

Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

City Appoints Interim Police Chief

City Manager Kevin Carruth announced the hiring of Fred Fletcher as Interim Police Chief effective November 30. A 23-year law enforcement veteran, Fletcher is stepping in for retiring Police Chief Tim Jayroe. Recruiting for a full time Police Chief is expected to be completed by early 2019.

A law enforcement and public safety consultant, Fletcher retired from his duty as Chief of Police for Chattanooga, TN in 2017. Reporting directly to the Mayor in a Mayor-City Council government, he was responsible for five assistant chiefs, eight captains, 19 lieu-

tenants, 486 law enforcement officers, and an additional 100 employees. He was also responsible for the administration of one of the state's Police Training Academies.

"It is fortuitous that Fred was available to step in as we work through a transition process," noted City Manager Kevin Carruth. "He brings invaluable experience and insight to Rockport not only as a 'big city' police officer, but also in communities that have a large influx of tourists." Jayroe will serve in an advisory capacity through early 2019.



Fletcher was previously associated with the City of Austin's (TX) Police Department for 20 years. He started as a patrol officer in 1994 and rose through the ranks to Commander, Region III, where he provided leadership for 260

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Office Relocations

Due to hurricane damage to City Hall, these offices have moved to new locations:

City Manager

City Secretary

Finance

Human Resources

Office of the Mayor

Rockport Service Center, 2751 SH Hwy 35 Bypass (on the west side of the access road between Pearl and Market Streets)

Municipal Court

Parks Department

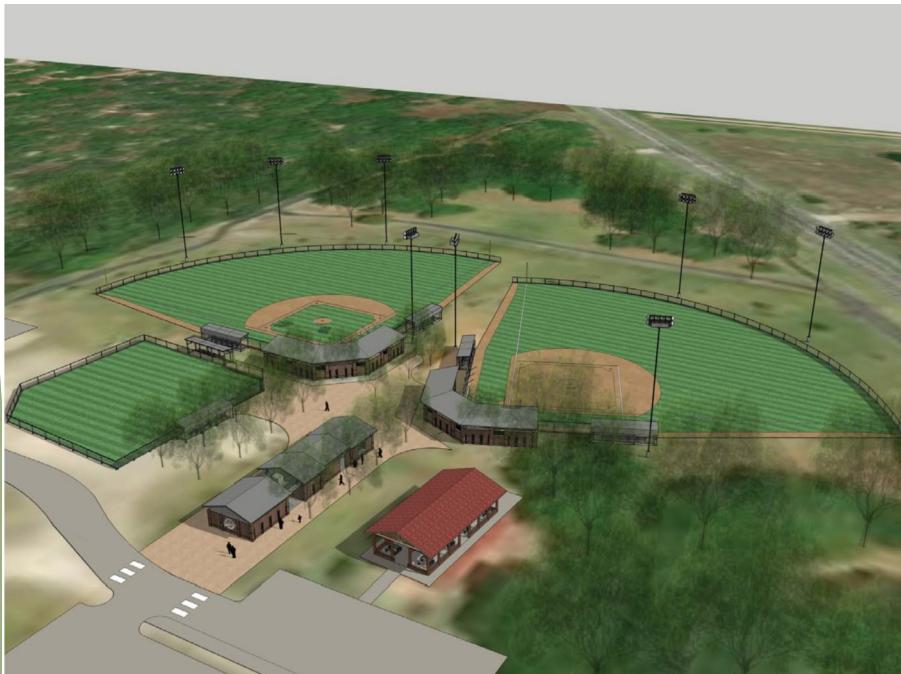
Utility Customer Service

Former Service Center, 402 E. Laurel Street (corner of Laurel and Gagon Streets)



Officers Brian Cantu and Rachel Olenick were presented Life Saving Commendation bars by Commander Larry Sinclair, Mayor Rios and former Police Chief Tim Jayroe for their heroic efforts. The officers responded to a medical emergency dispatch and performed life saving efforts and stabilization until an ambulance arrived. Officer Cantu was also recognized for first aid efforts to a boating accident victim, which prevented the potential loss of a limb or death from blood loss.

Memorial Park Ball Fields Nearing Completion



Architectural rendering of completed Phase 2. Additional renderings are available on the City's web site.

Last year we told you about the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, businesses, non-profit organizations and concerned non-residents, like Charlie Robison and the Sid Richardson Foundation of Fort Worth, who pulled off a herculean feat to rebuild three ball fields in Memorial Park in time for the opening of the Little League season.

Under the direction of Bee Croft Construction and City Parks Director Rick Martinez, the Foundation's commitment expanded to a second phase, now under construction, that includes restroom facilities; back stops; a concession and storage building and bleach-

ers; and relocating the T-ball field. The Rockport-Fulton Little League will purchase a scoreboard, which will be installed by the Parks Department.

For those who are unaware, namesake Sid Richardson was a long-time resident of the area, having set up a home and business operation on San Jose Island in 1936. Since that time, he and later his nephew and grand nephews, the Bass Family, and the Richardson Foundation have donated millions of dollars to worthy causes in Rockport and Aransas County, including the restoration and maintenance of Cedar Bayou.

Election Filing

The timeframe to file for a place on the ballot for the City's May election is from January 16—February 15, 2019. The available positions are for Ward 1, currently held by Rusty Day, and Ward 3, to which Warren Hassinger was appointed upon the vacancy with Pat Rios' election to Mayor. The candidate application and packet will be available the middle of January through the City Secretary's office.

Police Chief

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sworn personnel, including patrol, investigative, undercover street crimes, and community policing units.

Before starting his career in law enforcement, Fletcher was an auditor with KPMG, one of the largest certified public accounting firms in the world. He earned a BBA in accounting from the University of Texas and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. He has received significant awards and community recognition throughout his career.

2019 Calendar of Garbage and Recycling Pickup dates is available on the City's web-site.

What's Going Down Your Sink?

Did you know that pouring fats, oil and grease down your kitchen sink can cause expensive sewer back-ups, and plumbing emergencies? 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 your home, 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 pouring 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.
- Pour cooking oil, pan drip-pings, 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

Tidbits

City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 21 for in-service training.

Save the Date—March 9th - for the **31st Annual Whooping Crane Strut**, which will be held at Rockport Beach Park.

And, speaking of the **website**, the City will unveil a new state-of-the art site on January 29 that is more user and mobile friendly. When the site was updated five years ago, the City negotiated for a free, redesign four years later. Because of the hurricane, the project was delayed until now.

The **Comprehensive Plan Overview** committee held a well-attended public meeting in November. An additional public meeting will be held in the Spring. Check the web site and news sources for the dates.

There will be a \$0.02 per 1,000 gallon increase in water rates. This is a **pass-through rate increase** from our water supplier that will appear on the March bill.



**Shop Rockport—
Keep your retail
sales taxes working
at home**

Rockport City Council

Mayor



Pat Rios

Ward 1



Rusty Day

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Warren Hassinger

Ward 4



Barbara Gurtner

Remember — you can pay your utility and municipal court bills online through the City's website.

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Who Do I Call If ...

Illegal Dumping in Progress

729-1111

Illegal Dumping After the Fact

790-1125

Emergency

911

Non-Emergency Public Safety

729-1111

Utility Bill/Trash Questions/Concerns

729-2213 x 234

Street Issues and Repairs

790-1160

Sewer, Water and Gas Issues

790-1160

After-Hours

729-1111

City Administrative Offices

729-2213 x 221

Building and Development Dept.

790-1125

Long Term Recovery

790-9496



2751 State Hwy 35 Bypass

Rockport, Texas 78382

Phone: (361) 729-2213

www.cityofrockport.com

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.