

Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

Annual Inspection of Golf Carts

Effective January 30, 2015, golf carts and neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) will be required to have an annual inspection and registration. The annual fee of \$10 includes the inspection and a registration decal that should be affixed in the center of the "slow moving vehicle" reflective triangle. The registration will be valid for a period of one year and will expire the following year, in the same month as it was received.

Exceptions to this annual requirement are vehicles driven only within a master planned community (i.e. the neighborhoods of Harbor Oaks, Key Allegro, Rockport Country Club, and Spanish Woods) and a golf cart operated during daylight hours that is not more than two miles from its resi-

dence and is traveling to or from a golf course.

Golf carts and NEVs are prohibited on all sidewalks, hike and bike trails, State of Texas roadways (including State Highway 35 and Farm to Market roads) and on public streets or rights of way with speed limits exceeding 35 mph. An operator must possess a valid driver's license and obey all Texas laws and traffic regulations, including traffic lights and stop signs.

A golf cart or NEV must have the following equipment in order to be registered to operate within the City: Headlamps, tail lamps, reflectors, parking brake, rear view mirror, turning signals, a "slow moving vehicle" reflective



triangle affixed to the rear, seat belts, a flag on a six foot pole affixed to the rear and a registration sticker. Also, they may be operated only during daylight hours with their headlights and taillights on.

Inspections are available daily from 8 am to 5 pm at the Police Department, located at 714 E. Concho. For additional information, please call 361-729-1111 or visit the Police Department section on the City's web site.

Save the Date - Saturday, March 7



The 27th Annual Whooping Crane Strut will kick off at 8 am at Memorial Park. The event includes a 2-Mile Walk, 5K run and 10K run.

Five dollars from every registration will be donated to the "Water for Wildlife Fund" to help provide more fresh water for the whooping cranes at the Aransas

National Wildlife Refuge. Live music, refreshments and door prizes add to the excitement. Online registration is available through "It's Your Race" at www.whoopingcranestrut.itsyourrace.com

For additional information or to volunteer, contact Tom Staley at 790-1136 or by email at parks@cityofrockport.com.

Bringing in the Holidays -- Rockport Style

Temperate weather was an added benefit to this year's December 6th Tropical Christmas celebration. Live performances, pirate and dog costume contests, face painting, vendor shopping, and more contributed to a fun and festive event.

An illuminated night time parade preceded the annual lighting of the City Christmas tree and an incredible fireworks display accompanied by the music of Cast in Bronze.



A special thanks to all our partners and the volunteers who contributed to the success of this year's event.



Additionally, the City would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support of the City's Employee Christmas Party:

Ace Hardware, AEP, Aire Serv, Allegiance EMS, Angie West, Aransas Firearms, Terry Baiamonte, Bealls, BJ Uniforms, Black Dog, Chili's, Coastal Chic & Antiques, Corpus Christi Hooks, C-Side Decorating, Dailey-Wells Communications, Daily Grind, Discount Auto, Eleanor's General Store,

Fajitaville, Ferguson Enterprises, Fulton Fire Department, Golden Needles, Gonzalez Office Products, GrantWorks, Gulf Tractor Supply, Hidden Treasures, and Hu-Dat Restaurant.

Also, Ice-Rays, Islands of Rockport, Jalisco Restaurant, Jama's, JC Supply, K-Bob's Restaurant, Key Allegro Yacht Club, The Lighthouse Inn, Lulu's Flowers, Maison, Mayor and City Council, Moon-dog's Restaurant, New Begin-



nings, Panjo's Restaurant, Vicki Pitluk, Pro-Build, RBC Capital, and Redfish Rental.

Other contributors include Republic Services, Rockport County Club, Sassy's, Scotty's Lock & Key, Sea Shell Shoppe, Sears, The Shack Restaurant, Shop the World, Sophisticuts, Synergy Telecom, Tex Tiles, Texas Maritime Museum, TG's, The Wash, T-Shirt Shack, Urban Engineering, Teresa Valdez, Victoria's Gold, Walmart, Wells Fargo, Wild Horses, Winery on the Bay, and Wood Chem.

What's Going Down Your Kitchen Sink?

Did you know that pouring fats, oil and grease down your kitchen sink can cause expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and rate increases to cover sewer maintenance and repairs. Fats, oils, and grease—FOG—come from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

FOG poured down kitchen drains accumulates inside sewer pipes, even if you run hot water. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses and manholes to overflow into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public-health hazard. In addition, backups damage your property and can lead to higher rent, higher utility rates, and higher insurance rates. So, keeping FOG out of the sewer system helps everyone in the community.

Here's a list of "dos and don'ts" created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that will help you prevent potential problems, while helping protect water quality in your community.

Do:

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pour-

ing it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash. If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, mix it with cat litter—a little at a time. When the oil has been absorbed, pour the contents into a trash bag, seal the bag, and then dispose of it in your regular trash.

- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink. Also place a basket or screen over the sink drain to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain.
- Wipe pots, pans and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then, throw away the paper towels.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oil and grease off the dishes and into the sewer pipe. The hot water will cool quickly and the FOG will clog your sewer service line and main.

Don't:

- Use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines.



Grease clog in sewer pipe.

- Pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings or sauces down the sink or toilet, or into street gutters or storm drains.
- Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oil dishware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.
- Run water over dishes, pans, fryers and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

Didja' Know?

One of the least visible City operations is the Finance Department. In November 2014, it handled more than 6,800 financial transactions collecting over \$905,000. These included everything from utility payments to municipal court fines to building permits.

**Shop Rockport—
Keep your retail sales taxes**

Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



Rusty Day

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Pat Rios

Ward 4



Barbara Gurtner

C'mon In, the Water's Warm

The Community Aquatic Center and Skate Park offers an eight lane, heated, 25 -yard pool and diving area, and is open all year. Winter hours are noon to 4 pm on Sunday and 10 am – 4 pm Tuesday



through Saturday. Except when the temperature with wind chill is 40 degrees or below.

We offer freestyle swim, water walking and numerous exercise classes. Visit the City's web site to learn more or call 727-9989.

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) or call City Hall at 729-2213.

May Elections

The City Council positions for Ward 1 and Ward 3 will be up for election on May 9. The filing period ends on February 27.

Qualifications for candidacy include: must be at least 18 years of age, a qualified voter in the City, a resident of the City of Rockport and the respective ward for a minimum of one year, and submission of a signed petition from registered voters in the ward.

Potential candidates are encouraged to contact City Secretary Teresa Valdez at (361) 729-2213, ext. 225, for additional information or go to the City Secretary's page on the web site.



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