

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## There's a New Chief in Town



*Police Chief Gregory Stevens (seated center) is introduced at a media event on June 20.*

Please join us in welcoming Gregory Stevens as our new Chief of Police. While the City received over 63 applications, Stevens was the unanimous choice for the position as Chief of Police.

Chief Stevens has more than 30 years of combined experience in civilian and military law enforcement. He retired from his position as Lubbock Chief of Police on May 31, where he led a department

consisting of 585 employees.

Born and raised in Amarillo, Chief Stevens rose through the ranks of the Lubbock Police Department. Starting as an evening patrol officer, he has

worked in the narcotics division, field training, public information,

SWAT, internal affairs and special operations. He was appointed Assistant Police Chief in 2014 and promoted to Chief in 2015.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Wayland Baptist University, an MBA from Texas Tech University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. In addition to his exemplary public safety career, Chief Stevens has also served 25 years in

the U.S. military first as an "Air Force Security Police K9 handler and then as a Navy intelligence officer.

Chief Stevens decision to make the move from a major city to a smaller community wasn't made lightly. "It was getting to the point where I was no longer enjoying the aspects of law enforcement that had drawn me in the first place – community engagement, hands-on involvement and camaraderie," he said. "I could have retired from police work completely, but I wasn't ready to settle down or tackle a new industry.

"The timing of the opening was uncanny as my wife and I had always planned to retire to the Texas Coastal Bend area," he stated. "Now I'll be able to continue what I love doing in a place I've always wanted to be."

## Hurricane News—Recovery and Preparation



Hurricane season is upon us and the big question is – Are you Prepared? The City offers a comprehensive overview of planning, preparation and evacuation guides; evacuation routes; links to the National Hurricane Center; and more. It's important to note that any Evacuation

Notice issued by the Emergency Operations Center is **mandatory**. Because of our location on a peninsula and the possibility of storm surge on three sides, there are no shelters established for those who do not comply with the order.

If you're still in need of assistance from Hurricane Harvey, there is also a direct link to area resources, approved contractors, and long-term recovery initiatives. This may be accessed by going to the "About" tab on the web site or clicking on the Rockport Rising logo in the Spotlight section.

# Only Rain...

YOU can help  
prevent  
Storm Water  
Pollution



## In the Drain

*Washing your vehicle in the driveway, overuse of fertilizer and pesticides, leaving grass clippings in the street, overwatering, and malfunctioning watering systems are all culprits when it comes to polluting our waterways. Anything running from our yards to the streets enters the drains, which, in turn, goes directly to the bay.*

*Grass clippings, detergent, fertilizer, and tree leaves all contain phosphorus, which contributes to algae growth. Not only does it turn waterways green, it also reduces water clarity, crowds out other plants, and diminishes oxygen available for fish. The result is distasteful and unsightly water that is bad for fish, wildlife, and humans.*

*Discharging grass clippings into the street is also a Class C misdemeanor. Besides being unsightly, it ultimately clogs drains and contributes to the growth of damaging vegetation in the roadway.*

*A little bit of care and maintenance by each of us can go a long way in enhancing our pleasure of Little Bay, preserving the delicate ecosystem, our neighborhoods looking nicer, and helping to keep your taxes as low as possible.*

## Utility Lines and Easements



The installation of fiber optics taking place in our community has a lot of people asking, "Why are they digging up my yard without permission?"

The basic answer is that utility easements are placed on the property when it was first platted to provide for the connection of

electricity, telephone, cable, sewer and water. The easements are identified on the plat. In some cases, property owners may not realize an easement is part of their property.

Easements allow utility companies to keep costs down by significantly reducing the amount of

raw materials needed to provide service to the community. This helps keep costs significantly lower for the utility and its customers.

Additionally, if you contract with a utility for their service, you must provide unimpeded access to the meter. One shouldn't put them

Visit us on the Web  
@ [www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)

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**FREE Concert—Friday, August 30**  
The Spazmatics kick off the Little Bay Labor Day Music Festival. For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/rockport-beach/2nd-annual-little-bay-labor-day-music-festival/544950992647743/>



*Sponsored by the City of Rockport*

## Crime and Rockport

Earlier this year, the City and the Rockport Police Department posted a survey on the web site offering residents the opportunity to provide input on their personal concerns and priorities about crime and safety.

When asked to choose three top crime priorities out of 16 categories, the top responses were drug crimes (72%), burglary of residences and businesses (70.4%) and burglary of vehicles (33.6%). The top response in the “Other” category was theft from boats.

Most striking response was that over 72% of the participants felt that crime was increasing in Rockport. However, recent figures show that there were 841 reported crimes in 2016 compared to 626 in 2018.

The final question in the survey asked if there were any additional comments the respondent would like to make. Approximately 50 issues were shared with the majority focusing on drugs and thefts. There were supportive remarks, as well as sharing of personal observations involving lack of community involvement, little or no presence in neighborhoods and on the streets, no follow through and

attitude. Information from the survey was shared with incoming Police Chief Greg Stevens, who noted that he’d be meeting with staff to discuss these concerns and how we can address them. “We’ll also be implementing some new policies and initiatives with a heavy focus on community-oriented policing that should result in significant changes,” he stated.

To better understand the situation in Rockport, we encourage you to visit the “Crime Reports” section on the City’s web site. It can be easily accessed through the “About Tab” or by going to the “Helpful Links” at the bottom of the home page. You’ll be able to find information related to neighborhoods and types of crimes within user-defined time frames.

We also encourage residents to use of the many citizen-related reporting programs offered for non-emergencies including the Police Department’s See & Send application, which is explained on the City’s web site; Aransas County Crime Stoppers P3Tips; and, of course, by calling Dispatch at 361-729-1111 if you are witness to a crime or see something suspicious.

## Utility Lines

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behind a locked fence or install plantings that would hinder accurate readings.

Any time underground lines are damaged, vital services and everyday conveniences can become disconnected, not only to your home but to entire neighborhoods and, sometimes, whole communities. Don’t risk harming yourself, your family or your neighbors.

That’s why we remind you to “Call Before You Dig.” Call the 811 number at least 48 hours (two working days) before you plan to start your work. They will notify underground utility providers, who will send professional locators out to mark the approximate location of their utility lines.

(Editor’s Note: If you are having an issue with the current AT&T fiber optic installation, please call the Construction Help Desk at 281-374-3725. For emergencies, the number is 800-246-8464.)



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



## Rockport City Council

Mayor



Pat Rios

Ward 1



Michael Saski

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Bob Cunningham

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](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 (361) 729-2213.