



# Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

*Support Your Hometown; Shop Local*

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## Deer Park Local's Cool Invention

In early 2015, Deer Park City Councilmember Ron Martin heard his wife remark that her YETI tumbler was too large and uncomfortable to hold, and she wished it had a handle. Ron rigged her a make-shift handle, which quickly drew attention and requests from friends and family. After realizing the popularity of the simple design, Ron and business partner, Joe Terry, started researching the idea of producing their own brand of tumbler handle. Patents were filed and fast forward to only a few short months later when The HANDL'R entered the market. Over 80,000 units were sold in its first year of production through online, local and regional retailers. Ron recently licensed the HANDL'R products to Boelter Brands under the H2X line, which means the HANDL'R will soon be sold nationally. You can also purchase the Deer Park-born device at [www.thehandlr.com](http://www.thehandlr.com).



## MOD Pizza

MOD Pizza will open later this summer at 9315 Spencer Highway (in the Junction at Deer Park retail center next door to H-E-B's gas station). They serve up individual artisan-style pizzas and salads, which are made on demand. Customers can design their own pizzas and salads or select from a menu of MOD classics. All are the same price regardless of toppings. The handcrafted pizzas are fired in an 800 degree display oven and ready to eat in less than 5 minutes.

## T-Roy's is Back!

After taking a break from owning his own business, Troy Wilburn has now re-opened T-Roy's Music Academy in the same location as before; 2605 Center Street. In addition to selling a full line of music and band accessories, the new store also offers music lessons (piano, guitar, mandolin and more), guitar repair, setups, restrings and cleanups. Find them on Facebook or call Troy at (281) 884-8766.





**Planet Fitness** is now open at 3601 Center Street in the old H-E-B building, which is being redeveloped into Deer Park Marketplace shopping center at the corner of Center St. and Pasadena Blvd. Planet Fitness prides itself as being a “judgement free zone”, so even if your legs have never seen a squat machine, you will be cheered on just for showing up. They are known for their low prices, a relaxing environment and friendly employees, plus they are open 24 hours.

### **Six Grades of Gas.....**

Murphy USA will soon re-open the gas station in the Walmart parking lot at the corner of Spencer Hwy. and East Blvd. What you will find is an all-new convenience store experience; this will be one of the first locations in the Houston area offering six different grades of gasoline at every pump. While refueling your vehicle, hop inside the brand new convenience store for premium coffee and hotdogs. Contrary to the old building, this one will be more inviting and offer new amenities.



### **Chipotle – Now Open**

Deer Park is now home to Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant, located at 8035 Spencer Highway (next door to 1000 Degrees Pizza and close to Starbucks). When Chipotle opened its first restaurant over 20 years ago in 1993, the idea was simple: show that food served fast did not have to be a “fast-food” experience. Their menu includes burritos, tacos, bowls and salads. Visit their website at [www.chipotle.com](http://www.chipotle.com) to learn more about their unique approach and view the menu.



### **Noodle House**

Otsuka Ramen & Bar is scheduled to open in late July at 8035 Spencer Highway, in the same retail center as Chipotle and 1000 Degrees Pizza. The Japanese noodle house will serve authentic fresh ramen noodle bowls, Japanese soups (the broths take up to 10 hours to prepare), delicious appetizers, plus have a full bar.



### **Honey VS. Honey**

Did you know that most store-bought honey has had the pollen removed through filtering, and some even have added high fructose corn syrup? The Health Nut in Deer Park has pure, raw, local honey that helps stabilize blood sugar, boosts immunity and is antiviral/antifungal/antibacterial. Located at 2606 Center Street, they carry a variety of health-promoting products and have a daily lunch menu.



### **It's Back.....**

Vega's Mexican Restaurant will soon re-open after a fire took their building last year. Look for them to open in June at 3709 Center St. (former location of



## **Vega's Mexican Restaurant**

Nola's PoBoys). Vega's Mexican Restaurant was only open for a few short weeks last summer when an electrical fire burned the building (the old Jug & Muffin building) and temporarily ended the dreams of the Vega family. Look for their restaurant to re-open soon, serving delicious Tex-Mex and traditional Mexican cuisine.



### **"Three Cheerz for Chickn"**

Congratulations to Chick-fil-A on their five-year anniversary at 9101 Spencer Highway (northeast corner of East Boulevard and Spencer Highway; next door to NTB Tire). They have become a wonderful community partner to our area. Since 1967, this privately held and family owned organization has steadily grown to become the second largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the United States with nearly 1,500 locations in 38 states and annual sales of more than \$3.2 billion.

### **Summer Fun**

Lil' Rascals Daycare will be EXTRA fun this summer as they now have a super-fun Splash Pad as part of their playground area. Located at 4509 Center St. (across the street from Dabbs Elementary), Lil' Rascals' 16,000 square foot facility is one of the newest and largest daycares on the east side of Houston. Call (281)479-5439 or visit Facebook's Lil Rascals Childcare.



### **New Supply Store**

HD Supply has recently constructed a new 16,000 square foot building at 1234 Underwood Road in Deer Park. Stop by and check out their great selection of tools, building supplies, home improvement equipment and more. They sell to the general public, as well as to commercial businesses. You can reach them at (281) 930-1499.





## Best Places to Buy a Home in Texas

Deer Park has ranked #98 in the best places to buy a home in Texas, according to the website LendEDU. What helped Deer Park place in the top 100? Items that were listed as most important to homebuyers include (1) home value to income ratio, (2) five-year population forecast, and (3) five-year income forecast. See the full report here: <https://lendedu.com/blog/250-best-places-buy-home-texas/>.

## Bits & Pieces



- Ocean Seafood and Wings is now open at 3717 Center Street (former location of Mooyah Burger), serving a variety of Chinese, American and Korean dishes (their French Fries are amazing).
- Somethin' Sweet Bakery has daily lunch specials, including homemade chicken salad on croissants, chicken spaghetti, homemade soups and quiche. They are now located at 118 Dixie Dr. (former location of Sweet Peas Children's Boutique and across the street from the post office; near Center St. at San Augustine).
- Liberty Mortgage is approaching their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in business. They recently purchased the building at 3710 Center Street and gave it an extreme makeover. Congratulations to Deer Park's only mortgage company. Call them at (281) 542-7392 to let them help you finance your next home.
- The financial website WalletHub listed Deer Park #17 on their list of the best small cities in the nation to start a small business. The study took into account several factors: business environment, access to resources and business costs. Cities in the study had populations between 25,000 and 100,000.
- The Port of Houston handles 75% of the world's plastic resins. These resins are used in manufacturing countless common products like cell phones, shoes, backpacks, parachutes, sunglasses, glue, remote controls, mattresses, diapers, medications, food packaging, clothing, tires, keyboards, paint, air bags, toothpaste, carpet and so much more. We all lead longer, safer, cleaner, happier and more convenient lives because of our neighboring chemical plants and the brilliant chemists they employ.
- Interesting Fact: The flu is more likely to kill you than any other infectious disease. Researchers at UTMB in Galveston, however, are close to developing a universal flu shot that will recognize all flu viruses, and you would only need to be given the vaccination one time.

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**Thank you for reading.** To see past issues of this newsletter, visit [www.deerparktx.gov/ed](http://www.deerparktx.gov/ed). To subscribe, submit ideas or comment, email Debbie Westbeld at [dwestbeld@deerparktx.org](mailto:dwestbeld@deerparktx.org). Subscribers receive this bi-monthly electronic newsletter via email.

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