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PRESS RELEASE

Special Alert by the County Tax Office

ALERT: The Texas City/La Marque ISD consolidation may impact services in the County Tax Office this month!

June 30th marks certain deadlines important to many county property owners – the deadline for the final half of 2015 taxes and, for those struggling to pay, the deadline to establish a pay agreement and thus avoid costly attorney fees (up to 20%) that will be added July 1st! Property owners living in La Marque ISD needing a payment agreement will need to contact the county's delinquent law firm directly at 409-948-3401 as GCTO will not be negotiating any new agreements involving the school district.

The County Tax Office is asking you, however, to not wait until June 30th so that we can do our part to simplify the consolidation of Texas City and La Marque school districts.

Effective July 1st, La Marque ISD will cease to exist in the County tax system thus, we will have dedicated property tax payment lines in all offices June 30th so that we may promptly close out and balance tax receipts.

Delays may result for those renewing June motor vehicle registrations, thus we are encouraging citizens to come in early to renew those registrations or to wait until July 1st.

Those struggling to pay should contact a Property Tax Specialist at 1-409-766-2481 or 1-877-766-2284 for additional information on down payment requirements and monthly payment options or to arrange to have the agreement sent to any one of four Tax Office branches. The Property Tax Department is located on the second floor of the County Courthouse, 722 Moody (21st Street) in Galveston.

The Galveston, League City, Texas City and Santa Fe Tax Office branches are open daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A satellite office is open in Friendswood every Thursday and Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed Noon to 1:00) and the Crystal Beach office is open the third Tuesday each month from 7 to 3 (closed Noon to 1:00).

In addition to visiting a Tax Office branch, payments may be mailed, deposited in drop boxes located outside each office or made on-line using e-check or credit card. Visit the Tax Office website at www.galcotax.com and click on the red database button to access your account. Not online? Call toll free 1-877-766-2284 for office locations and directions. To pay with a credit card via telephone, call 1-866-865-1433 (English) and 1-866-865-1435 (Spanish). A 2.5% fee is charge for credit payments and \$1 for electronic check.

Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC