

- Free Publication for the Gulf Coast Region
- Concise Review of the Past Week's News
- Government Meetings and Politics

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Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, June 14, 2010

Carnival Corporation Honored at Galveston Reception *Celebrating Long-Term Relationship between Carnival and Port of Galveston*

Federal, state and local officials, as well as representatives related to the cruise/tourism industry, attended a reception for Carnival Corporation last week at Rudy and Paco in Galveston.

Port of Galveston Director Steve Cernak introduced Giora Israel, senior vice president for port and destination development for Carnival, recalling the early days of Galveston's cruise industry.

"As tough a negotiator as Giora can be, we certainly got to a meeting of the minds rather quickly," Cernak said. "And I really want to give credit where credit is due because without Giora's vision in this whole process we wouldn't have what we have today."

Israel said that Carnival has enjoyed its operation at the Port of Galveston and is looking forward to a good future in Galveston.

"As long as the port will give us what we need here, we are committed to staying here," Israel said. "And we like it."

Photos and audio recordings of the reception are posted on GuidryNews.com.

Galveston City Council

Galveston City Council last week voted 5-2, with Dianna Puccetti and

Elizabeth Beeton opposed, to approve an increase in green fees for Galveston residents at the Galveston Island Golf Course at Moody Gardens.

The city council voted unanimously to authorize the City Attorney's Office to retain the law firm of Olson & Olson to provide legal services for consultation and representation in arbitration appeals regarding disciplinary actions issued to Galveston police officers and firefighters. The item was approved with a provision that costs not exceed \$40,000.

A recording of the meeting in **Streaming Video** will be posted on GuidryNews.com early this week.

Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to temporarily discontinue the application of sections of the city's Code of Ordinances relating to the demolition or relocation of historic structures and new construction within historic districts, as well as temporarily discontinue the acceptance of applications for designation of historic districts.

Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted 6-1, with Dr. Alan Coleman opposed, to approve a lease agreement with Jehovah Jireh Village CDC, Inc.

for use of the former L.L. Melton YMCA facility at 3455 Sarah Street.

Jehovah Jireh Village CDC will lease the building for one year, with an option to renew for an additional year, at a rate of \$1,500 per year with a requirement that the facility be open to the general public for recreational purposes.

League City City Council

League City City Council last week voted 5-2, with Joanna Sharp Dawson and Tim Paulissen opposed, to award a \$321,000 contract to GameTime, in care of Total Recreation Products, Inc., for the purchase and installation of the League City Boundless Playground.

Dickinson City Council

Dickinson City Council last week voted unanimously to approve recommendations for the use of undesignated and unexpended funds from Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

The city council voted unanimously to authorize submitting an application to the Houston-Galveston Area Council for a Solid Waste Implementation Grant. The grant would fund a county-wide

household hazardous waste collection, disposal and education event.

"Many other cities and the County have indicated support for the event, and will help us in running it if we get the grant from H-GAC," said Dickinson City Council Member Kerry Neves.

Kemah City Council

Kemah City Council last week voted unanimously to award a bid of \$86,839 to Sparkle Sign for a double-sided electronic sign.

Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week voted 5-1, with Patrick McGinnis opposed, to reschedule the second regular meeting of the month to June 14 to canvass the votes of the June 5 Special Runoff Election.

Voters chose Dierdre Carey Brown over Jeff Moser in the runoff election. She will take over from Andy Rivera, who finished third in the May 8 election.

El Lago City Council

El Lago City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a total budget of \$1,253,150 for the Lakeview Police Department for Fiscal Year 2011.

El Lago and Taylor Lake Village will divide payments to Lakeview Police Department equally to support the department's budget.

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the second and final reading of a \$296,751 contract with B&H Photo and Video for the purchase of high definition television equipment and components.

Houston ISD School Board

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education last week voted unanimously to adopt

residential homestead exemptions for the 2010 tax year.

"Under the exemption schedule in effect for the 2009 tax year, qualified property owners under 65 years of age receive exemptions of \$15,000 plus 20 percent of the appraised value," Chief Financial Officer Melinda Garrett said. "Property owners who are 65 or older, or disabled, receive exemptions of \$30,000 plus 20 percent of the appraised value. This item provides for those same homestead exemptions for tax year 2010."

Friendswood School Board

The Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to hire lifeguards and open the district's new natatorium to the public on July 5.

The district will host free swimming at the natatorium, which will be the first time the pool has been used. The pool is expected to be complete on July 2, with the district taking possession of the facility that day.

Dickinson School Board

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to adopt the 2010-2011 Maintenance and Operations Budget.

The projected total for the budget is \$66.38 million, an increase over the 2009-2010 budget of \$3.7 million.

Galveston College Regents

The Galveston College Board of Regents last week voted unanimously to continue a residential homestead tax exemption in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The exemption allows those 65 years of age or older a \$10,000 exemption from the appraised value of their homes to reduce property taxes.

All residents in the Galveston College District receive a 20 percent,

or up to \$5,000 exemption from the appraised value of their home.

Harris County Court

Harris County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve a \$170,000 agreement with the Greater Houston Partnership for economic development services.

Several representatives of various churches attended the meeting in support of the establishment of a public defender program.

Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a \$489,393.92 contract to Lucas Construction Company, Inc. for the reconstruction of Tiki Drive on Tiki Island.

"This is about \$33,000 under the total budget on this project," noted County Engineer Mike Fitzgerald. "That will be good for contingencies under construction."

The commissioners court approved a \$17,500 budget transfer to account for an increase in refuse disposal costs on the Bolivar Peninsula beaches.

Brazoria County Court

Brazoria County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to award a \$68,486 proposal to LJA Engineering and Surveying, Inc. for the design of the West Fork Chocolate Bayou Detention Pond.

Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to re-allocate \$313,575 in Hurricane Ike Round 1 Disaster Funding.

The funding will be used to increase amounts designated for the repair of roads damaged during Hurricane Ike, according to Assistant to the County Judge Jeff Branick.

"We had a lot more roads that we felt damaged as a result of the

saltwater inundation than what FEMA felt," Branick said.

Port of Lake Charles

The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District announced last week the promotion of Todd Henderson to Director of Operations. Henderson was previously the Port's Deputy Director of Operations.

"Todd has over twenty years of experience in the automated material handling industry," said Port Director Bill Rase, "Fifteen of those years have been specifically in the maritime industry."

Deaths

Dr. Dominic Gardiner Bowling Edelen (77) of Galveston died Saturday, June 12, 2010 at his residence in Galveston.

Bennette Ruiz (76) of Galveston, passed away Friday, June 11, 2010, in League City, Texas.

Shirley Faye Jackson Guyton (59) died on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at her home in La Marque.

Oralia R. Martinez (84) of Galveston, passed away Saturday, June 5, 2010, in Austin, Texas.

Oktavia Carstarphen (71) passed away on June 2, 2010.

Clarence Epps, Sr. (80) passed away from this earthly life on June 1, 2010, at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston.

Meetings and Events

Monday, June 14

- 1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court
- 4:30 Nederland City Council
- 5:30 Pelican Island Container Terminal Conceptual Planning Study Open House, Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis
- 6:00 La Marque City Council
- 6:00 La Porte City Council
- 6:00 Pearland City Council Workshop
- 6:30 Friendswood City Council
- 7:00 Nassau Bay City Council
- 7:00 Shoreacres City Council
- 7:30 Pearland City Council

Tuesday, June 15

- 8:30 Port Arthur City Council

10:00 **Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors**

11:00 **University of Texas System Board of Regents Special Meeting**, ninth floor of Ashbel Smith Hall, 201 W. 7th Street, Austin

1:30 **Houston City Council**

1:30 **Beaumont City Council**

6:00 **Webster City Council**

7:00 **Clear Lake Shores City Council**

7:00 **Seabrook City Council**

7:00 **Village of Tiki Island Board of Aldermen**

7:00 **Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees**

7:30 **Pasadena City Council**

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

7:30 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

7:30 **Galveston Beach Band Concert**, Sealy Pavilion

Wednesday, June 16

9:00 **Houston City Council**

9:30 **Galveston County Commissioners Court**

12:00 **Kemah City Council Joint Meeting with Kemah**

Community Development Corporation

4:00 **Galveston Intermodal**

Transportation Committee

5:00 **Texas City City Commission**

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

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

7:30 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

Thursday, June 17

12:00 **Galveston Island Pachyderm Club**, Olympia Grill on Pier 21, Galveston. Galveston Economic Development Partnership President Jeff Sjostrom will speak

1:00 **Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Board of Directors**

5:00 **Houston Independent School District Board of Education Workshop**

6:00 **Dickinson City Council Joint Meeting with Dickinson Economic Development Corporation Board**

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

7:30 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

7:30 **Tomfoolery: The Words and**

Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street

Theater - Chelsea Market

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

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

Friday, June 18

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

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

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

8:00 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

8:00 **Tomfoolery: The Words and**

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Theater - Chelsea Market

Saturday, June 19

Juneteenth

Galveston City Council Runoff Election

10:00 **West Galveston Island Property Owners Association/Jamaica Beach Hurricane**

Planning/Evacuation/Recovery Town Meeting, Jamaica Beach Public Service Building

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

2:30 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

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

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

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

Harbour Playhouse

8:00 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

8:00 **Five Guys Named Moe (Preview)**

8:00 **Tomfoolery: The Words and**

Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street

Theater - Chelsea Market

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

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

Harbour Playhouse

3:00 **Five Guys Named Moe (Preview)**

3:00 **Tomfoolery: The Words and**

Music of Tom Lehrer, Main Street

Theater - Chelsea Market

7:30 **Boeing-Boeing**, Alley Theatre

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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. Call (409) 763-NEWS (6397) or email News@GuidryNews.com

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