

OCTOBER 2024



A WALK IN THE PARK

Official Newsletter of the Galveston County
Parks & Cultural Services Department



SENIOR MOMENTS

This section will focus on our senior program. Each month we will share the different activities they participate in and any fun, unique tidbits. Our senior citizens were very busy in September! Some of the places they visited: Seaside Senior Health Fair, Christmas in September Craft Market, & Froberg's. At the center they made lots of crafts, sang karaoke, got moving with Sit-N-Be Fit, and got to see lots of presentations from different vendors.

In total, we served 2,365 meals to our senior citizens at our centers - Wayne Johnson, Dickinson, and Bayside. We also signed up 18 new senior citizens in our program. If you need more information on our Senior Citizen Program you can call 409-770-6257 or email program-info@co.galveston.tx.us

WELCOME TO THE PARK SIDE

This section will highlight one of our parks by giving a little history, the kind of amenities the park has, and the staff that work there.

CARBIDE PARK - Donated to Galveston County from Union Carbide in 1969, this 70 acre park, is known as the main headquarters for the Parks & Cultural Services Department.

Various amenities are sprinkled throughout the park and include basketball courts, tennis & pickleball courts, playgrounds, pavilions, and walking trails.

The Wayne Johnson Community Center is located here and houses our senior citizens program and is also available for rentals. The Pioneer House serves as the meeting place for our quilters and can also be rented out. The County Extension has their office building here too and is home to the Master Gardeners and the Discovery garden. As one of our most popular parks, you'll find people playing, jogging, walking their dogs or just relaxing under the pavilions. Most weekends the pavilions are reserved for a variety of events.

If you find yourself here, look out for the Carbide parks maintenance crew - Broderick, Kevin, and Andre. These 3 do all the maintenance, trash pickup, and outdoor restroom cleanings for this park and they also pull trash at Jones Bay Boat Ramp. They'd be happy to help or answer any questions you might have.



Director's Dashboard

Hello! I'm Julie, the director for Galveston County Parks & Cultural Services. Welcome to our 1st issue of "A Walk in the Park" newsletter. I'm excited to bring this informative and transparent newsletter to you, so you can know what our department is working on, projects we have, issues we are facing, and a highlight of each of our divisions. I hope you enjoy what we've put together and we welcome feedback via email program-info@co.galveston.tx.us or phone 409-934-8101.



ENJOY and we look forward to hearing from you!

Employee Spotlight

Timothy Jones

How long have you worked for Galveston County? 2 years

What do you do for the County? Facilities maintenance tech - plumbing, lights, etc.

Favorite part of the job? Doing something different everyday and not knowing where I'll be working next.

Favorite sports team? Carolina Panthers

Hobbies? Wood work, fishing, camping

What's your dream vacation?

Alaskan cruise or Tahiti

Favorite Holiday? Halloween



STAY BEACHY!

This section will talk about all things Bolivar Beach Parking Sticker Program. The program started in 2007 and has been thriving ever since. Led by Michael Lentz, our Bolivar Beach Sticker Supervisor, the program sells parking stickers that allow people to park on the Bolivar Beaches for \$10. This is an annual parking sticker and the color changes every calendar year. The program has consistently generated over \$800,000 in revenue the last 5 years. The unique thing about this program is that it's 100% self-sustaining. The revenue generated can only be spent on the improvements and safety of the Bolivar Beaches. The program is regulated by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and they determine what is an eligible expense to spend the revenue on. The parking sticker funds can pay for regular annual expenses like the salaries and benefits of the staff that work the program, the parking stickers, litter pickup, beach patrols by the Sheriff's Office, trash barrel services, port-o-let services, signage, cleaning services for restrooms, repairs to equipment and general beach maintenance.

It can also pay for projects like the Bolivar Beach Pavilion, amenities on the beach, dune restoration and walkovers for public areas, beach tractors, and UTVs. The funds can't be spent on anything off the Bolivar Peninsula or any areas or amenity that doesn't have direct beach access. For inquiries, please call (409) 934-8103 or email us at beachstickerprogram@co.galveston.tx.us.



ACTIVITIES WITH COUNTY EXTENSION

The Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a network of professional educators, and trained volunteers. They bring together traditional outreach and modernized tools to reach Galveston County residents right where they are in the following core service areas:

- Agriculture, Horticulture & Natural Resources
- 4-H & Youth Development
- Family & Community Health
- Community Development & Leadership



Monthly Focus

* FY2025 BUDGET *

Galveston County's budget year runs from October 1st through September 30th. Commissioners Court approved the FY25 budget on 9/3/2024. We look forward to sharing more information about the FY25 budget in the next edition of the newsletter.

* PARKS MASTER PLAN *

In April of 2024, the department started a new parks master plan process. Through numerous surveys, public meetings, and general park information, a plan for the future of the Parks & Cultural Services Department is almost complete.

This plan will help guide the department for future projects and amenities in the current parks we maintain and for future senior services. Expect to see the new plan hit the street in late Fall 2024.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Galveston County has over 14 parks and 9 boat ramps that are maintained by 20 parks maintenance workers and 6 park facility maintenance workers. Together they cover over 1,000 acres of Parkland!
- The Galveston County Senior Citizens program offers transportation to our seniors to & from the center, for grocery shopping, to go to the bank, and pharmacy. Last month we made over 1,117 trips for our seniors. Interested in helping transport seniors? We're hiring CDL drivers!! Apply at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/galvestoncountytx/>
- We do nightly light audits. Our part time evening staff started light audits in September checking all lights in our parks. Check back each month to see how the lights in the parks are doing.

