



City of Baytown Newsletter

Special Edition

Volume II, Issue VI June 2007



Solid Waste Brush Collection

The City provides a monthly brush collection to residential homes and some small businesses.

Brush collection is divided into 4 zones:

Zone 1 -East of N. Main and north of Ward Rd. Brush pick up begins the week of the first Monday of the month.

Zone 2 - South of Ward Rd. and east of Goose Creek. Brush pick up begins the week of the second Monday of the month.

Zone 3 - Southwest of Decker Dr. and west of Goose Creek. Brush pick up begins the week of the third Monday of the month.

Zone 4 - East of Decker Dr., west of N. Main and north of W. Lobit. Brush pick up begins the week of the fourth Monday of the month.

The brush/limbs must be by the street by 7:30 AM on Monday of your pick up week. **No other material may be mixed with brush and limbs.** Brush/limbs should not be placed out for collection prior to the weekend before pick up begins. Please **do not** put brush in drainage paths including ditches as this is in violation of City ordinance and can lead to a flooding situation.

Brush stacked too close to fences, gas meters, mail boxes, sign posts, under overhead wires, low hanging tree limbs or placed too far from the curb **will not** be picked up by crews for your safety and their safety.

City ordinance prohibits collecting brush resulting from tree cutting by a commercial business. Trimmings should be no more than 8 feet in length.

Did You Know?

You can have the newsletter automatically sent to you by signing up at www.baytown.org.

Message From Mayor Stephen DonCarlos

Great things continue to happen in Baytown! In the upcoming months you will hear a lot about initiatives for improving the appearance of our City, from a curbside recycling program to landscaping of some major streets in our community to a new, vigorous anti-litter campaign. We must remember that it is up to each one of us to improve the appearance of Baytown-we can't rely on other people to clean up for us. The next time you see litter while out exercising, pick it up and throw it in the nearest trash can! If you are in a civic group, encourage your fellow members to adopt a city street, then establish a set day each month to pick up litter along your adopted route. Let's teach our kids that litter is NOT okay and above all, let's set an example for our kids by not littering! It is not enough that we all recognize that Baytown has an "appearance " problem; we must get off of our couches and do what Baytownians are famous for doing-rolling up our sleeves and solving the problem!

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the Harris County Flood Control District completed a five year project to study and remap the floodplains in Harris County, including Baytown. To find where your property is located on the new maps, go to the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project website, http://maps.tsarp.org/website/tsarp_firm/viewer.htm and follow the instructions to locate your address. A link to this website is also located on the City of Baytown webpage, www.baytown.org. or you can also contact the City of Baytown floodplain administrator at 281.420.6537. These map changes become effective on June 18, 2007. A property owner can obtain flood insurance at the current rating/classification if it is obtained prior to June 18, 2007. The flood insurance will remain at that rating/classification if it is maintained in effect continuously, including when transferred to new ownership.

Junk Drop-Off Facility

Do you have some junk items the City does not pick up? The City has a drop off facility that most items can be taken to for disposal. The Junk Drop-off site is located at 1601 West Main for residents with permits only. Facility hours are Tuesday 2-6, Wednesday 2-7, Saturday 10-3. Permits are available at 2123 Market Street, Monday through Friday from 8:00-5:00. Also, permits may be purchased on site (Saturday's only). The permits are good for the calendar year that it is purchased in. The cost is \$10.00. This site will accept one eight-foot truck bed/trailer per day of operation. Small pieces of sheet rock, tile, and wood scraps **must** be placed in a garbage bag or box for faster, easier disposal.

The following materials are prohibited:

- Brush/tree limbs/leaves
- Composition shingles
- Motor Oil/Oil Filters
- Tires/Batteries
- Paint
- Brick/concrete masonry or dirt
- Any appliances with Freon



If a Hurricane Watch or Warning is Issued

Listen to the radio or television for hurricane information. Follow instructions if ordered to evacuate.

Check your emergency supplies. Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, and bottles.

Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside but that could be wind-tossed. Remove outdoor antennas; if possible.

Install hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood.

Fill your car with fuel. Review evacuation routes and gather your disaster supplies in case you are instructed to evacuate.

Store valuables and personal papers in a water proof container.

If you have a boat, moor it or move it to a designated safe place, if time permits.

Have identification for your pet, a pet carrier, food, medicines and a leash.

Agree on a family meeting place outside the evacuation area with final destination at least 100 miles inland.

Make a contact list and make sure everyone has a copy. Include a central contact point to take messages and pass on information.

Leave early before evacuation is called if you have special medical needs.



Recycling Center

At 1601 West Main, in addition to the Junk drop-off, this location includes an area for dropping off recyclable material. Materials accepted at this site are:

newspaper	magazines
phone books	plastic bags
plastic jugs/bottles	clear glass
colored glass	aluminum cans
cardboard	iron/scrap metal

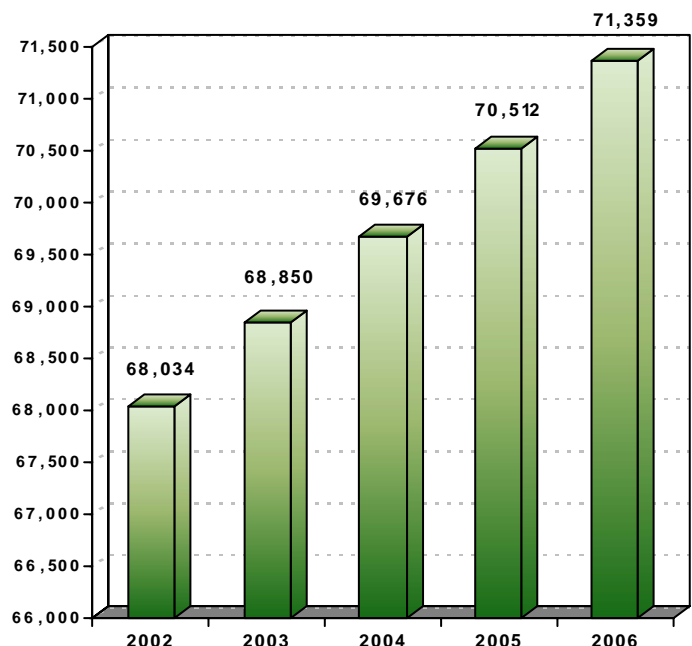
The recycling area has the same hours of operation as the Junk Drop-Off center, Tuesdays 2-6, Wednesdays 2-7 and Saturdays 10-3. No permit is required for recycle drop off.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to call Public Works at 281-420-5300.

Private Sewer Lines

On February 8, 2007 the City Council passed an ordinance amending Chapter 42, Article II of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to maintenance of private sewer lines. Like the previous ordinance, the new ordinance requires repair of private sewer lines (the sewer line between the home and the public sewer line) that admit earth or water or permit the escape of effluents (Inflow/Infiltration or I&I). However, the new ordinance requires that repairs be completed within 365 days, instead of the previous maximum of 180 days, after receiving notice from the City. Also, the new ordinance prohibits the use and repair of concrete, clay, cast iron or orangeburg pipe and requires PVC pipe or an equivalent be used. If the repairs are not made within the requisite time period, a surcharge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be added to the monthly utility bill each month the private line remains defective. Also, the owner of a rental property will be prohibited from renting property to a new tenant who was not occupying the property at the time the repair period expired. If the surcharge is not paid, the normal process for non-payment of utility charges will be followed. If the utilities are disconnected, the surcharge will continue to be charged monthly as I&I will continue until the line is repaired or replaced. Utilities will not be reconnected until the private line is repaired or replaced and past due charges are addressed. Additionally, the City may issue citations for failing to repair the private line within the prescribed period and may secure any debt owed via a lien by following the same process in which liens are filed for delinquent water charges. The new ordinance also establishes a priority of payment, which specifies how utility payments will be applied to the various fees owed. Persons of low-income may be eligible for financial assistance through the Community Development Block Grant program and can obtain further information by calling (281) 420-5396. For more information regarding the ordinance, please call (281) 420-5300.

City of Baytown Population Growth



Election Results

Councilman District 1:

Lena Yepez	267	50.2%
Mercedes Renteria III	265	49.8%

Councilman District 2:

Scott Sheley (unopposed) 245

Councilman District 3:

Brandon Capetillo (unopposed) 722

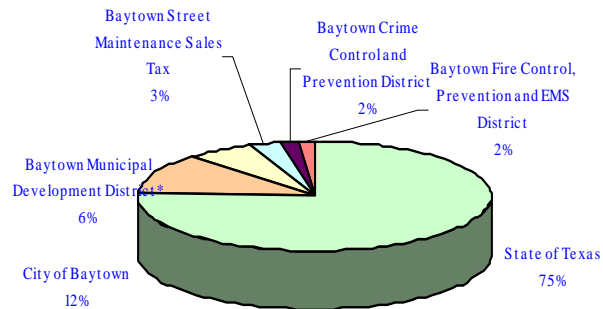
Initiative Ordinance on Smoking:

For	2,258	41.6%
Against	3,164	58.4%

Keep the Lights On, Baytown

The City of Baytown spends almost \$1 million per year to pay for 4,358 streetlights. The City has to pay the same amount whether the streetlight is working or not and the maintenance of the lights is included in the cost. We need everyone to help us to find and report inoperable streetlights so we make sure that we get our money's worth. You can report a defective streetlight through a link on the City's web page (www.baytown.org) on the Resident Services tab. All you need is the 6-digit number from the pole and general location. If you need assistance, call the City switchboard at (281) 422-8281. Together, we can keep the lights on in Baytown for better visibility and safety.

Sales Tax Distribution by Percentage of Tax Dollar Paid:



* collected in Harris County portion of Baytown only

**Keep Baytown Beautiful.
Don't Litter.**

4th of July Celebration Bicentennial Park, 1001 Market Street

Tuesday, July 3rd

5:30-6:30 PM	Catch 35
6:30-8:00 PM	Gene Kelton & The Die Hards
8:00-9:30 PM	John Conlee

Wednesday, July 4th

12:00-12:45 PM	4th of July Parade
12:45-1:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies
1:00-2:00 PM	Sky Blue 72
2:00-2:30 PM	Baytown Hip-Hop Performance
2:30-3:30 PM	Los Pekadrez
3:30-4:00 PM	Wing Eating Contest sponsored by Bayou City Wings
4:00-5:30 PM	Joe Tex, Jr.
5:30-6:00 PM	"How Smart Are You?" Contest
6:00-7:30 PM	Cory Morrow
7:30-8:00 PM	Little Mr. and Miss Firecracker Costume Contest
8:00-9:30 PM	Roger Creager
9:30-10:00 PM	Fireworks Extravaganza featuring Music by DJ Mike

Baytown 4th of July Parade (registration is free!)

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 29th @ 5:00 PM

Award Categories:

Best Antique/Classic Car Pre-1949	Best Military Vehicle-WWII era
Best Antique/Classic Car 1950-1970	Best Military Vehicle-Vietnam
Best Decorated Float	Best Military Vehicle-Korea
Best Decorated Horse	Best Miniature Vehicle
Best Decorated Vehicle	Best Motorcycle
Best Fire Truck	Best Walking/Marching Group
Best Low Rider	Parade Coordinator Trophy

Mr. and Miss Firecracker Costume Contest (free registration!)

For boys and girls 12 years and under

Registration Deadline: 6:00 PM the day of the event!

Vendor Information

There will be a wide variety of food and arts & crafts booths onsite, children's amusement area with petting zoo, fishing tank, wetlands touch tank, climbing walls and other activities.

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-resident</u>
Craft/Informational Booth (15' x 15')	\$60	\$70
Food booth (15' x 15')	\$70	\$80
Games (20' x 15')	\$50	\$60

For more information, contact Baytown Parks & Recreation at 281.420.6597 or visit us at www.baytown.org



City Council Messages



Councilman Lena Yopez, District 1

I would like to thank all the residents of Baytown for exercising your right to vote, and choosing to make a difference in the community in which we live, work and play. The importance of being proactive in your community allows growth and understanding between districts. I encourage your neighborhood association or civic group to contact your district representative to express ideas and concerns. I look forward to working on the upcoming budget and bond for the health of our city as a whole. You are what makes our city so great.



Councilman Scott Sheley, District 2

I am excited to talk to you about our community's future. District 2 is the most historical area in the city. We have the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center which may be one of the finest wetlands educational facilities in the Gulf Coast Region. The Baytown Historical Museum is visited by thousands wanting to learn the history of our city. Our downtown area, once the unconsolidated cities of Pelly and Goose Creek, is in the Texas Avenue and West Main Area. I care and support all historical and educational opportunities for the City of Baytown. In early November 2007 "**Our Community**" will make decisions that may seem far reaching, but are very much needed and supportive of "**Our Community.**"

Our streets program is improving our roadways and our neighborhoods. We must hold our elected officials accountable for the needs of our community. I want to hear all your comments (pros and cons), questions or concerns that you might have. I enjoy being your elected representative and look towards you to help me continue to make Baytown better.

In the next three years I want to: continue to foster good relations between City Council and the citizenry, lead our community through dynamic growth and revitalization and create Smart Re-growth in our older and more historic sections. I have been in office serving Baytown for ten years now and I promise you this: I carry the same amount of enthusiasm and commitment as the first day that I took office. I will continue the hard work it takes to get the job done.



Councilman Brandon Capetillo, District 3

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health. I plan to continue to explore projects that are family oriented and increase the quality of life in our community. You may have read that the city is looking to propose an aquatic center at the Wayne Gray Sports Complex on a November bond ballot. I strongly believe the bond package you may be voting on this fall will assist our city in meeting many of our goals in regards to public safety, quality of life and infrastructure needs.

I hope you and your family have a safe and relaxing summer. Please come by and visit our city parks, Baytown Nature Center, Eddie Gray Wetlands Center and Roseland Spray Park.

I consider it an honor to be your representative and will continue to address the needs of Baytown and District 3. Public safety is very important to me and I will continue to explore options to increase the police presence in our neighborhoods. Please keep your speeds to 30 MPH or less in residential areas. Also, as a reminder, fireworks are prohibited within Baytown city limits.

Thank you for your time. I am here to serve you, please forward any questions or concerns by e-mail to district3@baytown.org or my cell phone at 832-514-9928.

Councilman Don Murray, District 4

A major concern to me and to the rest of the City Council is CARELESS AND DISRESPECTFUL LITTERING OF OUR CITY.

Many community issues require team efforts of citizens, businesses and government. Frequently, citizens feel helpless in what they can do individually. Litter prevention is where each of us can participate. We all see litter that "other citizens" discard onto our streets. It ranges from fast food containers and wrappers to cigarette butts to countless other items that belong in disposal containers. These litterbug citizens lack community pride in our City. We should be sure that we individually don't fall into this category and talk to friends and our children so they don't either.

The City spends tax money and civic groups work hard picking up the litter but that is after the fact. What we need is prevention of the litter so it will not clutter our city and won't need picking up.

Each of us can individually change this situation. The Council has made this a priority and has charged the City Staff to develop suggestions of what we can do. In the meantime, each of us can do our part.

DO NOT LITTER



Councilman Lynn Caskey II, District 5

Happy Summer Citizens of District Five! I would like to thank everyone who voted this May and exercised their right to the democratic process. Voting affords everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard. Thank you for speaking out!

Many things have happened in our district since the last newsletter. The Pinehurst Drainage Project has been completed. The Street Mill and Overlay Program has completed most of W. Elvinta. We had the ribbon cutting for the very first Baytown Skate Park which is located in our district. (thanks to Commissioner Sylvia Garcia for her contribution to this project.)

Our city is constantly growing with several new subdivision being built in the Northern section of our town. In the future you will see the completion of the Raccoon Drive Project, the start of Twisted Oak reconstruction (from the 2001 bond election) and the continuation of the Street Mill and Overlay Program.

As always, I am honored to represent you on City Council and if I can be of any assistance please contact me on my cell phone at (281) 660-7835, my home telephone at (281) 303-8162, or email lynnacaskeyii@yahoo.com.



Councilman Sammy Mahan, District 6

It has been a really busy year. In January, Mayor DonCarlos and myself visited with County Commissioner Garcia to seek funds for the Kilgore Road project. In February, the Mayor and I went on a tour of the new Bayport Facility (WOW, that thing is huge!) and we had a meeting with Congressman Ted Poe to talk about local issues.

In March, our Gator Ride was held with huge success. Also that month, the Mayor, myself and Interim City Manager Bob Leiper and members from the Baytown Economic Development Corporation went to Galveston to visit with the Army Corps of Engineers about a barge terminal on Cedar Bayou across from Roseland Park. March also was the First Annual Baytown Hot Rod Rally at San Jacinto Mall and NHRA Spring National's at Houston Raceway Park.

In April was the Fine Rides Car Show on Texas Avenue with more than 150 entries. Also in April, the City's first Skate Park opened in Jenkins Park, the Relay for Life raised \$800,000 and the Candlelighters benefit brought in more than \$50,000 to help the fight for cancer. Way to go, Baytown!!! In May, we had the D.A.R.E. golf tournament and the grand Opening of the J.D. Walker Spray Park. I also attended the Hurricane Conference in Galveston. Also, we have begun the demolition of the Taft Circle Apartments. Thanks to Plumwood residents for your patience.