

# #BayCityTx4U | News

## SERVE ON A CITY BOARD

- Bay City Community Development Board
- Main Street Advisory Board
- Tourism Advisory Council
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Variance Committee
- Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) Board

Let the City know of your interest and qualifications to serve on a City board or commission.



Contact the Mayor's Office at 979-245-2137 or drop by City Hall at 1901 5th Street with any questions

## Meet The Public Works Director



**Herb Blomquist**

Public Works Director since 2023.

Previously:

- Public Works Director - Bellmead, TX 2019-2023
- Deputy Director of Public Works - Operations - Waco, TX 2018-2019
- Public Works Director - Edmond, OK 2009-2018
- Public Works Director - Watertown, SD 2001-2009

### Can you briefly describe the responsibilities of your department and how it serves the community?

I like to think of public works as that silent partner that works behind the scenes and takes care of the things that our citizens take for granted; safe drinking water, toilets that flush, trash picked up and disposed of, safe drivable streets and roads, properly maintained drainage facilities... the list goes on and on. Without public works, essential infrastructure, and important services, like roads, refuse, and utilities would significantly decline, and so would the well-being and quality of life of our residents.

### What inspired you to pursue a career in public service or city government?

I am a retired military veteran and was always in a leadership role in my various military assignments. After many years of serving on active duty, I still had the desire and passion for leading people and achieving goals as a team. For almost 24 years, public works has provided me with that opportunity. I have served in 5 different cities and have addressed each public works department with the same simple motto: Leave it better than you found it.

### What do you enjoy most about working for Bay City?

Working on the various capital improvement projects ... I get the opportunity to be a part of something which will help to carry Bay City 30-50 years into the future. The rehabilitation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, two water wells, the construction of two more new wells, and street repairs throughout the City will have a lasting impact on Bay City many years to come.

### What is a project or accomplishment you're particularly proud of in your role?

Guiding the City of Edmond, Oklahoma Public Works Department to become an accredited public works agency with the American Public Works Association (APWA). At the time Edmond Public Works was the 189th public works department across North America and the second in Oklahoma to become accredited.

### What are your goals or vision for your department in the next few years?

It is my hope that in the not-too-distant future, City of Bay City Public Works department can achieve the same recognition that was achieved in Edmond. My goal is to support the department's mission to respond promptly and professionally to residents' concerns and to deliver high quality, low cost, best-in-class municipal services to our customers.

## Hurricane Preparedness

With hurricane season running from June 1 through November 30, now is the time for Bay City residents to get prepared. Even a tropical storm can bring heavy rain, flooding, high winds, and power outages, so taking steps early can help keep your family safe when a storm approaches.

Start by building a hurricane emergency kit. This should include:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
- Non-perishable food
- Medications and first aid supplies
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Important documents in a waterproof container
- Pet supplies
- A battery-powered radio to stay updated if the power goes out

Next, create a family emergency plan. Know your evacuation route, decide where you'll go if you need to leave, and make sure everyone in your household knows how to stay in touch. If you rely on medical equipment or need extra help to evacuate, register in advance with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) to have your information shared with local emergency management.

Stay connected by signing up for local emergency alerts, and follow trusted sources like the City of Bay City and Matagorda County Emergency Management on social media. These sources will provide accurate updates, shelter information, and instructions before, during, and after a storm.

It's also important to secure your property—trim trees, clear gutters, and know how to shut off your utilities if needed. Take photos of your home and valuables for insurance purposes, and make sure you know your policy details before storm season. A hurricane may not be on the radar yet, but the best time to prepare is before one forms.

Visit [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) or the City's Emergency Preparedness page on the City's website [www.cityofbaycity.org](http://www.cityofbaycity.org) for more tips and checklists.

**hyper-reach**

the power of instant communication  
Be prepared when disaster strikes! Get weather and community alerts on your cell phone or email



The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

### Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as limited mobility, communication barriers, require additional medical assistance during an emergency event, or require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance

### How to Register:

- visit [stear.texas.gov](http://stear.texas.gov),
- call 2-1-1,
- use your video relay option of choice

## Matagorda County: Birding Capital of Texas

The Texas Legislature has passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 (SCR 30), officially designating Matagorda County as the Birding Capital of Texas for the next 10 years.

This recognition is the result of several years of vision and effort, originally championed by our former tourism manager and many volunteers, who saw the opportunity to highlight birding as a key asset for the county.

Matagorda County ranks among the most biodiverse birding locations in the United States. It has consistently placed at the top in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count in our state and many times the nation for the number of species counted, and our mix of prairies, wetlands, river deltas, and coastal marshes makes our region a magnet for birders and wildlife enthusiasts alike.

This designation would not have been possible without strong partnerships and community support. The Tourism Department (Visit Bay City) express deep appreciation to:

- Senator Joan Huffman and Representative A.J. Louderback for carrying SCR 30 through the Legislature,
- The City of Bay City and City of Palacios for coming together to support this countywide effort,
- This Commissioners Court for supporting Visit Bay City in pursuing the designation,
- The Matagorda County Birding Nature Center and its volunteers, the volunteers behind Matagorda Bay Birdfest, And the tireless dedication of individuals like Brent Ortego and Marilyn Sitz, who have championed birding and nature education for years.

This 10-year designation opens the door for:

- Increased eco-tourism and economic opportunity,
- Expanded education and conservation programming,
- And greater visibility for Matagorda County as a nature destination in Texas and beyond.

This is a proud moment for Matagorda County, and we look forward to building on this recognition in the years to come.

### BAYCITYTX4U APP

REPORT ISSUES, PAY BILLS, AND STAY INFORMED— ALL FROM YOUR PHONE. DOWNLOAD THE BAYCITYTX4U APP TODAY!

## Upcoming City Events

July 1 - Mad Science  
10:30 AM - Library

July 2 - Discovery Trunk  
10 AM - 5 PM - Library

July 3 - Rainbow Salt Art  
12 PM - 5 PM - Library

July 4 - Freedom Fireworks  
6 PM - 10 PM - Le Tulle Park

July 5 - Texas Snowball Fight  
10 AM - Riverside Park

July 8 - Create & Explore Day  
2 PM - 4 PM - Library

July 9 - Coffee with a Cop  
8 AM - 9 AM - McDonald's

July 9 - Senior Fish  
10 AM - 12 PM - Riverside Park

July 10 - Lego Challenge Drop-in  
12 PM - 5 PM - Library

July 12 - Fishing 101  
10 AM - Riverside Park

July 15 - Create & Explore Day  
2 PM - 4 PM - Library

July 17 - Rock Painting  
12 PM - 5 PM - Library

July 22 - Mini Golf  
10 AM - 4 PM - Library



HOLIDAY CLOSURE

FIRDAY JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

This information was compiled by the City of Bay City Communications Department as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance transparency, keep residents informed, and promote civic engagement. For questions or additional information, please contact the Communications Department at [communications@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:communications@cityofbaycity.org) or 979-245-6931.

Stay connected at [www.cityofbaycity.org](http://www.cityofbaycity.org).