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**Pay Half Now - Half Later with Split Pay!**  
Cheryl E. Johnson, Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector

Tax bills will be on their way to Galveston County property owners the end of October and a very important change has occurred. Galveston County Commissioners reinstated the split payment option which requires that one-half of your property taxes must be paid by November 30<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid penalty and interest on the second half which will not be due until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Only four County Tax Office collection customers have opted out - the City of Dickinson, Dickinson ISD, Galveston College and Galveston County MUD #12 (Bayou Vista). Due to these entities electing to opt out of the payment option, it was necessary to revise the County tax statement. Everyone, therefore, will see a legal sized tax bill for the first time with the various payment options and due dates explained.

Adding to the confusion this year is the additional option by affected businesses and residential owners adversely impacted by the drought who will be eligible for disaster installment payments (four equal payments with the first payment due by January 31<sup>st</sup> and the remaining payments due by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. Business having gross receipts of less than \$5,082,014 for 2010 will also be eligible for disaster installments as a result of changes made to the Property Tax Code after Hurricane Ike. What is damage? Cracked slabs, lost business or revenue due to inability to operate (i.e. car washes closed due to water rationing, etc.) or even an excessive amount of dead trees requiring removal.

For additional information, contact the Property Tax Department of the Galveston County Tax Office toll free at 1-877-766-2284 or 1-409-766-2481.