



GREETINGS FROM
CRAIG BROWN
GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2



MAY 2017 Issue

District 2 Newsletter



When we speak of Economic Growth in Galveston, Tourism, UTMB and the Port always come to mind. But one of our most vibrant Economic Resource Centers is the many educational systems on the Island and the student populations associated with them.

With the University of Texas Medical Branch, Texas A&M at Galveston and Galveston Community College accounting for a total of 7500 students, this demographic is becoming an increasingly significant force in the Community.

On May 4th, 90 students will arrive for the UTMB Nursing Program, another 90 students will arrive in June for the Physician Assistant Program, and in August nearly 900 new students will begin their academic careers at UTMB.

TAMUG has over 2300 students enrolled every year originating from 43 different states and the District of Colombia.

Over 2000 students are enrolled at Galveston Community College and 36% of these students come from off the Island.

Recently the Galveston Chamber of Commerce has partnered with these educational institutions to provide to students and parents a relocation guide to assist these new residents, providing them with information concerning housing, dining, transportation etc.

Thank you to the Chamber for recognizing this wonderful component of our community, who not only serve as an

economic stimulus but also bring a young and vibrant spirit that is so vital to the growth of our community.

In the early days of Galveston, the City was honored to serve as an immigration hub accepting the "tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Today, we more than ever are opening our arms to a new set of visitors; those seeking higher education and in their own way yearning to breathe the breezes of our Island home.

Have a Marvelous May !

Craig

City Review of Port and Park Board

At the April 27th City Council meeting a resolution to develop a plan for the review of City assets managed by the Port and Park Board was approved.

The majority of the structures and land, managed by these two entities, are owned by the City of Galveston and the resolution instructs City Staff to present to City Council at their June 22nd meeting the goals of these reviews, how they will be conducted and by whom.

More details will be presented on these reviews as City Staff presents their plans at the June City Council meeting.



Maritime Impact Study

At a combined Workshop meeting the County, the City and Port unveiled the findings of their new Maritime Impact Study for not only the Port of Galveston, but for all of Galveston County.

Many interesting findings were presented, such as 20% of all cruise passengers stay overnight on Galveston Island and close to 20% of all jobs in the County are directly related to Port activities. The report also called for a Long Term Development Strategy to guide all future growth.

The report can be viewed in its entirety,

[CLICK HERE](#)

State of the City

Yes, our City Manager Brian Maxwell has again given us the latest rundown of activities at City Hall. To view the most up to date City Manager Report please [CLICK HERE](#).



High Value Visitors

I don't think anyone has to be reminded of the increased number of tourists visiting our Island. The Causeway Car Counts for Easter showed that approximately 500,000 individuals visited the Island, which is far more than in years past.

In response to accentuating the concept of more high value visitors the Park Board presented their plans to increase this segment of tourists at a combined meeting with the City on April 13th. [CLICK HERE](#) to acquaint yourself with this well thought out strategy.

Please don't forget to vote May 6th in the Bond Election !



Seawolf Park

At the April 25th Park Board meeting the Board discussed numerous options for the revitalization of the Seawolf Park Pavilion and the various funding mechanisms for each option.

After a lengthy discussion the Board feels that either demolishing the Pavilion and building a new facility or remodeling the current structure are the two most viable choices.

Since the land and structures are owned by the City of Galveston, the Park Board will discuss this with City Council at their June 22nd meeting to develop a unified strategy.

To view more specifics of the Park Board's discussion please [CLICK HERE](#).

Industrial Development Corporation

At the April 4th IDC meeting the Board voted unanimously to support funding for Design Services for streetscape improvements for the West Market area from 25th to 33rd and and for 45th Street.

Both of these projects will provide additional streetscape improvements for Galveston and will be presented to Council soon for approval.

At that same meeting economic incentives were discussed that would help promote growth in all areas of the Island. Staff will present their recommendations at the next IDC meeting



Island Transit

For the past few months City Staff has been developing a new transit plan to address the funding shortfalls of Island Transit.

Three potential changes were discussed with citizens and a preliminary report of these meetings was discussed with City Council.

The three proposed changes are the development of a revised " Lifeline" route in the evenings and weekends, increase of fees for the Dial-A-Ride program and the development of a Taxi Voucher/Shared Ride Pilot Program.

Council will continue to discuss these potential changes at subsequent meetings. To review more specifics

[CLICK HERE](#)

Vacant Structures

Since I was elected as your District 2 City Council representative I have had the goal of introducing an ordinance designed to address the Dilapidated Vacant Structures on the Island.

After many months of discussion and research by the Planning Department, a preliminary draft of such an ordinance will be presented to City Council at their May 25th Workshop. More details will be presented in next month's Newsletter.

City Council Tidbits



Fireworks for the Island

At a recent Park Board meeting the funding of July 4th Fireworks was approved and at the same time the Park Board also approved funding for 7 - 14 other days throughout the summer where fireworks would be used as an attraction for those on the Island.

These other dates have not been finalized as yet but the funding is in place for spectacular fireworks throughout the summer season.

Mardi Gras 2017

Recently Mike Dean presented the post event report for Mardi Gras 2017.

It was a very successful event which included 24 parades, 36 concerts, 1,962 umbrella brigaders and over 600,000 attendees for all the Island's festivities.

Congratulations to Mike and his staff and mark your calendars for Mardi Gras 2018, February 2nd thru February 13th !



Tree Planting at Moody Early Childhood Center

Recently the Moody Early Childhood Center partnered with the Galveston Tree Conservancy on the planting of trees in their new playground at 1110 21st Street.

Thank you to the Center, Priscilla Files and John Brown for their time and expertise in adding another tree for future generations.

Houston - Galveston Connectivity

I have been reporting for months about the imminent start of a bus route between Galveston and Houston. As happens so often, this plan has been delayed due to the need of getting all the contractual agreements signed, sealed and delivered. I am told this is close to being finalized and I'll keep you posted.

Parking Plan

Approximately 6 months ago Council gave approval to the development of a comprehensive Parking Plan for the Island. This plan is nearing completion and hopefully will be unveiled at the June City Council meeting.

How Parking will be handled on the Island guides so many Council decisions and having a well thought out Parking Strategy will be another step forward in changes that will positively affect our residents and visitors.

Tourism Summit

The 2017 Tourism Summit will be held on May 4th from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at the Galveston Island Convention Center. This annual event, sponsored by the Park Board, is designed to update you in all aspects of Galveston's Tourism market. For more information please [CLICK HERE](#).

[Contact Me](#) |

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