

# THE DAILY NEWS

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**League City**

## Most on council call checks 'improper'

By **T.J. AULDS**  
The Daily News City staff conducted background checks on members of city committees

A series of background checks conducted by city staff on members of city committees was "improper," and were not called for by city ordinance, members of city council said. They happened at the request of a lone council member.

The background checks conducted by the city attorney's office over the summer came at the request of City

Councilman Tommy Cones, a city spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday.

Cones confirmed the request and said he saw it as the only means to confirm that board members did not violate city ordinance.

The revelation of background checks came as the council discussed possible changes to the rules for those seeking to be appointed to a city committee, board or commission. Councilman

Nick Long, who said the process had gotten out hand, is seeking to ease some of the requirements calling for detailed resumes and exclusions from serving on city committees, boards or commissions due to criminal convictions.

It was during Monday's city council workshop as Long explained his

**See checks | A4**

**Courts**

## 5 county employees in limbo to keep jobs

By **CHACOUR KOOP**

The Daily News

County employees, who the courts rely upon to complete essential functions, will keep their jobs after a quarrel between county commissioners and judicial judges threatened to leave them unemployed.

The county budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, did not fund these specific jobs in the justice administration department. Instead, it included five new positions as part of a plan approved by the commissioner's court to eliminate the department and create a new one overseen by judges. However, judges didn't hire into the new positions, citing a court order preventing it.

On Tuesday, the commissioner's court voted unanimously to shift funding to fill the positions with the employees and their current salaries. The change came after County Judge Mark Henry had notified five justice administration employees their jobs would no longer exist because judges didn't hire them into the designated positions.

The embattled department is at the center of a legal fight over the firing of its director. In July 2014, Henry fired Director of Justice Administration Bonnie Quiroga. Judge Lonnie Cox blocked the termination two months later, arguing that because Quiroga's job included court duties, the move undermined the independence of the judiciary.

Before the commissioner's vote on Tuesday, Cox's attorney, Mark Stevens, asked a Houston appeals court to move the case forward quickly because of the risk employees could lose their jobs and cause

**See employees | A4**

**Galveston**

## With recycling revenue, it's too little or a little less



Photos by Jennifer Reynolds/The Daily News

James Robison, the coordinator at Galveston's ECO Center on 61st Street, loads cardboard into a truck for baling Tuesday.

By **JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON**

The Daily News

Sometimes there's a little money in recycling. Other times, there's not.

When the Galveston City Council created a fee to pay for recycling programs last month, City Manager Brian Maxwell said part of the reason was that revenue from the sale of materials such as glass, plastic and paper wasn't large or consistent enough to sustain the operations.

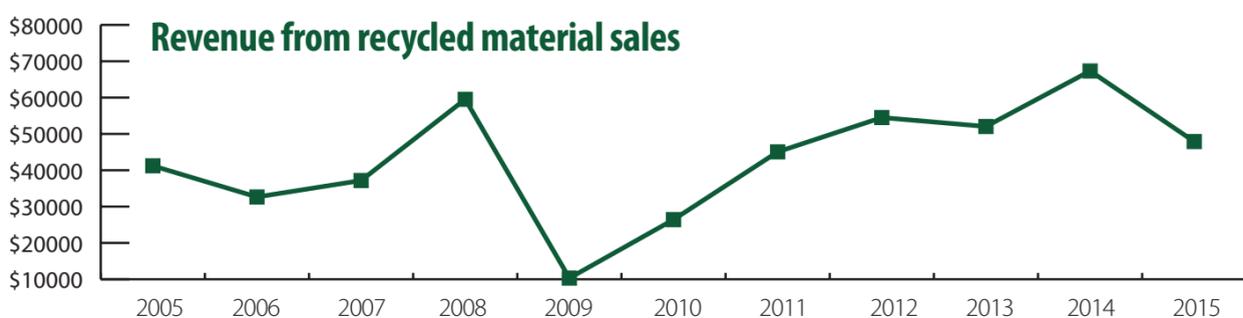
City records obtained by The Daily News back up Maxwell's claims.

Since 2005, the sale of recyclable material has brought in \$474,096 in revenue, an average of \$43,100 per year, but the amounts vary wildly year to year.

**See recycling | A4**



Charles Coulter feeds recycled foam containers into the multiple foam densifier at Galveston's ECO Center.



Source: City of Galveston

**Inside**



Kim Christensen for The Daily News  
Clear Creek No.12 Hannah Froeschl and No.21 Melissa McNeil block the ball against Friendswood volleyball at Clear Creek » **A5**



Galveston Restaurant Group helps bring Cuban influence to Galveston College's UnGala menu. » **C1**

Vol. 173, No. 163



**Today's weather**



**88**

Sunny, little chance of rain

**76**

» **A8**

**Index**

Bulletin Board.....B2	Obituaries.....D5
Lifestyle.....C1	Opinion.....B6
Lotto.....A2	Sports.....A5
Movies.....C4	TV Listings.....B4

**Inside**



Capt. Joe Kent has the latest news on the Galveston County fishing scene. » **A8**