

Rockport Transcript

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Keep Fit this Winter

No matter what your fitness level, the general benefits of swimming are widely recognized and available to residents throughout the year. The Community Aquatic and Skate Park, which offers a heated swimming pool and heated towel racks, is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 pm.

Among the benefits of swimming are:

- Provides a full body workout.** Exercising in water makes your body work harder than similar activity on land.
- Lowers the risk of diseases.** As well as being a great form of cardiovascular exercise, swim-

ming just 30 minutes a week can help to guard against heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

- Increases your energy levels.** Just 30 minutes of swimming three times per week can boost your energy levels through increased metabolic rate.
- De-stresses and relaxes.** Swimming regularly can lower stress levels, reduce anxiety and depression, and improve your sleep patterns. Feeling the mental benefits of swimming takes just a light swim.



In addition to individualized lap swim and water walking, the pool offers various levels of water aerobics and stroke development and conditioning classes. For additional information, visit the City's web site or call (361) 727-9989.

Source: Swimming.org

Rockport General Election will be held on May 6, 2017

The positions of Council Member Ward #1 and Council Member Ward #3 will be voted on at the General Election for two year terms.

Individuals currently holding these positions are:

Ward 1—Rusty Day

Ward 3—Patrick Rios

Qualifications for office include

that the candidate be at least 18 years old, be a qualified voter of the City, and live within the city and ward for at least 12 months prior to Election Day.

The first day to file for a place on the ballot for City Council is January 18, 2017, and the last day to file is February 17, 2017 by 5 p.m. The first day of early voting by personal appearance is April 24. The last day of early voting by personal appearance is May 2,

and Election Day is May 6, 2017. Potential candidates are encouraged to contact City Secretary Teresa Valdez at (361) 729-2213, ext. 225, for additional information.

Didja' Know?

The Mayor receives a stipend of \$3,072 per year and Council Members receive an annual stipend of \$1,200. There is a vehicle allowance for each person of \$100 per month.

30 Trees Added to Tule Hike & Bike Trail



As part of its ongoing commitment to beautification and in honor of Arbor Day, the Parks and Leisure Services Department has planted 30, 8-10 foot crape myrtle trees along a half mile

section of the Tule Hike & Bike Trail near the Community Aquatic and Skate Park. The department had already planted 10 crape myrtle trees earlier in the year.

According to Parks Director Rick Martinez, the trees were selected for their hardiness, quick growth and blossoms. "Not only will they provide a gorgeous vista as walkers and bicyclists traverse the one mile trail, they will also add some much-needed shade on this part of the route," he noted.

Every November, the city observes Arbor Day with a major planting of

trees. Rockport's active efforts and participation in this national observance has also qualified it as a Tree City USA Community.

There are over 3,400 national communities and 85 Texas communities recognized by this organization that meet standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Rockport, which has been recognized for 17 years, is the only community in the Coastal Bend to have achieved this award.

Blue Santa Program Serves 140+ Children



The Rockport Police Department, along with other area law enforcement agencies, gathered at Walmart before Christmas for Operation BLUE SANTA. Operation BLUE SANTA allows for economically disadvantaged children to "shop with a cop" and purchase holiday gifts for themselves, family members and special people in their lives. The program came to Rockport in 2007 and has become a highlight for local officers.

New Restrooms Open at Memorial Park

A new, state-of-the-art restroom facility has opened in Memorial Park. The facility replaced a 40-year-old unit that had been experiencing major plumbing issues and was not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The facility had been closed because of plumbing problems since July, 2016.

The new facility, which was purchased through CXT, Inc. and manufactured in Texas, is a pre-plumbed, pre-wired, concrete building that can withstand winds up to 150 mph and meets ADA requirements. For improved aesthetics and to minimize long-term maintenance, the walls and roof utilize stamped, colored concrete to simulate stone and barn wood

siding and cedar shake roof shingles.

The unit increases the capacity of both male and female sides by 50 percent with three toilet fixtures each, add a second handwashing sink on each side, and also includes automated hand dryers, energy efficient LED lighting, a water fountain, and vandal-resistant fixtures. The unit was delivered ready for service and even include toilet paper on the rolls.

Demolition of the old unit was undertaken by employees of the City's Parks and Leisure Services Department, Streets Department, and Utilities Department. Site and utilities work, which were handled by outside contractors, took ap-



proximately six weeks.

The Parks Department reutilized part of the slab from the old facility and in the next few months will add a shelter and benches and tables.

The cost of the unit is \$170,000, with funding provided through a 2015 Certificate of Obligation.

Police Department Receives Accolade



The Rockport Police Department has been recognized by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Foundation (TPCA) for compliance with the Texas Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Recognition Program. The Law Enforcement Recognition Pro-

gram is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 164 Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices.

"The Rockport Police Department is to be commended for the commitment made to this process," noted Chief Scott D. Rubin, chairman of the TPCA Recognition Program Committee. "Every employee of the agency can be proud of this accomplishment."

These Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service, the reduc-

tion of risk and the protection of individual's rights. An agency that has been awarded "Recognized" status has undertaken a careful internal review of its policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and operations.

According to Police Chief Tim Jayroe, the department worked on the recognition process for two years and involved the entire department.

Since its inception in 2006, approximately 130 out of 2,647 Texas law enforcement agencies have received this recognition.

Rockport City Council

Mayor



C.J. Wax

Ward 1



Rusty Day

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Pat Rios

Ward 4



Barbara Gurtner

Mark Your Calendar—29th Annual Whooping Crane Strut

Lace up your running or walking shoes and join us on Saturday, March 11th for the 29th Annual Whooping Crane Strut. This “chip-timed” event offers a 5K and 10K Run, as well as a 2 Mile Walk. The race course will be on the Memorial Park and Tule Hike & Bike Trails.

Awards will be presented to the overall male and female winners of each event, a Masters and Grand Masters Category, and awards to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

finishers in their respective age categories for each event. Those registering prior to race day are also guaranteed an event T-shirt.

Entry fees are \$25 in advance, and \$30 on race day. Also, groups of six or more will receive a 10% discount. Five dollars from every paid registration will be donated to the Water for Wildlife Fund, managed by the Friends of Aransas & Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge. Funds are used to provide fresh water for

the whooping cranes and other wildlife at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Volunteers are also needed to assist at drink stations and to serve as race marshals. Volunteers receive an event T-shirt, and will also be eligible for the door prize drawings following the awards presentation.

Additional information and registration forms are available on the City's web site or by calling (361) 790-1136.

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

After-Hours

729-1111

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 (361) 729-2213.



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