

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## Rockport Police Department Pays it Forward



Under the direction of Commander Larry Sinclair, five officers and a spouse from the Rockport Police Department, delivered relief supplies to the Iowa (pronounced I-O-Way), Louisiana police department. Located outside of Lake Charles, Iowa received significant damage from Hurricane Laura, which impacted 85% of its buildings and residences, according to local sources.

Working with the Texas Department of Emergency Management

and their colleagues in Louisiana, the Rockport Police Department identified several, smaller communities that might have been overlooked in the rush to deliver supplies to Lake Charles. Iowa was chosen because of a professional relationship Officer Stefani Garcia had with a member of its police department.

Tens of thousands of dollars' worth of materials, ranging from generators to power tools to cleaning supplies, were donated by local residents and businesses. This included \$12,000 worth of equipment from Salemi's Ace Hardware in Rockport and the underwriting of the truck rental by an anonymous resident. The caravan left early on the morning of

August 8 and returned the same day.

"We are so appreciative of the



Rockport community that stepped up to help others in need," Sinclair noted. "We knew what it was like in the early relief days and what was needed for the first responders to fulfill their responsibilities and help out the community."

## Mayoral and 2020 Elections

Due to covid-19 restrictions, the City postponed the Mayoral election, between Keith W. Allen and Patrick Rios, the current Mayor, until November 3 to coincide with the general election on November 3. Early voting will be held October 13-30 at the Aransas County

Election Office, which is located at 602 E. Concho. On Election Day, residents may cast their vote at one of these five locations: Rockport G.I Forum, Rockport Volunteer Fire Department, Rockport Service Center, Fulton Volunteer Fire Department.



or the Fulton Convention Center. For more information, visit the Aransas County Elections Office page: <https://www.aransascountytx.gov/electionadmin/voteelectinfo.php>

# Does it Count as a Birthday if You Can't Celebrate?

Due to situations beyond our control, the City of Rockport was unable to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in the manner it deserved. The pandemic caused the cancellation of special events and water leakage in the Centennial time capsule resulted in significant damage to the contents.

Nonetheless, we persevered.



“Spirit of Rockport” awards were presented to several organizations and individuals for their contributions to the community. They included the Aransas County PPE Sewing Group, Castaways, Rockport Volunteer Fire Department, South Rockport Neighbors, members of the City’s Citizen Advisory Boards, Tana Neel of Another Chance Rescue, and local resident James Smith, who has attended almost every City Council meeting for more than five years. Individual recipients received a limited-edition, commemorative medal that was de-

signed specifically for the Sesquicentennial and organizations were honored with a special Proclamation.

The capsule was a stainless-steel tube, approximately 48 inches high and 18 inches in diameter and was placed inside a concrete vault. Despite the lid being tightly fastened and no apparent means for water intrusion, most of the contents were wet and there was an accumulation of water at the



bottom, likely from condensation. Due to the moisture, many of the



items were dirty, rusted, and generally in poor condition; however, many items did survive.

The contents included many pieces of news media, audio tapes, budgets, audits, letters, coins, photos, and more. A recap and photos of presentations are available on the City’s web site - <https://cityofrockport.com/788/Voices-from-the-Past---The-Time-Capsule>

*Photo Left: Spirit of Rockport Award winner Tana and Jerry Neel of Another Chance Rescue; Above Center: High School ring placed in the capsule 50 years ago was returned to Jackie Hattenbach; Above Right: Adam Harden receives materials placed in the time capsule by his parents.*



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.

## Special Note

A decision will be made in mid-October as to whether or not to proceed with the annual Tropical Christmas event, which was planned to herald our history. Either way, there will be fireworks in December.

# Fall Yard Waste Pickup

Per its agreement with the City of Rockport, Republic Services will begin hand pick up of bagged leaves and grass clippings on Wednesday, November 4.



- Each household may put out 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, vegetative garden waste, windfall fruit and brush
- Waste bags should be no greater than 35 gallons. Trash cans will not be serviced.
- Unacceptable items include dirt, stumps and large limbs

Residents with scheduled trash day of Monday or Tuesday, will have their yard debris picked up on Wednesdays (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>). Those with Wednesday or Friday weekly collection, will have their bags picked up on Saturdays (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>).

## Let's Talk Dirty



The ONLY item, other than bodily waste, that should be flushed down the toilet is toilet paper. For those on septic systems or RVs, you should be using the appropriate toilet paper for your system.

While there are some brands of wipes that say they are "flushable," the truth of the matter is that they do not degrade properly and can clog pipes and sewer pumps, as shown in the picture above. Other non-flushable

items include facial tissue, napkin, paper towels, diapers, hair, cotton balls, and dental floss.

One should also never flush medications – they may be disposed of in the trash or in drop boxes at the Aransas County Detention Center and Town of Fulton offices.

This is not just a local issue. You can Google and see the kinds of gunk and messes that are clogging up lines everywhere.

If we don't make an effort individually to address this issue, we might all experience some severe problems - lift stations going down or back-ups into residences. Replacement of damaged pumps can cost more than \$15,000 – an expense that is

passed on into your sewer rate – and damage from sewage backed up into your home cost you money as well.

Please do your part. If you have any questions, call the City at 729-1160 or your septic provider.



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**



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.