



City Administrator's News and Notes

February 2020

This year has been off to a great start and is filled with endless opportunities for growth and no shortage of projects. On February 5, Mayor Julie Masters and I joined the Texas General Land Office to welcome Dickinson resident Louise Meyer home. Ms. Meyer was the 600th home completed by the TX GLO's Disaster Recovery Team.



Departmental News

DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This time of year is typically planning time at the Library – planning events and activities for children, teens, and adults for the Spring Quarter. Dickinson Public Library employees have been active in the community.

Sam Torrez, Kathy Soehl, and Julianne Lane all attended Dunbar Middle School's career day. They were able to interact with the children as they asked about our positions at the library and what librarians do. Additionally, they were also able to exhibit many of the fun activities and materials that the library has available to the children so they could understand what the library has to offer.

Sam Torrez and Julianne Lane have begun the Technology Academy through TSLAC to learn all the ins and outs of preparing an effective technology plan that will coincide with the library's mission for the city. This will be an 8-month process where both will be attending an online class, participate in group discussions, complete work assignments and implement what we are learning in our library environment. In October upon completion of the course we will be awarded a \$10,000 grant stipend to purchase new technology for the library that will fit our new progressive technology plan for the library.

Kathy Soehl and Julianne Lane went to a Dickinson ISD Librarian's Meeting to present to the librarians the programs and materials that the Dickinson Public Library has available for not only the children but the librarians as well to help promote reading and technology literacy.

Julianne Lane accompanied Joan Malmrose from the Dickinson Historical Society to a newly formed Archives and Local History of Galveston County Group, to discuss an overview of each of our archive or local history endeavors/needs/wants in our cities. The importance of getting collections cataloged and sharing links amongst the Galveston County Groups so that the people of Galveston County can access their local history was emphasized. The Library hopes to be more involved in partnering with all the local historic purveyors in Galveston County.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the month of February, Probationary Police Officer Julia Pina successfully completed the Field Training evaluation process and has been released to an assigned shift. Officer Pina has progressed according to the departments standards and is expected to be a valuable asset to the team.

Officers assisted Hitchcock PD in identifying a drive-by shooter located in our city. The suspect was arrested without incident.

Officers were involved in a Police Pursuit/Stolen Vehicle recovery. The suspect was arrested, and the recovered stolen vehicle was returned to the rightful owner.

Officer Pina performed a warrant service in the 2600 block of Avenue D. The wanted subject was located and attempted to flee before being taken into custody. Upon arrival at the jail, the suspect was able to make a phone call. Sgt. Peterson overheard the suspect tell his girlfriend that he dropped something in the back yard of the residence in a manner that raised suspicion. With the assistance of League City Police Department's K9 unit, we were able to locate a bag in the back yard of the residence containing 3.9 grams of crystal methamphetamine. The suspect was subsequently charged with the felony offense of "Tampering with Evidence".

Officer Porter attended the Intermediate Crash Investigation course that was hosted by the Galveston County Sheriff's Office. She also completed the online Death Investigation course through TEEX. This

degree of training will benefit the agency with the teaching of this material to the inexperienced officers within the agency.

Officer Stewart attended the K9 Certification Course hosted by Alvin Police Department. This annual certification helps to maintain the professional standards necessary to demonstrate the proper training levels and provides a safe and proficient service to the community.

Probationary Officers Gonzales, Caputo and Pina attended the Taser Certification Course hosted by Dickinson Police Department. This training provides the officer the ability of utilizing a less than lethal force option when dealing with aggressive, hostile or uncooperative individuals.

The Communications Division recently hired a new Telecommunicator, Brian Stevens, who began Field Training in January.

Four of our newest Telecommunicators, Dahlia Donofrio, Courtney Lister, Stephanie Weeks and Heather Turk, recently completed their State Licensing exams and are now working towards their goal of "Basic Telecommunicator Certification".

Telecommunicator Barbara Black recently retired after over 23 years of dedicated service to the Dickinson Police Department and the citizens of Dickinson. We sincerely wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement endeavors.

Officer Valdez gave a Home Security presentation to the Rotary Club at the First United Methodist Church.

Detective Oliver and Crime Victim Rights Liaison Nyna Burreight gave a talk concerning cyberbullying, social media safety, sexting and on-line child solicitation at an event for parents within the school district and the city of Dickinson that was put together by DISD. The topic on this night was "Parent's Guide to Cyber Safety". The presentation was also featured on i45 Now and shared nearly 8,000 times.

Crime Victim Liaison Nyna Burreight and Officer Tony Valdez presented "Crime Prevention" and "Crime Victim Assistance" to the 55+ group at First United Methodist Church.

FACILITIES

Engineers are in the process of developing a game plan for the foundation work on the library. There is a bid on repair work for the Depot to refresh as was done with the museum; meetings start next week to develop a timeline on this project. Parking lot restriping will be coming soon for all City building locations as soon as pricing is obtained.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The EDC is moving! In March, the EDC office will be relocating from the historic Depot to a space on FM 517. The 4B corporation has been diligently coordinating this move. Additionally, to go with this new space, the EDC has been working on contracts, land sales, policies and procedures and fresh ideas for new and relocating businesses.



FIRE MARSHAL

In the month of February, the Fire Marshal conducted fire safety and fire extinguisher training for the kitchen staff of DISD, in conjunction with DVFD.

A fire drill and review of evacuation procedures was conducted for Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Finally, the Fire Marshal's office began reviewing the pipeline renewal application procedures for pipelines within the City.

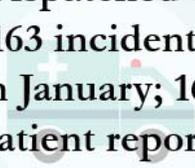
MUNICIPAL COURT

Officer Oscar Longoria has been assigned as the new Warrant officer for the City Of Dickinson, effective January 27, 2020. Office Longoria will be sharing his duties with both the Municipal Court and the Police Department. The court staff has been working closely with Officer Longoria as he gets familiar with his new

duties. During his first week as a Warrant Officer, Longoria has made contact with several defendants resulting in several arrests, numerous call backs to the court that generated payment plans and court hearings. Officer Longoria has been with the Police Department since December 2016.

Asst. Court Administrator Silvia Medina and Court Clerk Toni Rey Garcia attended Regional Clerks Seminar on February 10 through February 12 in Houston, TX as part of their continuing education requirements. The conferences help to provide a foundation for building clerks' knowledge of municipal court practices by familiarizing them with topics including judicial ethics, statutes, legal processes, and legislative issues. These programs help to promote a better understanding of the justice system and the laws that municipal courts must uphold.

EMS



**Dispatched to
163 incidents
in January; 168
patient reports
written.**



**January
Mutual Aid:
Gave 1x
Received 19x**



**January
response time:
6.12 minutes**



**January
Collections:
\$39,207.96**



**January Call
Volume:
163**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development staff has completed the BPI training. Community Development staff is undergoing training sessions for the new iWorq system that the City will begin using on April 1, 2020. Staff has met with a potential buyer of the Amegy Bank building, and also with the owners, engineers and WCID#1 on the Flying Rhino Brewery project located at W. FM 517.

Community Development staff has continued to scan records (new & old) to become more efficient when processing information requests. Staff will begin to log how much is being scanned each month to quantify the extreme effort being made in moving to a more digital department.

Subdivisions:

Bayou Lakes Subdivision: Section 4 infrastructure is approximately 90% complete, waiting for the final inspection from Public Works and WCID #1. All streets are in and some preliminary testing on the sewer and water has begun. We are hopeful that within the next month or two building permits will be issued for the subdivision.

Bayou Bend Estates Subdivision: The subdivision is moving along as work continues on the storm drainage and site drainage. The streets are approximately 95% complete. Public Works and the City Engineer Representative had a walk through – the results of the report are pending.

Bayou Maison Subdivision: In Section 1 there are approximately 5 lots to build. In Section 2, streets drainage and infrastructures are being completed. The streets are being installed. We are hopeful that building permits will be issued for the subdivision within the next two months.

New Homes:

- From January 24 to February 28, the department has issued 13 new homes.

Specific Use Permits – March 17, 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, is being converted to a Mexican Food Restaurant and is currently at 75% completion.

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.

Project Updates

Bayou Animal Services Shelter

The move to the new animal shelter has begun! Right now, crews are finishing the flower beds outside and we are fulfilling IT needs.

Friends of Bayou Animal Services hosted a “Sip and See” on February 6, 2020, to give a sneak peak of the shelter. As caring for the animals in the shelter is a never-ending task, the shelter is always looking for ways to add to funding. Currently, the shelter is selling tiles for \$40, available by completing a form on www.bayouanimalservices.org. This tile can be used to memorialize your pet or to display a personal message.



In the effort to build a stronger community outreach program, PVS is administering animal shots to the community every other Saturday for little to no cost.

This month, Bayou Animal Services is participating in the empty shelter project. This means that citizen owned animals will be fixed and chipped at no cost to the owner.



Agreement for Solid Waste

WCID #1 has selected AmeriWaste to provide solid waste collection for the City of Dickinson, effective March 15. Two informational sessions were held in February to answer citizens' questions regarding the transition. Additional information is available on WCID's website at <https://www.wcid1.com/solid-waste-information.php>.

Management District Number 1 and the City along with ETC institute Will Be Conducting a Community Survey

At their February meeting the District board members accepted the proposal from ETC to conduct a community survey. develop a comprehensive survey instrument and methodology to gauge citizen opinion regarding the services, activities and direction of the Community, conduct the survey, and tabulate results. This survey from start to finish will take about 4 to 5 months. This information will be valuable in developing public policy and Comprehensive planning over the next few years.

The survey will be in both English and Spanish and information will be collected from all the Census tracts in the Dickinson community.



Comprehensive Plan Update

I have been diligently working to determine the best path forward for the development of an updated comprehensive plan. This item is a priority for Council and as such, is budgeted in the 2020 budget. The GLO will have funds available for planning programs in the next 90 days or so. This program will furnish 100 million dollars under their Resilient Communities Programs, which aids in a community's development, adoption and implementation of modern and resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, and local plans. It would be in the City's best interest to review the program specific information once it becomes available.

Flood Mitigation Assistance

We are continuing to watch for updates on the Resilient Home Program, which will be releasing its guidelines in the coming months. This program is anticipated to have around \$100 million available for assistance. We will be tracking this program and the other 11 programs due out this spring.

CDBG-DR Infrastructure Update

These projects are underway. The city had its Kickoff on February 12th. GLO Grant Manager met with the Dickinson team and discussed the specific of the projects. As these projects move to design phase, we will have a couple of public meetings to provide information to the areas affected along the greater Dickinson community: Below is a summary of these projects.

Tributary to Gum Bayou Widening

In an effort to mitigate flood impacts from a regional perspective, the Team presented the Tributary to Gum Bayou Widening project which will effectively increase the conveyance and storage capacity of the tributary. The installation of new culverts and widening is anticipated to reduce the impact of extreme flood events within the residential areas north of FM 517.

Nicholstone Street/Drainage Improvements

In an effort to mitigate flood impacts from a localized perspective, the Team presented the Nicholstone Street/Drainage Improvements. The proposed improvements will reconstruct the existing streets and make drainage improvements. It is anticipated that the

improvements will provide significant relief to the residents in the Nicholstone area as well as the surrounding regions. The Streets are Kansas, Texas and 34th.

Pin Oak Drainage Improvements

In an effort to mitigate flood impacts from a localized perspective, the Team presented the Pin Oak Drainage Improvements. The proposed improvements are anticipated to provide adequate conveyance for the associated watershed encompassing Pin Oak Drive to Magnolia Bayou. Installation of new storm sewer pipe with inlets along with desilting and modification of roadside ditches is expected to provide immediate relief to the Pin Oak Drive and surrounding residential area.

CDBG-DR Acquisition Update

We have received the contract. Staff is currently reviewing the contract. City Staff will be working with targeted landowners to start the conversations of this program. We will keep the community and council updated as the program gets up and running. These funds will need to be spent in the next three years.

Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Watershed Study

The Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Watershed Study will host a series of public meetings in February and March 2020 to encourage public participation and feedback regarding the first of three phases in the Study. The first meeting was held on February 26. Additional public meetings were held on the following dates: Tuesday, March 3, Wednesday, March 4, Thursday, March 5. I am working with the team to have a meeting in Dickinson at City Hall. When the date and time is set. We will be getting that information out to the public

City of Dickinson and Dickinson ISD partnering on Census Counts.

So many Federal programs will be tied to Census information, so it is important to make sure everyone is counted in our community. Census Counts is a collaborative campaign to communicate the importance of completing census information. This partnership and communication should help is making

sure everyone is counted in Dickinson. For more information please visit <http://www.censuscounts.org>

The Texas Power Switch Program Results



The Dickinson Power Switch energy auction was a great success! If you haven't already signed up, join your friends and neighbors and find out if you could save on your electricity bills.

The Power Switch program resulted in two winning offers: a 12 and a 24-month fixed-rate and 100% renewable plan. The winning rates are approximately 20-24% lower than the average rate of similar plans available from other providers available on the day of the auction. As an added bonus, the winning provider offers active military members no deposit regardless of their credit rating.

The potential savings will depend on a household's annual usage. For example, a household that uses 16,000 kWh a year could save an average of \$411 per year with the 12-month plan. The savings could be even greater with the 24-month plan.

There is no cost to the city to promote this program, nor does the city receive any financial compensation. If you have not yet registered for the program, you can still sign up until March 3rd. It is free to register and there's no obligation to switch.

If you need help or have questions, email energy@texaspowerswitch.com or call 888-376-2077 from 8am to 10pm (Mon through Sat).