PRESENTATION
ROHM AND HAAS KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Larry Power

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am Larry Power, editor, publisher and owner of the local, twice weekly newspaper in Deer Park.

I have lived in Deer Park for 22 years and watched the community multiply by two and one half times.

I am a past president of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, Deer Park Rotary Club and Texas Gulf Coast Press Association. Thank you for the opportunity to share a brief overview of Deer Park from its beginning 101 years ago through today.

Towards the close of the century, in 1892, Simeon Henry West walked through the prairie grass and wildflowers that covered the open flat land and dreamed of establishing Deer Park on the banks of Buffalo Bayou.

It was on the same land that scarcely more than 50 years before, on April 21, 1836, had rung the sounds of battle. It was there, on the San Jacinto Battleground, that Sam Houston and his band of 680 freshly trained recruits soundly defeated Santa Anna's more than 1,300 well-trained, uniformed

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Mexican soldiers. After only 18 minutes of battle, Santa Anna counted 630 dead and 208 wounded. Houston's army, on the other hand, suffered only nine casualties and 30 wounded.

The battle, commemorated now by the San Jacinto Monument, successfully closed the chapter forever on Texas' rule by Mexico.

The first treaty ever drafted by the new republic, declaring itself free, took place in a small cabin owned by Dr. George Moffitt Patrick. It was there that Santa Anna, Sam Houston and the republic's new president, David Burnet, gathered to escape the Texas heat and stench of battle.

Today, a stone marker marks the vicinity of where the historic cabin stood. It is located on the property now belonging to the Rohm and Haas Company. The company has dedicated a small plot of land with stone benches and flagpoles surrounding the marker.

By the 1890's, however, the wildflowers had taken over and the peaceful land seemed a perfect place to establish a farming community that could take advantage of the bayou access.

Thus, West stepped off the primitive boundaries of a town. The land's frequent rainfall, long growing season and what appeared to be rich, black

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soil prompted his dream of an agricultural community which never fully materialized. It was instead the bounty from under the soil, crude oil piped from West Texas, that was to lead to Deer Park's development.

In 1928, little more than an old hotel, a schoolhouse, a depot and several ramshackle shacks gave testimony to West's dream. It was then that the

momentous decision was made to locate an oil refinery near what was to become the Houston Ship Channel (a deepened and widened version of Buffalo Bayou).

Officing in the old schoolhouse, those early engineers laid plans for what is today one of the largest refineries and petro-chemical plants in the world, the Shell Oil Company complex.

Once the plant was built and opened, some 2,000 workers were called to operate it. Each needed a home, many for a family. Thus, Deer Park began its growth to the 30,000 residents who call it home today.

Today, Deer Park's tax base which includes 40% accessed value of industry is $1,299,222,750.

Deer Park is in an enviable position with regard to economic development. Although many other cities of our size offer a pleasant, hometown atmosphere such as Deer Park, few also offer:

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- Proximity to a world class port
- Easy access to the fourth largest city in the nation and all its commercial and cultural amenities
- Access to major airports
- Direct connection with major highways and railways
- The presence of several industrial giants and the prospect for small contractors to meet their needs
- Zoning for industrial, commercial and residential uses
- Available utilities
- Tax incentives for new construction
- Nearby institutions of higher learning providing trained personnel and opportunities for research projects
- And room to grow, as the area is only 50 percent developed

Thus, Deer Park already the choice of such industrial names as Rohm and Haas Texas, Occidental, Lubrizol, Paktank, Intercontinental Terminals, Rollins Environmental Services, The Geon Company, Hampshire Chemical and Shell, appears likely to continue to be the choice for locating even more business and commerce.

And, while the port and the estimated $15 billion worth of industrial development that lines its channel do not contribute directly the city's tax base, the residents and related businesses do significantly.

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Our city has achieved orderly and uniform development through zoning and building requirements, thereby ensuring a pattern of growth through fiscal responsibility.

Deer Park offers amenities comparable to much larger cities but with the atmosphere of a small-town community. We provide citizens with some of the most modern and efficient recreational and civic facilities in East Harris County. The city, a few years ago, finished a $2 million Courts and Theatre building, a first of its kind in South Texas. In addition, there is the Maxwell Center for our senior citizens, the public library, our magnificent Civic Center with swimming pool and gym, and the parks and service areas.

Deer Park is a high per capita income city with mostly single-family dwellings. The city is known for its generous hospitality, its state and nationally-recognized public school system, its noted police and fire departments and its genuine interest in civic, social and individual development as demonstrated through its active clubs, churches, community programs and other organizations.

Deer Park residents, organizations and government have a good working relationship with its industrial neighbors, most of whom are members of the Community Advisory Council.

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A 60-member Volunteer Fire Department and an emergency medical team protect the residents of Deer Park, who enjoy a favorable rating on their fire insurance.

Our schools are fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. And when it comes to local sporting activities, no one is more supportive.

Lastly, Deer Park is steeped in Texas and National history with the nearby San Jacinto Battleground Monument and U.S.S. Battleship Texas which served in World War I and II.

Deer Park definitely has it all, and we are proud to be known as the "Birthplace of Texas" and the "Community of Opportunity".

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