



ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson, LA

June, 2016

Patterson Draws New Businesses

Over the course of five years, Patterson's commerce has been on a steady incline; particularly in the area of Catherine Street, which is located in the center of the city. The growth continues with the addition of three new businesses on Catherine Street: Get Hozed Auto Spa, King's Cool Korner and a six storefront retail development under construction; a newly revamped Stazione 1 Exxon Station on Hwy 90; and the Wheel Barrel Farmer's Marketplace on First Street. With the exception of Stazione 1 Exxon, the other four businesses are located within Patterson's newly established Cultural District.

When business owners were asked what made them decide to open their establishments on Catherine Street in Patterson, the general consensus was that it is the area they considered to have the most growth potential. *"We could see that Catherine Street would be a major growing part of Patterson,"* commented Chris Callas of Get Hozed Auto Spa.

The fact that the businesses would be located on the same street as the library, the post office and the new junior high school (currently under construction) was a huge plus when deciding where to locate their businesses. For Jay King, owner of King's Cool Korner, *"The location was perfect because it's right between the two schools (Hattie Watts Elementary & PJHS)."* Whatever the reason, the central part of Patterson seems to be the "hot spot" for growth potential. And with the new businesses that are being developed, even in light of the declining economy, it is not likely that this area will be slowing down anytime soon.



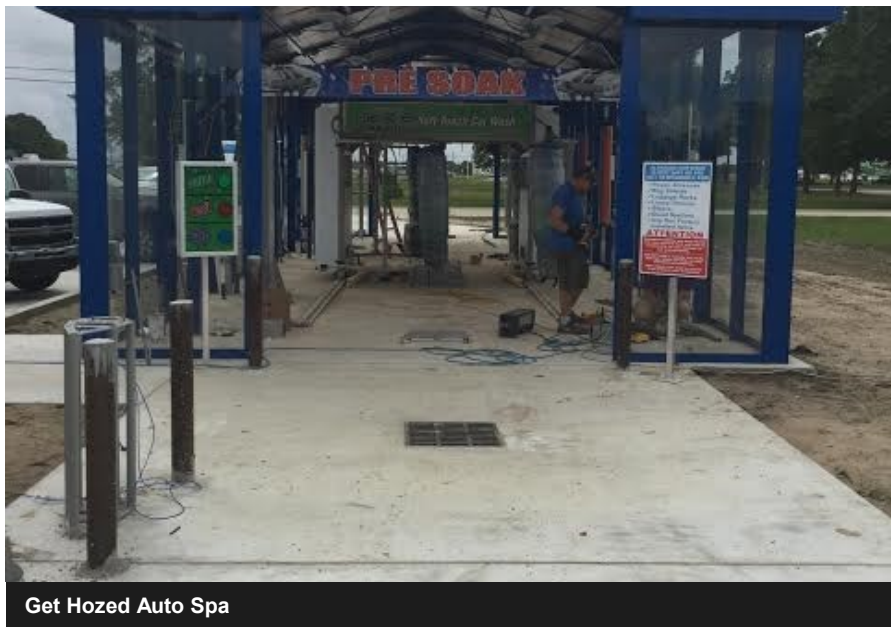
Sign at Get Hozed Car Spa



The New Stazione 1 Exxon Station

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Get Hozed Auto Spa

Get Hozed Auto Spa Is New Addition to Catherine Street

As a result of a conversation about leaving a legacy to their children, a backyard gathering and a few glasses of wine, the concept for the new auto spa was conceived. The owners, Chris and Stephanie Callas and Tillman and Stacie Simmons are not only business partners, but family as well. Stacie and Stephanie are sisters, and Tillman and Chris are their husbands. Tillman grew up in Patterson and graduated from Patterson High School. Chris Callas hails from Texas. The two couples currently reside in Berwick, LA.

The concept of an auto spa would not only serve as an investment into their futures, but it would also serve the community. After a thorough market study was conducted by the manufacturer, it was determined that Patterson was the best fit for this type of business. When starting the business was only a seed in his mind, Chris would sit in his vehicle on Catherine Street and watch the flow of traffic and vehicles coming and going.

The name, Get Hozed Auto **Spa**, is a “Play on Words,” according to Tillman; meaning, “We handle your car with tender loving care.” The spa offers \$6, \$8, \$10 and \$12 washes, a pre-soak option and a token that gives you a free vacuum with your car wash; which is different from other car washes. However, someone could purchase a vacuum only. The auto spa will frequently offer specials during the week and Saturdays. To see their specials, go to their face book page, Get Hozed Auto Spa.

The auto spa is completely computerized and self-sufficient and can be operated from their cell phones. Customer safety is not an issue because the spa is secure, highly lighted (especially at night) and has no dark corners.

“Looking five to ten years down the road, with all the good things that are happening here, things will only get better,” Tillman said.

5k Freedom Color Run Cancelled

PEDSCO announces that the 5K Freedom Color Run previously scheduled for June 25, 2016 is cancelled. After two prior attempts to sponsor the event and receiving nominal registrants, the committee made the decision to call it quits for the event. “It is obvious that the public is not interested in participating in another 5k run at this time,” remarked Ryan Aucoin, Community Develop & Affairs liaison.

Cultural & Historic Districts Get New Street Signs

As you drive around the city of Patterson, you may notice something a little different on certain streets – attractive street signs designating certain areas as either residing in the Cultural or Historic Districts of the city.

The area of Main Street between Catherine and Church Streets has been designated as the Historic District. Buildings that meet a certain criteria qualify for special taxing and remodeling incentives for restoring and preserving their beauty and authenticity.

The Cultural District consists of Main and First Streets between Railroad and MLK, and all of Catherine Street. It is intended to place emphasis on diverse art forms and artists who wish to showcase and bring attention to their unique crafts. Patterson is rich in cultural diversities.



Street Sign Designating Cultural District

Stazione 1 Exxon Adds Deli

Along with a new structure, Stazione has added a foodservice feature that includes a full service kitchen where it offers Krispy Krunchy Chicken, Hunt Brothers Pizza and boudin from the local Two Brother's Boudin.

The deli sells smoked boudin in both pork and crawfish. It is also serving rotisserie chicken, a variety of Stazione po-boys, salads, and an assortment of sweets made at it's Pierre Part location.



Deli Sign inside of Stazione 1 Exxon



Pictured is King's Cool Korner

King's Cool Korner Snowball Stand

Jay King, owner is a 26 year resident of Patterson, a graduate of Patterson High School, an ER nurse and a graduate of Nicholls State University. He is married, has three daughters and is in his first year of two barber apprenticeship at Flawless Cuts in Morgan City under a master barber.

Jay believes that starting his businesses was his destiny because he has been riding by the property forever. Then one day a lightbulb went off in his head to build a snowball stand and a barbershop together in one place. The barbershop part of the business will come later. He believes it is destiny because he could achieve a dream, and give something back to the community for the children. He believes that his location, which is nestled in the midst of Hattie Watts Elementary and the new Patterson Jr. High School, will allow him to work collaboratively with the schools in giving back to the community. Jay states, *"Action speaks louder than words."*

In the beginning, the snowball stand will be manned by Jay and his wife. He plans to add more workers as the business progresses. It will open Monday through Friday from 2 PM to 6 PM. Business hours are likely to fluctuate during peak times. For the kids, he will feature 8 ounce cups for \$2. Hamburgers, hot dogs and other snacks will be offered, as well as a variety of flavors of snowballs.

King's Cool Korner is equipped with parking places, a picnic table and awning to provide a nice place for his customers to sit and eat outside. Jay states that he's offering a service to the community that everyone can afford. *"I'm not trying to compete with anyone. I just want to put out a quality service and product. It's on Catherine Street and the street is starting to take off."*

Wheel Barrel Farmers Market

Farmers markets are receiving a lot of attention as more Americans are being challenged to eat healthier. They have been touted as a strategy to address the nation's food deserts, or places where healthy foods (fresh vegetables and fruits) and outlets to obtain them are less than adequate. The Federal Government recognizes the area that Patterson is a part of as a food desert.

Dr. Edward J. Valeau (Vilo), a native of Patterson, had a vision to build a farmers market on the property owned by his parents; so he purchased it from his 8 siblings. Through the carpentry skills of his nephew, Chief LaSalle, the building was constructed. Valeau financed the endeavor as a tribute to his parents, and in recognition of the educational foundation and confidence afforded to him from a former Patterson school, Hattie A. Watts (K-12), to earn his Ph. D from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mayor Grogan's vision for a farmers market formed a perfect nexus where the two native sons could come together to make the vision a reality. The mayor's support resulted in several key points that brought the market to fruition. He worked to secure a grant to help market the idea, and provide the banners which currently distinguish the zone of the market. Also, through his efforts, the city was recognized for establishing a farmers market by the White House through First Lady Michelle Obama.

The Wheel Barrel Farmers Market is an enclosed 12 stall facility with free standing sinks and hot and cold running water in each; and it has a bathroom. Unfortunately, it is currently not serving the community. Dr. Valeau believes that the success of the market is dependent upon small farmers, large growers, vendors, the community, associations, and the churches working together in Patterson to bring the site to life. He offers a few considerations for the public and local officials with an interest in making the market a part of the city's DNA. For example: people with fruit trees could harvest their crops to sell at the market; art and crafts exhibits; and it could be rented for fairs and bazaars - all within an enclosed facility. Specials and discounts are available.

For more information or to discuss usage call 985-255-0530 or 510-566-3426. All reasonable offers will be honored. Go to www.wheelbarrelfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Stazione 1 Exxon is Open for Business

Stazione 1 Exxon is one of the first locations in Louisiana and Mississippi to have the new ExxonMobil image called Synergy. It consists of new gasoline grade names and additives. ExxonMobil will start a national advertising campaign on July 1 according to store owner, Dean Duplantis.

The location has been operated as a convenience store since 1984. In January of 2016 they started to remodel the location to add in foodservice and interior restrooms, and operate it under the trade name of Stazione. *"We ran into some structural problems during remodel and decided to tear down the old building and build completely new,"* Duplantis said. This resulted in the store growing its footprint from 1800 square feet to the current 3400 square feet.

The revamped store has a driveway all the way around the building which allows a person to fuel up and get back on St. Peter Street without having to get out on the Highway. Diesel fuel for autos and light trucks was also added.

In the near future, the station will have Mobil pay where customers will pay from their smart phones. They will drive up to the pump, open the Speedpass+ app and select the pump number. The pump is then authorized and it will email the receipt to the customer.

Plans for a July 2, 2016 grand opening are underway. The facility is open seven days a week from 5 AM to 10 PM.

Contact Us

We are interested in your good news! Contact us at:

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