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### Humble Observer (TX)

#### Kings Harbor continues to expand with new businesses

JENNIFER SUMMER, [jsummer@hcnonline.com](mailto:jsummer@hcnonline.com)

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With the new year comes new businesses flocking to the Kings Harbor waterfront center. The complex has several restaurants and businesses anchoring the center but after a little over four years, most of the spaces have finally been occupied.

"There was a macro-recession which hurt all of the Houston area around the end of 2008 and some of 2009. This year, we have seen an uptick in new businesses and there is activity with new businesses starting up again," Jonathan Brinsden, chief operating officer of Midway Companies which owns Kings Harbor, said.

The goal Midway Companies has for Kings Harbor is for the center to be a community destination for the whole family to enjoy.

With events held monthly and even weekly in the warmer months, the Kings Harbor area has become a place for the whole family.

#### The Tasting Room

Occupying the space left by the Wine Loft, the Tasting Room will add another location for residents in the Kingwood area.

The concept of the Tasting Room was first started around eight years ago by Jerry and Laura Lasco.

Though they had other careers before opening the first Tasting Room located in Uptown Park, they developed the idea for the restaurant and opened with 10 people in June 2005.

"We have grown immensely throughout the years to where we now employ around 300 people and have locations in three different cities. We decided to open a Tasting Room location in Kings Harbor after we were approached by Midway Companies to see if we were interested," Jonathan Horowitz, a partner in the Tasting Room, said.

The owners first looked at the Kings Harbor area three years ago, but it was not the right time.

The Tasting Room opened a new location in the City Centre near Katy, which is also owned by Midway Companies, when the owners were approached again about opening another location.

"We conducted our research and think Kings Harbor will be great for the Tasting Room. There is not much like it, great visibility and we could not be more excited to open for the community," Horowitz added.

The Tasting Room features a variety of wines, beers, specialty foods and is set up as a casual wine bar/restaurant with a European feel. It also sells wines customers enjoy as retail, which allows customers to bring home their favorite wine they try at the Tasting Room.

Several improvements to the space in Kings Harbor have been made, including changing some of the interior and adding a patio overlooking Lake Houston.

"We focus on the wines, beers and the food which could either be shared plates like tapas or entree-sized foods like pizza and meat plates; we have a little bit of something for everyone," Horowitz said.

The Tasting Room is also event driven where it will host wine tastings and wine dinners for the community.

"We are looking forward to opening as soon as we can," Horowitz added.

The premier wine concept will take approximately 3,900 square feet of space between Sharky's Grill and Chimichurri's.

#### The Berry Bar

Another addition to the Kings Harbor restaurant scene is the Berry Bar which will give customers a chance to satisfy their sweet tooth.

Though the family which owns the shop have served yogurt and smoothies for around 20 years, this is their first location.

"This is our first store. We are very excited about the opportunity to open a shop in Kings Harbor; we love the location and with all of the events in the area, we hope it continues to grow," Peter Ngyuen of the Berry Bar said.

The shop features smoothies and self-serve yogurt where the customer can put any toppings they wish on their yogurt and then it is weighed for the price.

The shop will also have fresh fruit smoothies, specialty lemonades and fresh fruit juices.

The family hopes to have the Berry Bar open before the end of January.

"We love the area and live here, so we are excited to open," Ngyuen added.

#### Capital Title

As one of the largest independently owned **title** companies, **Capital Title** is planning to move its Atascocita office to Kings Harbor to accommodate clients.

"The Kings Harbor location is the ideal place to be right now. It is a waterfront center which will set the tone with our real estate clients, and the traffic to Kings Harbor is great," Kevin Clark, vice president of the Houston division of **Capital Title**, said.

The business is expecting to open its new offices in January specializing in escrow and settlement services and work as agents for all of the major national **title** insurance underwriters.

**Capital Title** is taking approximately 3,000 square feet of end cap space opposite the Berry Bar and facing West Lake Houston Parkway.

## Other additions

Joining the businesses in Kings Harbor is Orion Engineered Carbons, a new carbon black company which will occupy the remaining ground floor space, 18,000 square feet within Building 6 across from Chimichurri's and next to Campbell Chiropractic.

Orion Engineered Carbons is an innovative global producer of high quality carbon blacks focusing on collaborative partnerships with customers in rubber and pigment applications.

Another restaurant, Puerto, will open next door to Chimichurri's and is owned by the same owners.

The restaurant will feature a relaxed atmosphere and focus on cervezas and tacos.

The additional leasing activity brings overall leasing to 90 percent at Kings Harbor.

"We are planning to sign a couple of other businesses in the future, though we do not have a lot of space left. Our goal is to have Kings Harbor 100 percent occupied. I believe we have accomplished the goal we set up front to make Kings Harbor a place for the whole family with all of the events, and we plan to grow and continue these traditions," Brinsden added.

For more information on Midway, visit <http://midwaycompanies.com>.

Kings Harbor is welcoming several new businesses to the center including The Berry Bar, The Tasting Room, Orion Engineered Carbons, Puerto and **Capital Title**.

Several events are held throughout the year to welcome guests to Kings Harbor.

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