

NOVEMBER 2024



A WALK IN THE PARK

Official Newsletter of the Galveston County
Parks & Cultural Services Department



SENIOR MOMENTS

What an October! Our seniors were very busy this month and had a great time! We honored our Breast Cancer Survivors, had a fun Fall Festival, and attended Commissioner Holmes' Backyard BBQ. Some of the places they visited: Scarecrow Festival, Froberg's, HGAC Road Show, and Bay Area Nutcracker Market. At the center they made lots of fall crafts, did Walk-N-Talks with Agrilife, went to the library, and played chair volleyball. In total, we served 3,933 meals to our senior citizens at our centers - Wayne Johnson, Dickinson, and Bayside. We also signed up 15 new senior citizens in our program. If you need more information about our Senior Citizens Program you can call 409-770-6257 or email program-info@co.galveston.tx.us

WELCOME TO THE PARK SIDE

Our highlighted Park this month is BAYSIDE REGIONAL PARK - This park land was purchased with funds acquired from the sell of a portion of Bayshore Park (known as Spillway Park) in 2006. In 2017, construction started on the park and the community center. In 2018, Bayside Regional Park was officially opened to the public. The Bayside Community Center is located here and houses our senior citizens program and is also available for rentals. Over the last 6 years, more amenities have been added to the park - playground with ADA swings donated by the Bayside Lions Club, a pavilion, and trees donated by TXU Energy. In 2020, the Parks Department partnered with the Bayside Master Naturalists to bring more native plants to the park by giving them an acre of land to work with. Last month, CenterPoint Energy donated a generator to our center to help during emergency situations. In this park you'll see people fishing in the ponds, walking/running, kids playing on the playgrounds, and learning about the native plants. We are excited to finally be constructing new sidewalk paths that will start at the pavilion, wrap near the ponds and then extend to cross the road to the native plants. If you find yourself here, look out for our Mobile park maintenance crew - Jose, Trinton, Keaton, & Alex. These 4 do all the maintenance, trash pickup, and outdoor restroom cleanings for this park. They not only maintain this park, but also Bayshore, Holbrook, 146 & Bacliff boat ramps, DeSoto, and 18th Street Parks. They'd be happy to help you or answer any questions you might have.

Director's Dashboard

Hello and Welcome to November! We had a busy month! The crews continue to work hard on the parks as we start to move into the off-season and our Seniors keep having a good time with events and trips. Our Beach traffic has started to slow down, but you can still buy a parking sticker through the end of the year. As always, 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
Susie Brace
Records Technician

How long have you worked for Galveston County?

8 years in December

What do you do for the County? I

perform all the Data Entry for the administration of our Grant from HGAC for the Senior Program. This involves all the client applications, renewals and membership, meal orders and log sheets and all the transportation logs. All information is subject to an audit each year so I have to make sure everything matches up - it is a lot of numbers.

Favorite part of the job? All of it!

Favorite sports team? Texans

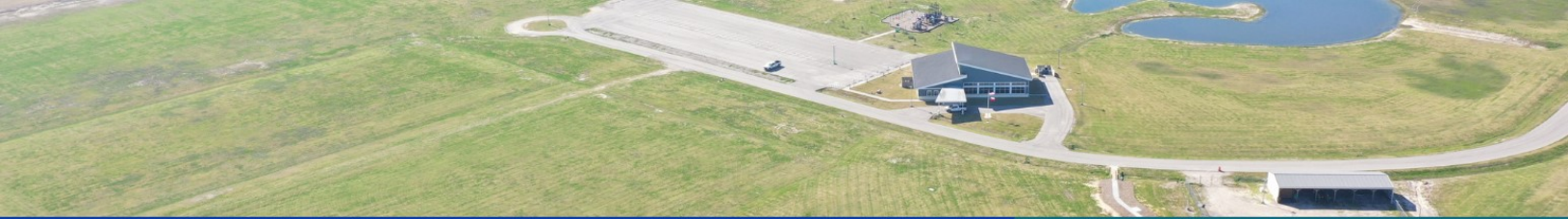
Hobbies? Art

Dream vacation? Cabo

Favorite Holiday? All of them!



WE
LOVE
OUR
SENIORS



STAY BEACHY!

The beach season is slowly winding down, but we have exciting news for next season! 🏖️ New QR Code on Your Beach Sticker! Your beach experience just got easier! This year, we've added a QR code to your beach sticker. ➡️ Simply scan it for quick access to Beach Laws and Essential Safety Tips, all from your phone.

Here's What You'll Find:

- Rip Current Safety & Flag Warnings: Stay informed and safe in the water.
- Bacterial Testing Results: Get updates on water quality before you swim.
- Visitor Safety Tips: Essential advice for a worry-free beach day.

This information could be life-saving! ❤️ Let's make your beach days safe, fun, and memorable. 🌞

For inquiries, please call (409) 934-8103 or email us at beachstickerprogram@co.galveston.tx.us.



ACTIVITIES WITH COUNTY EXTENSION

The Galveston County Extension Office and Master Gardeners recently hosted a successful Fall Festival & Plant Sale! The event was a fantastic day filled with educational gardening seminars, engaging garden tours, and fun kids' activities. Guests enjoyed shopping from a diverse selection of plants and gardening supplies and admired the antique tractor displays. The Pumpkin Masterpiece Display drew a crowd, while hands-on activities like archery, the Blender Bike, and the sea turtle obstacle course were a big hit with visitors. We are grateful for our community's support and look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Coming November 16th, they are hosting an Arranging Fresh & Artificial Flowers seminar. Retired Galveston County Master Gardener, Jackie Auer, will demonstrate and explain the basic techniques of fresh and artificial flower arranging. She has produced arrangements for the retail market, as well as for individuals. *NOTE: Bring your own vase and flowers for hands-on arranging. Keep in mind the holidays are approaching, if there is a theme you would like to use in your arrangement.* For additional questions on program call 281-309-5065.



Monthly Focus

* FY2025 BUDGET *

Be on the lookout for the following projects to happen this fiscal year:

- Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Jack Brooks Park
- Repairs to decks at 146 Boat Ramp
- New Pioneer House Fencing

* PARK LIGHTS *

In September 2024 the Parks staff started completing light audits in all our parks. Our part time Park Ambassadors, Joseph and Murphy, have been completing the light audit at least 2 times a week to ensure lights are working properly and they report back any issues to our Parks Supervisor, Jimmy Gibson.

We currently have parking lot lights out at the following parks:

- Carbide - 5% are out
- Walter Hall - 16% are out
- Bayshore - 1 pole

Baseball lights at Bayshore work, but are not left on and are not available for public use at this time.

Pavilion light issues:

Bayshore - small pavilions

We are in the process of repairing the lights with our electrical contractor, but feel free to contact our office if you see any issues: program-info@co.galveston.tx.us or 409-934-8101

DID YOU KNOW?

*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 1,931 trips for our seniors. Interested in helping transport seniors? We're hiring CDL drivers!!

Apply at

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/galvestoncountytx/>

*Our Parks Maintenance Crews compete in an Equipment Rodeo with other municipalities in our region every year. They compete in the mower obstacle course, backpack blower race, truck & trailer course, and backhoe test. Our crew gets to show off their skills, while networking with other parks maintenance crews. We'll let you know how they do in the next issue!