

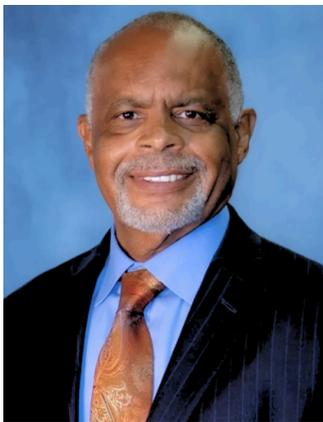
# #BayCityTx4U | Newsletter

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

## City of Bay City Employees recognized in the Bay City Tribunes' Leaders Under 40



City of Bay City employees among those honored as Leaders Under 40. Michael Burchard, Patrick Cervantes, Ashley Girlinghouse, Roxanne Gomez and Gabriel Lopez joined 16 other rising leaders awarded for their business success and community impact.



## Your Right, Privilege and Civic Responsibility

Dear Residents of Bay City,

As we enter another election season, I would like to take a moment to speak with you about something that lies at the heart of our democracy, voting.

As American citizens, the right to vote is a fundamental right, a profound privilege, and an inherited responsibility. Many of our ancestors sacrificed greatly to secure and protect that right. Participating in elections is one of the most direct and meaningful ways we honor that legacy.

Yet, voter participation in our community has been lower than it should be. In Matagorda County, fewer than half of eligible voters cast a ballot in the 2022 election. Last year here in Bay City, only about 800 residents participated in our local election. Those numbers should give us pause.

I have often heard the phrase, "My one vote doesn't matter." The truth is, one vote absolutely can make a difference, especially in local elections, where margins are often very small. When you add together all the individuals who believe their vote does not

count, you end up with a significant number of voices that could shape the outcome of an election.

Your preferred candidate may not always win, but by voting, you have made your voice heard. You have participated in the democratic process. In fact, your voice is often loudest in the quiet of the polling place.

I have long believed that civic engagement carries both rights and responsibilities. Voting is how we contribute to the direction of our community. It is how we ensure our concerns, values, and priorities are represented.

This year, Bay City voters will have the opportunity to fill two City Council positions. One position has three candidates, and the other has two candidates. This level of participation is encouraging, as many times in the past candidates have run unopposed. I am grateful to each individual who has chosen to step forward and serve. This reflects a healthy and engaged community.

I encourage you to take part in this important process. Please make plans to go to the polls and vote for the candidate of your choice. Your participation matters. Your voice matters. And the future of Bay City depends on the involvement of its citizens.

With respect and appreciation,

Robert K. Nelson  
Mayor, Bay City, Texas



City of Bay City,  
Keep Bay City Beautiful  
& GFL's Annual



## Spring Clean-Up

April 25<sup>th</sup>

8 a.m. - 12 Noon

WCJC Parking Lot

4000 Avenue F



Open to all Bay City Residents  
Proof of Residency Required  
Water Bill or Driver's License

For the scoop on acceptable items or  
more juicy details, ring up Public  
Works at 979-323-1659—or give that  
QR Code a scan!



## Summer Unleashed (Staff on Standby)

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Amistad Park  
1708 Avenue C

Giant yard games  
Crafts  
Backyard Bass fishing fun  
Food Trucks  
The Splash Pad in full summer mode

Want the scoop? Give us a ring  
at 979-323-1660!

## City Council Meetings

March 24 @6pm  
April 28 @6pm  
May 26 @6pm

## City of Bay City Holidays

April 3 (Good Friday)  
May 25 (Memorial Day)

## 2nd Annual Hurricane Symposium

The community is invited to the 2nd Annual Hurricane Symposium on Saturday, May 2nd, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bay City Civic Center.

Following last year's inaugural event hosted by the Matagorda County Emergency Operation Center and the Matagorda Local Emergency Planning Committee, this year's symposium builds on last year's event to provide information and activities to the public.

Designed as a free, family-friendly event, the Hurricane Symposium provides important information about hurricane preparedness before, during, and after a storm, just in time for the 2026 hurricane season.

Residents will have the opportunity to meet local officials, first responders, and community volunteers who work year-round to keep our area safe. Attendees can visit with vendors, gather valuable preparedness resources, and learn how to protect their families, homes, and businesses.

In addition to helpful information, there will be plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy a FREE breakfast, register for door prizes, and check out information booths. Emergency vehicles and equipment will be on display, including fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars on site for an up-close look.

Mark your calendars and plan to come out, enjoy breakfast, and take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. We look forward to seeing you there!

2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL

EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT &  
LEPC

## HURRICANE SYMPOSIUM

Community Event

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

8 AM - 12 PM

Bay City Civic Center

### EVENTS

- Public Speakers with Special appearances By TDEM, DRC, EMS and more.
- Free Breakfast
- Exhibit Booths
- Door Prizes
- Ambulance helicopter demonstration



To register as a vendor, please email

## City Activities

Campfire Stories  
March 6 @6:30pm  
Riverside Park

Harry Potter Book Day  
March 12 @4pm-6pm  
Bay City Public Library

Movies in the Park "Minions"  
March 13 @6:30pm  
Riverside Park

Riverside Smoke Off  
March 26 @4pm & March 27 @11am  
Riverside Park

EGG-Stravaganza  
April 3 @Noon - 3pm  
Le Tulle Park

Senior Prom with EAC  
April 16  
USO / Service Center

Cast & Conquer at Riverside Park  
Fishing Tournament  
April 24 - 25

Rally on the River  
April 25 @ 9am-1pm  
Riverside Park

Moms, Music & Mild Mischieif  
May 10 @ 4pm - 6pm  
Liberty Park

Mother's Day Concert  
May 12 @ 4pm  
Liberty Park

Summer Unleashed (Staff on Standby)  
May 30 @10am - 1pm  
Amistad Park



## Watering Your Lawn

Summertime is not far away, more so, the Texas heat is just around the corner! Most of us will be watering our lawn. Whether you have a separate irrigation water meter or drag water hoses, the ideal time to water your grass is between 3:00 AM and 9:00 AM to minimize evaporation from the heat and wind, allowing water to soak deep into the roots.

Avoid watering late evening, after 6:00 PM to avoid damp grass overnight which encourages fungal diseases. More importantly, avoid water midday, between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM due to the intense sun and high evaporation.

To ensure deep soaking into the roots, water infrequently, not daily. Most lawns need about 1-inch of water per week, including rainfall. Ideally, break up your watering into shorter cycles, suggesting 15 minutes per cycle with breaks in between to let the water soak in and prevent runoff.

Should you prefer soaker hoses for your flower beds, shrubs, and narrow or irregularly shaped yards, consider laying the hose(s) 12 - 18 inches apart for consistent water coverage. Soaker hoses are not ideal for large, established lawns. These hoses are usually installed/laid once and are connected to a standard garden hose or hose bib water source. Soaker hoses can be laid underground around the perimeter of your home's foundation to avoid foundation issues. Soaker hoses are available in various lengths to fit different needs, from 25-foot to up to 100-foot options. Enjoy your beautiful lawn with friends and family!

## May 2026 Municipal Election

Bay City is preparing for its upcoming General Election on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Here's what's on the ballot for Bay City.

### COUNCIL POSITION #1

- Candidates
- Lyn Ryman-McCalister
- Stacy L. Rowh
- Cory McCray

### COUNCIL POSITION #2

- Candidates
- Jim Folse - Incumbent
- Marilyn Alvarado

### EARLY VOTING DATES

- April 20th thru April 24th, 2026; 8AM to 5PM
- April 27th thru April 28th, 2026; 7AM to 7PM

### ELECTION DAY

Saturday, May 2, 2026.

7AM to 7PM

Location: Service Center (USO), 2105 Ave M, Bay City TX

Make a plan and come out to vote to decide Bay City's leadership. We look forward to seeing a great turnout from our community!



# CAMPFIRE STORIES

Join us at Riverside Park Hayfield for an evening of spooky tales, smores, and a take home craft!

All ages welcome!

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

6:30PM

Free!  
No park entrance  
fee, no registration  
required!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
979-245-6931



## Riverside Rally Loop Newest Addition to Texas Paddling Trails

The City of Bay City will celebrate the official dedication of the Riverside Rally Loop on Saturday, April 25 at 9 a.m., marking the trail’s addition to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Texas Paddling Trails Program.

The new scenic Gulf Coast paddling route is located along the Colorado River at Riverside Park and will be unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony that kicks off the Annual Rally on the River event.

Community members, local dignitaries, park guests, and representatives from TPWD and the City of Bay City will participate in the ceremony. Following the dedication, attendees will have the opportunity to paddle a portion of the newly designated trail.

The Riverside Rally Loop offers a carefully designed route suitable for both beginners and experienced kayakers and canoeists, showcasing the natural beauty of the Colorado River. Established in 1998, the Texas Paddling Trails Program is a statewide network of more than 80 inland and coastal paddling routes that promote outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, and sustainable economic development through nature tourism. The program supports designated trails with maps, signage, and accessible launch points, developed in partnership with local communities.

“Adding the Riverside Rally Loop to the Texas Paddling Trails system is a milestone for Bay City,” said Parks and Recreation Manager Kelly Penewitt. “It highlights the incredible natural resources we have right here at Riverside Park and invites residents and visitors alike to experience them from a whole new perspective.”

The dedication ceremony is free and open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend the celebration and stay to enjoy the Rally on the River festivities.



## Houston-Galveston Area Council Recognizes Rally on the River

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) has recognized Bay City’s Rally on the River as part of its 20th annual Parks and Natural Areas Awards Program, highlighting the event as a standout example of innovative parks programming in the region.

Established in 2006, the awards program celebrates best practices and creative approaches to parks planning and implementation across the H-GAC region. Over the years, more than 300 projects have been honored in categories including Projects Over \$500,000, Projects Under \$500,000, Planning Process/Policy Tools, and Programming.

Rally on the River, organized by the City of Bay City Parks and Recreation Department, is a free, come-as-you-are paddling adventure designed to get residents outdoors and engaged with their local waterways. Participants can paddle along the river or take part in nature-themed games, crafts, and educational activities on shore. The event blends recreation with environmental awareness, offering practical tips to help protect Texas rivers, lakes, aquifers, and bays.

“Rally on the River is fun, welcoming, and a little chaotic in the best way,” said Parks and Recreation Manager Kelly Penewitt. “Being recognized by H-GAC is exciting because this program gets people outside, trying something new, and enjoying the river, no experience required, just a sense of adventure and clothes you don’t mind getting a little messy. We also love that it gives families a chance to learn about the river and how to take care of it while they’re having fun.”

Award recipients were selected by a panel of expert judges and industry professionals and were honored during a celebration held Feb. 6 at the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

For more information about Rally on the River, visit the City of Bay City website. Additional details about the Parks and Natural Areas Awards Program are available through H-GAC.



## Movies in the Park

THAT’S A WRAP (ALMOST)! We’ve got ONE more chance for movie magic under the stars, Bay City! Grab your blankets. Steal the comfy lawn chair from the garage. Find that hoodie you only wear when it’s “kind of cold but still outside.”

Fri, Mar 13 – Minions | 7:00 p.m. | Riverside Park  
Admission: FREE | Hot cocoa & popcorn: \$1  
Happiness level: Extremely high

“Movies in the Park is one of our favorite nights of the year,” says Kelly Penewitt, Parks and Recreation Manager. “It’s the perfect way to laugh, relax, and hang out with our awesome Bay City community.” Come for the movie. Stay for the snacks. Leave quoting Minions for the next 3 weeks.

## Bay City’s EGGS–Stravaganza Returns to Le Tulle Park

Bay City’s EGGS–Stravaganza Returns to Le Tulle Park (Bring a Basket. And a Game Plan.)

Friday, April 3, 2026 | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bay City Parks and Recreation is excited to announce the return of the annual EGGS–Stravaganza at Le Tulle Park on Good Friday, April 3, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Families are invited to join the fun for an afternoon of springtime excitement, fast-moving kids, and one very motivated Easter Bunny. This beloved community event will feature 20,000 plastic eggs filled with toys and candy—yes, they go quickly. Children are encouraged to bring their baskets, their cameras, and their best egg-hunting energy.

Kid’s Zone • Easter Bunny • Food Trucks

### EGGS–Stravaganza Egg Scramble Schedule

**Haystack Hunts** (ongoing throughout the event):

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

**Egg Scrambles** (by age group):

- 12:30 p.m. – 4-year-olds
- 1:00 p.m. – 5-year-olds
- 1:30 p.m. – 6-year-olds
- 1:45 p.m. – 7-year-olds
- 2:00 p.m. – 8-year-olds
- 2:15 p.m. – 9-year-olds
- 2:30 p.m. – 10-year-olds



**Important Reminder:** Each egg scramble lasts approximately one minute and is not repeated. Parents are strongly encouraged to arrive early and pay close attention to the schedule—these kids do not wait.

#### Inclusive Fun for All

Children with special needs are also invited to participate in the “Beeping Bunnies” egg hunt area, featuring beeping and talking eggs hidden among the hay to create a fun and inclusive experience for all participants.

All egg hunts and activities are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Parks and Rec. Dept. at 979-323-1660 or [parks-rec@baycitytx.gov](mailto:parks-rec@baycitytx.gov).





## Bay City Regional Airport Welcomes New Air Medical Service Partnership

Bay City Regional Airport is now home to a new air medical service partnership that will significantly enhance emergency response capabilities for the region. Beginning March 6, 2026, Allegiance Mobile Health and PHI Air Medical launched a collaborative program to station an air medical team and helicopter at the airport, providing rapid transport for critically ill or injured patients.

The dedicated team based at the airport includes a pilot, medic, flight nurse, and mechanic who will remain headquartered on-site and available around the clock. With a combined experience of more than 30 years in emergency medical and aviation services, the team is equipped to respond quickly to calls throughout the region. The helicopter housed at the airport has been outfitted to function as an airborne Intensive Care Unit, allowing medical crews to deliver advanced, lifesaving treatment while transporting patients to the nearest appropriate trauma center. This capability dramatically reduces travel time for critical patients. A trip that might take approximately one hour and thirty minutes by ground ambulance can now be completed in roughly 30 to 40 minutes by air, depending on flight conditions.

By shortening transport times and providing intensive care in transit, the service is expected to improve patient outcomes during medical emergencies. Based on previous experience in similar communities, the air medical team anticipates responding to 30 or more calls per month.

The new partnership further strengthens emergency medical infrastructure in the Bay City area and positions Bay City Regional Airport as a key hub for lifesaving air medical operations serving Matagorda County and surrounding communities.

## Mother's Day Concert celebrating mom and all her hard work...

Sunday, May 12<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.



## Celebrate Harry Potter Book Day at the Bay City Public Library

The Bay City Public Library is bringing a little magic to Spring Break as it once again transforms into a wizarding world for its annual Harry Potter Book Day celebration on March 12.

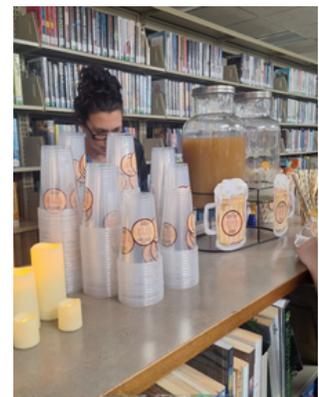
Harry Potter Book Day is recognized internationally as a celebration of the beloved book series by J. K. Rowling. Although the official observance moved from February to October in 2023, the Bay City Public Library continues to host its event during Spring Break, giving families a free, fun, and literacy-focused activity while school is out.



This year's celebration invites young wizards and witches to step into an immersive adventure inspired by the iconic stories. Participants will travel through themed stations set up throughout the library, including a visit to Diagon Alley to gather school supplies, complete magical challenges, and earn gold coins. Those coins can then be spent at Honeydukes for enchanted sweets and even a taste of butterbeer.

Due to the event's growing popularity, attendance will be capped at 300 participants, with 150 guests admitted per hour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone. To prepare for the large-scale transformation, the library will be closed on March 11. Library leaders say the event's continued success reflects the creativity and dedication of staff who work to make reading exciting and accessible for local families.

Harry Potter Book Day will take place at the Bay City Public Library on March 12. Admission is free, but registration is required. First time slot 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and second timeslot is 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. To reserve a time slot, call 979-245-6931.





# Harry Potter Book Day

## Thursday, March 12th

4:00pm–6:00pm

Choose your entry time: 4:00–5:00 PM or 5:00–6:00 PM.

Each session offers a one-hour magical experience!

Gather your supplies  
in Diagon Alley to  
prepare for classes!

Test your skills in Hogsmead on butterbeer,  
potion making, sweet treats, and  
herbology, knowledge of magical wonders!  
magical creatures, and  
more!

Earn coins to spend in

Call today to reserve your time slot!  
979-245-6931,



All ages welcome! Costumes are encouraged!

Sponsored by the Bay City Library Association



## Who's ready for art classes?

### Who can participate:

- 1st - 3rd graders
- 4th & 5th graders
- 6th graders - 12th graders

When: March through May 2026

Where: The Bay City Public Library  
1100 7th St. Bay City, Tx. 77414

2026 Beyond the Brush Art Class  
Sign-Up



Seating and supplies are limited, registration requires a 3 month commitment to all scheduled classes.

Register now by scanning the QR code.

Thank you to our sponsors!  
Bay City Library Association

ALL SUPPLIES  
PROVIDED!

CURRICULUM BASED  
LEARNING BY LOCAL  
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.

BAY CITY PARKS AND RECREATION



# EGG STRAVAGANZA

Egg Scrambles, Haystack Hunts,  
Games, & Food Vendors

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

LE TULLE PARK

12 NOON - 3 P.M.



DIAL US AT: 979-323-1660

7th Annual  
Riverside Smoke-Off  
March 27-28  
Riverside Park  
Texas-Style BBQ  
Competition

\$2,600 in payouts (aka money to buy more meat).

Are your briskets legendary?  
Do people beg you for your rib recipe?  
Does your smoker have a name?  
Then friend... this is YOUR moment.

🔥 Categories to Conquer

Brisket • Ribs • Chicken • Beans • Chef's Choice  
Dutch Oven Sweet (desserts that survived fire!)  
Best Decorated Site (Texas Theme)  
Best Decorated Weenie 🌭

😊 KIDS COOK TOO!

Because greatness begins early.  
Ribeye (ages 5-12) & Ribs (13-17)

(We provide the steak, so no one accidentally buys  
the \$40 ribeye.)

🏕️ Camping Options

Bring your RV, your smoker, your cooler-of-  
mystery, your cousin who thinks he's a grill genius  
— all welcome.

Register in person, online, or by phone  
— just don't send smoke signals.

Questions? dial us at 979-323-1660 or  
parks-rec@baycitytx.gov

We check that more often than we  
check the brisket.



**For more information on the contents of this newsletter or any event or  
program hosted by the City of Bay City,  
we encourage you to visit our website at: baycitytx.gov  
and follow the City's social media accounts.**

