

Corpus Christi Market Update

By Suzanne Scott

An exciting line up of new projects and plans at the Port of Corpus Christi are spurring growth and a “big city” feeling to the area.

In the entertainment area, a new “Whataburger Field” baseball stadium was completed last summer and is home of the Corpus Christi Hooks. Nearby, the American Bank Arena and Convention Center located on our beautiful bayfront brings big name entertainment acts as well as 100,000 bowlers to our area over the next few months. The Concrete Street Amphitheater provides another venue that continues to attract the crowds with its unique outdoor charm.

The biggest impact to our economy will prove to be the expansion at the Port of Corpus Christi. The Port started the 65 million dollar Joe Fulton Trade Corridor project in 2004 and expects completion by 2008. The almost 12 mile road and the 6 miles of rail expansion will connect the north side of the Port with Interstate 37, opening up 1200 prime acres previously only assessable by water. Although the Navy has announced the closing of Naval Air Station Ingleside, its close proximity to the Gulf and numerous new LNG plants opening in the area should prove to be a major asset for Port expansion as well.

Other significant projects include:

- A 36 million dollar renovation of the Corpus Christi International Airport.
- Major expansion at Driscoll Children’s and Christus Spohn Hospitals
- The new Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies located at Texas A & M-Corpus Christi
- Completion of the JFK causeway to Padre Island
- Texas A & M-Corpus Christi Performing Arts Center
- Packery Channel opening and planned first class resort on Padre Island
- Planned development along the downtown bayfront of a family oriented public space
- Seawall renovation to be completed this year.
- Del Mar College Economic Development Center for training and Small Business Assistance

With all the projects and the rapid expansion of homes and businesses in Corpus Christi, we now have over 400,000 residents. With construction permits in both residential and commercial construction at an all time high, it appears that this rapid growth will continue for quite a while.

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