IT'S A HOMECOMING!
Shell Pecten to Return to Norco Manufacturing Complex

Just when you thought you understood that the Norco Manufacturing Complex was home to the Shell Chemical Plant and Motiva Enterprises Refinery, the Shell Pecten may once again return to the site as its sole owner.

“Shell and its red and yellow scallop shell, or Pecten emblem, is one of the most recognized symbols in the world,” said NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen. “For Norco and surrounding communities, our site has been affectionately known as the ‘Shell plant’ for several generations. While Motiva Enterprises has owned the refining business for almost 20 years, it’s taken a while to assimilate that reference to our site. Now, we are anticipating the Pecten’s return to the full complex.”

Royal Dutch Shell and the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) announced they have signed a non-binding Letter of Intent to divide the assets of Motiva Enterprises LLC - enabling both companies to pursue independent downstream growth strategies. The Motiva joint venture was formed in 1998 and has operated as a 50/50 refining and marketing joint venture between the parties since 2002.

According to the Letter of Intent, Shell will assume sole ownership of the Norco Louisiana refinery, the Convent Louisiana refinery, nine distribution terminals, and Shell branded markets in Florida, Louisiana and the Northeastern region.

Saudi Refining, a Saudi Aramco affiliate, will keep the Motiva name and take full ownership of the Port Arthur Refinery in Texas. It will also retain 26 distribution terminals, and have an exclusive license to use the Shell brand for fuel sales in

Texas, most of the Mississippi Valley, the Southeast and the Mid-Atlantic.

“This change will not affect how we run NMC, but changes how we identify ourselves,” Woltjen continued. “The name ‘Shell’ and the pride that name generates among the Shell family is a special bonus for us in Norco. It represents a return to our roots that began 87 years ago, with Shell’s acquisition of the New Orleans Refining Company (NORCO).”

Emphasizing that the intended separation of assets is in the first stage of negotiations, Woltjen noted that it may take up to a year, or longer, for the full Shell ownership to take place. “We are excited about the potential ahead,” he added. “While our owners work towards definitive agreements, NMC employees remain focused on clean and safe operations as a valued industrial partner in our community.”
Longevity research shows that people living in Ikaria, Greece; Loma Linda, California; Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; and Nicoya, Costa Rica, live longer and better lives than the average individual. Why? And How? Studies indicate that the common, contributing factors to longevity include:

- Socialization within the family and outside
- Sense of purpose
- Lack of smoking
- Following a high-plant based diet
- Spirituality
- Moderate, consistent alcohol intake
- Physical activity

It is not just about achieving a high number of years, it is about living better. Why live longer and be miserable in pain? It is possible to enjoy your retirement and golden years in a better way.

“Human beings are built on the procreation model,” he continued. “You are built to have kids, to help raise your grandkids and then biology doesn’t care about you anymore – you go downhill. “No matter how hard you try, you are not necessarily going to make it to 100. In fact, only one in 5,000 in this country live to 100.”

Kirk explained that the body’s 35 trillion cells turn over every eight years with a new version. Just like any other thing that is used over and over again, you experience problems from overuse. “A 65-year-old ages 125 times faster than a 12-year-old,” he said.

“We have learned that living a long life is dictated 10 percent by genetics and 90 percent by lifestyles,” he said. “But it is not just about achieving a high number of years, it is about living better. Why live longer and be miserable in pain? It is possible to enjoy your retirement and golden years in a better way.”
The crawfish party is over and there are more than just a few trash bags filled with aluminum cans. Don’t throw them away. Take a drive to Goodhope Street in Norco and pour those cans into the Norco Lions Club Cans for Sight trailer – right next door to the St. Charles Parish Library’s Norco branch. You will be doing more than participating in a recycling activity; you will be helping individuals who cannot afford eye care.

Profits from the recycled cans are used to fund the Lions Club efforts to provide eye exams, eyeglasses and other eyecare services to those at risk of losing their sight. Norco Manufacturing Complex Environmental Department employees are extending helping hands to the program by coordinating the emptying and recycling of donated aluminum cans.

“NMC has a strong recycling program inside the site,” said NMC Site Waste Coordinator Chad Mollere. “Working with the Cans for Sight program is not only good for the environment, but also an excellent opportunity to help those in need.”

NMC Environmental department employees Chad Mollere, Richard Hoagland and Shelita Williams are working with the Norco Lions Club in its recycling program which generates funds for eye exams and glasses for those who cannot afford them.

Norco Manufacturing Complex’s newest operators pose for a class picture as they begin orientation and comprehensive training in preparation for work in the field. Pictured are, left to right, front row: Daress Nicholas, David Joiner, Michael McLaney, Sandra Brooks, Roger Hester, Omega Johnson, and Instructor Larry Russell; back row: Dean Breindel, Lynda Daigle, Bryan Shelton, Christopher Scioneaux, Chris Malone, Lennie Reason, Henry “Charles” Shoultz, and Fredric Mitchell.
NMC Chemicals
Honored for Reliability

Meeting and Greeting the New GM

“IT’S GREAT TO BE HERE.” BRETT WOLTJEN | NMC General Manager

It would be hard to tell who enjoyed the recent meeting between Norco residents, business leaders, and elected officials, and NMC’s new General Manager Brett Woltjen more. An informal “meet and greet” in Norco was filled with southern hospitality, LSU football talk, growing up on the fenceline, attending movies on-site, and, of course, lots of questions for NMC’s team leader.

“It’s great to be here,” Woltjen said, as he shared family stories and updates about his wife Debbie and their daughters Kelly and Courtney. A 30-year Shell/Motiva employee, he recalled asking his parents – both strong environmentalists – what they thought about his out-of-college job offer from Shell. “My dad told me that all of us rely on fossil fuels and hydrocarbons for transportation and lifestyle. But what was important to him was that I went to work for the ‘good guys’ and that I would be one of the ‘guys’. I acknowledge that advice about the good guys, especially when faced with decisions.”

Woltjen answered questions ranging from the price of oil to community involvement, and additionally provided an update on Shell’s and Saudi Aramco’s intention to separate assets.

“Shell will remain a major player in upstream and downstream business,” he commented. “Although the company’s margins are tight right now, the chemical business is pretty strong. At Norco, we are running full out and I am optimistic about our business.”

Woltjen emphasized his personal commitment to keeping the site running clean and safe, while maintaining a strong commitment to the community. “There is a strong community connection here at NMC,” he said. “I want to build on the foundation and relationships that exist so that area residents continue to recognize NMC as part of their lives.”

And yet, Woltjen has eaten, and thoroughly enjoyed, crawfish. In fact, one of his first official duties as General Manager was to order more than 5,600 pounds of the mudbugs (from the Seafood Pot in New Sarpy) for NMC employees in recognition of their 2015 banner safety and performance record.

Norco Chemicals site received Shell’s 2015 Chemicals Global Reliability Award. The site was also honored with the award in 2014.

“This sustained reliability performance would not have been possible without the commitment of our hourly operators and craftspeople to work safely and compliantly every hour of every shift,” said NMC Production Manager DAI NGUYEN.

The award recognizes the site’s performance in minimizing unplanned maintenance shutdowns resulting in loss of production time. 2015 was also the fifth consecutive year that the Norco site did not exceed Shell’s global target for unanticipated shutdowns.

NMC Shell Chemical employees were recently honored with the company’s 2015 Global Reliability Award.

“It’s great to see the ingenuity and hard work of the Norco Chemicals Team recognized. This achievement is even bigger in light of the fact that OL-5 and BD-5 units were at the end of a six-year run leading up to their 2015 fourth quarter turnaround.”

GARY GUILHAS | Olefins Production Unit Manager

Norco residents Sal Digirolamo, Herman Louque and Bud Duhe discuss Norco Civic Association projects with the recently appointed NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen.

United Way of St. Charles Executive Director John Dias and NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen share a laugh during a recent community reception.

NMC neighbors Catherine Dufresne and Audrey Brady discuss activities with the site’s Ken Jones and Brett Woltjen.
There is no place like home, especially when you live in Norco. Just ask anyone who lives in a neighborhood where everyone still knows everyone, kids walk or ride their bikes to school, and where else can you walk outside your front door to see Christmas parades roll right outside your front door?

“The town of Norco is unique, charming, and full of history. It’s a wonderful place to live,” said Director of the Norco Community Fund (NCF) and Norco Economic Development Foundation (NEDF) Lily Acosta Galland, in a recent presentation to the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP). A Norco native and Norco Manufacturing Complex (NMC) retiree, Galland provided the CAP an overview of the two grant programs established to ensure the area’s viability for Norco residents today and future generations.

NCF and NEDF, established in 2001 and 2003 respectively through endowments by NMC, are nearing a three million dollar investment in diverse programs and organizations directly benefiting Norco residents. The Greater New Orleans Foundation manages the Donor Advised Funds. Galland explained that the NCF was initiated to improve the quality of life for Norco residents. Over the years, grants have been awarded to area schools, churches and civic organizations. One of the first NCF grants awarded assisted in the return of the Norco Christmas parade.

The NEDF is community-driven, addressing social and economic issues designed to support Norco’s economic development. Recent grant recipients have included the River Road Historical Association and the St. Charles Community Health Center.

Grow Local, Grow Great, Eat Great
New Orleans Farm & Food Network Assists Food Entrepreneurs with NEDF Grant

He explained that produce is often left to rot in the field, excess is composted on-site, and farmers do not earn what they could in proportion to their full potential. If the local food movement is to grow, there needs to be markets for this local produce by helping local people make locally sourced food products.

“Building a local food economy requires both the local farmers growing food and the food manufacturers making products from this local food,” Kharod said.

St. Charles Parish is now a key player in the local food economy. A recently announced partnership between NOFFN’s Food & Farm Works project and St. Charles Parish is helping to expand the resources available to food entrepreneurs while growing the base of potential users of Edible Enterprises, metro New Orleans area’s only licensed food technology incubator facility, located in Norco.

“Food & Farm Works offers resources that were previously unknown to a community of entrepreneurs in Greater New Orleans, resulting in a higher utilization of our Norco facility,” St. Charles Parish Economic Development and Tourism Director Corey Faucheux said.

Thanks to a grant from the Norco Economic Development Foundation, Edible Enterprises is now providing small batch co-packing services in association with Sheaux Fresh. The full-service contract packaging company offers one-stop production for everything from frozen vegetables and soups to jarred pickles and sauces. The company caters to the smaller producer, start-up company and those looking to bring a test product to market such as Edible Enterprises tenants.

“Norco’s Economic Development Foundation grant is a significant contribution to growing local business while expanding the opportunity for all of us to eat fresher, more healthy foods,” Kharod said.

Edible Enterprises is a collaboration of St. Charles Parish and NOFFN and is a licensed commercial incubator kitchen in Norco (the only one that exists in the greater New Orleans region). It helps food entrepreneurs launch startup food businesses by providing an affordable and fully stocked professional kitchen space. In addition, the Food Science Program of Our Lady of Holy Cross College offers technical assistance in food science and production technology to facility tenants.
Shell Oil Company was ranked 37th in a recent survey of the best companies to work for if you are a United States Military veteran.

The extensive survey, conducted by Military Times, reviewed a range of comprehensive survey questions to determine the ranking. Shell ranked the highest among the oil refining/petroleum/drilling industry. Seventy-five companies were studied in areas ranging from retail to banking and financial services. Verizon was ranked number one as the best employer for veterans.

According to Military Times, 95 percent of the surveyed companies have at least one service member, veteran or military spouse, in the ranks of their senior leadership. And more than one-third have received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest award given by the federal Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization.

Areas studied in the ranking process included: percentages of veteran new hires, military experience instead of certification, veterans on-boarding programs, company training about the military, ESGR awards, military spouse policies, and reservist pay.

In addition to a veterans’ recruitment program, Shell supports MILNET network chapters, including one at the Norco Manufacturing Complex, to assist former military personnel and their families as they transition into a corporate environment.

If you are a veteran interested in applying for a job with Shell or Motiva Enterprises, visit their company websites for additional information.

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**KEN BREAUX**

has a Passion for Life

When Ken Breaux was growing up in Bayou Gauche, Louisiana, he wanted to follow in his family’s footsteps and become a commercial fisherman. Instead, the NMC Process Operator joined the Army after high school. He became a 13-R field radar technician while serving in Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Irwin, California.

“I wanted to get the money to go to college and I wanted a challenge,” he remembered. “I knew it would be tough and it was extremely tough. The training was horrendous. But with patience, perseverance, and team work I stuck it out. Working as a team you can do anything. The military taught me responsibility and camaraderie and it taught me that, with hard work, there was nothing I couldn’t do. I learned a lot of leadership qualities in the army.”

After serving five years, Breaux attended Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, then graduated technical college in process technology. His training and experiences prepared him well for his job at NMC. “When I put in my applications after graduation, I had my choice of jobs and I picked Shell because Shell is a world-wide leader,” he said. “I’m happy I made that choice. The Army taught me skills like troubleshooting, problem solving and working as a team and I use those skills today at this job. No one person can do the job, so we all team up and put our heads together just like in the military. Teamwork works wonders.”

When he’s not working, Breaux keeps busy with family life. “I have four kids, ages 12 to 32,” he proudly stated. “Jacob will be 13 in June. Zachary will be 16 in June. Kristal is a junior at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. She’s a goalie for the soccer team and she just won Miss ULL and is going for Miss Louisiana. I have high hopes for her; she’s going to go all the way to Miss Universe. My oldest, Ezra, is 32. He got his Masters at UNO and is an engineer. I love my kids; they are my life. I also have two grandkids now. I enjoy my life. It’s wonderful. I’m very blessed.”

Breaux already has a plan for the next chapter of his life. “I want to finish up my career at Shell, retire and travel. I love traveling and I love fishing. I’m going to combine the two.”

Though he never became a commercial fisherman, he is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys providing for his family. “I love to fish and hunt,” he says. “We don’t buy anything at the store. All the meat and seafood and everything, we catch it all. We eat well! I have freezers full of crab meat and deer and ducks and you name it. I boiled 50 pounds of crawfish yesterday. We’re self-sufficient. When the apocalypse comes,” he laughed, “we’re going to be just fine.”
Under Not Over for the United Way

The United Way of St. Charles Bridge Run celebrated the 20th Annual Bridge Run and commitment to the health of the community with a new course – UNDER the bridge, instead of over. Due to ongoing construction on the Hale Boggs Bridge, this year’s runners and walkers completed a 5K on the levee jogging path near the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling.

Sponsored by the Norco Manufacturing Complex, the event was non-competitive for the first time ever, with no entry fees, including a post-race party with free food, drinks and live music. Those making a contribution to the United Way, however, received a commemorative UNDER the Bridge Run t-shirt.

NMC employees and family members turned out strong and ready to run in the United Way of St. Charles Annual Bridge Run.

Service ANNIVERSARIES

25 Years
Roy Defrisco
Raul Montejo
Theron Williams
David Wright

15 Years
James Bordelon
Ken Breaux
Louis Cancienne
Ronald Coates
Rodney Deshotel
Brian Dewitt
David Faulkner
Gregory Fisher
Claudia Jenkins

10 Years
Mary Gravois
Treichelle Shotwell

5 Years
Ira Jackson

Somebody You Know Works for Norco

20 Years
Jesus Arriaga
Donald Hall

15 Years
Johnnie LeBlanc
Stephen Lewis
Thomas Parsons
Charles Persinger
Keith Scharwath
Jeanne Sirey
Louis Swann
Manson Thompson
Dale Trepagnier
Christopher Wertz

10 Years
Mary Gravois
Treichelle Shotwell

5 Years
David Brant
Brenda Fritts
Richard Hoagland
Ryan Hymel

Steve Luminais
George Martin
Demetra Smith
Dwayne St. Germain
Durrell Thomas
Jerry Tung