

A Healthy business

BY MARICE RICHTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN STANKEWITZ

Between the frenzy of the holidays and the stress of the tax deadline, wouldn't it be nice to squeeze in a little relaxation and rejuvenation?

*T*here is no better time to be pampered in Parker County. Between a prominent newcomer in the market and a stalwart's move into new digs, it is no longer necessary to drive 30 minutes or more to the east for the sake of bliss or beauty.

Not so long ago, pampering in Parker County meant getting your hair and nails done, and maybe a facial, at the beauty salon.

Those days are over. Now it is possible to get everything from a resortlike experience to state-of-the-art nonsurgical cosmetic treatments, all right here at home.





Jill Markwardt, center, and her daughters Samantha, left and Mary Jacq, right, relax in the Cloud Nine chairs at Weatherford's new The Havens Spa.

Spas thrive, even in a recession



Shelley Morelan of The Havens uses the steamy Vichy Shower after a relaxing body scrub.

With the recent opening of the Havens Spa in Weatherford, the concept of beauty and wellness in Parker County entered a new realm. Besides offering skin care, hair, nail and massage treatments, which were already available here, the Havens added the element of retreat.

“We want you to come and stay for the day,” says the Havens owner Carla Luig. “We want our clients to bring a book, have lunch, sit outside and enjoy the scenery.

“There is really nothing else like this around here,” she says.

Built on a 13-acre site, the Havens is intended as a luxurious retreat to achieve tranquility of mind and body. Though the place is already chock-full of services, Luig has plans to add more, including a fitness center and a spa food and nutrition component, to complete the full experience of a resort.

“By coming here, you don’t have to check into a resort to get the services of a resort,” she says. “But once we have everything in place, you will be able to check in to spend a night or a weekend.”

Luig owns a successful trucking company in Fort Worth

and has become a devotee of the spa experience. She has visited spas around the world, which provided the inspiration for the Havens.

“I really wanted this to be a place where you can get everything done in one stop,” she says. “I personally didn’t like having to go to different places to get my hair and nails done or a massage.”

The Havens services include eyelash perms, deep tissue massage, hair styling, manicures, pedicures, waxing, Botox and skin peels.

The Havens, 109 Otto Drive, offers a variety of spa packages, ranging from two to nine hours and costing \$175 to \$645. During February, the spa is offering a 5 ½-hour Venus and Mars package for \$575 per couple, including lunch.

The resortlike experience at the Havens has drawn customers from as far away as Dallas.

“We do private parties and custom packages,” Luig says. “We are unique and trying to fill a void in the market. Our clients seem to love what we do.”

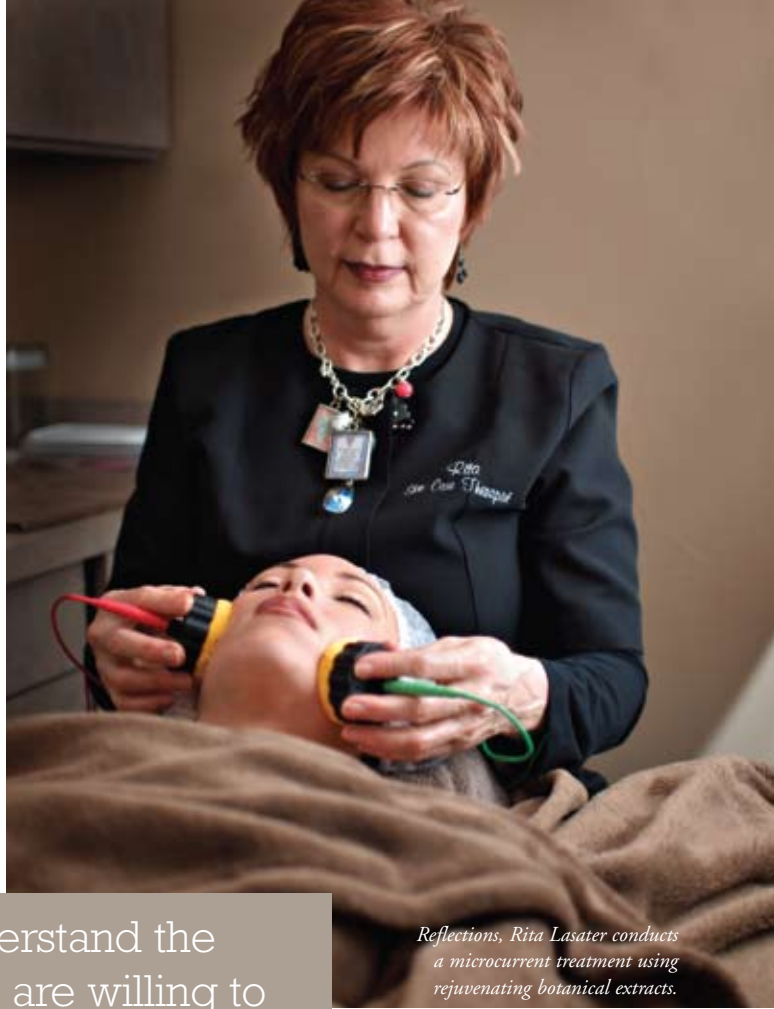
Despite the recession and poor economy, other Parker County spa operators say their business is brisk, too.

Envy’s Shelby Yates administers a microdermabrasion treatment, which is intended to reduce wrinkles and fine lines in the skin.





Park Avenue Spá's, Kim Holub gives a relaxing facial.



Reflections, Rita Lasater conducts a microcurrent treatment using rejuvenating botanical extracts.



Stephanie Hinkel of Reflections gives a deep tissue massage.

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— Cresenta Wusterhausen, owner of Envy



Envy Day Spa specializes in botox and other medical skin treatments.

“There are a lot of women out here who have the means and desire to spend on these services,” says Roquel Evans, who opened Park Avenue Spa at 113 E. Park Ave., Suite 104, in Weatherford in June. Her spa offers hair, nail and nonmedical skin services as well as massage.

“Of course, we’ve seen some impact,” says Evans, a massage therapist. “I have had some clients cut back from two massages a month to one, but they are still coming.”

Likewise, Cresenta Wusterhausen, owner of Envy, a medical day spa in Weatherford, says clients understand the benefits – and are willing to pay the cost — of cosmetic anti-aging treatments. Since 2007, this spa has offered a full range of nonsurgical treatments, including Botox and skin tightening and contouring procedures, under the supervision of Wusterhausen’s husband, Kris Wusterhausen, a physician.

The spa — at 1212 Clear Lake Road, Suite 300 — offers services intended to dissolve cellulite, remove wrinkles and tighten skin. Services range in price, but spending hundreds instead of thousands is common, Cresenta Wusterhausen says.

“People want to look young and healthy,” she says. “People looking for a job after being laid off, or those trying to enter the work force after being out a long time, feel they need this to be competitive.

“Appearances play a huge role, especially in first impressions,” she says. “Nobody wants to look old and tired, and with all the options available these days, you don’t have to.”

Because Envy doesn’t offer pampering treatments such as massage, hair care and facials, Wusterhausen frequently refers clients to Reflections Salon and Day Spa for those services. Owner Rita Lasater recently moved into a

grand new location at 1905 Martin Drive in Weatherford. The spa has been in business for more than 16 years, and Lasater says she was the first aesthetician in Parker County.

The spa has a lot of long-time loyal customers who indulge in a variety of services, including the day packages, which provide a massage, facial, manicure, pedicure and lunch for \$210.

“We knew we wouldn’t be the Lone Ranger in Parker County forever,” Lasater says. “Now we have a lot more competition, and we don’t mind because it keeps us on our toes.

“We don’t mind that new places keep opening as long as they do good work and give the spa business a good name.” 🍓