

Informational Town Hall Meeting

U. S. Rep. Ted Poe helps promote 'The New Spindletop'

**By Fernando Rosendo Ramirez
Hispanic Triangle News**

The conference room at the 5 Point Credit Union was the site for the Informational Town Hall meeting, "The Contracting Process for Local Industrial Projects," hosted by U.S. Rep. Ted Poe.

The companies on hand to answer questions on how to obtain contracts on current and future Jefferson County expansion projects included Motiva, Total, Golden Pass LNG, Valero, the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, and the Golden Triangle

Minority Business Council.

As in other local town hall meetings hosted by Rep. Poe, it was standing room only in the second floor meeting room.

Tom Burger talked about the Golden Pass LNG project. He said that 94 percent of the natural gas is in other parts of the world. They have five tanks two miles north of Sabine Pass along the Sabine-Neches Waterway. Rick Nieland, with CBI Contractors, said each tank had 630 pilings underneath it and if stacked end to end, it would be 250 miles of pilings, enough to reach Austin.

Milton Hamilton from Valero said they were preparing for an expansion project that would increase the daily 310,000 BPD of heavy sour crude to 410,000 BPD. So far, 250 contractors have been employed and they expect to hire 2,000 during the peak of construction. This expansion project will create 40 permanent jobs. Valero plans a turnaround project from January 2009 to April 2009. This turnaround will also create more employment in Port Arthur.

Motiva spokesperson Rick Strauss, joked that the new Motiva Refinery Expansion

will use 50,000 pilings and they would reach across Texas, if stacked end to end. He said the \$7 billion investment had a projected completion date of July 2010. Strauss said Motiva would strive to use local, minority and women owned businesses whenever possible. Becon will hire 50 percent of the workforce and 50 percent would be done by sub-contractors.

After the presentations by the local companies, Rep. Poe read questions from several of the persons in the audience. One of the questions concerned foreign workers. Rep. Poe said that

he was not in favor of foreign workers at the local plant projects displacing American workers.

Rick Strauss said that Motiva only hires U.S. workers, not foreign workers. All the company representatives agreed with Rep. Poe that local people get jobs first.

Port Arthur Councilman John Beard thanked Rep. Poe for hosting the meeting to help local contractors secure jobs for the new "Spindletop." Beard said he was there to help Port Arthur contractors get the jobs first.



Alma Cantu
for
County Commissioner
Pct. 3

(Port Acres, Port Arthur, Sabine Pass & Hamshire Area)

**Endorsed by
Commissioner Waymon D. Hallmark**

- Born, Raised & Educated in Port Arthur
- 22 Years of Administrative & Management Experience under two county commissioners

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MARCH 4, 2008

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Jimmy Dike
For
County Commissioner
Precinct 3

- 15 Years Budgeting and Managing Taxpayer dollars to develop Pleasure Island
- 25 Years Experience working with Federal, State and Regulatory Agencies
- 25 Years History working with development and economic projects
- 25 Year Community Leader & Volunteer

Board and Commissions

- Jefferson County Crime Stoppers
- Hughen Center Board of Directors
- Cheniere LNG Advisory Panel
- Texas General Land Office Coastal Council
- Port Arthur Main Street Board Member
- One of 3 original creators of Mardi Gras of Southeast Texas

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