

Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

How the City Works

There are over 123 full-time individuals employed by the City and 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 and departments to get a better understanding of their contributions to the City.

This issue focuses on some of the activities associated with building review, permitting and inspections, three valuable and under-appreciated services.

Valdez Named City Secretary

Following an extensive search to fill the recently vacated position of City Secretary, City Council hired Teresa Valdez. For the past 15 years, Valdez has served as City Secretary for Bastrop, Texas, which has a population comparable to Rockport's. Previously, she was the executive assistant to the Bastrop City Manager.



They are not only stewards of approved codes and standards, but also the source of safety for all construction and building projects.

The Building and Development Department issues four different types of permits – electrical, plumbing, mechanical and building – all of which are available at the Rockport Service Center. While minor home repairs may require only one or two permits, major renovation and new construction will need them all.

Prior to undertaking any major work, plans must be reviewed for adherence to building codes,



Building and Development Director Mike Henry reviews building plans for code adherence.

energy efficiency codes, flood plain ordinances and other safety factors. The documentation is found in seven building code documents, including the 900-page International Residential Code book, which are updated every three years.



Licensed City Inspector Gary Payne inspects plumbing apparatus at the La Quinta construction site.

In announcing the decision, Mayor C.J. Wax noted, "The Council was in complete agreement to hire Teresa. She has incredible experience in city government and will be a true asset to Council, staff and residents."

Valdez is a Texas Certified Municipal Clerk and a certified International Institute Municipal Clerk. Valdez has extensive training in multiple areas of city government, including safety, risk management, emergency operations, housing and legislation. She began working for Rockport on April 22.

How the City Works (continued)



Mary Bellinger (standing) and Angie West oversee the extensive paperwork associated with permitting and inspections.

Construction begins once the plans are approved and is followed by a series of inspections over the course of construction. These include rough plumbing; foundation; framing; plumbing top-out; electrical, mechanical and gas line rough; and final inspections of all these categories before the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.



It's not unusual for the inspector to visit a site more than a dozen times throughout the construction process. Inspection requests may be called in 24/7. Requests received by 9 am on a business day will usually have their inspections done that day.

Visit us on the Web
@ www.cityofrockport.com

At Your Service



The City's new Public Service Center Complex, located on 9.081 acres on the west side of the Bypass between Pearl St./FM2165 and Market St./FM 1069, is now open for business.

Designed as a one-stop center for residents, developers and builders, the complex houses the City's Public Works and Building and Development Departments, which are responsible for water, wastewater, natural gas, permits/inspections, code enforcement and environmental services. Encompassing more than 18,000 square feet of space, the building was financed through a 2009 Certificate of Obligation.

According to Public Works Director Billy Dick, the building is not only a service center, but also a showcase of best management practices. "We're leading by example," he noted. "The Center incorporates natural landscaping, energy efficiency and state-of-the art technology."



Applications for the 5th Annual "Rockport in Bloom!" contest are available through May 12th at City Hall or online at www.keeperockportbeautiful.com.

The popular Rockport in Bloom! event, which is sponsored by the Keep Rockport Beautiful Advisory Board, is one of many efforts dedicated to city improvement and beautification. Judging will be held the week of May 13th. Awards ceremony will be held at City Hall on May 21st.

Nominations can be self-made OR you may nominate a deserving individual or organization. All eligible participants will have "Rockport in Bloom Nominee" signs to post in their yards.

Categories are parks, churches, schools, businesses – containers, businesses – grounds, residential – shrubs and flowering plants, and residential – water wise.

Drought Contingency Plan

As noted in your March utility bill, any municipal water customers not following the mandatory guidelines for water restrictions will be issued a citation. Condition II of the drought contingency plan was implemented on December 6, 2012, in response to contract requirements from its supplier and the drought-induced reduction of the water supply.

Property owners using water wells, wastewater treatment plant effluent, or gray water for irrigation are exempt from the restrictions; however, the ordinance does require those users to post a sign stating the water used for irrigation is from a private well, wastewater treatment plant effluent, gray water or source other than the City's water supply. It is a separate violation to display a sign which falsely claims the water used to be from another source. The City is also encouraging these property owners to implement voluntary measures as the drought may affect their water resources, as well.

Please note that there are no restrictions on the use of household water, i.e. drinking, laundry, bathing and showering, etc. Except for commercial nursery stock or the establishment of newly planted material, the following conditions are currently in effect.

- All irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Allowing water to run off into the street or gutter is prohibited.
- Commercial and multifamily customers may only water outdoors on Tuesday and/or Friday.
- Residential customers with odd-numbered addresses may only water on Wednesday and/or Saturday.
- Residential customers with even-numbered addresses may only water on Thursday and/or Sunday.

The City implemented Condition II in response to the combined lake storage of its water supply dropping to 40 percent. The combined levels of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon are currently 35.1 percent, which is **2.2% less** than when the new program was announced in early March. If the levels continue to diminish, the next restriction would only allow watering once a week.

The City of Rockport will continue to monitor lake levels and, if needed, will implement Condition III of its drought contingency plan. Customers with questions are encouraged to contact the Public Works Department at (361) 790-1160.

Change Your Water Ways

- Turn off all water in the house, then check the flow indicator on your water meter. If it's moving, you could have a water leak.
- Take shorter showers or take a bath in a partially filled tub.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth or shave.
- Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.
- If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.
- Water during the cooler time of the day, i.e. before 10:00 am and after 7:00pm.
- Don't water the gutter or sidewalk.
- Landscape your yard using xeriscape principles.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to sweep driveways and sidewalks.
- Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Even a leak as small as 1/16" can waste 25,000 gallons a month.

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Keep your retail sales taxes
working at home

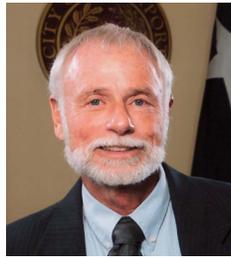
Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



William Fisher

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Paul Lippke

Ward 4



Adelaide Marlatt

Whooping Crane Strut Celebrates 25th Anniversary

More than 200 runners, walkers, family members and volunteers participated in the 25th Annual Whooping Crane Strut, which was held on March 9th. A new route, incorporating Memorial Park and the Tule Hike and Bike Trail, was designed for this milestone event.

Top Male and Female Winners were 8K Run – Trevor Crawford and Jennifer Schoonover, 5K Run – Edward Ortiz and Brittany Culberth, and 2 Mile Walk – Richard Pifer and Marcia Rhone.

“We had a wide array of participants,” remarked Tom Staley, organizer of the event and director of the City’s Parks and Leisure Services Department. “More than 50 % of the participants came from outside our immediate area and the ages ranged from 5 to 70+.”



Photo courtesy of Drew Jacobs

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.

ELECTION REMINDER

Election for Ward 3 city council representative is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th at City Hall. Registered voters in Rockport may cast early votes by visiting City Hall between April 29th and May 3rd from 8 am – 5 pm. Extended early voting will be offered from 7 – 7 on May 6th and 7th.



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