

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## Happy Birthday to US!!

The Town of Rockport was founded in 1867 and chartered as a city by the Governor in 1870. It became a thriving ranching, meat packing and shipping port. In 1871, Aransas County was formed from a portion of Refugio County and Rockport, which was then chartered as a city, became the county seat.

The Spanish first explored the area in 1519 with documentation of Aransas and Copano Bays by Captain Alonso Alvarez de Pineda. The earliest known inhabitants, the Karankawa Indians, were acknowledged by explorer Cabeza de Vaca in 1528. The French tried to settle here in the 1720's, with overwhelming resistance from the Karankawa Indi-

ans. The notorious pirate Jean Lafitte built a fort nearby in the early 1800's.

After the war between Spain and Mexico, all of what is now Texas was claimed by Mexico. General Zachary Taylor's army camped here in 1845 during the Mexican War. A special park and arboretum, which includes the tree under which he camped, is named in his honor.

Those of us who make Rockport home are fully aware of the enviable qualities that define our way of life. We're blessed with a verdant peninsula, natural beauty, moderate climate, spectacular wildlife, and a warm, inviting populace. (continued on page 3)



*In July 1888, the first San Antonio and Aransas Pass railroad train arrived in Rockport. Four trains came every day from San Antonio. This shows the depot in about 1917.*



*The Del Mar Grill was a café on Austin Street that specialized in seafood. In 1957, the owners put this big blue crab on top of the building. The Grill closed in 1965 and the crab ended up in Veterans' Memorial Park by the harbor. It finally deteriorated and was taken down in 1976.*

*Photos and captions courtesy of Kam and Scott Wager*

## Didja' Know You Were Doing it Wrong?



### PLACARD INSTRUCTIONS

- Park vehicle in designated disabled parking space and hang placard from rearview mirror post with expiration date facing out. DO NOT DRIVE vehicle with placard hanging from mirror.

# Is Your Property Easy to Locate?

Imagine one foggy evening you are heading to dinner at a friend's house - someplace you've never been before. Your GPS has you on the right street, but you can't see any numbers on the house or mailbox as you're driving. After turning around, you finally see a number on the other side of the mailbox, but you're late.

Now, imagine you're an ambulance driver, police officer or firefighter encountering the same difficulties, but in a life or death situation. In these scenarios, being late can truly make a difference.



*Use large numbers, at least four inches tall, on both sides of your mailbox that are in a contrasting color and are highly visible.*

Reports from our ambulance service show that in those instances where the response time is longer than normal, the majority of the cases are due to lack of numbering or poor visibility. While you can't change the location of streetlights or density in your neighborhood, there are some tips to ensure that public safety providers can locate your residence in an emergency:



*Check your landscaping regularly to make sure that ant/mole hills or plants don't obscure the numbers.*

- If you have a mailbox at the curb, make sure the street number is located on both sides.
- If your numbers are on the house, make sure they are at least four inches tall and are painted in a contrasting color to your home.
- If you are using decorative numbers in your yard, ensure that they are visible from the road and are well-lit at night.
- Use stencils and paint your house number on the curb with reflective paint.



We now have four Facebook pages: Rockport, Texas – Charm of the Texas Coast; Memorial Park, Rockport Community Aquatics and Skatepark, and the Police Department. Like and follow us for the latest news, information and special events.

## Know Your Flood Risks

Due to our location as a coastal community, residents should understand the flood hazard and flood risk and how to protect themselves in the event of flooding, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

Flood hazard is not just related to flash flooding. Flood hazard refers to risk associated with mapped flood-prone areas, poor drainage, localized street flooding, storm tide, storm surge, and other related flood risk areas.

The City of Rockport has eleven major watersheds, each of which has areas that are subject to flooding from rising waters from the area bays, as well as localized street and yard flooding. Your property may never have flooded or may be shown on the FEMA maps to be outside the mapped limits of flooding. However, this is no guarantee your property will never flood.

Most areas of the City have yet to see the record 100-year flood event, which is a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. Statistics show that the 100-year storm event has approximately a 30% chance of occurring over a 30-year mortgage period.

For those living outside the 100-year floodplain, also referred to as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on FEMA's flood maps,

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## Sesquicentennial (continued from page 1)

*It's the residents themselves that make Rockport stand out from its neighbors ... friendliness, involvement and commitment to maintaining the unique charm that has been associated with our community.*

With that in mind, the Sesquicentennial Committee would like to recognize those individuals and businesses whose contributions have brought Rockport to where it is today and what it will be in the future. Nominations for "The Spirit of Rockport," "Oldest Living Resident," and "First Rockport Baby of 2020" can be made on the web site.

We encourage you to visit the Sesquicentennial section on the

City's web site for additional historical information and photographs. At this time, events that had been planned have either been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus.



*Jessee Pilgrim, Lisa Gordon and Mary Theisen, founders of the Aransas County PPE Sewing Group, were the first recipients of the "Spirit of Rockport" award. The volunteer group made and distributed more than 6,000 free masks to residents, businesses and medical facilities.*

## Mayoral Election

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, The City postponed the Mayoral election, which was scheduled for May 2, until November. Registered voters will make their selection of Keith W. Allen or Patrick Rios, the current Mayor.

Positions were also available for Wards 2 and 4, both of which were uncontested. J.D. Villa, the incumbent, was the sole candidate for Ward 2 and Andrea Hattman for Ward 4. They took office on Tuesday, May 26. Prior to their swearing-in, a small reception was held for Barbara Gurtner, who chose not to seek re-election in Ward 4.

## Know Your Flood Risks (continued from page 2)

flooding is still possible. Roughly 25% of all flood claims occur outside the SFHA in areas considered minimal to moderate flooding. What does that mean for City of Rockport residents? It means that everyone in the City can, and should, have flood insurance, which is not covered under a standard homeowner policy. You can determine your property's flood zone at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. You can get information on flood insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## News for Utility and Garbage Customers

- Several utility customers have mentioned that they are not receiving their bills and/or cut-off notices. The City makes every attempt to ensure customers are notified prior to cut-off. If you are having a similar problem, please contact Utility Billing Customer Service at 729-2213 ext. 234 or [utilitybilling@cityofrockport.com](mailto:utilitybilling@cityofrockport.com) to make sure we have the correct address and an alternate way of reaching you, such as a phone number or email.
- If you have not registered your account with our online payment system, now would be a good time to do so. Not only can you make online payments with a debit or credit card without a service charge, send requests to the utility billing office, or check your current balance. You can also sign up to receive your bill by email, which would speed up the delivery time.



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



Andrea Hattman

**Remember — The City web site offers the latest news and information. Also, 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 253**

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.