

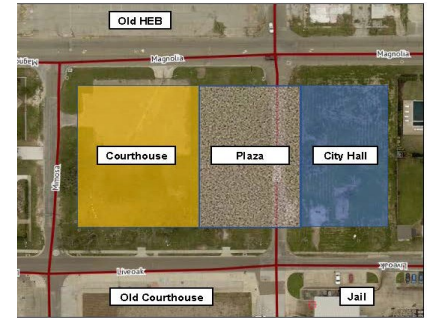
Fall
2019

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Rockport Transcript

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End of an Era ... and Foundation for the Future



Almost two years to the date that the evacuation order for Hurricane Harvey was lifted, the former City Hall on Market Street was razed. Constructed in 1983, the 13,000-square-foot building housed City Council chambers; the offices of the Mayor, City Manager and City Secretary; Municipal Court; Finance; and Utility Customer Service and Billing until August 24, 2017.

Following the hurricane, the offices of the Mayor, City Manager, and City Secretary, as well as the Finance Department, took up residence at the Rockport Service Center. City Council meetings are held in the multi-purpose room at the facility. Municipal Court and Utility Customer Service and Billing relocated to the City's former service center, located at 402 E. Laurel. The Park's Department, which had officed in the Bay Education Center, also relocated to the former service center because of widespread damage.

The City is now working, in conjunction with Aransas County, on a development called the Downtown Anchor Project on vacant land adjacent to the former County Courthouse. It will consist of a 28,000 square foot City Hall building, a separate 55,000 square foot County Courthouse, and an expansive, park-like common area. In July, the entities selected PGAL Architects, an international design firm, following an extensive Request for Qualification process that included review of entries, presentations, grading process and joint meetings.

Financing for the Downtown Anchor Project will come from insurance, FEMA payments, grants, and other federal and state funding sources. A tentative timeline calls for the hiring of a Construction Manager Agent by the end of the year. The City and the County will have separate contracts with involved parties.

Trash Talk

Fall yard debris collection starts November 6. If your scheduled trash day is Monday or Tuesday, it will be picked up on Wednesday. If your scheduled day is Wednesday or Friday, it will be picked up on Saturday. You may place up to 12 bags of grass clippings; leaves; thatch; tree trimmings (limbs less than 4" in diameter); and garden waste, including plants, flowers, landscape vegetation, windfall fruit and brush weekly. Waste bags should be no greater than 35 gallons.

Confused about what to recycle?

The City's web site offers a complete list of recyclable items and instructional videos.

Waste and Recycling pick up calendars for 2020 will be available on the City's web site in late December.

There will be **no fee increases** for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Memorial Park Expands Amenities

As the City's largest recreational facility, Memorial Park has been a go-to destination for a vast array of activities – soccer, baseball, hiking, and birding. Additionally, the basketball courts, dog park and children's play area have provided opportunities for fun and exercise.

Right after the hurricane, the Sid Richardson Foundation and other organizations spearheaded efforts to get the ball fields in shape before the start of Little League season. The Foundation's commitment expanded to a second phase that included restroom facilities; back stops; a concession and storage building and bleachers; and

relocating the T-ball field. Lighting, landscaping, scoreboards and enhanced parking have resulted in a first-class facility.

The Rebuild Texas Foundation funded Phase 3 making it possible for all the fields to have grandstand seating.

Through the generosity of the Arbor Day Foundation and Texas A&M Forest Service, three, 30-gallon trees were planted in the ball field area in August. An additional 80, 15-gallon trees will be installed throughout the park.



The Parks Department has been busy installing a Fitness Court, funded by a grant from the National Fitness Campaign and Rebuild Texas, near the trails on the northwest side of the facility.

(Continued on Page 3)



Memorial Park

(continued from page 2)



When completed, the Fitness Court will include a variety of stations for outdoor workouts.

Nearby, a site is being readied for the relocation of the Skate Park from the Community Aquatic Center. The Parks and Leisure Services Board will be interviewing users as to how the new facility should be configured for optimal challenge and enjoyment.

And, residents of all ages will soon be able to enjoy the Park's nine hole disc golf course. A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to an elevated target, which is the "hole." The trees, shrubs, and terrain changes located throughout the park provide challenging obstacles for the golfer, without interfering with other recreational activities. Installation and materials were funded by BATA-DGA, Inc. and corporate sponsors.



Hurricane Assistance Still Available

The Texas General Land Office administers multiple Hurricane Harvey recovery programs, providing support and funding for local governments, as well as individuals in need of assistance. The GLO has offices in Rockport for their Homeowner Assistance Program and Homeowner Reimbursement Program, which can help homeowners recover up to \$50,000 in out-of-pocket expenses for home repairs due to Hurricane Harvey. For more information on the programs and Rockport locations, visit <https://recovery.texas.gov/individuals/programs/index.html>.

Additional services are also available through the Hands of Hope volunteer program, Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group, and a cooperative effort of recovery agencies. For more information, contact the Long Term Recovery office at 790-9496 during business hours Monday-Friday.

Save the Date - Dec. 7

Tropical Christmas, sponsored by Reliant, is a day-long extravaganza kicking off the holiday season with fun, festivities, fireworks and more in the Rockport Cultural Arts District.

Among the featured events are an illuminated night parade, children's programs, live entertainment, specialty vendors, food trucks, a visit with "Tropical Santa," and real snow and sledding opportunities for kids. Topping off the annual event will be a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor.

Didja' Know?

Dumping and abandonment of domestic animals is a State crime. If you see it happening, take a photo of the activity and the vehicle's license plate and send it to the Police Department through the See and Send app or bring it to the Public Safety Center.



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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



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 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.