

Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

Why a Y?

Several years ago, the results of a Parks and Leisure Services community survey showed that the top concern of residents was a need for a community/recreation center. The City issued a certificate of obligation for \$2,000,000 for the design and construction of such a facility on City-owned property adjacent to the Community Aquatic Center and Skate Park .

Following months of planning, identifying components of the center and a complete set of architectural renderings, construction bids went out on the facility. During that time, comprehensive financial plans for outfitting and operating the center were also undertaken. Once the plans and

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bids were received, it was determined that construction of the facility far exceeded the money that had been set aside and that ongoing operational costs would be a liability to residents.

Last year, the City, other government entities and the Coastal Bend YMCA began talking about a cooperative effort to provide recreational and social amenities to residents. A special YMCA Interest Survey was disseminated to the almost 10,000 utility customers, asking them to provide

information on the services they felt were needed. The top 10 services included indoor activities/programs, including basketball,

aerobics, Tai-Chi, self-defense classes, and walking/running; health club facilities; senior wellness programs; multiuse rooms for meetings, instructional classes and training; youth sports programs; before and after school programs; computer classes; game room; adult sports programs; and child day care.

In February, Mayor C.J. Wax appointed an *ad hoc* YMCA Project Committee and charged it

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City Receives Prestigious Finance Award

Rockport was once again awarded a Platinum Designation by the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle program, sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Originated in 2014, the Platinum Designation is the highest level award. Rockport was recognized as the 11th city to receive the award in 2014 and is one of the first six cities in Texas to be recognized in 2015.

The Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle program was developed in 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online. Among the criteria are opening books to the public; providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers drill down for more detail.



**Texas Comptroller
Leadership Circle**

Of the 5,147 units of local government eligible to apply in 2015, Rockport is currently 1 of 23 to earn Platinum level recognition, 1 of 6 cities, 1 of 2 governments in the region, and the only one to repeat from 2014.

Why a Y?

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with providing City Council: a) scope of services, b) facility design, c) construction cost estimates, d) estimates of operating and maintenance costs, e) management agreement with YMCA of the Coastal Bend, f) project funding plan, and g) project phasing by July 31 of this year.

The Project Committee includes Jordan Fisher, chair; Vicki Pitluk, vice chair; Debbie Thompson, treasurer; Robin Rice, secretary; Emme Bettes, Garry Cate, Dan Pugh, Nick Johnson, Scott Jones, Yvonne Perez, Eli Ramos, Rose Tran and Logan Jasek. City staff members Ryan Picarazzi and Tom Staley also serve as full members and Mayor Pro Tem Pat Rios as a Council Liaison.

The City Election scheduled for May 9 has been cancelled. There were no candidates opposing current Councilmen Ward 1 Rusty Day and Ward 3 Pat Rios.

More Than Just a Race

Approximately 200 participants and volunteers took part in the 27th Annual Whooping Crane Strut, which was held in Memorial Park and along the Tule Hike and Bike Trail on Saturday, March 7. Winners in the individual events (Rockport residents are noted by an *):

- 10K
- Top Female: Anne Wright*
- Top Male: John Ceballos*
- Top Female Master: Nora Rodriguez
- Top Male Master: Chris Krupa*
- Top Female 10 – 14: Reagan Gray
- Top Female 20 – 29: Kathryn Santos*
- Top Male 20 – 29: Marc Santos
- Top Female 30 – 39: Zoe Slaton*
- Top Male 30 – 39: Adrian Gonzalez
- Top Female 40 – 49: Amy Gray
- Top Male 40 – 49: Mike Heppard
- Top Female 50 – 59: Tina Banse
- Top Male 50 – 59: Chris McGinty
- Top Female 60 – 69: Veena Panchal*
- Top Male 60 – 69 – Greg Bergner
- Top Male 70+ - Charles Yost*



Photo courtesy of Drew Jacobs



Mayor C.J. Wax presents a \$735 check to Fred Lanoue representing the "Water for Wildlife Fund," which provides more fresh water areas for the whooping cranes. Five dollars from every Whooping Crane Strut registration was collected for this fund.

- 5K
- Top Female: Kellie Robinson*
- Top Male: Zeph Littleton*
- Top Female Master: Stephanie Garcia*
- Top Male Master: Daniel Filippini
- Top Female Grand Master: Donnalou Holland*
- Top Male Grand Master: Gary Rhone*

- Two Mile
- Top Female: Marcia Rhone*
- Top Male: Ed Hegen*
- Top Female Master: Anne Mourtaja*
- Top Male Master: Richard Pifer
- Top Female Grand Master: Connie Gallardo*
- Top Male Grand Master: Fred Krebs*

Droughts and Water Wells

Although water well users are not bound by the ordinances associated with mandatory water conservation, drought conditions can seriously impact ground water supplies. Wells that are placed near the water table are the first to “run dry” during droughts. Additionally, an increase in groundwater pumping can affect one or hundreds of local wells.

During a drought, the water table falls further below the surface when it is not replenished by rain-

fall or if more water is pumped out than is coming in. Typically, water levels fluctuate on a seasonal basis, rising in the “wet” months and falling in the “dry” months.

So, a well will not recover after just one rainfall event. It takes several slow, soaking rains for the water to filter through the ground. Shallower wells may see their water levels rise more quickly with a return of rain. Deeper wells are likely to ride out a



drought with no problems; but if they are affected, it will take more rainfall-maybe several months-to filter down to their depth.

To maximize the use of your private well during drought periods, it's best to follow many of the (continued on back page)

One of the Best Coastal Small Towns



Photo courtesy of Drew Holmgreen

Rockport received high honors in a national online survey sponsored by USA TODAY, a national daily newspaper, and 10Best.com. The category for this award was Best Coastal Small Town.

Readers submitted nominations and the two sponsors selected the top 20 nominations. Readers were asked to vote on the nominations and Rockport came in at #5. Other towns in the Top Five include Saugatuck, MI; Ogunquit, ME; Gulf Shores, AL; and Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information and to see the other towns selected for the Top Ten, visit the web site at: <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-coastal-small-town/>

Didja' Know?

Have you ever wondered about all the intricacies related to running a city?

The Texas Municipal League has developed a free, comprehensive publication that describes the important functions and vital services cities provide. Topics include "Where Do Cities Get Their Money," "Citizen Safety and Protection of Valuables," "Economic Development," "Annexation," and "Zoning."

To read or download the publication, visit the City's website or go to <http://www.tml.org/HCW/HowCitiesWork.pdf>

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Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



Rusty Day

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Pat Rios

Ward 4



Barbara Gurtner

Future Recreational Space

The City has purchased 40.38 acres of land, comprised of five separate pieces of property, for \$1.5 million with the intention of forming a regional sports complex for use not only by the citizens of Rockport but also for competition level services for the rest of the State. The land is bordered by Corpus Christi Street to the south, the By-pass to the west and Teal Street to the north and includes several pre-existing buildings.

Development of the property is

expected to take several years while the City applies for grants and secures additional funding.

Each year the Parks and Leisure Services Department has to decline hosting regional tournaments and other athletic events because the City of Rockport lacks adequate facilities.

In addition to bringing in teams and fans from out of town, the new complex will also address a shortage of facilities for local teams.

Droughts

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guidelines established not only for mandatory water conservation, but for landscape management, as well. These include a deep watering once a week and watering only between the hours of 6 pm and 10 am.

Editor's Note: Whether you use City water or a well, it's important to get updated about the stages of water conservation. Updated information can be found on the City's web site. The City of Rockport follows the same guidelines as the City of Corpus Christi for those who prefer using the local news as a resource.

Who Do I Call If ...

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Public Safety	729-1111
Utility Bill Questions/Concerns	729-2213 x 234
Street Issues and Repairs	790-1160
Sewer, Water and Gas Issues	790-1160
Trash Pick-Up	729-2213 x 234
City Administrative Offices	729-2213 x 221
Building and Development Dept.	790-1125
County Mosquito Hotline	727- 0606 x 29

For additional questions or concerns, visit the "FAQs" or "Fix It" sections on the City's web site (www.cityofrockport.com) or call City Hall at 729-2213.



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