

# #BayCityTx4U | Newsletter

www.cityofbaycity.org \* 1901 5th St. Bay City Texas 77414 \* 979-245-2137

## Fun at the Bay City Wild Game & Wine Camofest



### City Transparency

The City of Bay City is committed to transparency in government. We believe that our residents deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent, and we are committed to providing easy access to financial information.

We are proud to have been awarded three Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program. This program recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts.

City of Bay City transparency:

- We open our books in the areas of traditional finances, contracts and procurement, economic development, public pensions, debt obligations, and open government and compliance.
- We provide clear and meaningful financial information by posting financial documents, as well as thorough summaries, visualizations, downloadable data and other relevant information.
- You can find our budgets, audits, financials, debt and pension information on our website at [www.cityofbaycity.org/188/Finance-Department](http://www.cityofbaycity.org/188/Finance-Department).

We encourage you to visit our website and learn more about how your tax dollars are being spent.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program is a great way to recognize local governments that are committed to transparency. We are proud to be a part of this program and we will continue to work hard to earn your trust.

### City of Bay City Holidays

- Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)
- Jan. 20 (MLK, Jr. Day)
- Feb. 17 (President's Day)
- Apr. 18 (Good Friday)
- May 26 (Memorial Day)
- Jun. 19 (Juneteenth)
- Jul. 4 (Independence Day)
- Sep. 1 (Labor Day)
- Nov. 11 (Veterans' Day)
- Nov. 27-28 (Thanksgiving)
- Dec. 25-26 (Christmas)
- Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)

### City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings take place every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, except March, November & December. Meetings begin at 6:00PM and are held in the Bay City Council Chambers located at 1901 5th St.

[Agendas / Minutes](#)

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# Bay City Council Calls Special Election for Charter Amendments

During the February 11, 2025 Regular Council meeting, the Bay City Council called a special election on May 3, 2025, giving voters the opportunity to decide on three proposed amendments to the City Charter. These measures focus on improving government efficiency, council operations, and hiring flexibility for the City Manager position.

## Proposed Charter Amendments

### MEASURE A: TO CHANGE COUNCIL TERMS SO THAT TWO (2) POSITIONS ARE UP FOR ELECTION EVERY YEAR.

**Proposal:** Stagger City Council election cycles so that two (2) positions are up for election each year.

**Reasoning:** When the Charter was amended in 2019 to allow for three (3) year terms, the council terms occur where four (4) members are up one year, two (2) are up the next year and zero (0) are up the third year. Council will be more effective if two (2) are up each year.

**Fiscal Impact:** An estimated \$10,000 every third year for an additional election.

"A more balanced election cycle will improve stability and continuity on the Council," said Scotty Jones, City Manager. "Voters will have the chance to make their voices heard and ensure a steady transition of leadership."

### MEASURE B: TO CHANGE MANDATORY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL TO ONE (1) TIME PER MONTH.

**Proposal:** Reduce the minimum number of mandatory City Council meetings to one per month so that Council has the flexibility to cancel unnecessary additional meetings. An ordinance would continue to be adopted annually for regularly scheduled meetings for the upcoming year.

**Reasoning:** For the efficiency of administration and council, having only one (1) mandatory meeting per month allows the flexibility of council to meet when necessary, but no less than one time per month and be allowed to call as many other meetings as necessary to conduct efficient business.

**Fiscal Impact:** No additional costs.

"This amendment modernizes our approach to governance," said City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey. "It allows for efficiency while ensuring that Council can convene whenever necessary to serve the community. It is likely that many months will still have more than one meeting, but this amendment would allow Council to cancel an unnecessary meeting without violating the Charter."

### MEASURE C: TO ALLOW COUNCIL DISCRETION TO WAIVE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT OF CITY MANAGER IF THEY RESIDE IN MATAGORDA COUNTY.

**Proposal:** Allow City Council discretion to waive the requirement that the City Manager live within Bay City or its Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), provided they reside in Matagorda County and within 20 miles of the city limits, in order to improve the City's ability to attract and retain top talent.

**Reasoning:** The Charter requires that the City Manager reside within city limits or the ETJ of the city within one year of taking office. The city council finds this provision can have unintended consequences at a significant cost to the City. There may be an instance where the City Council may for good and sound reasons desire to waive this provision if it is in the best interest of the City.

**Fiscal Impact:** Potential savings on executive search and relocation costs, which can range from \$30,000-\$50,000 for a search and \$10,000-\$20,000 for relocation if the candidate already resides in Matagorda County.

"Our current City Manager is a Certified Public Manager, has over 20 years of municipal and management experience and has served Bay City for 10 years, demonstrating her dedication and capability, despite not residing within city limits," said Mayor Nelson. "This amendment ensures that future hiring decisions are based on qualifications and performance rather than strict residency rules. We are not just thinking about the now."

## Special Election Details

**Election Date:** Saturday, May 3, 2025

**Polling Locations:** Bay City Service Center, 2105 Ave. M

**Voter Information:** Residents are encouraged to review the proposed amendments and participate in the election. Information will be housed on the Elections page of the City website.

"At the end of the day, the decision on these proposed changes belongs to the voters," added Mayor Nelson. "We encourage everyone to get informed, attend meetings, ask questions, and make their voices heard at the ballot box."

To ensure residents have all the information they need, the City will launch a multifaceted public education campaign ahead of the election.

"Our goal is to make sure every voter understands the proposed changes and how they impact our community," said Samantha Denbow, Communications & Cultural Arts Director. "We will use a variety of methods, including community meetings, digital resources, and printed materials, to provide clear and accessible information to the public."

For additional details, visit the City of Bay City's website or contact the City Manager's Office at (979) 245-2137.

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## Main Street Hosts Regional Design Workshop



The Main Street Program hosted the Texas Historic Commission Main Street Design Team for a regional design workshop. A total of 5 cities were represented from other Main Street Communities and various board members, city staff, and developers were in attendance for this learning workshop followed by a walking tour of downtown Bay City. Cities present Bay City, Freeport, Cuero, Victoria, and Goliad.

## Bay City Public Library Earns Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award for Seventh Year

The Bay City Public Library in Bay City, Texas has received the 2024 Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA,) an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League.



“We are honored to receive this recognition for the seventh year in a row,” said Samantha Denbow, Communications and Cultural Arts Director. “This award highlights our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional services to our community.”

To successfully receive the Achievement of Library Excellence Award, the library must exhibit excellence by providing services to underserved and special populations, marketing in innovative ways, pursuing collaborative efforts, offering enhanced services through unique or expanded programming, providing literacy support, providing for digital inclusion, supporting workforce development, promoting cultural, topical, and educational programming, comprehensively training staff, and offering other unique services to their community.

“This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our library staff, volunteers, and the community we serve,” said Amanda Garcia, Library and Cultural Arts Manager. “We’re proud to continue expanding and offering meaningful programs that enrich the lives of our residents.”

Of the 542 public libraries in Texas, only 102 received this award in 2024. The award will presented at the City Council meeting on March 25, 2025.

For information about the award, contact Samantha Denbow, Communications and Cultural Arts Director at 979-245-6931 or email [sdenbow@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:sdenbow@cityofbaycity.org).





Paddling and Water enthusiast! Happy Spring! An appropriate time to make plans to get "Out There" and "Go Wild!" before the devilish summer arrives (da sweat-and-rash-producing heat).

Bay City Parks and Recreation is hosting the Annual Rally on the River on Saturday, April 26th at Riverside Park! Riverside Park is located at 7330 FM 2668 just South of Bay City, Texas.

This exciting event offers an opportunity for those who LOVE to pursue their recreational passions through kayaking, canoeing, rafting, rowing as well as waterfront camping. The Rally on the River is meticulously planned for the pleasure of river-loving outdoors enthusiasts and muscle-powered explorers.

Planned activities include: **Rally on the River;** Paddlers will experience the open waters of the Colorado River from Riverside Park to the LCRA Dam - (+/- 8 miles roundtrip, with the option to make it a shorter out-and-back experience...as desired). Wading birds, Bald Eagles, Pileated Woodpeckers, songbirds, fish and other wildlife are commonly observed on this stretch of the river.

Riverside Park has limited rental kayaks. Visit Rent.Fun to reserve a kayak for the day. Paddling starts at 9 a.m. TPWD Game Wardens, equipped with a first aid kit, supplemental water and a tow rope, will follow the flotilla in a powered chase boat.

Other activities planned for the day include Fishing 101, kite flying, games and crafts.

For those wishing to stay overnight we have 74 fabulous camp sites just waiting for you to set up camp for the weekend. You can make reservations at [www.campriverside.org](http://www.campriverside.org). Rally on the River participants will receive a camping discount.

There is no day use charge on April 20th.

Want more information on this event or to register? Check out Riverside Park at [www.campriverside.org](http://www.campriverside.org) or contact us at 979-323-1660 or [parks-rec@city-ofbaycity.org](mailto:parks-rec@city-ofbaycity.org)



**VOTE!**

## General and Special Elections

City General and Special Elections to be held May 3, 2025. Early voting will begin on Tuesday April 22nd at the Service Center (USO).

The candidates on the ballot for the May 3, 2025 General Election are:

### *Mayor*

Robert K. Nelson, incumbent.

### *Council Position #3*

Bradley Westmoreland, incumbent. Mr. Westmoreland was appointed in 2021 to complete a vacancy created by the passing of Councilman Brent Marceaux.

### *Council Position #4*

Cory McCray  
Susan M. Reardon

### *Council Position #5*

Blayne Finlay, incumbent.

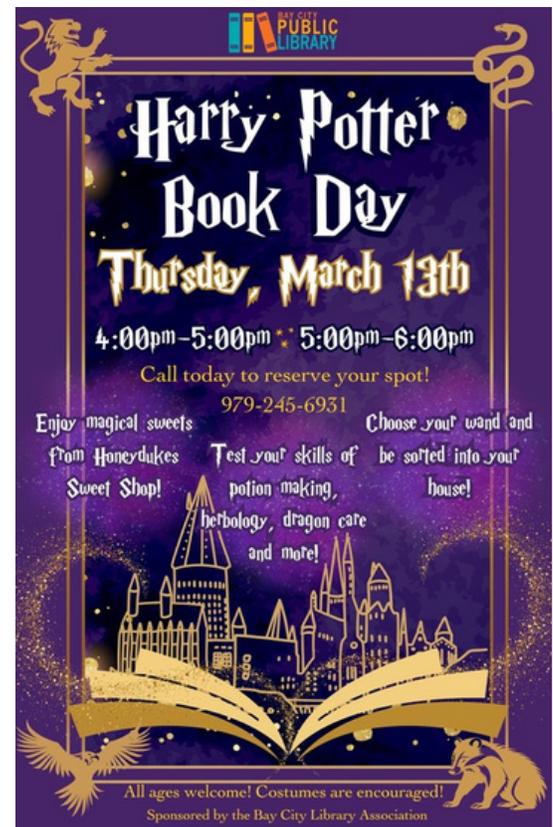
***There are three measures on the May 3, 2025 Special Election regarding changes to the City Charter which are:***

Proposition A: To change Council terms so that two (2) positions are up for election every year.

Proposition B: To change mandatory meeting of council to one (1) time per month.

Proposition C: To allow Council discretion to waive residency requirement of city Manager if they reside in Matagorda County.

***Early voting begins Tuesday April 22nd at the Service Center (USO).***

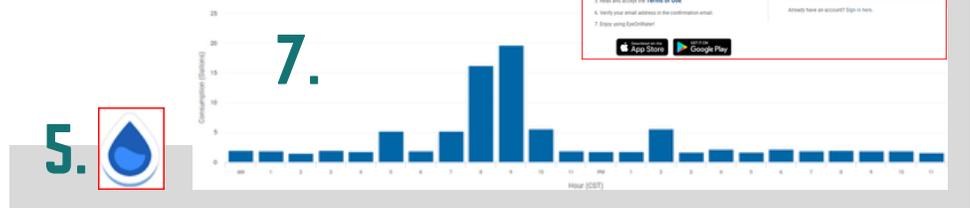
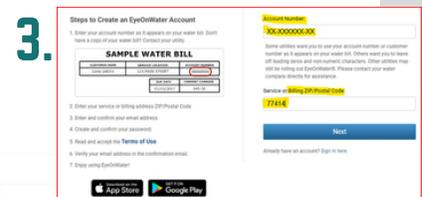
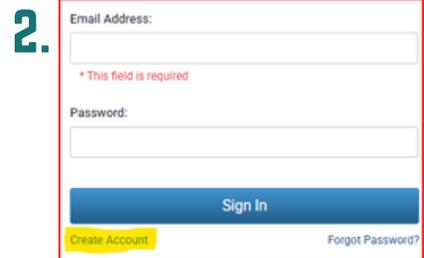


## Eye On Water. View Usage. Set Alerts.

Eye On Water is an incredible App that enables customers to view their water usage and set alerts. Customers can view the same usage information the City sees for your water usage!

Easy to do!

1. At the App Store or Google Play - Get the app for EyeOnWater.
2. Click "Create Account" to start.
3. Input your Account Number matching your bill with the dashes and input the zip code 77414. Then click "Next".
4. Go to your email, verify your email.
5. Open the App on your phone and log in with your email address and password.
6. Water Usage: View Hour/ Daily / Week / Month.
7. Check for leaks by looking for continuous hourly usage. The usage screen will look like this with every hour with usage. The higher hourly usage includes the continuous usage and the domestic usage.



Seniors (ages 55 & older) – REEL your month in right with a happy morning of fishing with friends! Wet a line with us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Riverside Park (7330 FM 2668).

Riverside has a great beach area for you to fish from – make sure you wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

Born after January 1, 1931, you must have a fishing license to cast a line in the river.

No fishing gear? No problem! TPWD and Riverside Park have teamed up to provide tackle and poles.

There is no fee for the morning fish - just check in at the Ranger station upon arrival. Assistant Ranger Antoine will be around to assist with fishing, tackle, and any needs during your time.

Bring your senior friends or family, spread the word and let us make this a fish story to tell!!

Want more information on this e program? Drop us a line at [parks-rec@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:parks-rec@cityofbaycity.org) or call us at 979-323-1660 or 979-245-0340!

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## Updates From Public Works

An update on the exciting projects shaping Bay City! We're committed to keeping you informed about the progress happening right here in our community.



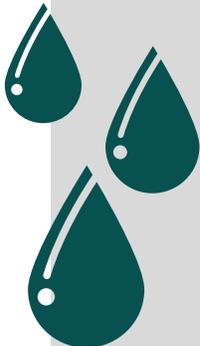
### ***Nile Valley Road Reconstruction: Ahead of Schedule!***

Great news for residents along Nile Valley Road! The reconstruction project, stretching from Roberts Road to Avenue F, is progressing faster than anticipated. Get ready for smooth travels, as paving is scheduled to begin the week of March 10th, weather permitting. Once paving is complete, Nile Valley Road will be fully reopened, providing a much-improved thoroughfare for our community. We appreciate your patience during this vital infrastructure upgrade.



### ***Enhancing Fire Safety: Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program Underway***

The City of Bay City is taking proactive steps to ensure our fire safety infrastructure is in top condition. We've launched Phase I of the Fire Hydrant Preventative Maintenance Program, focusing on the southwest quadrant of the city. LSPS Solutions is diligently conducting assessments, flow testing, and painting fire hydrants. This year, the city has allocated \$100,000 for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of fire hydrants, demonstrating our commitment to public safety. This program will continue annually, ensuring the long-term reliability of our firefighting capabilities. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Public Works at 979-323-1659.



### ***Revitalizing Our Water Supply: 6th Street Water Treatment Plant Improvements***

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming 6th Street Water Treatment Plant Improvements project, made possible through financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board. This critical project will see the installation of a new arsenic adsorption system and the replacement of electrical components. The revitalization of this plant, which has been offline since late 2021, will significantly enhance the resiliency of our city's water system, ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for all residents. Stay tuned for updates as we bring this vital resource back online.



### ***Building a Resilient Future: Stormwater Management Plan Project Launched***

Bay City is taking a proactive approach to flood mitigation with the launch of the Stormwater Management Plan project on January 30, 2025. Thanks to a \$650,000 FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant, Tejas Surveying is currently working to inventory and collect data on our city's stormwater infrastructure. This comprehensive data collection will be digitized, enabling the development of flood risk analysis models and the identification of crucial flood mitigation projects. This plan will serve as the foundation for future improvements to our stormwater infrastructure, ensuring a safer and more resilient Bay City for generations to come.

We are dedicated to improving our city's infrastructure and services. Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to build a better Bay City.

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# Riverside SMOKE-OFF

## Texas Style BBQ

Friday & Saturday,  
March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
7330 FM 2668



For more information or to register call  
Riverside Park at 979-245-0340  
or the Parks and Recreation  
Office at 979-323-1660

**\$2,600 Guaranteed Total Pay Outs for  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners!**

**Brisket (Mandatory Entry)**  
\$200 entry fee - Colorado Cove  
\$150 - Wilderness Area  
\$100 additional Brisket Entry

**Other Food Entries**  
\$25 entry fee  
Pork Ribs; Dutch Oven Sweet; Chicken;  
Beans; Chef's Choice

**Other Entries**  
No entry fee  
People's Choice; Best Decorated Weenie;  
Best Decorated Booth

**Kid's Cook**  
\$25 entry fee  
Ribeye Steak (steak provided)  
5 - 12 years

Get Ready to Sizzle at the Riverside Smoke-Off!

It's time to fire up your smokers and showcase your grilling skills at this year's most anticipated event. Whether you are a seasoned competitor or a first-time participant, we are inviting you to be part of a smokin' hot competition that promises not only an intense culinary showdown but a gathering that celebrates the spirit and flavors of Texas BBQ.

We are accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Secure your place before it's too late!

Participants will prepare a wide range of BBQ staples – brisket, pork ribs, beans, chef's choice and Dutch Oven – Sweet. Kids ages 5 – 17 years old are not left out in this competition – they can participate in ribeye steak and pork ribs.

Cookers can enter 8 categories: Brisket, Pork Ribs, Chicken, Chef's Choice, Beans, Dutch Oven Sweet, Best Decorated Site Award, the best smoked weenie and People's Choice (new this year). Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all categories except Best Decorated Site Award – Texas BBQ is the theme

The popular and tasty kid's cook categories are rib-eye steaks and pork ribs. Kid's Cook Ribeye Steak (ages 5 – 12 years) – \$20 entry fee (steak is provided by Jurek's Meat Market) and ribs category (13 – 17 years) – entry fee is \$20. First place in each age category will win a prize and trophy.

You have two options for camping and Brisket entry (must enter brisket category): Colorado Cove (water, sewer & electric) – \$200 (price includes camp site, 1 RV/Camper, BBQ trailer and 2 cars) or the Wilderness Area (water & electric) – \$150 (price includes camp site, 1 RV/Camper, BBQ trailer and 2 cars); Pork Ribs, Chef's Choice, Beans, Dutch Oven Sweet, are \$25 each category; additional vehicles/day use vehicles are \$10/car. If you want to enter an additional brisket the entry fee is \$100. You can enter each category multiple times. You can enter the Best Decorated Site, Best Decorated Weenie and People's Choice at no charge. Additional camp sites can be reserved.

How to Register:

1. In person at Bay City Parks and Recreation Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2. In person at Riverside Park, 7330 FM 2668, Monday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
3. Register on-line at <https://www.cityofbaycity.org/190/Parks-Recreation>. Click on the Riverside button.
4. Call Riverside Park at 979-245-0340 or Parks and Recreation at 979-323-1660.

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## Fostering Growth in Culture and Art

The City of Bay City's tourism department (Visit Bay City) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of our community members and tourists by fostering growth in the fields of culture and art. We believe our community has a rich artistic potential to attract visitors from all over, and that art plays a powerful role in bridging divides, creating connections, and promoting personal and collective growth. Culture and art are essential for a community because they shape identity, foster connections, and contribute to the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. Here's why they matter so much:

**Identity and Expression:** Culture and art allow people to express their unique identities, values, and experiences. They help communities preserve their history, traditions, and stories, which gives individuals a sense of belonging and pride in where they come from. This sense of shared identity can be a powerful unifier.

**Connection and Social Cohesion:** Art and cultural events bring people together, whether through music, dance, theater, or festivals. These shared experiences create a sense of community, breaking down barriers between different groups. They provide a space for dialogue, understanding, and empathy, which can strengthen social bonds and promote inclusivity.

**Creative Thinking and Innovation:** Art challenges the way people think and encourages creative problem-solving. It stimulates new ideas and perspectives, pushing individuals and communities to explore new ways of thinking and expressing themselves. In doing so, art often leads to innovation in other areas, such as technology, design, and education.

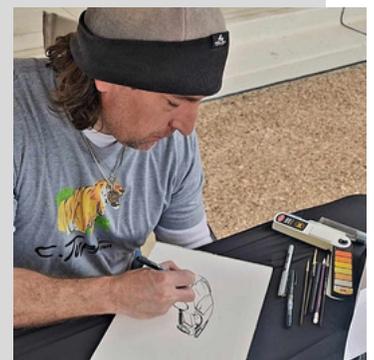
**Emotional and Mental Well-Being:** Engaging with art and culture can have significant benefits for mental health. It offers an outlet for emotional expression and reflection, helping people process difficult emotions. It can also be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and joy, fostering a sense of fulfillment and resilience.

**Economic Impact:** Beyond its cultural value, art and culture can have a significant economic impact. Creative industries, such as theater, music, fashion, and design, often drive tourism, create jobs, and contribute to local economies. Cultural spaces, such as galleries, theaters, and museums, can become vital parts of a community's economy and infrastructure.

**Cultural Preservation and Adaptation:** Art and culture help preserve the past while also evolving with the times. They allow a community to adapt to change while maintaining its core traditions, providing a balance between honoring heritage and embracing modernity.

During Camofest, the Visit Bay City team hosted the second Matagorda County ArtWalk, where local artists came together to showcase their work and support the growth of the arts in the area. The event featured live demonstrations from talented artists, including illustrator Christopher Tupa and spray paint artist Mr. Unicorn.

In essence, culture and art are the heartbeats of a community. They not only define who people are but also connect them to one another, making life richer, more meaningful, and vibrant.



***For more information on the cultural arts scene in Bay City or the Matagorda County ArtWalks, reach out to the Library and Cultural Arts Manager Amanda Garcia via email at [agarcia@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:agarcia@cityofbaycity.org).***

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## Bay City's EGGS-Stravaganza

Get Ready to Scramble for Eggs at Bay City's Annual EGG-Stravanga @ Le Tulle Park. The Egg hunts will feature over 18,000 plastic eggs stuffed with small toys or candy. Don't forget to bring your basket and camera!

Throughout the event the Kid's Zone will provide fun for everyone. The Kid's Zone will host inflatable games, a craft station, photo areas, as well as games (backyard bass, corn hole to name a few). The Easter Bunny will greet patrons and pose for photos and selfies. All egg hunts and event activities will be free and open to the public. Food Trucks will be on site as well to sell refreshments.

Children up to 10 years old will be able to take part in the EGG-Stravaganza.

This year's egg scramble schedule will be:

### Haystack Hunts *(Ongoing throughout the event)*

- Children with Special Needs
- 3-year-old and younger

### Egg Scrambles

- 12:30 p.m. for 4-year-old
- 1 p.m. for 5-year-old
- 1:30 p.m. for 6-year-old
- 1:45 p.m. for 7-year-old
- 2 p.m. for 8-year-old
- 2:15 p.m. for 9-year-old
- 2:30 p.m. for 10-year-old



Parents should note that each scramble lasts about one minute and is not repeated so children should be at the scramble for their age group on time.

Children with special needs will also be able to join in the fun of the egg scrambles at the "Beeping Bunnies" egg hunt area. This area will include beeping and talking eggs for children with special needs hidden among the hay.

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## Add Your Community Event to Civic Center Digital Sign

Want to add your community event to the digital sign in front of the Bay City Civic Center?

If you have an event in Matagorda County and would like to advertise it on the digital sign in front of the Civic Center, all you need to do is create a graphic and email it to [communications@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:communications@cityofbaycity.org) for approval. The event must be in Matagorda County. This opportunity extends to free or ticketed events. If it benefits our community members to know about the event, we want to keep everyone informed of all that is happening.

The graphic should be (2721 px wide & 1512 px tall) in a bold easy-to-read font. Graphics can be jpg, png or pdf files.

The text should be short and simple with no more than four lines total. Too much text will make it too difficult to read. We will reply to your email if we have any questions or if there is an issue with the image itself.

We will work with you as needed to make sure your information is seen.

City of Bay City Communications & Marketing  
Department



## Bay City Public Library Kicks Off "More Than Books" Summer Campaign

This summer, the Bay City Public Library is excited to launch its "More Than Books" campaign, aimed at showcasing all the library has to offer beyond just books! Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the area, our library is a hub of discovery, creativity, and community, with something for everyone. The "More Than Books" campaign invites patrons of all ages to explore the library's vast array of resources and programs, designed to inspire, educate, and entertain. In addition to our extensive collection of books, e-books, and audiobooks, we offer a wealth of activities and services that will keep you engaged year-round.

From Toddler Time and Families Create to Teen Tuesday, Lego Club, and book clubs for adults, there's always something happening at the Bay City Public Library. We also offer hands-on workshops, guest speakers, and creative arts programs for all ages. A special highlight this year is our new Beyond the Brush program, made possible by a generous grant from Save the Children. This exciting new initiative focuses on creative expression through art, providing opportunities for children and families to explore their artistic talents and engage in meaningful activities together. Whether you're interested in STEM activities, learning a new skill through DIY classes, or attending live performances, the library is a place where everyone can learn and grow.

Don't forget about our free Wi-Fi, public computers, and quiet study areas—ideal for anyone looking to work, study, or just relax. We also offer access to digital resources, such as streaming services and educational databases, that extend well beyond the physical walls of the library.

We invite you to make the Bay City Public Library a go-to destination for you and your family to discover all the ways we're more than just books. Stay tuned for more updates on upcoming events and join us in celebrating the vibrant community that makes our library so special!

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## MOPAC Train Depot Celebrates 120 years!

### MOPAC Train Depot

The historic MOPAC Train Depot was built in 1905 by the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexican Railway Builder as part of the Gulf Coast Lines. Chartered on June 6, 1903, the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway (also known as the Brownie) was a 200-mile (321-kilometer) railroad that operated from Brownsville, Texas to Gulf Coast Junction in Houston, Texas. It served numerous towns and cities along its routes.



The MOPAC Train Depot operated from 1905 to 1984 and was donated to the City of Bay City in 1984. This was the first depot donated to a city in this area.

The MOPAC Train Depot is located at 2624 Avenue G.

The building has undergone numerous renovations since 1984. The last major renovation was done in 2013. The MOPAC Train Depot is now used as a reservation facility for small gatherings (up to 50 people). It has one large gathering area, full kitchen, 2 restrooms and patio area. Perfect for small, intimate gatherings or parties. The Train Depot is managed by the Bay City Parks and Recreation Department and can be reserved Sunday – Saturday from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. A deposit and reservation fees apply. Tables and chairs for up to 50 people are included in the fees.

### MOPAC Screaming Eagle Caboose

In the esplanade next to the Train Depot is the MOPAC Screaming Eagle 13066 Caboose. A caboose is a manned North American railroad car coupled at the end of a freight train. Caboose provide shelter for crew at the end of a train, who were long required for switching and shunting, and to keep a lookout for load shifting, damage to equipment and cargo, and overheating axles.

This is a "Short Bay Window Caboose":

- 17 feet, 10- and 1/8-inches cabin with bay windows, centered on frame
- 41 feet, 7 and 3/4 inches over coupler pulling faces
- 51,800 pounds light weight

The caboose was removed from service on October 17, 1988, and donated to the City of Bay City.

### How to Make a Reservation:

In person at Bay City Parks and Recreation Office, 1209 10th Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Click here](#) to reserve on-line.

The refundable deposit is due at time of reservation and reservation fees are due the Monday before the event.





## **“We Are Bay City TX” – A Positive Promotions Video Series**

The City of Bay City Communications and Marketing department is proud to launch "We Are Bay City TX," a new positive promotions campaign designed to highlight the incredible work of our city departments. Through a series of short, engaging videos—each under three minutes—residents will hear directly from department directors and managers as they share what makes their departments unique and how they serve our community.

Each video will feature a behind-the-scenes look at a specific department, with its leadership offering insight into the essential services they provide. From the Fire and Police Departments keeping our city safe to Public Works maintaining vital infrastructure and Parks & Recreation enhancing our community spaces, these leaders will share department’s role and contributions to Bay City.

"This campaign is all about celebrating the people who work hard every day to serve Bay City," said Samantha Denbow, Communications and Cultural Arts Director. "We want residents to see the passion, dedication, and teamwork that make our city a great place to live."

To bring this vision to life, the city has partnered with a local videographer to create high-quality, engaging content that truly reflects the spirit of Bay City. "Working with a local videographer ensures these stories are told through the lens of someone who understands our community," said Denbow. "It’s a great way to support local talent while also delivering a professional and authentic look at our city services."

The goal of this campaign is to foster a deeper appreciation for the services we all rely on daily and to showcase the commitment of the people behind them. The videos will be shared on the city’s website and social media platforms, making it easy for the community to watch, learn, and engage.

"This video series directly supports Bay City’s 2025-2027 Strategic Plan by strengthening community engagement and enhancing transparency," said Denbow. "By showcasing the work of our city departments, we are fostering a greater understanding of municipal services, building trust, and encouraging civic involvement—key priorities in our long-term vision for Bay City."

Bay City is more than just a place—it’s a community built by the people who serve it. "We Are Bay City TX" is our way of celebrating their hard work, commitment, and passion. Stay tuned for the first video and see your city in action like never before!

For updates and video releases, follow us on social media or visit [www.cityofbaycity.org](http://www.cityofbaycity.org).

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Wanna dive into the  
deets?  
Dial us at  
979-245-0340  
or 979-323-1660

## Fishing 101 2nd Saturday of each Month Riverside Park

10 a.m.  
meet at Tejas Pavilion



Riverside Park and the Bay City Parks and Recreation Department want you to GO WILD! @ Riverside Park with the Riverside Park Rangers. A wide variety of outdoor programs and activities will be offered throughout the year to the public at our natural park.

Saturday, April 5th All About Plants! Learn about how to properly plant plants, transplant shock and what you need to keep them alive! Craft project – Make a grasshead to take home and watch it grow.

Saturday, May 3rd Birds! Learn about birds – learn about the birds of the Gulf Coast. Craft project – popsicle birdhouses.

Saturday, June 7th and November 1st Park Hikes Join the Park Rangers as they hike the Wilderness Trail and discuss the plants, trees and wildlife found in Riverside Park.

Saturday, July 5th Texas Snowball Fight Snow in July? Not quite – join us for this unique twist on a snowball fight!

Saturday, August 2nd All About Owls Knock, Knock? Whoooo's there? Owls! Join us as we learn all about owls and their habitats. Craft project – Bark Owl

“We want our guests to get out and explore nature at Riverside Park,” said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. “All our Go Wild! programs are designed to help people get out more and learn about the great outdoors that we live in. We want guests to learn about and enjoy the natural world and to be excited about all the wild things that are right here in Bay City.”

All programs meet at Tejas Pavilion in Riverside Park.

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## Riverside Offers Fishing 101, 10am on 2nd Saturdays

“Fishing builds confidence, improves coordination, teaches patience, and encourages an appreciation of nature,” said Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. “Fishing 101 is great ways to introduce our youth to healthier lifestyles and decrease screen time – at least for a little while.”

Fishing 101 will teach the basics of casting techniques; equipment, knots and tackle assembly; proper fish handling; fish identification and habitat; fishing safety, ethics and regulations and stewardship of aquatic resources. This class will be hosted on the beach – so be prepared to get wet!

Classes are taught by certified TPWD Angler Instructors.

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# Explore Bay City's New Tourism Website

The City of Bay City has launched a new tourism website, [www.visitbaycitytx.org](http://www.visitbaycitytx.org), designed as a comprehensive resource for visitors and residents seeking information about local attractions, events, dining, and outdoor activities. The site serves as a central hub for discovering what makes Bay City and the surrounding area a unique destination.

With an interactive and user-friendly design, the website provides updated details on upcoming festivals, recreational activities and local experiences, cultural arts activities, and unique dining options. It continues to expand with new features and enhancements to better assist users. Visitors can browse lodging options, create customized itineraries, and access exclusive deals from local businesses.

For more information and to start planning your visit, explore [www.visitbaycitytx.org](http://www.visitbaycitytx.org). Stay connected with Visit Bay City TX on social media for the latest news and updates.

**Visit BAY CITY TX**  
Where Country Meets The Coast!

*New Website Launch!*

**LIVE NOW!**

**MATAGORDA COUNTY!**  
Your Next Great Escape Awaits in MATAGORDA COUNTY!  
Escape to Matagorda County, where life slows down, and nature takes center stage. From the serene beauty of our unspoiled beaches and winding coastal trails to the calming sounds of the Gulf breeze, this is a place to reconnect with what matters most. Whether you're exploring vibrant wildlife habitats,

*Visit Us!*  
**VISITBAYCITYTX.ORG**

# Fishing Tournament @Riverside Park

## Categories:

Alligator Gar,  
Catfish, Red  
Fish

Friday & Saturday,  
April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

### Check in at Ranger Station

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Weigh-Station at Tejas Pavilion

Friday Night from 1 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday Final Weigh In 4 p.m.



### Fishing Boundaries:

Colorado River from the Bay City Dam to Intercoastal Waterway  
Boats can launch from Riverside Park

### Adult

\$40 per person

Seniors (65 and older) and

Active Military/Veteran (must show I.D.) - \$5 discount

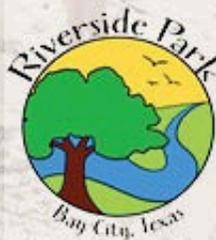
### Youth Fish (11 - 17 years)

\$25 per child

### Kid Fish (10 and under)

\$15 per child

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
place prizes in  
each category



### Register:

on-line @ [www.campriverside.org](http://www.campriverside.org)

call Riverside Park at 979-245-0340

call Parks and Recreation at 979-323-1660

in person at the Riverside Ranger Station or Parks and Recreation Office



For more information on visit [www.cityofbaycity.org](http://www.cityofbaycity.org), follow us on Facebook  
(@BCRiversidePark), or call the Riverside Park at at 979-245-0340  
or e-mail us at [riversidepark@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:riversidepark@cityofbaycity.org)

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A poster for a Mother's Day concert. The background is a soft, watercolor-style illustration of a field with trees and flowers. In the center, a man and a woman are walking away from the viewer, holding hands. A large heart is floating above them. The text is written in a mix of blue and black fonts.

**Mother's Day concert**  
celebrating mom and all her hard work...

Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
4 p.m.

Liberty Park  
2004 6th Street

Musical entertainment by:  
Lonestar Bluegrass

Free Event

Bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Office at  
979-323-1660 or follow us on Facebook @BCPAR.

Magnificent Outstanding Tender Honorable  
Extraordinary Remarkable – Mother.

Grab a chair, picnic blanket, basket and friends and come out to Liberty Park for our 7th annual Mother's Day Concert celebrating Mom and starring LoneStar Bluegrass Band!

Led by Houston banjo wiz Chris Hirsch, the Lonestar Bluegrass Band takes their high energy show from campfires to concert halls. Banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and string bass supply the traditional sound and deep-rooted influences of Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, The Stanley Brothers, etc. and the repertory includes an abundance of spirited renditions of bluegrass classics. It will be a toe-tapping, make you want to get up and dance time!

There is no charge for the concert.

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A poster for a movie screening event. The background is a dark grey with white stars. The text is in green and blue. At the bottom, there is an illustration of people sitting on the ground watching a movie, with a clapperboard, a bucket of popcorn, and a drink.

**Movies Under the Stars**  
**@ Riverside Park**

Friday, March 28th  
"Ratatouille"

Movies start at 7 p.m.  
Bring your chairs and blankets to sit on!  
\$10/car includes popcorn and hot cocoa

Got questions?  
Give us a ring at  
979-323-1660!