



# City Administrator's News and Notes

March 2020

On March 6, ribbons were cut at Paul Hopkins Park to dedicate the Paul Hopkins Park bridge. The new bridge is now open! This dedication was a refreshing reminder that we are recovering as a community and will continue to persevere despite the trials we continue to overcome.



On March 14, the first annual Dickinson Little Italy Festival of Galveston County was held. This inaugural event highlighted Italian heritage at the roots of Dickinson. The event was hosted on City Hall grounds and featured authentic Italian cuisine, history presentations and activities for all ages including a grape stomping contest!



# Departmental News

## DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Dickinson Public Library has hosted some great programs since the last News and Notes was published. The Children's Department kicked off our "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative. To kickstart the initiative, the Friends of the Library donated 50 bags and log sheets along with books to give away. For every 100 books that the kids log on their sheet and return to the library, they will receive a new book for their home library! We look forward to handing out more bags when we reopen to the public.



The library hosted local Galveston author Kimber Fountain who introduced her new book, *The Maceos and the Free State of Galveston*. Ms. Fountain gave an informative presentation on what her new book was all about and the creative process to put it all together.

Staff began the month by attending two events at Silbernagel Elementary School - Parent's Night and Career Day. Julianne Lane, Kathy Soehl, and Sam Torrez all attended Career Day and had a great time sharing not only what makes our jobs important, but fun as well! The library also hosted events that

coincided with the Dickinson Little Italy Festival. They had board games, Legos, face painting, balloons, and arts and crafts throughout the day for the community to enjoy. Julianne Lane and Sam Torrez finished the classroom portion of our Technology Grant through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and are looking forward to putting our technology plan into action and adding new technology services and programming at the library to benefit our community.

Although the library closed to the public on March 18th in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to support social distancing guidelines, the staff has been busy maintaining the collection and working on special projects that we have pulled off the backburner. We are replacing five of our public computers with new units and look forward to having those up and running when we reopen. We are also adding two more library catalog computers to make your access to information faster and easier.

While we are closed, the library has invested funds to ramp up our eBook collection in our Piney Woods Digital Consortium and we hope you all will take advantage of the new titles we have added in the Adult and Youth collections.

If you need assistance with getting a temporary library card or accessing the eBook system, please email us at [DickinsonLibrary@ci.dickinson.tx.us](mailto:DickinsonLibrary@ci.dickinson.tx.us). The library's webpage has numerous additional links to popular sites and databases that are free for the community to utilize while you are at home so be sure to check it out! while the library is closed, we are not assessing any late fees and we recommend you keep the books at home until we reopen to the public.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Alexander Sharp participated in the Career Day Event at Silbernagel Elementary School. During this event Officer Sharp joined a group of professionals to speak to students about their respective professions and the importance that education plays in the workplace.

Officers with the Dickinson Police Department were dispatched to the Green Isle subdivision in reference to

a Burglary of a Motor Vehicle in progress. The caller advised dispatch that there were several suspects walking around the neighborhood burglarizing vehicles. As the caller was on the phone with dispatch the suspects got into their vehicle and left the subdivision. Officers responding to the call observed the vehicle traveling westbound on FM 517 and conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle had a total of six occupants, three adults and three juveniles. All occupants were removed from the vehicle and during the investigation officers located a large amount of property on the front passenger floorboard. The property did not belong to any of the occupants inside of the vehicle. Three firearms were also recovered from inside of the vehicle. All six occupants were placed into custody and transported to the DPD jail for booking on charges of “Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity”.

During the month of March, the entire Patrol Division completed the Pipeline Safety Training Course related to emergency responses to pipeline leaks or explosions. Each patrol shift completed DPD Internal Policy Training. This training module is designed to ensure all officers maintain a high level of attention to the required guidelines and operating procedures.

Detective Vasquez was able to develop a suspect in a home burglary from fingerprints that were left behind by the suspect. The juvenile suspect was charged with “Burglary of a Habitation”.

Detective Oliver charged a juvenile with “Accident Causing Death” in a case where the juvenile caused a fatal car accident on a city street in Dickinson. Stolen firearms were also recovered, and some parts of the investigation are still on-going.

Officer Valdez participated in the DHS Advisory Committee at the DHS Admin. Building.

Texas City SWAT gave a presentation to the members of the CPA Class 30 at the VFW Hall.

Officer Valdez gave an Active Shooter Presentation to the members of Lighthouse Church.

Sgt. Boyd gave a presentation on Use of Force to the members of CPA Class 30 at the VFW.

Future programs are being postponed till further notice due to COVID 19.

The Crime Victim Liaison attended the Crimes Against Persons Conference in Stafford; Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Teen Dating Violence training; TDCJ Webinar, “Victim Offender mediation Dialogue”; IPV Prevention Council Webinar “Beyond DVAM: Easy Ways to Actively Engage Your Communities in DV Awareness After October”; CVR Webinar “Bias Victimization and Help-Seeking Among Latino Adults” and Training To Address Child Sex Trafficking in Galveston County with the Governor’s Office.

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## **FACILITIES**

Many improvements are happening at the Railroad Depot this includes replacing parts of the deck, insulating the bottom of the depot. Along with painting inside and out to restore its well-known light green color.

At the new Animal Shelter, we are down to installing fencing and some final site work.

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## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

As a precautionary measure due to COVID-19, the Dickinson Municipal Court will be closed to the public through May 4.

The court office is still conducting business via telephone, on-line, mail and drop box.

The Dickinson Municipal Court encourages anyone who has an outstanding citation or payment agreement to contact the court so that we may discuss any options for keeping your case in good status.

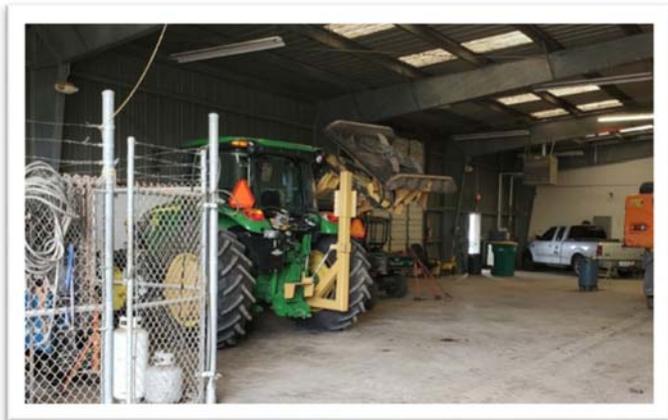
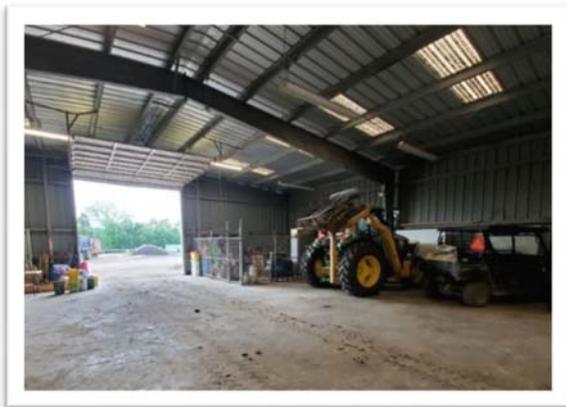
You can reach the court staff at 281-337-6297 or 281-337-6266.

Para hablar con alguien en español llame al 281-337-6266 o 281-337-6264

The Municipal Court is conducting hearings by telephone with Judge Gregg and Prosecutor Fuhr. Standing orders have also been authorized by Judge Gregg, giving the court staff the authority to allow defendants to handle their cases without having to attend hearings.

## PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department continues to monitor the various streets sections that have been milled and regraded. We are working on completing some of our open drainage projects including Benson Street. We also started our sweeping of the streets route and our mowing of the drainage ditches. The department participated in Touch A Truck at Silbernagel Elementary. The Public Works also continued replacing old street signs and patching potholes and installing culverts for new constructions. Public Works staff have been working hard cleaning out old kennels and cleaning up the warehouse space that used to house Bayou Animal Services' animals.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEDC has been moving and is almost settled, though not unpacked, in its new offices. We'll be glad to have you all drop by when business returns to normal operations.



*1621 FM 517 E, Suite A*

In the meantime, we've been working on an Emergency Business Recovery and Expansion Grant Program being voted on in a special DEDC Board conference call/meeting posted for Monday night 4/6 at 6:30, and hopefully will be sent to City Council to approve and read publicly their next two meetings. Being proposed is a \$10,000 per business maximum grant amount for Dickinson small businesses with 50 or fewer employees and having been seriously affected operationally by the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to gain approval of this program to assist our struggling business owners and operators through this unprecedented time of need.

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## FIRE MARSHAL

In March, the Fire Marshal's office completed a fire drill at the Dickinson Community Center/Seniors Center, as well as final approval and inspection of new fire alarm system the Christian Renewal Center. Licensing inspections of dialysis and nursing home centers in the City were conducted. Additionally, the Fire Marshal approved plan reviews on several new construction sites.

## EMS



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department went live with the iWorQ program as of the beginning of April; the transition is going smoothly.

Community Development staff have continued to scan records (new & old) to bring about a more efficient way of processing information requests received. Staff will start to log how much is being scanned each month to show Council and Citizens the extreme effort being made in moving to more digital department.

### Subdivisions:

Bayou Lakes Subdivision, Bayou Bend Estates Subdivision and Bayou Maison Subdivision are still progressing – issuing permits and completing drainage walk-throughs.

### New Homes:

- In March, 3 new home permits were issued.

### Specific Use Permits – March 2020:

- 3822 Water St. – Bed & Breakfast
- 5205 E. FM 517 - Unit #E (1200 Sq. Ft.)– Boat and fiber glass repair shop

### Commercial Development:

Whataburger, 3300 Gulf Freeway, was converted to a Mexican Food Restaurant and is currently open for business.

The building foundation at the Garden Hotel, 2401 W. Hughes Lane is complete.

Renovations are expected to begin within 30 days at Ziegler's, 2308 E. FM 517 Rd.

### Bayou Animal Services Shelter

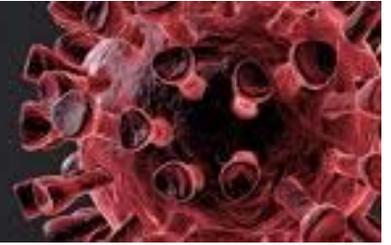
Bayou Animal Services has successfully moved into their new location and is working to get the building fully operational. The shelter cannot wait to fill it with guests looking to adopt new family members. While the City works to maintain community health during COVID-19, the shelter will remain closed to the public. Amazing fosters have stepped up to take care of all the animals while we are working on the new building, and to allow the staff to maintain social distance.

In getting all the animals to foster care, we were very unsure of what we were going to do with Honey. Honey had called the animal shelter “home” since Hurricane Harvey. Honey had trust issues, to say the least. Shelter employees felt like they were out of options, and hearts were breaking for Honey. Tommy Hernandez, Public Works Foreman, has been giving honey extra attention (and fries) since she first came in. Tommy and his wife Jewel were not going to let Honey be the only one without a plan. The Hernandez's opened their hearts and their home to Honey. **A testament of teamwork** – Public Works and the Animal Shelter worked together to save a dog that would have never made it out of any other shelter.





# CORONAVIRUS



March has truly been a tiresome month – leading a community through a Pandemic like no other we have ever had. The City is working vigorously to update the community by keeping in contact with neighboring cities, counties and the Galveston County Health District.

The City’s webpage, as well as its social media pages, contains the most up to date information available from local officials regarding COVID-19.

The City of Dickinson’s dedicated Coronavirus Information page contains links to updates from the City of Dickinson, City Administrator Updates, Galveston County updates, and updated from the Galveston County Health District.

All members of the community, as well as employees, are encouraged to sign up for “Notify Me” updates, which are sent directly from the City via email and text message.

[How-to-Subscribe-to-Notify-Me-Updates](#)

*“A journey, I reflected, is of no merit unless it has tested you.”  
– Tahir Shah, In Search of King Solomon's Mines*

## CITY UPDATES

March 17, 2020  
City’s  
COVID-19  
Measures  
Outlined

March 23, 2020  
City Administrator  
Memo #3

April 8, 2020  
City Administrator  
Memo #5

March 13, 2020  
Mayoral Declaration  
of Emergency  
Issued,  
City Administrator

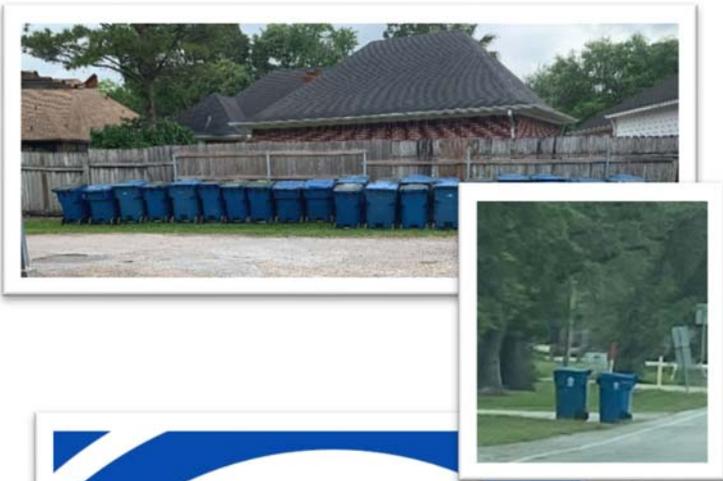
March 19, 2020  
City Administrator  
Memo #2

April 2, 2020  
City  
Administrator  
Memo #4, Order  
Relating to  
Essential  
Services, Letter

May 4, 2020  
Stay at Home  
Order to Expire

# Collection of Republic Services Trash and Recycling Cans

There are many blue Republic trash carts that have not been collected. After speaking with Republic, it has been made clear that they do not intend to do any further cart collection throughout the City. At a time when health and safety of the community are paramount, we do not want to have any sanitation issues to add to it. Therefore, in an effort to collect carts and return them to Republic, a subcontractor will be City collecting carts Wednesday, April 8, through Friday, April 10. Citizens have been asked to place their carts curbside for collection, regardless of whether the cart is full or empty.



**REPUBLIC SERVICES CAN COLLECTION**

If you still have your blue trash or recycle cans from Republic, please put it out for curbside collection on the following dates:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

The City is using a subcontractor to collect the remainder of the Republic carts, whether full or empty. Please place the carts curbside for collection; however, any can that can be seen from the roadway will be collected.

# CARRY OUT DELIVERY PICKUP Contest!

THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, DICKINSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND DICKINSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARE HOSTING A CONTEST TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS. THIS FRIENDLY COMPETITION IS TO KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP WHILE MOTIVATING EVERYONE TO SPEND BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER DOLLARS LOCALLY.

**RULES OF THE GAME:** WHEN ORDERING OUT, USE ONE OF THE RESTAURANTS WITHIN THE DICKINSON CITY LIMITS, BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MAY 3, 2020. SCAN OR TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR RECEIPT, SHOWING THE RESTAURANT NAME, DATE, THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE, AND YOUR SIGNATURE. SIGNATURE ON THE RECEIPT MUST BE THE PERSON OR SPOUSE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST.

BEFORE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK, EMAIL A SCANNED OR PHOTO COPY OF YOUR RECEIPT(S) TO THE DICKINSON CHAMBER AT [DICKINSONTXCHAMBER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DICKINSONTXCHAMBER@GMAIL.COM). INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL. YOU NEED NOT BE A DICKINSON RESIDENT TO WIN.

EACH MONDAY, THE CHAMBER WILL JUDGE THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S WINNER(S) USING CRITERIA SUCH AS FREQUENCY OF PATRONIZING DICKINSON RESTAURANTS, TOTAL SPENT AND DIVERSITY OF RESTAURANTS UTILIZED.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED WEEKLY TO THE 1ST AND 2ND PLACE WINNERS. DURING WEEKLY COMPETITION, YOU CAN ONLY WIN ONCE, BUT KEEP FREQUENTING THE RESTAURANTS AND SENDING IN YOUR RECEIPTS FOR THE A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE.

AFTER THE MAY 3, 2020 DEADLINE, ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIPTS WILL BE TALLIED AGAIN AND THE GRAND PRIZE WILL GIVEN TO THE OVERALL WINNER.



**CITY LIMIT RESTAURANTS INCLUDE:**

BONNY'S DONUTS	LOS BALONES	VILLAGE PIZZA & SEAFOOD	
VFV POST 6378	DONALD'S DONUTS		
JAQUAY'S CHICKEN & WAFFLES	SHIPLEY DONUTS	LOS RAMIREZ	MARAIS
	<b>CITY LIMIT RESTAURANTS INCLUDE:</b>		
GIO'S	LIGHTHOUSE SEAFOOD	FLIPPERS	MR. DONUTS
CHAPALA	RANCHOS TAQUERIA	PARADISE GRILL	AJ'S
AUNS DONUTS	LA TULTECA	DICKINSON BBQ	
SESAME HOUSE	ROGERS		