



# The 2015 Tax Statement



A newsletter of the Galveston County Tax Office – Where the race for quality has no finish line

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## TAX OFFICE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. The customer is never an interruption to our work – the customer **IS** our work
2. Brighten every customer's day, greet everyone with a smile
3. Whenever possible, acknowledge customers by name
4. Project professionalism, courtesy and dignity to everyone
5. State things in a positive way
6. NEVER argue with a customer
7. Always go the extra mile to provide assistance
8. Never say, "I don't know what to do" without saying, "but I would be more than happy to find out."
9. Never blame someone else
10. Never forget that the customer pays our salary

**I VOTED**  
A vote FOR Prop 1 will increase the school district homestead exemption. The Constitutional Election is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Make your voice heard. VOTE!

## Single Sticker, 84th Legislature, Whew!

from the desk of

**Cheryl E. Johnson**



This year will be remembered as the year of the **TxDMV single sticker program!** Despite a two year planning phase in which every vehicle owner in Texas *could* have been informed, no one was prepared for the change, resulting in confusion and long lines at all offices. **Long story short:** If the inspection is good, you may renew the registration. If the inspection expires in February 2016 and registration in December 2015, **no inspection is needed until December 2016.**

Trailers were a huge issue as well. Inspections were always **required** on those with a carrying capacity of 4,500 pounds (**except approved farm and certain specialized trailers**), but until this program, there was no enforcement and that has fallen on us.

The 84th Legislative Session was not very exciting for county tax offices. Of the 6,276 bills filed, 1,323 passed and 318 were tax related. **One** will help with your tax burden – Senate Bill 1. If voters approve Proposition One on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the State school district homestead exemption will increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000, resulting in savings from \$115 to \$154 depending on your school district tax rate. With property values at

an all time high, the savings is not much. PLEASE NOTE: the 2015 statement is **PROVISIONAL**. Another will be mailed if voters do **not** approve Prop One!

Another change this year – seniors, disabled persons and vets are eligible for installment payments on homesteads even when the bill is sent late to a new owner. Call for more information.

Not legislative but very important – the Governor declared Galveston County a disaster area for both the May floods and summer drought. **IF YOU SUFFERED ANY DAMAGE** as a result of these events, you are eligible for disaster installments (*with 1/4 due in January, March, May and July*). Carefully review the statement for this year's options!

If mailing your payment, please use the enclosed envelope and include the coupon to insure proper processing. This is the fourth year for us to process payments in-house and these items are essential to our efficiency and accuracy!

Finally, "friend" the Galveston County Tax Office on Facebook, watch our website or read your local newspaper to be kept up to date on important voting and tax deadlines and important news!

We look forward to serving you again this year!

*Cheryl*

## Contact Us

General Information.....	(409) 766-2284
Toll Free .....	(877) 766-2284
Fax .....	(409) 766-2479
Email .....	galcotax@co.galveston.tx.us
Cheryl E. Johnson, Tax Assessor/Collector.....	(409) 766-2260
Sheryl R. Swift, Chief Deputy Business Services .....	(409) 766-2474
Rachael Crider, Chief Deputy Property Tax.....	(409) 766-2476
Kimberly Hall, Chief Deputy Operations .....	(409) 766-2487
Property Tax Department .....	(409) 766-2481
Voter Registration Department .....	(888) 976-2280 or (409) 766-2280
Vehicle Registration Information (Galveston Branch) .....	(409) 766-2485



[www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com)



**Branch Locations:** Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm  
Galveston Courthouse, 722 Moody, Galveston  
North Co. Annex, 174 Calder, League City  
West Co. Annex, 11730 Highway 6, Santa Fe  
Texas City Annex, 2516 Texas Avenue, Texas City

**Satellite Offices:** Both offices closed Noon – 1 pm  
946 Noble Carl Road, Crystal Beach  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 8 am to 4:30 pm)  
910 S Friendswood Drive, Friendswood  
(Thursday & Friday 8 am to 5 pm)

Disaster installments available this year ★ Save time, pay online ★ We accept credit and debit cards

# Payment Options – Easy as 1-2 a-2 b & 3!

There are several options when paying your taxes. Select a plan that works best for you!  
**We do not send bills if you owe under \$10!**

1. Pay in full  
 By February 1, 2016  
**(USPS postmark not postage meter)**
- 2.a. Split/Half Pay Option  
 First ½ by November 30, 2015  
 Second ½ by June 30, 2016  
**(except opt out entities at 2b)**
- 2.b. Opt Out Entities  
 In full by February 1, 2016, for  
 Dickinson ISD & City of Dickinson  
**Galveston County MUD #12 (Bayou Vista)  
 now participates in split/half pay!**

**CHERYLE E. JOHNSON** 2015 Provisional/Consolidated Tax Statement  
 12155 Westchase Court, Houston, Texas 77060  
 (Call) (713) 877-7666 ext. 409-766-2881

ACCOUNT # **FEL014**

2015 TAXES ONLY See Section 1 below for possible delinquencies.  
 If appropriate, conditions generally do not apply but have been applied to total at right.

**THREE PAYMENT OPTIONS**

1. Payment in Full (by amount due) by February 1, 2016. **1**

2. Split Payment Plan (participating governments with First Half Due by November 30, 2015). **2a** **2b**

3. Opt Out Entities (participating governments with First Half Due by November 30, 2015). **3**

3. Four installments\*  
 Available on the homesteads of those  
 over 65, disabled persons and disabled vets  
 and all affected by disaster declarations
- 1/4 by February 1, 2016  
 1/4 by March 31, 2016  
 1/4 by May 31, 2016  
 1/4 by August 1, 2016

\* Unless specified differently on supplemental billing

Payment coupons will be mailed in March for  
 1/4 installment plans & April for split/half pay.

**If you have a mortgage, you may not be able to  
 participate in Options 2 or 3.  
 Call your mortgage company first!**

## Ways to Pay!

1. Come in person weekdays 8 am to 5 pm.  
 Locations listed on front of newsletter, back  
 of statement and online ([www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com))  
 or call toll free (877) 766-2284.
2. Mail payment in enclosed envelope (*please  
 include coupon*). Be sure postmark is timely  
 for payment type selected.
3. Go online to [www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com), click on  
 the large red button, locate account and pay  
 via credit card or e-check or call toll free  
 1-866-865-1433 (English) and 1-866-865-1435  
 (Spanish). FEES APPLY!
4. Drop in one of the marked GCTO payment  
 drop boxes located outside all but the  
 Crystal Beach office. Mail is picked up for  
 previous day posting at 8:30 am!

## Property Tax Seminars

For the 12th year, Cheryl E. Johnson will teach her award winning  
 class "Effectively Protest Your Appraised Value" on the dates and  
 times shown. Learn techniques (*not tricks*) and learn how the Texas  
 property tax process works. Classes typically last two hours.  
 Registration required for May 21st class! All class materials will be  
 posted on our website by April 1, 2016 (*under Important Information*).

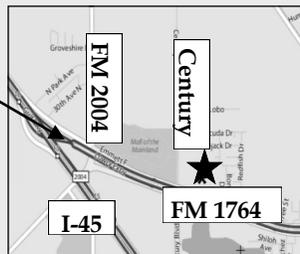
Don't miss the May 31st deadline to schedule an informal meeting  
 with a CAD appraiser!

Date	Time	Location
5/3	6 pm	League City Council Chambers, 200 W. Walker, League City
5/5	6 pm	Learning Resource Center, Room L-131, College of the Mainland, 1200 Amburn Road, Texas City
5/19	6 pm	Commissioners Courtroom, County Courthouse, 722 Moody (21 <sup>st</sup> Street), Galveston
5/21	10 am	AMOCO Federal Credit Union, 235 E. Parkwood Drive, Friendswood (registration required for this class)

## Contacting Your County Appraisal District

**Galveston CAD located in  
 Mid-County Annex**  
 9850 EF Lowry Expressway (FM 1764)  
 Texas City

Call Toll Free: 866-277-4725  
 Local Calls: 409-935-1980  
[www.galvestoncad.org](http://www.galvestoncad.org)



**Two Cities in Two Counties!**  
 Property owners in the cities of Friendswood and League  
 City (*Galveston & Harris County*), are our customers thanks  
 to collection partnerships. Harris County property owners  
 may obtain information about exemptions and values from  
 Harris County CAD as shown below:

13013 Northwest Freeway (SH 290), Houston  
 Call: 713-957-7800 [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org)

To update address or to obtain assistance, please make notes below, cut or tear along dotted line and return in the enclosed envelope.  
**PLEASE USE THIS FORM – DO NOT WRITE ON COUPON!**

ACCT #: \_\_\_\_\_

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