



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Q2 | April - June | 2026



**Attracting Business.
Creating Jobs.
Growing Port Arthur!**

Momentum is not created by chance. It is built through intentional investment, strong partnerships, and a commitment to creating opportunity. Throughout this quarter, the Port Arthur EDC continued to move our community forward by supporting transformative projects, strengthening our workforce, investing in local talent, and welcoming new business growth. From celebrating the groundbreaking of Gulf Copper and Davie Defense's shipbuilding expansion to advancing workforce initiatives, revitalizing key community assets, and recognizing the accomplishments of our students and business partners, this quarter reflects the power of collaboration and a shared vision for Port Arthur's future.

As you explore this edition, I hope you see more than a collection of milestones. I hope you see a community gaining momentum, partnerships producing meaningful results, and a future filled with opportunity. On behalf of our Board of Directors and dedicated staff, thank you for your continued support and for being part of the work that is shaping the next chapter of Port Arthur.

Together, we are building a stronger, more prosperous community for generations to come.

Krystle Muller
Krystle Villarreal Muller, CEO

Building the Future of American Shipbuilding

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation joined federal, state, and industry leaders in Galveston to celebrate a milestone for the Texas Gulf Coast as Davie Defense officially broke ground on a transformational modernization of Gulf Copper Shipyards.

DAVIE
DEFENSE
GULF
COPPER

The investment, which could total \$1 billion, will modernize Gulf Copper's facilities in both Galveston and Port Arthur, positioning Texas to once again become a leader in complex shipbuilding. The project supports the production of the U.S. Coast Guard's next generation Arctic Security Cutters, strengthening America's maritime capabilities while creating long term economic opportunities across the region. For Port Arthur, this investment represents more than a construction project. The modernization of the Port Arthur shipyard is expected to generate new business opportunities for local suppliers, strengthen the region's industrial base, and contribute to the creation of approximately 2,400 direct jobs with an estimated 7,000 jobs supported statewide through supply chain and related economic activity. The first phase of the modernization is expected to be completed in 2028, when construction begins on the first of three Arctic Security Cutters to be built in Texas. The project marks the return of complex shipbuilding to the state for the first time in decades and reinforces Southeast Texas' role as a strategic hub for advanced manufacturing, maritime commerce, and national defense.

The Port Arthur EDC was proud to attend this historic event and remains committed to supporting projects that create quality jobs, strengthen our workforce, and position Port Arthur for long term economic growth.



BUILD IT, SHIP IT, RAIL IT  IN PORT ARTHUR

Maplewood Industrial Storage Expands to the Port Arthur Business Park

The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is proud to welcome Maplewood Industrial Storage to the Port Arthur Business Park, further strengthening the park's role as a premier destination for industrial growth and investment along the Gulf Coast.

Maplewood Industrial Storage specializes in providing secure industrial storage solutions designed to meet the needs of contractors, manufacturers, and industrial businesses throughout Southeast Texas. Its investment adds another valuable service to the region's growing industrial ecosystem while creating additional economic activity within the Business Park.



2026 Y.E.P. COHORT



The Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is committed to preparing the next generation of professionals through its annual Youth Employment Program. This summer, the six week program connected 22 students from 4 local high schools with 9 host employers, providing hands on work experience, professional development, and career exploration opportunities. The Port Arthur EDC invested more than \$100,000. in student wages, ensuring participants gained valuable real world experience while earning a paycheck. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, students developed essential workplace skills and built connections that will benefit them long after graduation.

Celebrating Small Business Week

During National Small Business Week, the Port Arthur EDC was honored to receive a Special Congressional Certificate recognizing our commitment to supporting the small businesses and entrepreneurs that strengthen our local economy. The recognition was presented in partnership with Congressman Randy Weber's Office, the Lamar State College Port Arthur Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The event served as a reminder of the importance of collaboration in fostering a thriving business community. Thank you to Congressman Randy Weber, the Lamar State College Port Arthur SBDC, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and our local small businesses for their partnership and dedication to strengthening Port Arthur.



THE PRESS BUILDING

 **The Press Building**

The Press Building is Port Arthur's premier coworking and business innovation hub, created to support entrepreneurs, small businesses, remote professionals, and growing companies. Once home to Port Arthur News, this historic building has been thoughtfully reimaged into a modern workspace where ideas are developed, businesses are built, and connections are made.



Whether you're launching a startup, expanding your business, working remotely, or looking for a professional place to meet clients, The Press Building offers the space, resources, and community to help you write your next success story.



549 Fourth Street
Port Arthur, Texas 77642
(409) 681-4595

CREATE A PLAN PREPARE EARLY STAY READY



KNOW YOUR ROUTE

Review evacuation information and local guidance before severe weather threatens the area.



BUILD A KIT

Prepare essential supplies, important documents, medications and emergency contacts in advance.



STAY ALERT

Register for emergency alerts and monitor official City communications during storm season.

BOARD MEMBERS

Morris Albright, President
Beverly Raymond, Vice President
Jerry Labove, Secretary
Kaprina Frank, Treasurer
Ingrid Holmes, Director
Darrell Anderson, Director



STAFF MEMBERS

Krystle Villarreal Muller, Interim CEO
Rachel Jacquet, Financial Operations Officer
Dylan Bennett, Marketing & Insights
Shawn Granger, Workforce & Community Development
Sarai Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Tateyane Gloston, Administrative Clerk
Khanh Ha, Senior Facilities Maintenance

