

Comments

A Publication of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority



December 2013

Stanley Cromartie Named to GCA Board

Texas Governor Rick Perry has appointed League City architect Stanley Cromartie to the GCA Board of Directors, replacing Randy Jarrell, whose term has expired.

Cromartie is founder, president and CEO of ARCON Architects, Inc., which offers turnkey commercial architecture and engineering design and construction, property services and project management. He is a graduate of Texas A&M



Stanley Cromartie

with a bachelor's degree in environmental design with a concentration in architecture and construction.

Jarrell, an insurance agent and owner of Beaty Insurance Agency,



Randy Jarrell

was appointed to the board in June 2008.

"We appreciate Randy's service to the Authority and welcome Stan to the Board," said Chairman Mark Schultz.

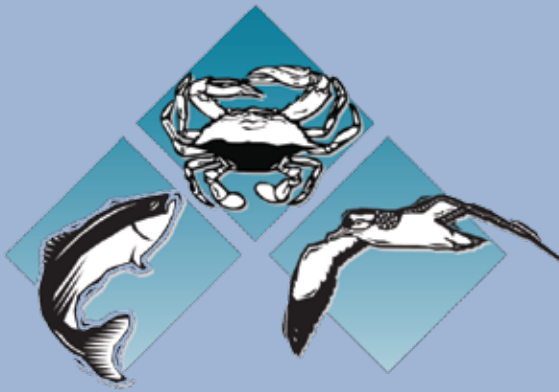
GCA Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded GCA a Certificate of Achievement

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GCA Board Chairman Mark Schultz congratulates Financial Services Manager Jim Cooksey for his department's significant achievement award from the Government Finance Officers Association.



**RIVER, LAKES
BAYS 'N BAYOUS TRASH BASH**

GCA

Over 49 T



GCA's mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas is a commitment the Authority takes to heart, not just on the business side of industrial and municipal wastewater treatment, but also in its participation in voluntary cleanup activities, such as the annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®.



GCA has been involved in Trash Bash for 20 years, since the event started, and is a Platinum Sponsor. Operations Manager Lori Traweck has assisted in the coordination for Trash Bash on behalf of GCA for the last 17 years and also serves as president of the Texas Conservation Fund (TCF) which organizes the event. Linda Norton, Executive Secretary for GCA, also serves as treasurer of TCF. Gordon Pederson, Manager of Facility Services, led the Sims Bayou cleanup for a number of years before turning over that site to Washburn Tunnel Facility



*GCA Community Outreach:
Focus on Education*

Houston-Area High School Students Tour Blackhawk

Community outreach is a vital component of fulfilling GCA's mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas: It helps identify issues and opportunities and develop environmental awareness of future generations. As part of that ongoing effort, our personnel



conduct facility tours on a regular basis.

Our Blackhawk Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant recently conducted concurrent tours for

students from two Houston-area schools. Superintendent of Municipal Services Jerald Landis hosted a group of 20 high school science

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Leadership Friendswood Tours Blackhawk Facility

GCA's Superintendent of Municipal Services Jerald Landis conducted a tour of the Blackhawk Facility on election eve for Leadership Friendswood.

The leadership development program was created in 2001 by the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce. Participants—business executives and citizens—go through a series of nine sessions on the local economy, industry, city and county government, education, health care and utilities conducted by local leaders and experts. The Blackhawk tour was part of the utilities session.



“Tours such as this are an important part of our community outreach efforts,” said Landis. “They provide a great opportunity to build environ-

mental awareness, while educating citizen leaders on GCA's mission of keeping Texas waters clean and safe.”

A Sponsors Trash Bash 2014

Tons Collected in Waterways

Manager Kelly Nidini this year. Terri Strachan, who manages the 40-Acre and Campbell Bayou facilities, has coordinated the Virginia Point cleanup for the last four years. And GCA employees volunteer for Trash Bash, year in and year out. Other GCA personnel who participated in this year's cleanup include General Manager Ricky Clifton, Financial Services Manager Jim Cooksey, Donna Atchison,



Jevonne Bass, Troy Bellmeyer, Jr. Bernal, Gardenia Broussard, Maria Dominguez, Renee Eaglin, Scott Harris, Bill Haygood, Diane Maloy, Tiisetso Masiane, Karl Mueller, Jeff Nuss, Dennis Parnell, Bert Pena, Ben Reese, Lisa Robinson and Bill Tharp.

This year's event on Saturday, March 23rd, attracted more than 5,000 volunteers, who cleaned



nearly 167 miles of shoreline and collected over 49 tons of trash, the weight equivalent of 25 cars. Speaking of cars, the number of discarded tires picked up—483—is enough to equip 120 automobiles. The volunteers averaged 591 pounds per mile, nearly 20 pounds per participant. That's a lot of trash!

"At 21 miles, Virginia Point is the second largest Trash Bash site by miles of shoreline covered in the Houston area," says Strachan. "We registered 231 volunteers who collected 1,600 pounds of trash. I really enjoy the event; not only does it make a difference, but we have a great time doing it."

Sims Bayou attracted 101 volunteers this year, who picked up 1.7 tons of trash and debris. "As a relatively new employee of GCA, I was delighted with the

opportunity to coordinate the Sims Bayou cleanup," notes Nidini. "It's amazing what we're able to accomplish in a half day. I am proud to play a part in Trash Bash and my hat is off to all the volunteers who did such a great job."

"GCA's participation in Trash Bash demonstrates our commitment to a cleaner, healthier environment and helps make the public we serve more aware of our presence," says Traweck. "My sincere thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who have supported and participate in Trash Bash."

The annual event focuses on cleaning local waterways from Lake Conroe all the way to Galveston Bay in Texas City. In addition to GCA, Platinum sponsors include Republic Waste, United Airlines, H-GAC, Greensheet, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, H-E-B, LyondellBasell, Nestle Waters and Total Petrochemical and Refining USA.

"We'll be back again for next year's Trash Bash," Traweck promised.

013. y Cleanup.



Excellence in Financial Reporting

Continued from cover

for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition from the association, which represents government finance professionals from the United States and Canada.

This marks the 25th consecutive year GCA has been recognized by the GFOA for excellence in financial reporting.

The award was presented to GCA for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR); the entire accounting department was responsible for preparing the annual report. Jim Cooksey, GCA's Financial Services Manager/Controller received the award on behalf of the department.

Award recipients are selected by a panel of impartial judges based on CAFR guidelines, including a "spirit of full disclosure" and clear communication of the filing organization's financial story.

"I'm very proud of the entire financial department for earning this designation from our peers in government financial services," said Cooksey. "GCA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1969 to protect the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound and economically feasible waste management practices, and we take our responsibilities very seriously. Clear and accurate financial disclosure is

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High School Students Tour Blackhawk

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students from Houston's Awty International School and Municipal Operations Supervisor Clyde LeBlanc led a group of 25 Seniors from Friendswood High School.

"Conducting tours is a part of my job I really enjoy, especially when young people are involved," Landis says. "I can imagine the looks their teachers get when they tell a class they'll be visiting a wastewater treatment plant, but we always manage to capture their interest once they are on site."

"One of the things that always surprises visitors is how clean the plant is," LeBlanc notes. "It's not at all

what they expect and that generates a lot of questions about the science behind wastewater treatment."

LeBlanc said what impresses visitors the most is the quality of the effluent or discharged water after treatment.

GCA facilities provide tours to a wide variety of people, from fourth- and fifth-grade elementary school children, to leadership training groups, clubs, government officials and foreign nationals, such as representatives of the City of Tampico, Mexico, and China's version of the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency. Blackhawk tours generally last around an hour and a half.

"We have a great facility and we're proud to show it off," says Landis.

Excellence in Financial Reporting

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absolutely essential for a government agency."

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving some 17,500 government finance professionals. The association has offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Comments

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Gulf Coast Comments

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