

PORT ARTHUR EDC NEWSLETTER



2026
Q1

Growing Port Arthur: Progress You Can See, Opportunities You Can Feel

This quarter, the momentum in Port Arthur is undeniable. From investing in our students to strengthening our small business community and celebrating transformational projects, the Port Arthur EDC continues to drive progress across our city.

Round 2 of the LSCPA Scholarship is now open, creating new opportunities for our graduating seniors, while our Small Business Power Hour series has equipped local entrepreneurs with tools to grow and succeed. On the industry front, Davie Defense's expansion, backed by a \$21.7 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant, signals major economic growth, and the restoration of the historic White Haven highlights the power of preservation and progress working together.

We also take a moment to celebrate Joan Collazo's retirement and her lasting impact on our community.

Continue reading to learn more about the projects, partnerships, and people moving Port Arthur forward.



LSCPA Scholarship Round 2 Now Open for Port Arthur Seniors

The Port Arthur EDC is proud to announce that Round 2 of the LSCPA Scholarship is now open for Port Arthur high school seniors.

This scholarship provides local students with the opportunity to pursue higher education at Lamar State College Port Arthur while easing the financial burden on families. Through this initiative, the EDC continues its commitment to investing in education, workforce development, and the future of Port Arthur. Eligible graduating seniors are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and apply. All application details, eligibility requirements, and submission information are available online.

The deadline to apply for Round 2 is May 15.

We encourage all eligible students to review the requirements and submit their application on time as they take the next step toward their academic and career goals..

Stay Connected



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Davie Defense Expansion Drives Jobs and Opportunity in Port Arthur

The expansion of Davie Defense marks a major step forward for Port Arthur, bringing over 600 new jobs and strengthening the region's role in the maritime and industrial sectors. This investment reflects strong confidence in our workforce, strategic location, and access to global markets along the Gulf Coast.

A key component of this project is the \$21,772,000 Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) grant, one of the state's premier tools for attracting high impact job creating projects. Securing this funding highlights the significance of the expansion and Port Arthur's ability to compete for major industry investment.

To support this growth, the Port Arthur EDC has invested \$380,593.06 into workforce development through Lamar State College Port Arthur. Through this partnership, 75 residents will receive welding training at no cost over a three year period, preparing them for high demand careers tied to this project.

This expansion represents meaningful progress in job creation, workforce development, and long term opportunity for Port Arthur.

WELCOME TO PORT ARTHUR
DAVIE DEFENSE

- ✓ Creating more than **600** jobs in Port Arthur
- ✓ More than **\$730** million in capital investment
- ✓ Revitalizing **AMERICAN** shipbuilding

"This investment is a strong vote of confidence in our community's workforce, resilience, and business climate."
—Krystle Villarreal Muller
Interim CEO, Port Arthur EDC



Empowering Entrepreneurs Through Small Business Power Hour



The Port Arthur EDC proudly hosted the Small Business Power Hour series, a six session initiative designed to support and empower local entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey. Held at The Press Building, each session focused on key areas of business development including mindset, business planning, financial fundamentals, marketing, funding strategies, and available resources. Attendees had the opportunity to learn directly from experienced professionals, ask questions, and gain practical tools to help start and grow their businesses. One of the biggest takeaways from the series was clear, you do not have to navigate entrepreneurship alone. Through strong partnerships and access to free local resources, business owners in Port Arthur have the support they need to succeed.

We are grateful to our panelists, partners, and participants who made this series impactful, and we look forward to continuing to support small business growth in our community.

White Haven Reimagined: GMJ Brings New Life to Historic Property



A piece of Port Arthur's history has been brought back to life. The historic Morris-Booz-White House, known as White Haven, has recently undergone a full restoration and renovation, breathing new energy into one of the city's most iconic properties.

Originally built in 1915 for Dr. Harvey D. Morris, White Haven has long stood as a symbol of the character and charm along Lakeshore Drive. Today, that legacy continues as the beautifully restored home now serves as the new location for Griffith, Moseley, and Johnson (GMJ).

GMJ provides strategic support to business, industry, and government across a wide range of practice areas, including site selection and economic development, environmental and regulatory affairs, criminal justice, business development, and grant writing and management. Their presence in this historic space represents a seamless blend of preservation and progress.

Projects like the restoration of White Haven play an important role in strengthening the identity of our city. By preserving historic landmarks while welcoming new business activity, we continue to enhance the beauty, vibrancy, and economic vitality of Port Arthur.



Get Lucky with the Port Arthur EDC



The Port Arthur EDC was proud to host the SETX Commercial Real Estate Connection at The Press Building on St. Patrick's Day, an event organized by Capital Title & G&G Enterprises. Industry professionals from across the region gathered for a morning of networking, collaboration, and opportunity. Attendees explored available properties, including the Port Arthur Business Park, and learned how the EDC supports business growth through site selection assistance and strategic partnerships.

They say luck is about being in the right place at the right time, and Port Arthur continues to be just that.

We appreciate everyone who joined us and look forward to continuing to build connections that drive investment in our community.

Honoring Joan Collazo on Her Retirement

After 10 years of dedicated service, we proudly celebrate the retirement of Joan Collazo. On February 20, we had the pleasure of celebrating Mrs. Collazo and her many contributions, with her final day taking place on February 27.

Throughout her time with us, Joan has been a trusted colleague whose professionalism, kindness, and commitment made a lasting impact on our organization and community. Her presence will truly be missed, but her contributions will not be forgotten.

We thank her for her years of service and wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter of retirement.

— HAPPY —
Retirement



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