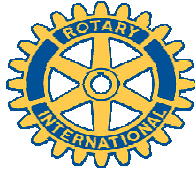
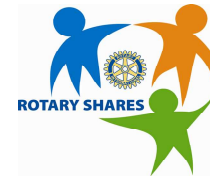


# Rotary Club of Galveston - Texas



# PILOT



**Rotary Newsletter**  
**June 11, 2008**

**Mike Cowan**, President, called the meeting to order. **Neil Nathan** led the invocation; **Jake Walsdorf** led the Pledge of Allegiance and song and **Elise Ott** introduced the guests and visitors.

## Guests

Alison Cox, wife of Judge Lonnie Cox  
Stephen Duncan, guest of the Club

## Visiting Rotarian

Vikki Carpenter of the Texas City Rotary Club

## Announcements from the Podium

If your last name begins with K or L, June is your month to bring a door prize.



*From left, Karen Mahoney, guest speaker Jeri Kinnear, and Jerry Mohn.*

## **Today's Program:**

**Karen Mahoney** introduced Jeri Kinnear, guest speaker from the Park Board.

Jeri lives in Galveston and has been a Park Board member for the past year

Park Board –

- Created under state legislature – 9 members, staggered terms for 2 years
- No property Tax support, \$15 mil operating budget-funded by Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), HOT Rebate, Beach User Fees, etc.
- 49 full time and 187 part time employees (most part time employees are seasonal lifeguards)
- Manage beaches and beach parks
- One of main functions is to promote tourism – tourism employs almost 10,000 people in our county, \$705 million generated from tourism
- Manages special promotions and events – Feather Fest, Sandcastle Competition, Yaga's Wild Game Cook-off, Mardi Gras, etc.
- Beach patrol- from East Beach to 61<sup>st</sup> St.
- Clean and manages beaches-picked up 1.5 million pounds of trash
- Improved budget status from deficit to positive balance!
- Future Visions of Park Board
  - Help with beach re-nourishment (Rotarian Jerry Moen (sp?) is lead of this committee)
  - Stewart Beach Park Boardwalk and Visitor Center
  - Seawall Boulevard Urban Park with built in bathrooms and pavilion
  - East End Lagoon Nature Preserve (Collaboration of City of Galveston, Park Board of Trustees and GINTC)
  - Completing a Feasibility Study to obtain more federal funding
- Rotarian Melody Smith helped with this presentation

*Reported by: Jennifer Goodman*