



Business

Port workers find shortage of housing

By Ben Ledbeter / Correspondent

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According to the port's website, more than 250 companies operate there and about 1,200 trucks travel to and from the port. Also, more than 15,000 people are flown to offshore locations supported by the port.

"There just isn't any place to put them. Housing people in Fourchon, it's very limited," said Beverly Curole, broker with RE/MAX Coastal Realty, which sells and rent homes in Grand Isle and Lafourche Parish.

The gated community of Fourchon Pointe is the sole residential development in the area, however Curole said renting is not allowed in the development.

Along with the lack of housing, there's also been a lack of parking.

"People that work there, they're actually starting to shuttle people," Curole said. "It's such an industrial place, the gated communities are limited."

She said the distance from Fourchon to other areas with housing is not that far, which could be a good thing since more housing might not be built there.

"There's no real housing development there to house workers. I don't know if they ever will," Curole said.

Instead of depending on developments to be built, companies have started to make use of the limited space at the

port.

“Housing has historically, in this area, especially in the port, has been an issue,” said Greater Lafourche Port Commission Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. “What’s happened over the years, companies have begun to provide housing for their employees.”

One is scheduled to open soon. GoMotel is building a unit at the port and the port commission is speaking with other companies.

There will be more ability to come to fill the shortage, Chiasson said. An area near the South Lafourche Leonard Miller Jr. Airport in Galliano is slated for a residential development, he said.

“It’s something that can be remedied with more industrial housing being made available to companies and their employees,” Chiasson said.

Another option is the housing development being built in Golden Meadow.

Construction on a 14-acre residential and commercial development is expected to start later this summer. The development would have 44 four-bedroom homes, is about 22 miles from Port Fourchon and is within the levee system.