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# Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, May 24, 2010

## New Hope for Galveston Downtown Transportation Terminal *George Mitchell Moves to Purchase Parking Lot at 25<sup>th</sup> & Strand for Terminal*

John Carrara of The Goodman Corporation last week updated the Galveston Intermodal Transportation Committee on efforts by George Mitchell to purchase the parking lot on the northeast corner of 25th Street and The Strand from the Brown Family Trust so that the proposed Livable Communities Initiative Downtown Transportation Terminal can be located there.

"We're waiting for that to be brought to the city council for their consideration," Carrara said. "If they are amenable to that offer, or if they prefer that we go back to the previous alternative."

Several downtown merchants appeared before the committee to request that the second phase of the Livable Communities grant include a public restroom on the southeast corner of the Wallace Parking Lot next to the Hendley Building on The Strand between 20th and 21st streets.

"This unit is basically a bathroom," said Tom LeCroy, a downtown restaurateur. "It's a porcelain toilet. You go in, you flush it, just like you go use the bathroom here."

The committee will vote on whether to support the project next month.

Photos and audio excerpts from the meeting are posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).



### Hurricane Preparedness

Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski presided over his first Hurricane Preparedness Town Meeting at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis last week.

Jaworski stressed that he will strive to allow residents to return to the island as soon as possible after a mandatory evacuation, but City Manager Steve LeBlanc urged residents to reconsider their decision to live in Galveston if they cannot afford the risk and cost of living in a hurricane-prone area.

"If you are mentally, physically and financially tough enough to stay here, then stay," he said. "But, if you are not, then maybe this is not where you need to be."



### H-GAC Board of Directors

The Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors last week approved participation in the funding of three projects totaling \$4.5 million, including a \$100,000 allocation for a farmers market in Seabrook.

"I wholeheartedly support farmers markets," said Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark, who voted for the item but expressed concern

about using tax funds for it. "The trend seems to be that we are going to a lot of farmers markets. I know Kemah's developing one, there is one in Clear Lake Shores, League City is looking at one, Pearland is looking at one."

Montgomery County Commissioner Craig Doyal, who chaired the meeting in the absence of H-GAC President Kerry Neves, welcomed recently elected Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski, Texas City Commissioner Rick Wilkenfeld and Friendswood City Council Member Michael Barker who have just joined the board.



### Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to approve a resolution nominating Sysco Corporation as an Enterprise Project under the Texas Enterprise Zone Program.

"Designated Enterprise Projects are eligible to apply for state sales and use tax refunds on qualified expenditures," Finance Director Michelle Mitchell said. "The level and amount of refund is related to the capital investment and jobs created or retained at the qualified business site. Depending on the investment amount, there is a maximum refund of \$2,500 to \$7,500 per job for the company."

## Texas City City Commission

The Texas City City Commission last week voted unanimously to approve an interlocal agreement with the Texas City Independent School District for engineering and construction of a pedestrian crossing bridge at Levi Fry Intermediate School.

## Hitchcock City Commission

The Hitchcock City Commission last week voted unanimously to extend the deadline for the removal of Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers used by Hurricane Ike victims, on a case-by-case basis.

## Bayou Vista City Council

Bayou Vista City Council last week held a special meeting to canvass the results of the May 8 General Election and administer oaths of office for incumbent Mayor Ed Flanagan and Aldermen Bobby Rosenquist and John Burleson.

## Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted unanimously to canvass the returns and declare the results of the May 8 election for mayor.

The city council voted unanimously to appoint Morris Albright as mayor pro tem.

Incumbent Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince will serve another term, after defeating three challengers in the election.

## Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted 6-1, with Dr. Alan Coleman opposed, to reallocate funds from the 2009 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and from the 2009 Clearance and Demolition line items to a fund for repairs to the L.L. Melton Building.

"With the closure of the Melton YMCA, the ownership of the facility has been assumed by the City of Beaumont," City Manager Kyle Hayes said. "Jehovah Jireh Village

Community Development Center is seeking to lease the city-owned facility to provide recreational and other services to the community."

## Tiki Island City Council

The Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen last week voted unanimously to appoint Ted Kennedy as mayor pro tem.

## Kemah City Council

Kemah City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a resolution declaring the results of the May 8 General Election, and administered oaths of office to city council members Robin Collins and Breton Spry.

Collins defeated challenger Janny Looper for Position 3 on the council. Spry defeated Melissa Beach for Position 5. Terri Gale had previously held the position, after being appointed to the seat in January after it was vacated by Mary Anne Holcomb.

## Clear Lake Shores Council

Clear Lake Shores City Council last week voted unanimously to reject all bids on the Jarboe Bayou Bridge Restoration Project and re-bid the project.

Bids were received from two companies, Gin-Spen, Inc. and Precision 2000. Precision 2000 had provided the lower of the two bids, with a proposed total of \$199,781. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$96,598.

## Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of a \$250,782 contract with Zarinkelk Engineering Services, Inc. to provide design engineering services for the Finrock/Mobile Drainage Project, Beverly Street Drainage Project and Golden Acres Manhole Rehabilitation Project.

## Taylor Lake Village Council

Taylor Lake Village City Council last week voted unanimously to canvass the results of the May 8 General Election, and administered oaths of office to three new city council members.

Douglas Shows, Tony Galt and Alan R. Koelemay were sworn in as new members of the city council. Shows defeated MG Spanial to take the Position 1 seat, previously held by Charles Evans. Galt was unopposed for Position 3, which was previously held by Jon Powell. Koelemay defeated Laurel Stout to take Position 5, which had been held by Frank McGrath.

## Webster City Council

Webster City Council last week voted 6-1, with Mel Donehue opposed, to grant 15 percent of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds to the Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau based on actual revenues for fiscal year 2009-2010.

## Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted to approve out-of-state travel for Sheriff Mitch Woods and Deputy Chief Ron Hobbs to attend the Harbor Safety and Area Maritime Security Conferences in Jersey City, New Jersey on June 8-10.

## Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted 4-1, with Ken Clark opposed, to award a contract to Half Associates, Inc. for the development of a Galveston County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Natural Resource Master Plan.

Half Associates was selected from eight proposals received for the project by an evaluation committee consisting of Manager of Park Planning and Development Dennis Smith, Manager of Park Operations Anthony Hansen

and Parks and Senior Services Director Dennis Harris.

### Hitchcock ISD School Board

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted to canvass the results of the May 8 School Board Election, declaring the re-election of incumbents Estelle Holmes and Shirley Price.

### Dickinson ISD School Board

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to name Mike Mackey as president of the board, with Linda Butler as vice president and Rosella Scott as secretary.

### Galveston ISD School Board

The Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to approve a \$300,000 contract with the YMCA of Galveston to provide afternoon summer programs during June and July 2010.

### Santa Fe ISD School Board

The Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to name David McMillian as director of transportation.

### UH System Regents

The University of Houston System Board of Regents last week unanimously approved a \$1.3 billion budget for fiscal year 2011.

"I commend the board's finance and administration committee for the long hours it spent poring over this budget," said Welcome W. Wilson Sr., chairman of the UHS Board of Regents. "They worked diligently to make necessary reductions while protecting priority initiatives that benefit our students and are crucial in UH's journey toward Tier One status."

The UH System consists of four universities - the University of

Houston (UH), UH-Clear Lake (UHCL), UH-Downtown (UHD) and UH-Victoria (UHV)- and two learning centers UH System Cinco Ranch and UH System Sugar Land. UHS also leases space at Lone Star College - University Park, where degree programs from UH and UHD are delivered.

### Citizens for Space

A delegation of more than 150 travelers with Citizens for Space Exploration visited Washington, D.C. to advocate for continuation of the Constellation program.

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell told Jennifer Vogel of YourTownTV.com that this year's visit to Washington, D. C. by the grass roots group is "a little bit different"

"This year we are not agreeing with NASA's proposed budget," Mitchell said "We are here to convince them that human space exploration is important to America."

Vogel's video interviews are posted on GuidryNews.com.

### Galveston-Texas City Pilots

The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Galveston County last week approved a schedule of pilotage rate increases for the Galveston-Texas City Pilots.

Captain Wallace Hogan, presiding officer for the pilots, gave credit to the representatives of the maritime industry who worked to reach agreement, and gave special thanks to members of the pilot commission.

"They encouraged us to work more closely with industry and inspired us with their hard work, patience and counsel," Hogan said. "The State regulatory system for our Pilots, worked extremely well and to near perfection."

Board Chair Vandy Anderson said he and the board were pleased that all parties had reached agreement on the matter.

### Maritime Person of the Year

West Gulf Maritime Association Senior Vice President of Maritime Affairs Niels Aalund was recognized last week as Maritime Person of the Year by the International Propeller Club.



"Teams win championships, not individuals," Aalund said, giving credit to others for the success that Houston has achieved in the maritime industry. "The Port of Houston and the Houston maritime community is a great team. We have a proven track record."

### Houston Maritime Museum

The Houston Maritime Museum at 2204 Dorrington in Houston celebrated its 10th Anniversary with an open house on Saturday, National Maritime Day.

The museum is the first of its kind in Houston, featuring exhibits of over 150 ship models, over 100 types of navigational instruments, and numerous maritime artifacts intended to provide "new and exciting learning experiences for visitors of all ages".

### Guidry News Gazette

The Guidry News Gazette is the free newspaper published by Guidry News Service as a PDF document that may be downloaded from GuidryNews.com, printed and distributed/shared with others at no cost and with no additional permission required.

"This newspaper is published for those readers who prefer to read their news from a paper product rather than online," said Publisher Jim Guidry. "The Guidry News Gazette provides a concise review of the past week's news and a preview of the next week's meetings, events and entertainment opportunities."

## Deaths

**Jack Colley** (62) head of the DPS Texas Division of Emergency Management, died on May 16, 2010.

**Jorge Alberto Hernandez** (39) of Galveston died Friday, May 21, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

**Karen Kay Strain** (63) of Galveston passed away Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

**Cecilia Mendoza "Alexis"** (76) died Sunday, May 16, 2010 at Mainland Center Hospital in Texas City.

Full obituaries with photos are published on GuidryNews.com at no charge to the families of the deceased or the funeral homes.

## Meetings and Events

### Monday, May 24

**Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves (Rescheduled to May 27)**

10:00 **Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners**

10:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court Workshop**

12:30 **College of the Mainland Board of Trustees**

1:30 **Jefferson County Commissioners Court**

5:30 **Groves City Council**

6:00 **Jamaica Beach City Council**

6:00 **La Marque City Council**

6:00 **Friendswood City Council**

6:00 **Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:15 **Pearland City Council Workshop**

6:30 **Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:30 **Hitchcock Independent**

**School District Board of Trustees**

7:00 **Shoreacres City Council**

7:30 **Pearland City Council**

### Tuesday, May 25

9:00 **Brazoria County Commissioners Court**

10:00 **Harris County Commissioners Court**

10:00 **Pasadena City Council**

1:30 **Beaumont City Council**

5:00 **League City City Council Workshop**

6:00 **League City City Council**

6:00 **Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:30 **Dickinson City Council Workshop**

7:00 **Dickinson City Council**

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

### Wednesday, May 26

9:30 **Galveston County**

**Commissioners Court**

5:30 **Santa Fe Independent School District Board of Trustees**

6:00 **Galveston County United Board of Health**

6:30 **Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

### Thursday, May 27

TBA **Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves**

8:30 **Galveston County Economic Alliance**

12:00 **Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinics**

2:00 **Galveston City Council**

7:00 **Santa Fe City Council**

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

7:30 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

### Friday, May 28

8:00 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

8:00 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**

8:00 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**

### Saturday, May 29

2:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

8:00 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

8:00 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**

8:00 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

8:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

8:00 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**

8:00 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**

### Sunday, May 30

2:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

2:30 **Spinning into Butter, College of the Mainland Community Theatre**

2:30 **Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre**

2:30 **This Must Be the Place, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse**

2:30 **Trip to Bountiful, Clear Creek Community Theatre**

3:00 **Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village**

7:30 **Intelligence-Slave, Alley Theatre**

## About Guidry News Service

Guidry News Service is headquartered in Midtown Houston at 4001 Fannin, Suite 4432, Houston, Texas 77004; with offices in Downtown Beaumont and Downtown Galveston.

We are currently seeking marketing representatives in Harris, Brazoria, Galveston and Jefferson counties.

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