

PORT ARTHUR EDC NEWSLETTER



2025
Q4

Welcoming A New Year

As the new year begins, the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is focused on the opportunities ahead and appreciative of the partnerships that continue to advance the city. The start of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on recent progress while setting goals that support continued growth.

In the months ahead, the PAEDC will remain focused on strategic economic development, workforce initiatives, and support for both existing businesses and new investment. Efforts will include expanding job creating programs and advancing development projects that enhance quality of life for residents while strengthening Port Arthur's position as a competitive location for business.

The PAEDC looks forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and shared success as work continues to build a strong and sustainable future for Port Arthur.



PAEDC Lamar State College Port Arthur Scholarship

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is proud to offer the PAEDC Lamar State College Port Arthur Scholarship, awarding \$9,000 over two years to support graduating seniors as they pursue higher education. Eligible applicants must be graduating high school seniors, residents of Port Arthur, have a minimum 2.5 GPA, and be accepted and enrolled in one of the eligible programs at Lamar State College Port Arthur. Scholarship applications will be available in January 2026 on the PAEDC website and available for pickup at the PAEDC office. Completed applications must be submitted by May 21, 2026.

Through this scholarship, PAEDC continues its commitment to investing in local students and strengthening Port Arthur's future workforce.

A Young City with a Strong Future

With a median age of just 34, the City of Port Arthur stands out as a young and vibrant community positioned for long term growth. This statistic reflects a population made up largely of working age adults, young professionals, and families who are actively shaping the city's economic and cultural landscape. A younger median age signals energy, innovation, and a strong labor pipeline, all of which are critical components of sustainable economic development.

For businesses and future residents, this means Port Arthur offers a dynamic workforce, growing consumer base, and a community that values opportunity and progress. A younger population drives demand for housing, entertainment, education, and entrepreneurship, creating momentum for new investment and development. At the PAEDC, we view this demographic advantage as a powerful indicator of where Port Arthur is headed: a city built for growth, opportunity, and the next generation of success.

Stay Connected
www.portarthuredc.org





Elfing Around Town

This holiday season, Port Arthur welcomed two very special visitors all the way from the North Pole, Eddy and Indy. The dynamic duo received their own behind the scenes tour of Port Arthur, exploring the places, people, and partners that help keep the city moving forward.

From learning how the city operates to celebrating the people who make Port Arthur a great place to live, work, and do business, Eddy and Indy's holiday adventure brought a festive spotlight to the heart of the community. Their tour served as a cheerful reminder that behind every thriving city are dedicated partners, hardworking professionals, and a strong sense of local pride.



As the holiday season comes to a close, Eddy and Indy are heading back to the North Pole with plenty of stories to tell and a newfound appreciation for Port Arthur. Before they go, they leave the city with one final message: *"Keep building, growing, and believing in Port Arthur. Support local businesses, cheer on community events, and continue creating opportunities that move the city forward."*

Until next year, Eddy and Indy will be watching, cheering, and counting down the days until they return to Port Arthur.

Building Stronger Businesses Through the Small Business Power Hour

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation Small Business Power Hour Series is designed to educate, support, and empower local entrepreneurs by providing practical guidance, trusted resources, and meaningful connections. The series meets business owners where they are, offering real world insight that helps strengthen small businesses and grow Port Arthur's local economy.

Now at the halfway point, the Small Business Power Hour has already delivered impactful sessions focused on core business fundamentals. Participants have gained valuable tools to make informed decisions, build confidence, and strengthen their businesses.

With three sessions remaining, the series continues to build upon each topic to guide entrepreneurs toward sustainable growth and long term success.

Upcoming Small Business Power Hour Sessions

• January 15 Marketing and Branding

Learn how to clearly communicate your value, build brand recognition, and position your business for success.

• February 12 Funding and Growth Strategy

Explore funding options and strategies to help your business grow and scale.

• March 12 Resources and Next Steps

Discover local and regional resources available to support your business beyond the series.



The Small Business Power Hour is more than a workshop series. It is an investment in Port Arthur's entrepreneurs and future business leaders. Participants gain practical knowledge, expand their networks, and connect with resources designed to help their businesses start strong and grow with confidence.

Entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners are encouraged to join the remaining sessions and take advantage of this free opportunity to learn, connect, and grow. The Small Business Power Hour meets on the third Thursday of each month. Please RSVP on our website: www.portarthuredc.org.





Commercial Real Estate Mixer at Rao's Bakery-Port Arthur

December 17, the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation hosted a Commercial Real Estate Mixer at Rao's Bakery – Port Arthur.

The mixer served as an opportunity to strengthen relationships between the PAEDC and the real estate community while highlighting the important role real estate plays in attracting investment, supporting business growth, and driving economic development. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations around market trends, available properties, and ways to better align efforts to support development throughout the city.

Events like this help lay the groundwork for future development and ensure the city remains positioned for long term growth.



Growing Port Arthur

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation, or PAEDC, is a Type 4A nonprofit sales tax corporation created to strengthen Port Arthur's business climate and support long term economic growth. We are funded by one half of one percent of the City of Port Arthur's sales tax.

As a Type 4A Economic Development Corporation, our primary focus includes supporting business infrastructure, manufacturing, research and development, workforce and job training programs, and other projects designated as Type A by the State of Texas.

In November 2025, the Port Arthur City Council placed and voters passed a ballot proposition that expanded the types of projects the PAEDC is allowed to support. This proposition authorizes the PAEDC to undertake certain projects that are traditionally associated with Type 4B Economic Development Corporations. This does not alter our EDC type, as we are still a Type 4A.

These type 4B projects are limited to recreational or community facilities, affordable housing, water supply facilities and water conservation programs, sports venues and related infrastructure, and in limited cases, the maintenance and operating costs of facilities when legally allowed.

The proposition continues the PAEDC's support of new or expanded business enterprises that create or retain primary jobs.

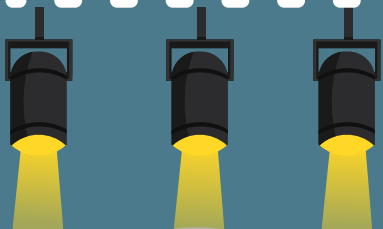


The State of Texas defines a primary job as a position with a company that exports the majority of its goods or services outside of the local economy. These businesses bring new dollars into the city, helping strengthen Port Arthur's overall economic base. Examples in our region include petrochemical and refining operations, export logistics at the port, manufacturers that serve global markets, and energy service companies whose work reaches customers beyond Southeast Texas.

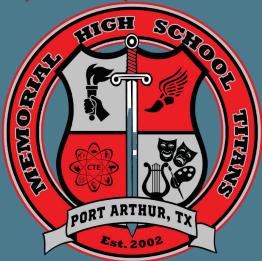
Individuals or businesses who believe they may qualify for economic development assistance and/or incentives are encouraged to contact our office for more information.

As we move into the new year, we hope this provides a understanding of who we are and what we do. We are looking forward to a prosperous year for Port Arthur.

Our goal is simple. Grow Port Arthur.



Joy'Dyn Crook



INTERN *Spotlight*

Memorial High School students are gaining valuable career exposure through the school's CTE Real Estate program, led by Mr. Derrick Freeman, which prepares students to earn their real estate license while still in high school. One such student is Joy'Dyn Crook, a senior cheerleader at Memorial High School, who is currently interning with the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation. Through her internship, Ms. Crook is learning how real estate and economic development work together to support the growth and sustainability of the City of Port Arthur. PAEDC is proud to provide hands on learning experiences that connect classroom instruction to real world application. Ms. Crook plans to sit for her real estate exam in April 2026 and aspires to attend the University of Houston, majoring in Psychology, while working with a brokerage firm. She is also a Delta Gem, a member of the National Technical Honor Society, and a young entrepreneur with a clothing brand, *Take Risks And Prosper* and a hair styling business.

"Being part of the CTE Real Estate program and interning with the Port Arthur EDC has shown me how education, real estate, and economic development all connect to shape a city's future. This experience has helped me see what's possible for my career and my community."

— Joy'Dyn Crook, Memorial High School Senior

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