

Port Lavaca Pride

No. 1

A City of Port Lavaca Newsletter

March 2013

The City of Port Lavaca, through the Department of Administration, publishes newsletters to its residents and businesses to keep them informed on events and issues.

City Officials

Jack Whitlow, Mayor

Floyd Felder, District 1

Raymond Perez, District 2
Mayor Pro-Tem

Lee Rivera, District 3

Gregory Falcon, District 4

Jim Ward, District 5

Ken Barr, District 6

City Departments

Administration	552-9793 x 221
Building Inspections	552-9793 x 229
City Hall	552-9793 x 221
City Secretary	552-9793 x 230
Finance	552-9793 x 237
Fire Department	552-3241
Human Resource	552-9793 x 224
Municipal Court	552-9793 x 226
Parks	552-3347
Police Department	552-3788
Public Works	552-3347
Sewer & Water	552-3347
Utilities	552-9793 x 238

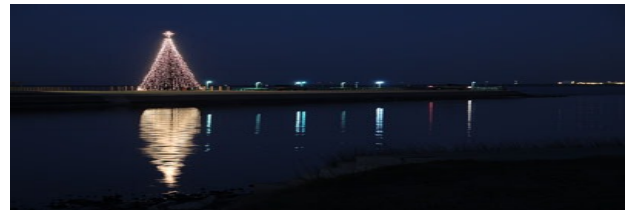
EMERGENCIES - CALL 911

2012 CITY PROJECTS

BAYFRONT

As the year 2012 closed, the City of Port Lavaca had accomplished a great many projects.

At Bayfront Park, a Splash Pad was installed which is great entertainment for the children during the summer time.



The City and the Chamber worked together on expanding the Christmas activities at the park. This included bringing in an ice skating rink the week of December 4-8. It was put under the new pavilion bringing approximately 1,500 excited citizens down for the activities of skating and Santa Claus the first night. We hope to have a bigger one next year.

A new pavilion approximately 20' x 50' was constructed on the existing concrete slab. This will be used for many different events (Festival of Lights, Flip Flop Festival, Hard Head Derby, Fishing Tournaments, etc.) as well as an option for citizens to use it for their entertainment.

GAZEBO AT FAYE BAUER STERLING PARK

Thanks to Russell Cain and his family who donated the funds to purchase this beautiful custom built 16' x 10' gazebo to be placed at the park downtown. This is a great start to beautifying the downtown area. It will be perfect for small bands and groups who want to have events at the park or a great place to just sit and relax.



2012 City Projects

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks Department has been very busy with the upgrades at the Lighthouse Beach R.V. Park. The boardwalk had repairs completed and 500 tons of sand was brought in for the beach area. New restrooms were completed; new showers were installed in the campers recreation room; new cabanas and umbrella huts were installed on the beach; and palm tree showers were installed on the beach for rinsing off.



New umbrellas at Lighthouse Beach Park

NAUTICAL LANDINGS DAYROOM & DOCK GET A FACELIFT

Nautical Landings Marina is the perfect place to dock your boat if you are traveling through or living in Port Lavaca. At this time there are 41 slips leased which includes 10 live aboard boaters. The dayroom has been remodeled including 2 beautiful restrooms with showers, a new refrigerator, stove and dishes. The main area has new furniture

including a wide screen TV and a computer table with wi-fi connections. There is a very nice laundry room complete with lockers, and a new sewer pump has been installed at the pump-out station. And there is a new dock with a handicap ramp for easy access for those who need it. Stephanie Meacham, Harbor Master is always available to help with visitors.



2013 Approved Projects

Port Commission Projects - \$200,000

- Remodel of Nautical Landing Office Buildings
- Installation of new Breakwater
- Repair of retaining wall at Nautical Landings

Construction date to begin Summer 2013

Utility Projects - \$1,000,000

- Bonorden Sewer Replacement
- George Street Sewer Project
- Alamo Heights Waterline Replacement
- Bayfront Park Waterline Project

* \$250,000 Supported by Grant Funds

Construction date to begin Summer 2013

Lighthouse Beach - \$175,000

- New Concrete Restroom
- Lighting of Boardwalk

2013 General Fund Approved Projects

Park Improvements

- Complete Bayfront Park Pavilion
- Create Soccer Field at Wilson Park Sports Complex

2013 Downtown Revitalization

Texas Capital Fund Grant - \$200,000

- Downtown sidewalks on Main Street from Guadalupe to Commerce

Construction date to begin Summer 2013



Public Safety News

DELTAALERT EMERGENCY AND MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The DeltAlert Emergency and Mass Notification System has provided an easy-to-use method to send thousands of messages in a matter of minutes out to the residents of Port Lavaca and Calhoun County. DeltAlert provides the most complete solution for both emergency and non-emergency notifications.

- **Natural Disasters** (Hurricanes, Water Safety Alerts, Fires, Evacuations)

- **City/Utility Alerts** (Road Closings, Search and Rescue Operations, Water Usage Restriction Alerts)
- **Man-Made Incidents** (HAZMAT Emergencies, Kidnapping Amber Alerts, Robberies, Terrorist Threats)

If you have not registered your home phone number and your cell number so we may contact you, please call the police department at 361-552-3788.

CITY EMPLOYEES TAKE SEAT BELT PLEDGE

Under the direction of Captain Jay Clark of the Fire Department, the employees of the City of Port Lavaca were the first ones in Texas to take the International First Responder Seatbelt pledge.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



New Chief making positive changes.



In April of 2012 Port Lavaca hired Chief James Martinez as the new Police Chief to take over a department of 27 full time employees with 2 temporary dispatchers. Under his supervision the police department has become better organized and more customer friendly.

- Began Texas Police Chief's Recognition Program
- Began re-writing PLPD policies
- Purchased hand held ticket writers
- Updated security measures for PLPD facility
- Began a complete audit of PLPD property room
- Standardized hiring and promotional practices for PLPD
- Passed annual TCLEOSE regulatory audit
- Established a liaison officer for the DA's office
- Restructured patrol
- Partnered with Municipal Court for paperless citation management
- Partnered with Inspection Dept. to enforce Code ordinances
- Rebranded patrol vehicles

FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Port Lavaca Fire Department is always there to lend a helping hand to those in need. Listed below are some of the things they do every year:

- Fire prevention at all schools and daycares in the County
- Assist with food drives in the community
- Assist with local fishing tournaments by releasing the fish
- Assist YMCA with fun day functions
- Work with Utility Department on annual hydrant inspections program
- Work with Code Enforcement Department on business inspections
- Assist Wal-Mart and Port Lavaca Clinic with the bicycle rodeo
- Assist Coast Guard with water rescues
- Assist City's parades with traffic control



Awards and Achievements

FINANCE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AWARDS

The Finance Department Staff won a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2011 by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). They also, won an award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year from the



Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Pictured left to right is Mayor Jack Whitlow, Sandra Mason, Josie Bundrick, Risa Walraven and Scotty Jones, Finance Director.

The City of Port Lavaca is proud to be the recipient of the prestigious Texas Comptroller Leadership Award for exceptional government transparency in Texas. We are accountable to our citizens, and so we must make all our transactions transparent.

This was the first year the City applied for the award. Team members are Scotty Jones, Risa Walraven and Sandra Mason of the Finance Department and Dorothy Cunningham of the City Manager's office.



Comptroller
Leadership
Circle Member

"Paradise on the Bay" Lighthouse Beach



HOW TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS AND MUNICIPAL COURT FINES

By Mail: City of Port Lavaca, 202 N. Virginia Street, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

In person: At office 8:00AM to 5:00PM or after hours in drop box located at City Hall on Utility Billing side.

Bank drafting: A free service - electronic funds transfer from your bank account.

In Your Neighborhood: HEB and Wal-Mart locations

Online: www.portlavaca.org



City of Port Lavaca

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