



PORT ARTHUR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



CENTER FOR BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **PRESS BUILDING OPENING 2021**

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is undertaking, along with other partners, the revitalization of downtown Port Arthur. A catalyst in this effort is the Center for Business and Community Development. Located at 549 4th Street, the 42,000 square foot building was once home to the Port Arthur News. Now, the building will be home to Lamar State College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Program, a multi-agency emergency operations center, a restaurant space and southeast Texas' premier co-working business center.

OPENING, continued inside

PORT ARTHUR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

"Build it, Ship it, Rail it ... in Port Arthur."

New and Past Newsletters are available
on our Website: www.paedc.org



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Board of Directors funded five (5) graduating Port Arthur high school seniors who plan to attend Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA). Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.00 scale and want to pursue an associate degree in the following programs: Drafting, Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning, Instrumentation Technology, Medical Coding Specialist, Medical Office Administration, Process Technology, Surgical Technology, and Nursing.

The 2020 scholarship recipients are:

PAEDC-LSCPA



Trajan
Neely



Marianna
Martinez



Devon
Ford



My'Reaka
Maxwell



Steven
Yowman

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (YEP)

School-to-Work Programs help students transition from high school to the workforce. The program was created to integrate a system of youth education, job training, and labor market information to provide a faster and more successful transition from school to stable employment.

The program also helps give graduates a better understanding of a career that they may want to pursue. The program is geared toward placement of young workers in more permanent jobs, and to increase information about labor markets and young workers' own skills, in order to enhance their career decision making. School-to-Work Programs are very beneficial to graduates and businesses. Graduates benefit from learning about the



career and a better understanding of the workforce experience. Businesses benefit from receiving newer skills and higher productivity from the graduates. ROBOGOSTICS, a local employer located in Port Arthur, took on seven (7) youth interns and retained five (5) once the summer internship concluded. The students worked in the following capacities: Welding, Drafting Auto-CAD, Accounting, Marketing, and Auto Collision.

Please call the EDC Office at 409-963-0579 for more information regarding this program.

MOTIVA FUTURE CAMPUS

Motiva has moved on their expansion in creating their downtown campus in Port Arthur.

The Federal Building, the Adams Building, and World Trade Building sat vacant for decades until the energy giant decided to renovate them to use for office space.

Motiva Enterprises has also acquired a fourth building for its ongoing downtown campus, the city's health department.



LEGACY-PAEDC DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The program is designed to assist citizens of Port Arthur to acquire housing in the downtown area and assist developers building new single-family dwellings. The Downtown Target Area Housing Development has created a transformation vision for revitalization of the Downtown Target Area through reinvestment in housing, infrastructure, and economic development. The housing development initiative is serving as a catalyst to attract additional private sector investment in housing, business, commercial development, creating jobs, economic opportunity and sustainable neighborhoods in the target area and surrounding neighborhoods. The area is bounded by 5th Street and 8th Street to the South and North, and Atlanta Avenue and Nashville Avenue on the West and East.



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTER (ITC) LAMAR CAMP

The "Armory," a 23,000-square-foot building on Lakeshore Drive with a \$6 million grant from Economic Development Administration (EDA), and a match of \$1 million from Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation and the school.

The new center will break the mold for craft training by offering realistic simulations that will have students constructing replicas of LNG trains, welding from 25 feet in the air and working in confined spaces similar to the hull of a ship.

The Industrial Training Center (ITC) will be remodeled and expanded to house a cutting-edge craft training facility. 100 Port Arthur residents will be eligible for free craft training.

JEFFREY A. FINKLE

Organizational Leadership Award 2020

Floyd Batiste, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation received the 2020 Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award at the 2020 Virtual Annual Conference on Oct. 16 in Dallas, Texas.

This award recognizes an individual who has continuously lead the same public or non-profit organization with integrity, tenacity, and philanthropic spirit for at least 15 years. Floyd was recognized for his exemplary leadership and his desire to develop the leaders around him along with being an active participant with International Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

Floyd's ambition for business retention and expansion in Port Arthur has proved invaluable for economic development in the city. Under his leadership, more opportunities for residents,

students and families have opened and helped improved the quality of life in the city. Floyd has been the Chief Executive Officer for 16 years.



Floyd Batiste

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the largest association for professional economic developers in the world, has recognized nineteen leaders in the field with its 2020 Honorary & Leadership awards for achieving excellence in the profession.

Nominees for these individual awards were selected through a month's long process and from a pool of many highly qualified nominees.

Congratulations to CEO, Floyd Batiste on receiving the 2020 Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award.

OPENING, continued

Lamar State College Port Arthur's Culinary Arts and Hospitality program will be reinforced with 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art technology in all classrooms as well as two teaching kitchens. This technology will allow students to receive an education in this curriculum rivaled with the top schools in this profession. Classes are to begin in August.

The Emergency Operations Center is an exciting development for our first responders and local leaders who remain in the city during and after a natural or industrial disaster. The center will feature technology and equipment to allow our essential staff to communicate with other entities and also have a safe, sound place to gather, work and rest in the event something happens.

The strongest feature of this technology is that it is cloud based and should communications networks in the city become inoperable, the Emergency Operations Center will not lose the ability to communicate with outside agencies. The remainder of the building will be used for

business development. As downtown Port Arthur continues its revival, we know that there will be a need for office space downtown. In the business center, there will be offices for rent for long term and short-term use. There will also be desks rentable by the day as co-working and working remotely becomes the new normal in this economy. The space will also be used as the headquarters for the Entrepreneurial Support Or-

ganization as we provide education, support, and mentorship assistance to small businesses in the city.

The project is scheduled for completion in the third quarter of this year. *For more information about the Center for Business & Community Development, the PAEDC's Roadmap to Success program or for leasing inquiries, please contact: jbarnes@paedc.org*

BECOME A MEDIC!

YOU ARE ONLY 4 MONTHS AWAY FROM A GREAT CAREER!

GETTING STARTED

Learn more about job opportunities and schedule an information session at AcadianAmbulance.com/Opportunity.

EDUCATE. EMPLOY. EMPOWER.

We will train, hire and develop you as a healthcare professional.

Why Become a Medic?

After just four months training you'll earn \$38,900 a year.

— Plus an additional \$1/hour (\$2,500) of hazard pay from temporary stimulus funding.

- Full Grants and Stipend for Students
 - Online Learning
 - Class Starts June 15, 2021
- Class is held at Memorial High School.



UPCOMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

The NDC in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex

The National Development Council (NDC) in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex on Lakeshore Drive between Shreveport Avenue and Mobile Avenue. The complex will have one and two-bedroom garden style units and two-bedroom town homes, a leasing office and community space. The project is designed to offer both affordable and market rate units.

The land was acquired from the PAEDC as part of its effort to increase the number of residential units in the downtown area to support job growth. The project architects are Hadden+Cowan Architects in partnership with Merriman Pitt/Anderson Architects. Construction should begin mid-summer 2021 with completion in the fall of 2022.

NDC has worked with the City of Port Arthur and the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation (PAEDC) for over fifteen years; the most notable project was the Port Arthur Savings Bank (PAEDC building) which was financed in part through a New Market Tax Credit



allocation provided by NDC. NDC is pleased to support the continued redevelopment of

downtown Port Arthur with the Renaissance Apartments at Lakeshore.

SPOTLIGHT

BOARD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS



Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux



PA Development Group LLC.



Reel Noodle Bar LLC.



Mikes Enterprises Inc.

City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility

The pandemic has taught us many valuable lessons about how difficult it is for us to conduct business and continue with our daily lives when our normality has been disrupted, and we are away from our typical setting, everything from working, learning for K-12 and college students, meetings at the office, to happy hours with friends are all now occurring in digital space. Our utility system is a small system but part of a more extensive network that affects our community resilience. Broadband has become a key indicator of disparities for the future in our economic and social development opportunities. This has become even

clearer during this crisis requiring the rapid expansion of virtual connectivity. By planning for our future underground utilities communication system, as we prepare for future business growth, that will require more online communication services both local, regionally and nationally.

The City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility project will be a critical step to bolster the rigidity of this area related to the overall impacts of our industrial business partners, service and retail businesses, and their endeavors to hiring individuals in skilled trades and making new private capital investments in the area.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

One of the Board of Directors priorities are making certain that Port Arthur has a trained and available workforce. Companies who are looking to locate within Port Arthur are not only looking for the best demographic location to grow and expand their business but a location where there is available workforce that has been trained and ready for work. It is the Board focus to provide our residents with the opportunity to receive hands on training to acquire the skills required to provide our companies with quality labor.

In this effort the Board has committed a portion of its budget for the training of Port Arthur residents. They have put forth the following training programs to enhance the labor skills of the residents of Port Arthur.

- **Pre-Employment Program**—To provide pre-employment experience in Southeast Texas targeted industries with an emphasis on small to mid-size companies. Employers willing to hiring a Port Arthur resident with little to no skills, and willing to provide training to that individual the Board can offer to reimburse the company for that individual wages up to \$6,500.
- **On-the-Job Training**—OJT will provide reimbursements to employers up to 50% of the wage rate for Port Arthur Residents for any employer's extraordinary costs associated with skills upgrade training for new incoming full-time employees of the company.
- The following are other Training Programs offer by the Board:
 - Commercial Driver's License Certification** — Lamar State College-PA
 - Scaffolding Building** - Lamar State College - PA

Police Academy Training
Lamar Institute Technology (LIT)

UPCOMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

The NDC in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex

The National Development Council (NDC) in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex on Lakeshore Drive between Shreveport Avenue and Mobile Avenue. The complex will have one and two-bedroom garden style units and two-bedroom town homes, a leasing office and community space. The project is designed to offer both affordable and market rate units.

The land was acquired from the PAEDC as part of its effort to increase the number of residential units in the downtown area to support job growth. The project architects are Hadden+Cowan Architects in partnership with Merriman Pitt/Anderson Architects. Construction should begin mid-summer 2021 with completion in the fall of 2022.

NDC has worked with the City of Port Arthur and the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation (PAEDC) for over fifteen years; the most notable project was the Port Arthur Savings Bank (PAEDC building) which was financed in part through a New Market Tax Credit



allocation provided by NDC. NDC is pleased to support the continued redevelopment of

downtown Port Arthur with the Renaissance Apartments at Lakeshore.

SPOTLIGHT

BOARD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS



Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux



PA Development Group LLC.



Reel Noodle Bar LLC.



Mikes Enterprises Inc.

City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility

The pandemic has taught us many valuable lessons about how difficult it is for us to conduct business and continue with our daily lives when our normality has been disrupted, and we are away from our typical setting, everything from working, learning for K-12 and college students, meetings at the office, to happy hours with friends are all now occurring in digital space. Our utility system is a small system but part of a more extensive network that affects our community resilience. Broadband has become a key indicator of disparities for the future in our economic and social development opportunities. This has become even

clearer during this crisis requiring the rapid expansion of virtual connectivity. By planning for our future underground utilities communication system, as we prepare for future business growth, that will require more online communication services both local, regionally and nationally.

The City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility project will be a critical step to bolster the rigidity of this area related to the overall impacts of our industrial business partners, service and retail businesses, and their endeavors to hiring individuals in skilled trades and making new private capital investments in the area.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

One of the Board of Directors priorities are making certain that Port Arthur has a trained and available workforce. Companies who are looking to locate within Port Arthur are not only looking for the best demographic location to grow and expand their business but a location where there is available workforce that has been trained and ready for work. It is the Board focus to provide our residents with the opportunity to receive hands on training to acquire the skills required to provide our companies with quality labor.

In this effort the Board has committed a portion of its budget for the training of Port Arthur residents. They have put forth the following training programs to enhance the labor skills of the residents of Port Arthur.

- **Pre-Employment Program**—To provide pre-employment experience in Southeast Texas targeted industries with an emphasis on small to mid-size companies. Employers willing to hiring a Port Arthur resident with little to no skills, and willing to provide training to that individual the Board can offer to reimburse the company for that individual wages up to \$6,500.
- **On-the-Job Training**—OJT will provide reimbursements to employers up to 50% of the wage rate for Port Arthur Residents for any employer's extraordinary costs associated with skills upgrade training for new incoming full-time employees of the company.
- The following are other Training Programs offer by the Board:
 - Commercial Driver's License Certification** — Lamar State College-PA
 - Scaffolding Building** - Lamar State College - PA

Police Academy Training
Lamar Institute Technology (LIT)

UPCOMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

The NDC in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex

The National Development Council (NDC) in partnership with Legacy CDC is developing a 108-unit multifamily apartment complex on Lakeshore Drive between Shreveport Avenue and Mobile Avenue. The complex will have one and two-bedroom garden style units and two-bedroom town homes, a leasing office and community space. The project is designed to offer both affordable and market rate units.

The land was acquired from the PAEDC as part of its effort to increase the number of residential units in the downtown area to support job growth. The project architects are Hadden+Cowan Architects in partnership with Merriman Pitt/Anderson Architects. Construction should begin mid-summer 2021 with completion in the fall of 2022.

NDC has worked with the City of Port Arthur and the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation (PAEDC) for over fifteen years; the most notable project was the Port Arthur Savings Bank (PAEDC building) which was financed in part through a New Market Tax Credit



allocation provided by NDC. NDC is pleased to support the continued redevelopment of

downtown Port Arthur with the Renaissance Apartments at Lakeshore.

SPOTLIGHT

BOARD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS



Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux



PA Development Group LLC.



Reel Noodle Bar LLC.



Mikes Enterprises Inc.

City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility

The pandemic has taught us many valuable lessons about how difficult it is for us to conduct business and continue with our daily lives when our normality has been disrupted, and we are away from our typical setting, everything from working, learning for K-12 and college students, meetings at the office, to happy hours with friends are all now occurring in digital space. Our utility system is a small system but part of a more extensive network that affects our community resilience. Broadband has become a key indicator of disparities for the future in our economic and social development opportunities. This has become even

clearer during this crisis requiring the rapid expansion of virtual connectivity. By planning for our future underground utilities communication system, as we prepare for future business growth, that will require more online communication services both local, regionally and nationally.

The City Underground Infrastructure Downtown Utility project will be a critical step to bolster the rigidity of this area related to the overall impacts of our industrial business partners, service and retail businesses, and their endeavors to hiring individuals in skilled trades and making new private capital investments in the area.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

One of the Board of Directors priorities are making certain that Port Arthur has a trained and available workforce. Companies who are looking to locate within Port Arthur are not only looking for the best demographic location to grow and expand their business but a location where there is available workforce that has been trained and ready for work. It is the Board focus to provide our residents with the opportunity to receive hands on training to acquire the skills required to provide our companies with quality labor.

In this effort the Board has committed a portion of its budget for the training of Port Arthur residents. They have put forth the following training programs to enhance the labor skills of the residents of Port Arthur.

- **Pre-Employment Program**—To provide pre-employment experience in Southeast Texas targeted industries with an emphasis on small to mid-size companies. Employers willing to hiring a Port Arthur resident with little to no skills, and willing to provide training to that individual the Board can offer to reimburse the company for that individual wages up to \$6,500.
- **On-the-Job Training**—OJT will provide reimbursements to employers up to 50% of the wage rate for Port Arthur Residents for any employer's extraordinary costs associated with skills upgrade training for new incoming full-time employees of the company.
- The following are other Training Programs offer by the Board:
 - Commercial Driver's License Certification** — Lamar State College-PA
 - Scaffolding Building** - Lamar State College - PA

Police Academy Training
Lamar Institute Technology (LIT)