

#BayCityTx4U | Newsletter

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

Beyond the Brush Art Exhibit



Beyond the Brush

Over the past four months, the Bay City Public Library successfully hosted Beyond the Brush, an inspiring art series that celebrated both master artists and community creativity. The program offered an immersive exploration of art history, technique, and self-expression, featuring the works and styles of iconic artists such as Frida Kahlo, Vincent van Gogh, Gustav Klimt, Martinez, and others.

Designed to engage a wide range of participants, from first graders to adults, the classes welcomed approximately 60 students in total. Classes were led by professional local artists; Liza Lara of Broken Crayon, Lizbeth Davis, and Zeinab Ghais of Art Hauz. The curriculum provided high-quality, hands-on art education and fostered an enriching environment of creativity and learning.

The series culminated in a vibrant art exhibit showcasing the diverse and impressive work created by students, volunteers, and instructors. With over 120 attendees, the exhibition was a resounding success.

Students proudly saw their artwork displayed in a professional, gallery-style setting and were recognized with certificates of appreciation for their participation and effort.

Guests were treated to refreshments, including a beautifully curated 6-foot grazing table from Amazin Graze. Each student received with their own set of art supplies, a one-of-a-kind commemorative T-shirt, and a deeper appreciation for the arts.



The success of Beyond the Brush was made possible through the generous support of a grant from the Save the Children Foundation. Additional support came from various city departments and organizations, including City of Bay City, Street and Bridge, Parks and Recreation, Communications & Cultural Art. The Art League of Bay City also played a key role by donating the use of professional art panels for the exhibition. As a final collaborative project, students contributed to a three-panel mural; a whimsical tree adorned with metal-embossed bookmarks representing leaves. This collective piece embodies the program's motto: Bridging Art, Culture, Literacy, and Community. Beyond the Brush stands as a shining example of what's possible when creativity, education, and community come together.





BAY CITY

PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENTS

Main Branch

Main Branch:
(979)-245-6931

1100 7th Street
Bay City, TX, 77414

Sargent Branch:
(979)-476-1335

20305 FM 457
Bay City, TX, 77414

COLOR OUR WORLD



THE 2025 SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

JOIN US FOR ACTIVITIES
EVERY WEEK BEGINNING
JUNE 10 - JULY 22, 2025.





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 years of vision and effort, originally championed by our former tourism manager and 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) would like to 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.

Celebrate Local Birds: Join the Audubon Christmas Bird Count!

Did you know Matagorda County plays a starring role in the world's longest-running citizen science project?

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a beloved annual tradition that has transformed a century-old "side hunt" into a vital bird conservation effort.

From Hunting to Counting: Ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed counting birds instead of hunting them for sport during Christmas. This simple idea blossomed into a widespread initiative, with thousands of volunteers across the Western Hemisphere now participating. The data collected provides crucial insights into bird populations, migration patterns, and environmental health, directly informing conservation strategies.

Matagorda County is a powerhouse in the CBC! The Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh count circle has consistently ranked among the top locations in the U.S. for the highest number of bird species recorded. In fact, it set a U.S. record in 2005 with an astounding 250 species and has been number one 18 times in the last 23 years, including 239 species last year! This incredible diversity is due to our rich habitats, from coastal marshes to woodlands, and the strong community support from landowners and local businesses like STP Nuclear Operating Company, Lyondell-Basell, and Oxea Chemical.

The Matagorda County Birding Nature Center has been instrumental in this success, spearheading the first Central Coast Christmas Bird Count in 1992. Get Involved! The Christmas Bird Count typically runs from mid-December to early January. Whether you're an experienced birder or just curious, your participation helps maintain this invaluable long-term dataset. Look for announcements from local birding groups to join a count. It's a fantastic way to learn about our local birds, connect with nature lovers, and contribute to scientific research right here in Bay City!





Bay City Police Department Welcomes New Officers



Demi Bujnoc

Bay City Police Department Junior Police Academy!

We're excited to announce the 1st Bay City Police Department Junior Police Academy! This FREE 3-day program is designed to give our youth a hands-on look at what it means to serve in law enforcement.

July 21-23, 2025, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Applications can be picked up at the Bay City Police Department, Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

All packets must be returned by May 30th at 5 PM.
Space is limited - Don't wait!

Full program details are included in the application packet.

"I'm proud to launch our first Junior Police Academy to help build trust, leadership, and positive connections with the youth in our community.

This is an incredible opportunity for young people to learn, grow, and see what service truly means."

- Chief Rodriguez



Efrain Robles



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





Fishing 101 at Riverside park

Learn to fish at Riverside Park located 3 miles from town – 7330 FM 2668!

Riverside Park is offering Fishing 101 classes on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.

“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. It is also a fish-on class that teaches casting techniques, baiting a line, different types of bait and much more. This class will be hosted on the beach – so be prepared to get wet!

Classes are taught by certified TPWD Angler Instructors.

How to Register:

- In person at Parks Administration, 1209 10th St, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.
- In person at Riverside Park, 7330 FM 2668, Monday – Sunday from 8am – 5pm.
- Register on-line at <https://www.cityofbaycity.org/190/Parks-Recreation>. Click on the Riverside button.
- Call Riverside Park at 979-245-0340 or Parks and Recreation at 979-323-1660.



Go Wild! Riverside Rangers

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.

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

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

August 2: 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.





Riverside Park Nature Hikes

Lace up those hiking boots and join the fun at Riverside Park for a mid-year trek on the Wilderness Trail! These free guided hikes are part of Bay City Parks and Recreation's "Get Outside and Play" adventure, welcoming explorers of all ages and skill levels to soak up the park's natural beauty. Get ready to uncover park secrets, meet the local flora and fauna, and maybe even befriend a tree or two!

Dress for the weather, slip on some sturdy shoes, and pack your water and a snack for the journey. While a trekking pole or walking stick could add a dash of flair, they're totally optional. Arrive 10-15 minutes early at the Ranger Station to get the adventure started!

Everyone, including your furry sidekicks, is welcome!

Want more info on this event or other Parks and Recreation shenanigans? Scamper over to the city's webpage at cityofbaycity.org or dial us at 979-323-1660.

Riverside Park Passes

Got a hankering for regular Riverside escapades? Snag a yearly pass for just \$100! This sweet deal covers one carload of fun, sun, boating, and fishing at the park for a whole 365 days. Talk about the ultimate ticket to adventure!

Want more info on Riverside Park? Scamper over to Riverside's webpage at campriverside.org or dial us at 979-245-0340.

City of Bay City Holidays

- 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)

POOL HOURS & FEES

BAY CITY 16TH STREET POOL

Open Tuesday through Sunday
12:00pm-6:00pm
Admission: \$4.00

Family Swim Nights
Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00pm-9:00pm
Admission: \$2.00

Sunday Swim Special
Arrive 12:00pm-1:00pm
Admission: \$2.00

the **SUMMER 2025**

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the **SUMMER 2025**



At the Y, our Red Cross certified swim lesson program teaches children, youth and adults personal safety, stroke development and rescue to develop a life-long passion for swimming and water activities.

Kids who do not swim year-round tend to forget the basics.

GROUP LESSONS

\$70

Week Long Sessions

Monday-Friday

Morning classes 8:00-9:00 am and 9:00-10:00 am

Session One: JUNE 9-13 Session Two: JUNE 16-20

Tiny Tots

3-5 years

Polliwog

6 and up

Guppy/Minnow

Advanced

For more information. Call 361.261.5354
BAY CITY YMCA PROGRAMS



*Swearing in of
Council Members*



*Recognition of Becca Sitz for her
service as Council Member*



Oh my! How much is my water bill??

Avoid the SHOCK and download the “**EYE ON WATER**” app. Monitor your water usage by the hour. Set alerts to avoid the SHOCK! Easy to do! Go to the City’s website: www.cityofbaycity.org, click Utility Billing then click **Eye on Water**. Input your account number with the dashes.



Top (3) reasons your water bill is high:



(1) Irrigation/sprinkler usage

Avoid water evaporation and best soaking, irrigate after midnight and before 5:00 AM.



(2) Toilet leak

Avoid toilet leaks, replace the toilet flapper in all toilets yearly.



(3) Tamper violations to the water meter

Avoid additional fees by avoiding your water meter when mowing your lawn. Use your private valve to shut off your water, not the City’s valve in the meter box.



Participate in
**NATIONAL
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
AWARENESS
MONTH**

August 2025

August 2025 is National Emergency Management Awareness Month

August 2025 is National Emergency Management Awareness Month. Spearheaded by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), this month-long campaign aims to raise awareness about the emergency management profession and the vital role emergency managers play in keeping our local communities safe.

Visit the National Emergency Management Awareness Month web page for more information.

<https://www.iaem.org/Events/National-Emergency-Management-Awareness-Month>



Brace yourselves! As winter peeks around the corner, Riverside Park is flipping summer on its head with a frosty fiesta featuring a deliciously Texan twist! On Saturday, July 5th, dive into our first-ever Summer Texas Snowball Fight! Get ready to dodge, dip, duck, and dodge again as marshmallows fly through the air!

Riverside Park and Bay City Parks and Recreation are cooking up quirky adventures to get everyone outside, moving, and giggling in the park.

Channel your inner snowman and celebrate summer with a Texas-style Snowball Fight!

All ages are welcome at this marshmallow melee, so come cheer, laugh, and join in the sugary fun!

Grab your buddies and head to Riverside Park for a sweet showdown!

Want more info on this event or other Parks and Recreation shenanigans? Scamper over to the city's webpage at <https://www.cityofbaycity.org> or dial us at 979-323-1660.

MATAGORDA COUNTY ARTWALKS



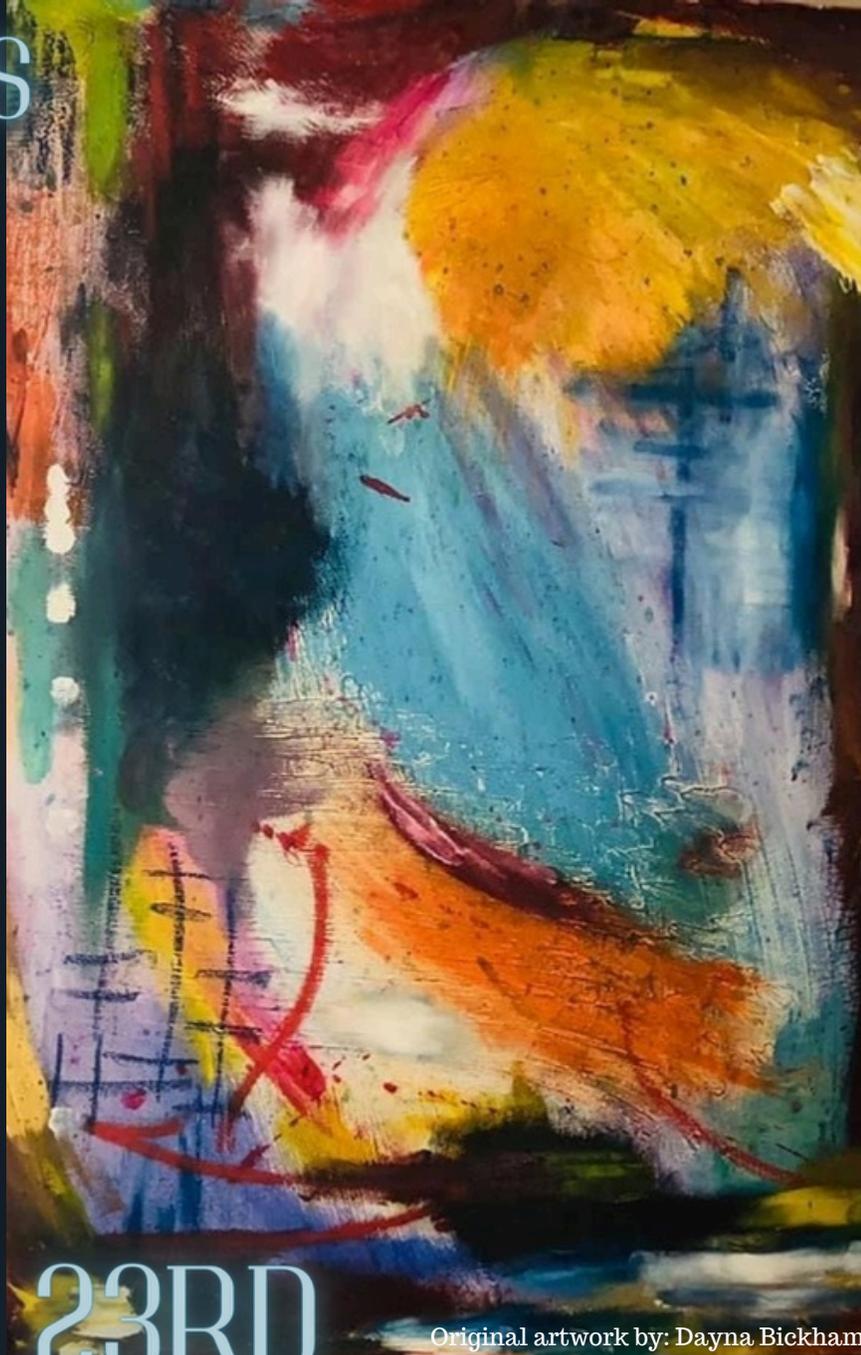
MATAGORDA ★ PALACIOS ★ SARGENT
Visit **BAYCITY**.TX
Where Country Meets The Coast!

FREE ENTRY

SUMMER BLUES



- LIVE MUSIC BY MAN OF SKY
- SIP AND PAINT BY THE ART LEAGUE OF BAY CITY
- KIDS IMAGINE-AREA BY BAY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- DIVERSE ART STYLES
- LIVE DEMOS
- FOOD
- WINE



Original artwork by: Dayna Bickham

23RD AUGUST 2025

2:00PM- 6:00 PM | 201 7TH ST, BAY CITY, TX. 77414
CIVIC CENTER



MORE INFORMATION AT

979-245-6931 EXT.1205

AGARCIA@CITYOFBAYCITY.ORG