

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## How the City Works

In previous issues, we've focused on departments, personnel and their contributions to the operation of the City. This time, the spotlight is on the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Board and their work in developing, implementing and funding parklands, recreation and leisure service facilities.

The Board, which is comprised of volunteer citizens representing each of the four city wards, serves not only in an advisory and

advocacy capacity, but also assists with special events like the Tropical Christmas. Whooping Crane Strut and Arbor Day. Their purview includes eight parks, a wetlands demonstration garden, and five dedicated hike and bike/nature trails.

In addition, the Parks Board is also actively involved in the planning and execution of the City's park, recreation and open space master plans. These plans are available for review on the City's



*Compass Rose Park overlooking Little Bay*

web site – [www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com). Go to the top menu, click on Departments and then click on Parks (Continued on Page 2)

## City Receives Trail Restoration Grant

The City of Rockport has been awarded a grant of \$50,400 from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for renovation of a 1.6 mile asphalt surface hike & bike trail in Memorial Park. The grant is through the National Recreational Trails Fund, which comes from a portion of the federal gas tax for the purpose of creating new or improving existing recreational trails. The total project cost of \$72,000 includes a match of \$21,600 from the City of Rockport.

According to Tom Staley, Director of Parks and Leisure Services, the funds will be used to restore



and protect the 1.6 mile asphalt trail with the application of a cold tar sealer to the trail surface to level the surface of holes and other minor damages and to extend the life of the asphalt surface. In addition to the trail work, the pro-

ject includes installation of 30 emergency location markers spaced along the trail, two trailside benches, and a chilled water fountain at the second trailhead restroom.

The next step will be environmental and historical resource reviews by state agencies to evaluate potential impacts to cultural and natural resources. It is expected that the studies will be completed in October and the project agreement will be issued. Once the agreement is received in October, as expected, it is estimated that the renovation will be completed by the end of the year.

# How the City Works

(continued)



and Leisure Services. A menu with the Open Space Plans and Trails will appear in a box on the left of the page.

The largest and most-utilized facility is Memorial Park, which encompasses more than 100 acres of natural habitat and recreational facilities. The myriad of offerings includes trails, bird watching, picnic areas, playgrounds, basketball courts, playing fields, rental shelter and an off-leash dog park.

Spencer and Mathis Parks are considered neighborhood parks with picnic areas and playgrounds. Tule Park is an “open space” area, and undeveloped Magnolia Park showcases our native live oak trees.

Zachary Taylor Arboretum Park features ornamental trees and plants, an open area gazebo, picnic area and an historical native oak. Compass Rose Park, which overlooks Little Bay, features an ornamental garden, gazebo and a registered labyrinth.

Visit us on the Web  
@ [www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)

# Hurricane Preparedness—Be Ready

June 1<sup>st</sup> was the official start date of the hurricane season. Long before that time, the Emergency Operations Center, comprised of local governments and public safety agencies, reviewed and refined its plans should a hurricane threaten the area. The big question is – Are You Prepared?

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? Do you need special assistance for evacuation?



## Make a Plan

1. If you haven't already registered for the First Call Emergency Notification System, do it now! The system will accommodate land lines, cell phones and email addresses. To register, call 866-484-3264 or go online to [www.alertregistration.com/AransasCoTx/](http://www.alertregistration.com/AransasCoTx/).
2. Know where you're going. You'll need to have at least two options depending upon the projected path of the storm. You don't want to be heading into the “dirty side,” which is the front right quadrant of the hurricane.



3. Make sure your family has a plan before a hurricane strikes. Sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do.
4. Figure out in advance what you may need to do in terms of your pets, boarding up your home or moving marine vehicles. You don't want this to be a last minute decision.

## Stay Prepared

1. Build a disaster supply kit with items you may need in case of evacuation. In the event of power losses, this kit should include food, water, prescriptions and other essential items to last you for 72 hours.
2. Keep abreast of the news. Know what's headed our way. Forecasters can predict far enough out that you can fill up your car, refill prescriptions and add to your supply kit.
3. If you're told to evacuate, please do so. The decision wasn't made lightly and you risk not only the storm, but also having to deal with no power, water, gas or sewer service.

# Summer Calls for More Precaution

Summer is here. It's time for trips to the beach, barbecues, fishing and all those other outdoor activities we enjoy. But, during this time of year, incidents of theft and burglary are on the rise. Here are a few tips from Lt. Larry Sinclair to protect yourself and your property:

1. If you are planning to leave town, take a few moments to check over your home. Look for weak spots in your home defenses. Good security lighting is always a plus.
2. Check the exterior doors of your home. These doors should be solid-core doors made of a durable material, such as wood, metal or fiberglass. Check for weak or inoperable locks on your doors. These should be replaced with good quality dead bolt locks on all exterior doors.
3. If you have glass windows near the door, or if the door itself has glass in it, you might consider installing a double key dead bolt lock on that door. Check all the windows in your home. Make sure that each window has a functioning lock installed. And remember, the best locks in the world will not work if they are not used.
4. Lock your home, all the doors and windows, and do not hide a key outside of your home. Believe it or not, the bad guys know all the hiding places for those things. Keep your garage door closed and locked and don't leave items out in the open, even if you are at home. Also make sure that you secure any storage buildings or tool sheds on your property. You don't want to advertise what you have to the would-be thief.
5. When you are preparing for a fishing trip, don't leave tackle in your boat or in the bed of your truck. Fishing rods and reels, along with ice chests, are the most popular items stolen this time of year. Always remember to lock your vehicle. This cannot be stressed enough; we could cut incidents of theft in half if folks remembered to lock their cars.
6. If you see any type of unusual or suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please contact law enforcement right away. People or vehicles that are unusual or out of the ordinary should be reported. Don't wait until the next day or feel like you are "bothering the police" with this information. We want your information -- it just may be what we need to make an arrest or complete an investigation.
7. For a list of recent crimes or to sign up for alerts, go to the Police Department's page on the City's web site and click on Crime Reports.



*Looking for a way to keep cool this summer? Visit the Community Aquatic Center! Open six days a week, the Aquatic Center offers a 25-yard pool and diving area, a children's pool with slides and spray, a bathhouse and snack bar. And, if you're not a swimmer, lessons are also available. For more information, visit the City web site or call 361-727-9989*

## Didja' Know?

The average water usage on Saturday and Sunday for the seven weeks prior to Memorial Day weekend was 5.8 million gallons. The usage on the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend was 17 percent higher at 6.9 million gallons.

Consumption on the seven Mondays prior to Memorial Day was an average of 2.7 million gallons; Memorial Day was 28 percent higher at 3.6 million gallons.

**Shop Rockport—  
Keep your retail sales taxes  
working at home**

# Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



Rusty Day

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Pat Rios

Ward 4



Barbara Gurtner

## Water Conservation Update

The City remains in Stage 1-Mild Water Shortage, of its Drought Contingency and Emergency Water plan, which requests customers of the city's water system to voluntarily water only once a week. The Plan does, however, prohibit watering between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm anytime throughout the year.

If drought conditions require the implementation of Stage 2 – Moderate Water Shortage, the water schedule becomes mandatory. The NEW watering schedule will be as follows:

Tuesday – Even numbered addresses

Wednesday – Odd numbered addresses

Thursday – Multifamily and Commercial

Residents with water wells are not required to comply with the prohibition of watering between 10 am and 6 pm, but are encouraged to do so.

For additional information on the Plan, visit the City's web site and type in "water plan" in the search engine.



*Keep Rockport Beautiful volunteers participated in a coastal clean up on June 1. Pictured are Steve and Barbara Long and Maynard Green.*

## 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

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



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