

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## How the City Works

There are over 123 full-time 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 protecting and enhancing the welfare of our citizens and visitors. In this continuing series, we'll visit with different employees to get a better understanding of their contributions to the City.

In this issue, we focus on some of the activities of the Street and Drainage Department. With eight full time employees, this division is responsible for the maintenance of City buildings and all streets, signs (including 485 stop signs and 970 street name signs), drainage and right of ways within City limits.

Thanks to an inhouse sign shop, which was established in 1999, they are also able to install new signs and replace damaged or missing ones more quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively.

The Department maintains over 80 miles of paved roadway and right-of-ways. Duties include sweeping 66 curb miles of streets, road repairs, pothole patching, debris removal, limb and shrub trimming, and mowing and weed control maintenance of 24 miles of drainage ditch slopes and 118 curb miles of right-of-way. Their work is often invisible and under-appreciated ... until one drives the streets in other Texas cities.

They also install residential culverts, repair storm sewer pipe,



*Street Crew Leader Ryan Picarazzi uses a vactor to clean out a*

ditch. They also install inlet boxes, re-grade ditches and clean culvert pipe to insure proper drainage throughout the city. Their installation of Christmas Decorations on light poles throughout the city also adds to the magic of the holiday season.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Rockport Glory

*The City recently received an anonymous donation of a metal sculpture by noted artist Nic Noblique. Commissioned specifically for Rockport, "Rockport Glory" will be installed at the v-intersection of Highway 35 and Broadway/ Fulton Beach Road. Street Superintendent Reuben Garza is pictured with the artwork, which weighs more than a ton and is over 12' tall.*



*Robert Ramos installs a new high intensity, reflective stop sign.*

## How the City Works (continued)

All of this is accomplished with a battery of 16 vehicles to meet the varied duties of the department. They range from street sweepers, to herbicide tractors, backhoes, dump trucks, mowers, vactors, bucket trucks and more.



*Matt Grimes (working back hoe) and Frank Allenger pick up debris after a recent street cleaning*

As if their workload weren't heavy enough, they must also contend with illegal and negligent situations throughout the city. This includes removing litter-clogged culverts and pipes, as well as picking up dumped mattresses and other debris, which must then be taken to the transfer station, incurring additional charges for the City and its residents.



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

## City Reduces Debt Service

In the last quarter of 2012, the City refunded (i.e. refinanced) over \$6 million of its Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation. The interest rate of 4.266% was refinanced with a new interest rate of 1.978%. Over the next 13 years, the city will realize an average debt service savings of more than \$47,000 annually and a total savings of \$598,090.

## Utility Bill Payment Options

The City offers a variety of options to make payment convenient:

**By Mail.** A preprinted return envelope is included with your utility bill.

**In Person.** City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Checks and cash are accepted.

**Drop Off.** There is a depository area on the east side of City Hall. Payments may be dropped off 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.

**Online Banking.** Payments can be made through your online banking service. When doing this for the first time, please allow a minimum of two weeks for the payment service to be set up and processed by your financial institution.

**Bank Drafts.** Monthly utility payments can be automatically withdrawn from your savings or checking account. To set up this service, please fill out and send the draft approval form, which can be found on the City's web site.

**Credit Cards.** The City uses an outside vendor for credit card payments. There is a \$4.95 pass-through, service charge for paying by credit card. You may either pay online at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or pay by phone 1-800-272-9829 and select Option 3. When using either method, you will be asked for a jurisdiction code (6392). When making your payment, please designate "utility".

## Mandatory Water Restrictions are in Effect!

- No irrigating between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Commercial and multifamily water on Tuesday & Friday.
- Residences with odd-numbered addresses water on Wednesday & Saturday.
- Residences with even-numbered addresses water on Thursday & Sunday.
- No run-off allowed.



## Holiday Happenings



(Top Left) The Live Oak second grade choir performs at Tropical Christmas. (Above) Illuminated floats grace the Rockport Heritage District during the evening parade. (Top Right) Mayor C.J. Wax presents a certificate to Maddy Crabb, winner of the art contest. (Left) Officer Jeremy Stewart assists the Valadez family with Christmas shopping, much to the delight of the children, as part of the annual “Blue Santa” program. The Rockport Police Department teamed up with the Aransas County Sheriff’s Office to provide a special Christmas for 50 area families.

## City Receives “Tree City USA” Award; Celebrates Wilderness Trail Opening

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Arbor Day Foundation has named the City of Rockport a “Tree City USA® Community”. Texas State Forester Paul Johnson presented the award to Mayor C.J. Wax in a special ceremony at Memorial Park on October 25, 2012.

The Tree City USA® program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Rockport is one of 78 communities to have been recognized within Texas. To qualify, a town or city must meet the four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

Johnson and Mayor Wax were joined by representatives of City Council, the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Committee, City Manager, and Parks & Leisure staff in planting a Desert Willow and Montezuma Cypress, also known as a Tule Tree, along the banks of the Memorial Park Lake. Earlier, an additional six trees were planted throughout the park.

After the planting, attendees participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the opening of the new Wilderness Edge Nature Trail built by Parks staff. The new half-mile, mulch surface trail winds through natural habitat and provides access to two lakes located within the 100 acre park.



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Keep your retail sales taxes  
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# Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



William Fisher

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Paul Lippke

Ward 4



Adelaide Marlatt

## In The News

- ◆ Patty Howard, Director of Finance, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers association. This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the City's Finance Department has been recognized with this prestigious award.
- ◆ At its annual meeting in November, the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation presented its President's Award to the City for its effort in reducing nitrogen loading from the wastewater treatment plant through the installation of an anoxic tank system.
- ◆ The City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton will be featured in a special segment on "Today in America," a national television show starring Terry Bradshaw. A film crew was on location in late November taping interviews and filming areas of interest. The show is expected to air in the spring.
- ◆ Thanks to persistence and incredible patience, the long-awaited Tule Hike and Bike Trail was officially opened in December. Jokingly called a two century project by Former Mayor Glenda Burdick, the 1.08 mile long trail opened without a hitch in early December. The trail begins at the parking lot just off Business Hwy. 35 North (at the north WalMart entrance) and winds through wooded acreage to Enterprise Blvd. Dignitaries attending the event included Burdick, Former Mayor Todd Pearson; District 30 State Rep. Geanie Morrison; TxDOT officials William Reitmann, Jason Alvarez, and David Chapa; and project engineer Ed Addicks.



## 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



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

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.