



**GREETINGS FROM
CRAIG BROWN**

**GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2**



February 2017 Issue

District 2 Newsletter



Recently Angela and I took some time off and spent a couple of days touring the Menil Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. These Museums are some of the most prestigious in the country and I couldn't help but think how the quality of these museums reflects the quality of the community.

Could it be that Art and Cultural advancements in a community have as much or even more to do with the decision of individuals to choose one community over another, as do streets, sewers and schools ?

Is there something deeper that draws people to a city – that makes them want to put down roots and build a life?

Recently Gallup surveyed some 43,000 people in 43 cities across the United States employing a fresh approach to determine the factors that attach residents to their communities and the role of community attachment in an area's economic growth and well-being.

The findings showed that “social offerings, openness and welcome-ness,” and, more importantly, the “aesthetics of a place

– its art, parks, and green spaces,” ranked higher than education, safety, and the local economy as a “driver of attachment.”

The study also found a direct correlation between the sense of attachment and economic growth.

From the Art Center on the Strand to the many galleries up and down Postoffice Street and around the Island, Art is alive and well in our community and it's nurturing and growth is so important to our quality of life.

As one Art scholar has mentioned "Art and Culture are powerful tools that help build healthy communities, capable of action and leadership."

As City Council continues to discuss increased funding for the Arts it will serve us all well to remember that economic growth presents itself in many different forms and a thriving and vital Art Community plays a major role in this economic formula.

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in the development and sustainment of Galveston's "Art Scene" and if you get a chance check out the many and varied studios and galleries on the Island. I think you will be surprised at what the Galveston Art Community has to offer.

Have a Wonderful and Artistic February !

CRAIG

Trolleys Are Alive And Well

Recently a flurry of activity has occurred concerning the Rebirth of the Trolleys.

Currently the rail Trolleys are being refurbished and should be back on line by the end of this year.

In the meantime while we are waiting on the Rail Trolleys, a fleet of Rubber Tire Trolleys should be in operation in the next few months running along the Seawall, East to West and Downtown.

This has taken some time, but will be a game changer as it applies to local as well as tourist transportation.



Broadway Design Committee

Approximately four months ago City Council established the Broadway Design Committee with the charge of submitting recommendations to City Council concerning changes to the Design Regulations for Broadway.

The Committee presented their recommendations at the January City Council meeting.

Allowing for different regulations for various sections of Broadway, expanding the Historic Districts along Broadway to

27th Street, changing the grade elevation requirements and suggesting that a Design Consultant be employed to analyze all the remaining regulations were just a few of their recommendations.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view their presentation in its entirety.

Proposed Purchase of 2528 Broadway

At the last City Council meeting the funding for the possible purchase of the land at 2528 Broadway (Old Dairy Queen site) was approved.

Funding for the proposed purchase and demolition of the building will come from a \$500,000 Grant from the Moody Foundation.

Once the land is restored then a possible move of Oleander Park to the land will be discussed .

Thank you to the Moody Foundation for their generous commitment that will allow for the possibility of more green space to be enjoyed by all the citizens of Galveston.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the specifics of the proposed purchase.



Stewart Beach Pavilion

The Park Board recently approved Rogers Partners to design a new concept for Stewart Beach Pavilion.

A Master Plan for Stewart Beach was completed recently and one of the recommendations was the replacement of the Pavilion with a new building or buildings designed to enhance the attractiveness and functionality of the Park.

\$140,000 was allocated for this project and will involve community input to arrive at the best approach for a new and improved Stewart Beach Park.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the specifics of the proposal



Arts and Historic Preservation Funding

At the last City Council meeting changes, as they relate to the structure and process of funding by the City's Art and Historic Preservation Committee, were discussed.

In addition to those outlined in the Draft Ordinance one area of interest was determining the exact criteria for selecting applicants for funding.

City Council will be discussing this more at subsequent meetings and I will update you on more specifics as they are finalized.

To view the draft proposal please [CLICK HERE](#).

27th Street Corridor Project

The concept to turn 27th Street into a beautiful thoroughfare from Broadway to the Seawall has been discussed for quite awhile now and will become a reality shortly.

At the January City Council meeting the funding to begin Phase I from Broadway to Avenue O was approved for 2.5 million dollars with construction to begin in the next few months.

At that same meeting Council also approved \$55,000 for the Landscaping and Sidewalk design phase of Phase II, from Avenue O to the Seawall.

The funding to initiate Phase II has come from District II Neighborhood Funds.

To view funding details for Phase I [CLICK HERE](#), for Phase II [CLICK HERE](#).



Special Bond Election in May

Council recently discussed holding a special Bond Election in May. If approved at a subsequent City Council meeting, the following items would be on the ballot.

1) Seeking voter approval for the closing and disposition of Gus Allen Park.

2) Seeking voter approval for the closing and disposition of Jones Park; and

3) Seeking voter approval for the issuance and sale of Sixty Two Million Dollars of general obligation bonds for street and drainage improvements;

A Special call meeting of City Council for final approval will take place on February 7th at 12:00 noon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Code Enforcement

As you are probably aware Enhanced Proactive Code Enforcement on weekday evenings and weekends has been ongoing for over three months now.

The program has been hugely successful with over 200 violations addressed in the first two months. Of this number the vast majority have been corrected with legal action being pursued on the remaining cases.

This program is scheduled to be in effect for one year then possibly be reinitiated for a second year.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make this program so successful and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

City Council Tidbits



Vacant Structure Regulations

I have been working with the Planning Department for quite awhile now to address the concern of vacant structures in our community. After much research and deliberation a draft ordinance will be presented to City Council in February outlining this program.

Next month I will expand on the details of this program which should have a very positive impact on those structures that have been a blight to so many neighborhoods.

Please view GINTC's latest update of Nature oriented activities [CLICK HERE](#).

Seawall Beach Nourishment

As you may have seen the Beach Nourishment Project for the Seawall Beach from 12th Street to 61st Street has begun and should be completed just in time for the summer season.

With the completion of this project the Seawall Beach will be in great condition from the Stewart Beach area all the way to 89th Street which includes the recently nourished Babes Beach.

Overnight Parking/Camping On The Seawall

At the last City Council meeting overnight Parking/Camping on the Seawall was approved for the Mardi Gras week of February 17 - 19.

Overnight parking or camping on the Seawall is banned from from 12:00 midnight to 5:00 am but to allow for the traditional viewing of the Krewe of Aquarius and Gambrinus Parades this rule is relaxed on this weekend.

To view the details of the change please [CLICK HERE](#).

Park Board Annual Report

Like clockwork the Park Board has issued their Annual Report which highlights all facets of Tourism compared to the previous year.

This report is very informative and gives you insight into everything from the Status of the Cruise Lines to the overall Economic Impact that all phases of Tourism have on our Island.

[CLICK HERE](#) to acquaint yourself with this information.

Contact Me