

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## How the City Works

*There are over 100 individuals employed by the City, who are dedicated to serving the needs of residents. From public safety to street repair to utility management, their often invisible presence is essential to guarding the welfare of our citizens. In this and future issues, we'll visit with different employees to learn about their contributions to the City.*

Our most visible employees are those members of the Police Department who patrol the streets -- all day, every day. Because of the very nature of their job, there is seldom anything "typical" about their work day.

Patrol officers spend most of their shift driving hundreds of miles throughout the city,

issuing traffic warnings and citations, responding to calls from the Safety Center, and assisting those in need.

While some may envy their being in an air conditioned vehicle most of the day, it's not as cushy as one may think. The driver's side has been retrofitted with cameras, computers, radio, scanner and more, which allows for about half the room of a comparable vehicle. And don't forget about the bullet-proof vest.

The majority of the time you see a vehicle being pulled over by the flashing lights of a police car, this officer is giving a warning ... not a ticket. As one patrolman put it, "When I stop someone whose headlight is burned out, it's more of a preventative

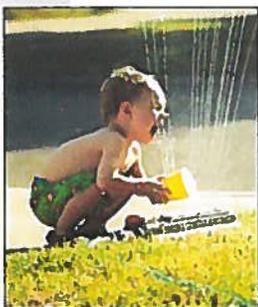


*Patrol Officer E. Ramos inputs completed call information.*

measure than a violation. By addressing the situation now, I may be preventing a serious accident from happening in the next few hours or days."

On any given day they could be making a wellness check, intervening in a domestic dispute, following leads on a hit-and-run, or responding to a burglary call.  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Voluntary Water Conservation in Effect—Be Water Smart



Depending upon your total consumption and location, every 1,000 gallons wasted each month can cost you around \$5.93 on your water/sewer bill. Follow these tips to save water and money:

- Turn off the water when brushing teeth, shaving, or washing hands to save 150 gallons per month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets immediately. Even a continuous leak only 1/32 of an inch in diameter can cost you over 6,100 gallons in a month.
- Water your lawn before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. About 1-inch per week is sufficient.
- Conventional washing machines use up to 59 gallons per load. Match the water level to the load size.
- If your showerhead fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace it with a water-efficient model. It will save up to 750 gallons per month, per shower.

• Shortening your daily shower by one or two minutes will save about 150 gallons per month, per shower.

## How the City Works

*(continued from page 1)*



On other days it may simply be patrolling. While their shift may end at a specific time, their day isn't truly over until reports have been filed ... which may add as much as two more hours to their workday. And, even then, many of the officers head out to coach youth softball and football leagues, as well as other community efforts.



When a police officer is asked why he or she chose this line of work, the answer is invariably the same – "I had a calling to serve and protect." They're certainly not in it for the glamour or the money. And sometimes it can be downright boring. Nonetheless they fulfill their duties with commitment and integrity and that makes us all quite fortunate.

## Stay Cool in Our Pools



Soaring summer temperatures are no fun ... and neither are the high costs of running an air conditioner. If you're looking for a way to cool off without breaking the bank, or exercising in a more hospitable environment, look no further than the Community Aquatic Park at 2001 Stadium Drive.

Open year round, the park houses an 8-lane heated, 25

yard pool and diving area; a whale shaped zero-depth entry children's pool with slides and sprays; and a pirate ship. There are morning and evening aerobics classes, as well as swimming lessons and daily lap swimming. The facility also includes a street style skate park, picnic area, children's play units and nature trails. Visit the City web site for more information on hours, passes and rentals.



Rockport's first off-leash dog park was dedicated on June 23. The park features separate areas for big and small dogs to run off-leash. It has water and disposal stations with additional amenities to be added through fundraising events.

The park was made possible through the City's donation of almost two acres of unimproved land within Memorial Park and the fundraising efforts and sweat equity of Leadership Class XVI.

Visit us on the Web

[www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)

# 2012 Winners



# Be Prepared in the Event of a Storm

Judging for the Fourth Annual “Rockport in Bloom” contest took place in mid-May and was followed by an awards presentation ceremony at City Hall on May 22. Over 100 entries were submitted for this special program, which is sponsored by the Keep Rockport Beautiful Advisory Board.



This year’s hurricane season marks the introduction of First Alert, a new countywide emergency notification program. First Alert offers more opportunities than the previous Reverse 911 program, including up to five telephone numbers (cell and land), email and text notification. If you haven’t already signed up, please call 1-(866)484-3264.

### PARKS

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Compass Rose Park

### CHURCHES

1<sup>st</sup> Place – First Baptist Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Sacred Heart Church

### SCHOOLS PUBLIC/PRIVATE

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Fulton Learning Center

### BUSINESSES/CONTAINERS

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Merchant Square  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Austin Street Gallery

### BUSINESSES/GROUNDS

1<sup>st</sup> Place – AIM Hospice  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Victoria’s Fine Jewelry  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Latitude Restaurant

### RESIDENTIAL/XERISCAPE

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Dora Fitzgerald

### RESIDENTIAL/SHRUBS & FLOWERING PLANTS

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jim & Dawn Post  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Beth Beken  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Tom & Donna Pazera

### RESIDENTIAL/SUSTAINABLE

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ken & Amy Davis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Norman & Linda Frank  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Richard & Nancy Moeller

### RESIDENTIAL/CONTAINERS

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ryan & Kim Pendergraft  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Helen Hough

The Emergency Operations Center recently shared some suggestions of things to do BEFORE a storm hits. These include: 1) Make sure your tetanus shot is up to date. 2) Email your flood and windstorm insurance to yourself or put it on a thumb drive or cloud. This way you can get the process started before you come back. 3) Take a bill showing proof of residence and ownership, which you may need upon returning. 4) Update your cell phone and contact lists of employees, family members and friends.

If a hurricane should threaten our area, the City’s web site will be posting information on the severity, timeline and evacuation plans, if needed.

## Sharks Make It to Regionals and State

A revived Sharks Swim Team came back strong this summer with 64 swimmers coached by Sean and Jessica Picarazzi at the Community Aquatic and Skate Park. Twenty-seven team members qualified for the regional meet in Victoria July 14-15 and five qualified for the state meet in Corpus Christi July 26 – 29. Sharks Nick Lewis, Jayden Longino, Kellie Lopez, Brittany Martinez, and Lindsay McKinney will represent the team at the state competition. Congratulations to the Sharks and Coaches Sean and Jessica for a successful year!

Shop Rockport—  
Keep your retail sales  
taxes working at home

# Rockport City Council

Mayor

Ward 1

Ward 2

Ward 3

Ward 4



C.J. Wax



William Fisher



J.D. Villa



Paul Lippeke



Adelaide Marlatt

## Rockport IS Going Greener

A story in the July 2011 newsletter noted that Allied Waste, the City's contracted garbage collector, had upgraded its Corpus Christi facilities to include a special recycling sorter. As a result, residents were able to recycle more of their household waste, including newspaper inserts; typing, writing and computer paper; discarded mail flyers; magazines and catalogs; and cardboard and paperboard.

We asked the company to provide a report of recycling volume ... and the figures are amazing.

There was a 63% increase of volume over 2010. In terms of pounds per capita, it went from 20.1 in 2010 to 31.9 in 2011.

If you are interested in having an additional recycling bin, the one time cost is \$12.50. Please call 729-2213, ext. 234 to check for availability before coming to City Hall.



## In the News

*The Government Finance Officers Association presented the City's Finance Department with its Distinguished Budget Award. This marks the 11th consecutive year the City has received this honor. The award reflects the commitment of a governing body and its staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.*

*Jo Ann Duncan, an employee in the Public Safety Center, was presented with the Silent Hero Award by the Texas Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association. She was recognized for outstanding job performance, exemplary attitude, and devotion above and beyond the call of duty.*

## 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 "Who Do I Call" or "Fix It" sections on the City's web site ([www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)) or call City Hall at 729-2213.



622 E. Market Street  
 Rockport, Texas 78382  
 Phone: (361)729-2213  
[www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)