



**GREETINGS FROM
CRAIG BROWN**

**GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2**



July 2017 Issue

District 2 Newsletter



In the late '50s Pete Seger wrote a haunting ballad that was made famous by the Byrd's in 1965. Taken from Ecclesiastes, Turn Turn Turn (To Everything There Is a Season) became an instant hit for many of us growing up in that era.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap

Recently Galveston has suffered the loss of three individuals whose time was given unselfishly and generously and we all continue to reap that which they planted. Imparting a community spirit that energized many of us, these three women epitomized the focus and leadership designed for no other purpose than to make our community better, no matter what ones racial, social or economic status.

Mayors Lyda Ann Thomas and Jan Coggeshell and Community Leader Izola Collins have forever left their imprint on our community. With their passing Galveston has suffered a loss and they will be sorely missed.

I had the fortunate occurrence to have worked with all three. Even though their history was different they, in my mind, shared many common characteristics. They loved life and saw problems as challenges that could be overcome. They were focused on making things better and keeping the best of the community

always in their thinking as they applied their varied talents to any project they undertook.

They, in their own ways, represented Galveston and the best it had to offer. Passionate about their home, steadfast in their pursuits and forceful if the occasion required.

We are so fortunate that these three remarkable women shared their Seasons with Galveston and even though we will have wonderful new leaders emerge in the future we can only hope that they share the same characteristics as these three women to whom Galveston owes so much.

**Enjoy the Summer and all the Seasons
the Island has to offer.**

Craig

First Round Bond Sale

On June 22nd City Council approved the sale of the first round of Bonds from the total package of 62 million dollars, approved by the voters on May 6th.

Current plans are to sell approximately \$21.7 million in bonds that will be payable over 20 years. Because of favorable market conditions, including an effective interest rate of approximately 3.25 percent, the sale will provide approximately \$25 million in proceeds for street and drainage project design, engineering, and construction.

To view the details of this sale and the projects that will be funded please [CLICK HERE](#).



Arts and Historic Preservation Funding

For many months now Council has been discussing changes to the policies governing Hotel Occupancy Tax funding that is managed by the City's Arts and Historic Preservation Committee.

Much more discussion is needed before any changes will be made, so in the meantime, Council approved a continuation of funding for for one year to those one year cycle organizations.

To view the specifics of those organizations that will be awarded funding please [CLICK HERE](#).

Curbside Recycling

Currently the City of Galveston provides curbside recycling for those individuals that are elderly or disabled. I have received many requests for this service to be expanded to all citizens.

In response to these requests Council recently discussed the issuance of Requests for Proposals for the operation of the transfer station and recycling center, waste hauling and universal curbside recycling. Theses RFPs will go out for bids soon and depending on the responses, the concept of curbside recycling will be closer to becoming a reality.

To view the specifics of the RFPs please [CLICK HERE](#).



Lone Star Motorcycle Rally

Recently representatives from the Lone Star Motorcycle Rally presented to Council an Economic Impact Study that outlines the financial benefits the Rally brings to the Island.

Following this presentation Council approved a new contract between the City and the Rally for the next three years, with a two year option starting with the November 2-5, 2017 Rally. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the results of the Economic Study and contractual details. I think you will find them very interesting.

City by the Numbers

115.6 Million Dollars

Total Contribution to Galveston's Economy from the 2016 Lone Star Motorcycle Rally

18.4 %

Increase in Rally Attendance from 2015 to 2016

754

Number of Code Complaints for the Month of May

\$11,495,000

**Cost of 45th Street Redevelopment That is Primarily Funded
From The First Round of Bond Sales**

96,814.88

Tons of Waste Accepted at the Transfer Center in 2016

\$800,000

**Amount of Additional Funding Needed for Crockett Park Baseball
Complex Lighting**

\$86,000

**Total Amount Approved for Funding of 2018 Single Year
Recipients From the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee**



Crockett Park Baseball Complex

**As has been mentioned in past Newsletters the approval for
funding of a Baseball Complex at Crockett Park located at 53rd
and Avenue S would be coming to Council soon.**

**This approval was given at our last meeting in the amount of 3.7
million dollars. With this funding construction can commence**

shortly and once finished will provide a first rate complex for all the Baseball Leagues in Galveston.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the specifics.

Purchase of Airport Land

At the last City Council meeting in June Council approved the purchase of 5.5 acres of upland property west of Scholes Field for \$437,000 from the Airport. Council will discuss in more detail the use of the land once a determination is made as to the possible purchase of the remaining 20 acre parcel.

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



Seawolf Park

On June 22nd. the Park Board presented to Council various plans concerning the redevelopment of the Seawolf Park Pavilion. The plans centered around demolishing the existing Pavilion and building a new one or refurbishing the existing structure. Due to FEMA funding concerns both of these approaches have extensive financial implications.

After discussion Council felt that this would be a good time to look at the entire operation of the Park to see if any other

additions or changes to the Park need to be considered in addition to the Pavilion changes.

Council recommended a joint City and Park Board group evaluate Seawolf Park and offer to Council and the Park Board recommendations concerning any potential changes. This Committee will be a topic of discussion at the July Park Board meeting.

Broadway Design

Council has been very supportive of enhancing the quality of Broadway Boulevard, the Gateway to our City.

To support this goal Council approved the employment of Design Workshop Inc. for a sum not to exceed \$112,000.

Their analysis and subsequent recommendations for Broadway should start immediately and will involve the business owners on Broadway in the planning process.

Council will review their recommendations in 4-6 months and will be planning for needed funding of any recommendations in this upcoming year's budget.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more specifics.

City Council Tidbits



Galveston Police Department

The Galveston Police Department just initiated a new Cadet Class of 20 individuals this last month and will be hosting a civil service exam at the Galveston Island Convention Center on July 21st, for anyone wanting to apply for the Police Department.

The quality of our Police Force is exceptional with crime down 10% over last year and staffing at an all time high. If you desire to know more about our Police Department and to get details on applying for the Force please [CLICK HERE](#).

City Manager Report

Hot off the press the most recent City Manager Report for your viewing pleasure, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Trolley Update

As you know the Rubber Tire Trolleys have been up and running since June 2nd and have been quite a big hit. In the first 16 days of operation approximately 10,000 people have hopped on the Trolleys.

The Rail Trolleys are being refurbished and are projected to return in approximately a year. The feedback on the Trolleys has been exceptionally positive and be on the lookout for new brochures, marketing and a specific time schedule for each stop to appear soon.

District 2 Committee appointments

The following individuals from District 2 were appointed to the following Committees at the last City Council meeting.

Thank you to all of you for your willingness to serve:

Dr. Victor Viser - Park Board

Mr. Robert Girndt - Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ms. Erin Brucia - Tree Committee

Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue

The Park Board recently projected the revenue expected from HOT for this coming year so they can develop their budgets for 2017 - 2018. This projection is also used by the City for calculating their portion of this revenue for planning purposes.

After much discussion the value was kept the same as this current year's projection.

Personal Watercraft Prohibition

Recently City Council voted to prohibit the rental or lease of Personal Watercraft (Jet Skis and Wave Runners) on Offats and English Bayou and the Crash Boat Basin. Personal Watercraft that are privately owned may still be operated in these areas.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

Busy July

July is usually a very busy month here on the Island and this July is no exception.

There is something for everyone and no matter your interests, Galveston has something to offer. To view the variety of events in July please [CLICK HERE](#).

[Contact Me](#) |

Proudly Representing the Citizens of:

San Jacinto

Kempner Park

Silk Stocking Historic District

Lost Bayou Historic District

Lasker Park

Williams - Borden

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