

# Rockport Transcript

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT

## Redistricting of Wards

As expected, the results from the 2020 Census and the growth in the western quadrant, which required the City to redraw map boundaries to ensure there was equal representation within the wards. Because of the intricate GIS mapping required, the discretionary criteria, and mandated government regulations, the City retained the services of Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal & Zech to assist City Council with the process.

In preparing various options for Council to consider, the firm addressed immediate issues – not future expectations. These included even distribution (there

was a difference of more than 1,000 between the most and the least populated wards using the current figures), contiguous borders, preservation of neighborhoods, no discrimination, no deviation more than 10%, and no dispersal or super-connecting of minority votes.

The wards most affected by the new figures were 1, 2 and 3. As a result of the new boundaries, each ward will have approximately 2,500 residents and meet all the criteria. A copy of the new ward map will be posted on the web site after it has been approved by Council at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Interim City Manager Named

Richard N. Morton, Jr. of Malakoff, Texas began serving as interim City Manager on January 10. The City of Rockport retained the services of The Texas First Group to assist with the search for an interim city manager. According to Mayor Patrick Rios, Morton was the City's top candidate. "Not only does he have impressive experience as a city manager, he's served in interim positions before and has a good understanding of the factors and influences associated with a coastal community."

Morton received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Texas A&M University. He started his career in public administration as the Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Bryan in 1988. He has also worked for the City of Sugar Land, Texas and the City of Odessa, Texas, where he served as City Manager for 15 years.

Over the past three years, he has served in interim positions for the cities of Bay City, Port Lavaca and Alvarado. A member of the Texas City Management Association, he has been recognized by his peers with Excellence awards for Management Innovation and Public Works.

## 2022 City Elections

Voting for the positions of Mayor and Ward 2 and 4 City Council will be held on Saturday, May 7. Early voting will take place April 25th - May 3rd.

Potential applicants must be registered voters and have lived in the City for one year. Filing begins on January 19th and ends on February 18th.

Applications and candidate packets are available on-line (visit the City Secretary page) or may be picked up from the City's Secretary's office, located in the Rockport Service Center at 2751 SH35 Bypass, between 8 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday.



Simple steps to keep our water clean, protect public health, and avoid expensive plumbing repairs.

# Clean Pipes are Green Pipes

## TAKE CARE OF TEXAS

Don't flush any types of wipes down the commode, even flushable wipes. Food can cling to them and build up more quickly in wastewater pipes.



Recycle used cooking oil or pour it into a sealable container and place it in the trash. Never pour oil or grease down the drain. If you have a lot of oil, mix it with cat litter a little at a time and pour it in a sealed bag in the trash.

Compost food waste when possible; otherwise, throw scraps in the trash.



Place a strainer in the sink drain to catch small pieces of food and eliminate your use of a garbage disposal. Food scraps of any kind can plug your home's wastewater lines.



Never pour cooking oil, pan drippings, gravy, bacon grease, lard, shortening, butter, margarine, salad dressings, mayonnaise, creams, or sauces down the sink or toilet.



Use environmentally safe cleaning products, such as those that have the EPA Safer Choice label, instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.



How is our customer service? [tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey](http://tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey)



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[www.cityofrockport.com](http://www.cityofrockport.com)

## Code RED™

The City, County and Town of Fulton all participate in an Emergency Notification System called Code RED. During an emergency, the system will send a message to those who are in the database. To be included, residents must register with the system. You can choose to enter up to a combined total of five different phone numbers (landline and cell) or email addresses. To sign up, please go to the City's web site for a direct link, visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/C3F2FDDE07FB> or text ARANSAS to 99411 to enroll.

## Save the Date



The Whooping Crane Strut will be held on Saturday, March 5th at Rockport Beach Park. The annual, chip-timed event includes a 5k and 10k run, plus a 2k walk. To register, go to [www.athleteguild.com/running/rockport-tx/2022-33rd-annual-whooping-crane-strut](http://www.athleteguild.com/running/rockport-tx/2022-33rd-annual-whooping-crane-strut)



## Check it Out! Relocated Skate Park



The newly renovated Skate Park is now open in its new location at Memorial Park. For the past 15 years, the Skate Park had been located adjacent to the Community Pool and was a fee-based attraction. Recognizing the need to make it more accessible, functional, and safer, the City opted to rebuild and move all of the components to a special site adjacent to the walking trails in Memorial Park.

## Tell Us What You Think

Hearing from our residents is essential to any decision we make. In addition, it is a valuable tool for strategic planning and assessing community concerns.

The City is implementing a new “City Asks” program to gauge public sentiment and consists of a brief survey. It is our intention to run various surveys throughout the year to measure resident satisfaction and to identify and track community trends and sentiment.

To respond to the first survey, please visit the “Tell Us What You Think” on the top of the City’s website or go to <https://form.typeform.com/to/YzCRZHrb>. The survey will be available through January 28, 2022. To minimize potential hacking or robotic spamming, the City is working with a third-party firm to ensure the integrity of the survey.

The 2022 trash/recycling calendars are posted on the City’s web site. They may be accessed by going to the “About Rockport” or “I Want To” tabs on the top of the home page. If you do not have access to a computer, please call Utility Customer Service at 729-2213, ext. 234 to request a copy.

## News from Utility Customer Service and Billing

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.

In addition, we offer the opportunity to auto draft from a credit card, checking account or savings account. This method takes two billing cycles to take effect.



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

## Rockport City Council

Mayor



Pat Rios

Ward 1



Katy Jackson

Ward 2



J.D. Villa

Ward 3



Brad Brundrett

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.