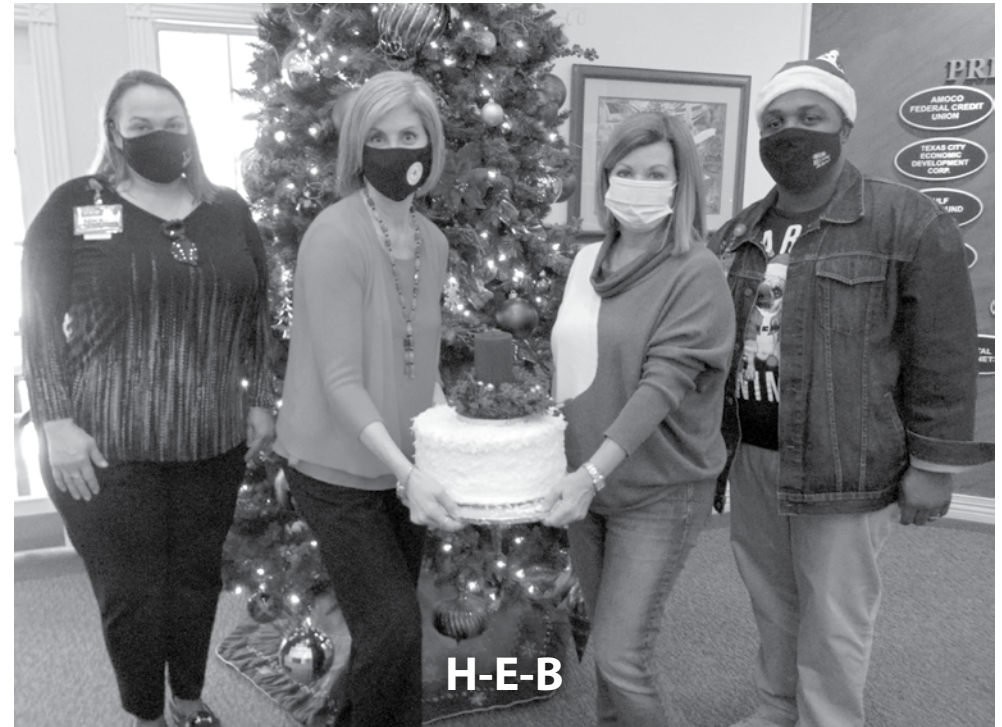
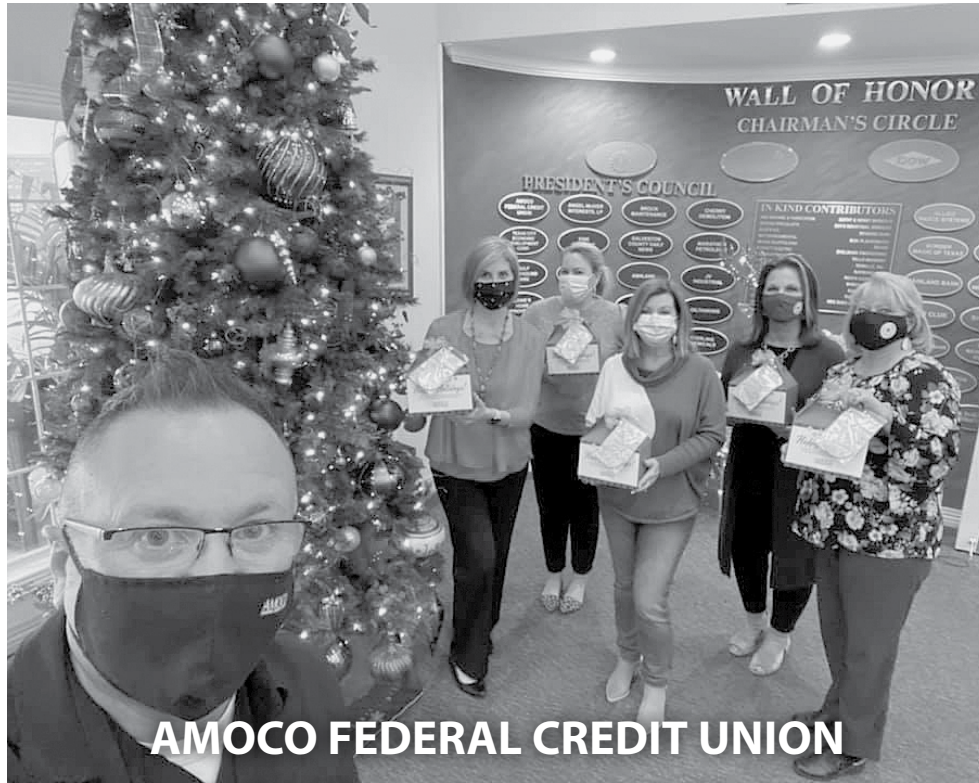


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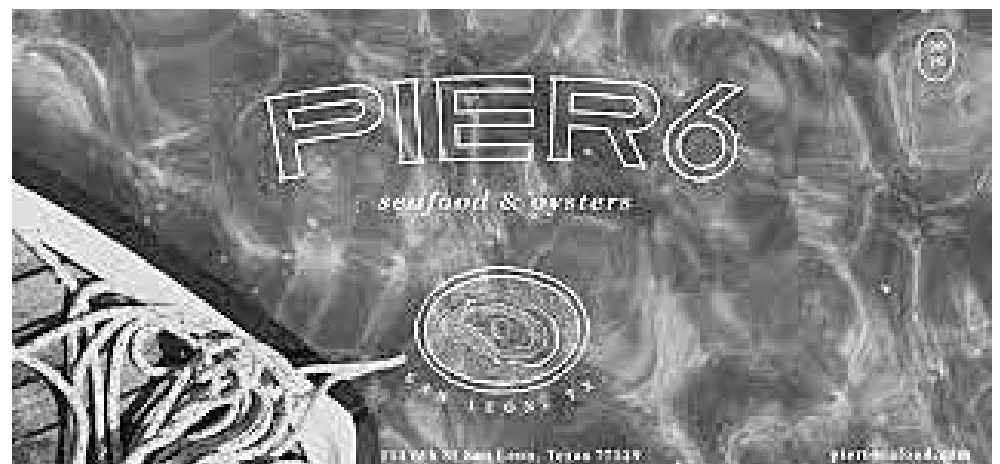
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To serve our members and enhance economic and community development

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

SERVING OUR MEMBERS AND
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