



SPI Elected Officials

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City Welcomes New Key Personnel



Tim Howell,
Information
Services
Director

In early December, 2009 the City welcomed Mr. Tim Howell as the new Information Services Director. Howell comes from Hutto, Texas with numerous accolades including the 2009 National Pinnacle Award for Website Excellence. The award, population based, is judged based on design, content, function, ease of use, accessibility, standards of interactivity, and organization. One primary of Howell's is a retooling and redesign of the City's current website including the creation of a Website Task Force to begin in late January 2010. The arrival of Howell brings new ideas and changes pushing the City forward in technology. Howell states, "I look forward to the great opportunities and challenges ahead to improve operational efficiencies and connect with the Island community."

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A new Police Chief arrived January 11, 2010. Houston native Randy Smith brings 25 years of law enforcement experience, serving twelve years as Chief of Police for Surfside Beach, Texas. Chief Smith's service in a coastal community as EMS Director, Marine Safety Officer and Emergency Medical Responder are invaluable for the City. "I try to stay innovative and stay ahead," states Smith. "By doing that I find there are more ways to make things operate more efficiently." He forward to the future ahead for the police department.



Randy Smith,
Police Chief

Community members are encouraged to attend a "Meet and Greet" for Tim Howell and Chief Randy Smith on **Wednesday, January 20, 2010 from 4 pm—5 pm** at the Joyce Adams Board Room in City Hall.

Count Us In - U.S. Census Begins March 2010

The City would like to remind residents this year is the 2010 Census. Census is utilized to calculate the number of persons living in a set geographical area without regard for citizenship. This census is critical to the City of South Padre Island with the passage of Home Rule Charter stating the City has over 5,000 inhabitants. Census data also helps in allocation of federal and state funds. Being counted is simple— Fill out the 10 question form mailed to each residence and return in the pre-paid postage envelope.

Key dates to remember:

March 2010—Census forms are mailed and delivered to households

April 1, 2010—*National Census Day*

April—July 2010—Census takers visit households not returning form by mail

December 2010—By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment.

For more information regarding the 2010 Census, please visit the website at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Census Form Questions

- Name
- Sex
- Age
- Date of birth
- Hispanic origin
- Race
- Household relationship
- Own or rent household

City Recognizes Outstanding Employee of The Year



Ray Moya, Employee of the Year

Each year the City recognizes an outstanding employee as chosen from the recipients of the Employee of the Quarter. This past year the four individuals receiving employee of the quarter include: Frank Washington, Steve Zuniga, Jim Pigg, and Ray Moya. After careful consideration the staff chose Ray Moya, Public Works Supervisor, as the 2009 Employee of the Year. Serving the City for over 25 years, Moya has served as the Interim Public Works Director a total of four times and supervises a staff of 16-20 persons. Scott Fry, Public Works Director comments, "Ray is a real asset to the City and his years of experience give him the institutional knowledge useful to continued progress on the Island." City Manager Joni Clarke echoes these thoughts adding, "Ray's greatest quality is his ability to complete projects quickly and efficiently."

As the recipient of the achievement, Moya credits the people working with him and explains the greatest enjoyment of his position is the people he works with day to day. In the recent changes to the City staff and management, Moya states he looks forward to the continued changes and the opportunities ahead.

Got Ethics?

Citizens needed to serve on a five member Ethics Board per the City's Home Rule Charter. The Board of Ethics is responsible for establishing a Code of Ethics, as well as, administering and enforcing Conflict of Interests and Financial Disclosure State Laws.

If interested in serving on this Board, please complete and forward a Committee application to Susan Hill, City Secretary, at 4601 Padre Boulevard or shill@townspi.com. Applications can be download from www.townspi.com.

Get Involved!

Volunteers needed to serve on a 7 Member (5 Regular and 2 Alternates) Board of Adjustments & Appeals (Zoning & Building) responsible for hearing and reviewing Zoning cases/requests for variances and building issues.

If interested in serving on this Board, please complete and forward a Committee application to Susan Hill, City Secretary, at 4601 Padre Boulevard or shill@townspi.com. Applications can be download from www.townspi.com.

Complete and Open For Use

December 29, 2009 marked the opening date for public use of the long awaited Polaris Street Boat Ramp. Completed on December 22, 2009 the City thanks both project engineer Bob Fudge and Oden Construction for timely completion of the project.



New City Website Design Begins: Taskforce Implementation

Interested in helping design the City's new website? Redesign of the City's website began in early January 2010. Ensuring the usefulness and effectiveness of the new website an Website Task Force is being created. This 6-8 member team of residential and community business members determining layout and expectations. Meeting up to two times per month for the duration of the project, Information Services Director Tim Howell estimates design of website completion within six months of completion of task force. This group will be selected at the end of January and immediately begins work. All work of the Website Task Force will be forwarded to the Internal Technology Committee. For questions or concerns please contact Tim Howell at (956) 761-3078 or thowell@townspi.com.

If interested in serving on this Task Force, please complete and forward a Committee application to Susan Hill, City Secretary, at 4601 Padre Boulevard or shill@townspi.com. Applications can be download from www.townspi.com.

Welcome Back Beach Patrol

Beginning March 1, 2010 Beach Patrol returns in full force for their third year. Under the direction of Jim Pigg, Beach Patrol Coordinator, there are 15 men and women providing surf rescue, patrol, and ensuring beach safety. Beach Patrol will continue through Labor Day weekend.

Beach Patrol began as a pilot project in July 2008 with 2009 season being the first full season. Funding through Beach Maintenance, last year Beach Patrol assisted in over 100 swimmer assists and performed 15 rescues. For information contact the Fire Department at (956)761.3040.



South Padre Island Fire Department Receives Station Grants

Construction of the City's new fire station to replace the one destroyed by Hurricane Dolly is estimated at \$4.5 million. To date the City has received two grants for construction. Texas Department of Rural Affairs Disaster Recovery funds totaling \$1,095,436 received for construction and the State of Texas Energy Efficiency Block Grant allocation by \$23,030 for energy efficiency upgrades to the new station. The City Council may seek debt financing via a May bond proposal.

Spring Break Texas Week: March 12th - 21st

Spring Break Safety Tips:

- Remember to run errands before 11:00am to avoid traffic congestion.
- Be aware of erratic drivers—Drive Defensively.
- Report any and all unusual or suspicious behavior to Police or Fire.
- Be cautious late at night as pedestrian traffic become more prominent.

Each year South Padre Island hosts Spring Break Texas week. Official Texas Spring Break begins Friday March 12th through Sunday March 21st. During this time additional City staff accommodate the safety and public works needs including:

- 50-70 additional police officers
- 4 additional firefighters per shift
- 6 beach patrol staff per shift
- 8-10 public works staff
- 5 additional code enforcement

As a reminder to all city residents The WAVE route to Port Isabel will discontinue once traffic congestion reaches a stand still on the causeway. For transportation questions contact the Transportation Department at (956) 761-3864.

City Meetings

**All meetings are held in the Joyce Adams Board Room located at 4601 Padre Blvd., SPI unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to the public and dates, times, and locations are subject to change. (* Held at Visitor's Center)*

Jan 19
10am Padre Blvd Implementation
2pm Economic Develop. Corp.

Jan 20
2pm Convention & Authority Board*
5:30pm Council Meeting

Jan 21
3pm Planning & Zoning

Jan 25
10am Beach & Dune

Jan 26
3:30pm Development Plan & Review

Jan 28
3pm Bay Area Task Force

Feb 2
9am Board of Adjust. & Appeals
4pm Historic Preservation

Feb 3
5:30pm Council Meeting

Feb 8
3pm Beach & Dune

Feb 9
10am Form Based Code
3:30pm Development Plan & Review

Feb 16
10am Padre Blvd Implementation
2pm Economic Develop. Corp.
3pm Bay Area Task Force

Feb 17
2pm Convention & Authority Board*
5:30pm Council Meeting

Feb 18
3pm Planning & Zoning

Feb 22
10am Beach & Dune

Feb 23
3:30pm Development Plan & Review

Feb 25
3pm Bay Area Task Force

Mar 2
9am Board of Adjust. & Appeals
4pm Historic Preservation

Mar 3
5:30pm Council Meeting

Mar 8
3pm Beach & Dune

Mar 9
10am Form Based Code
3:30pm Development Plan & Review

Mar 17
2pm Convention & Authority Board*
5:30pm Council Meeting

Mar 18
3pm Planning & Zoning

Mar 22
10am Beach & Dune

Mar 23
3:30pm Development Plan & Review

Mar 25
3pm Bay Area Task Force

Apr 6
9am Board of Adjust. & Appeals
4pm Historic Preservation

SURVEY REQUEST

Please visit the City's website at www.townspi.com and participate in a quick survey regarding The Beachcomber. Or please send feedback about this edition to amace@townspi.com.

**BULK RATE
PERMIT # AIC 130
Town of South Padre Island**

**Keep SPI Green—
GO PAPERLESS!**

In an effort to keep South Padre Island beautiful, the City encouraged members of the community to subscribe to receive The Beachcomber electronically. Send us your comments and subscribe at eBeachcomber@live.com or contact Anne Mace at (956) 761-3823.

SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED

Beginning with the July-August 2010 issue of The Beachcomber, all paper copies require a free subscription. Please subscribe by email eBeachcomber@live.com or sign-up at City Hall, 4601 Padre Blvd.



Upcoming performances and activities occurring throughout the next quarter:

January 28, 2010, the Atlantic Brass Quintet” at South Padre Island Con-

vention Center.

February 4, 2010, “Agnes of God” a Camille Playhouse production at the Convention Centre.

February, 28, 2010, UTB/TSC's Acoustic Guitar Concert at the SPI Convention Centre.

For ticket, membership or sponsorship information visit www.elpaseoart.org.

Community Reminders

Fire Chief Burney Baskett would like to remind all South Padre Island **Beachside Business Owners** of requirements to have business address numbers visible from the beach. This assists residents and visitors in giving accurate location when calling for Fire, Police or EMS assistance. Assistant Fire Chief Juan Loya will be conducting follow up visits through March.

Farmer's Market begins in January and will continue each Sunday for six weeks at The Shores. The market will be open from 11:00am until 2:00pm+

For more information check the City's website at www.townspi.com or Environmental Health Services Division at (956) 761-3226.

SPI Recycling occurs the first and third Saturday of the month at the Island Baptist Church Parking lot from 8:00am until Noon. Please contact Environmental Health Services Division at (956)

Join our Team...Employment Opportunities

The City of South Padre Island is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For application material visit us at www.townspi.com or contact

Mrs. Wendi Delgado, HR Director at 956-761-6456, 4601 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, TX 78597

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- **Reserve Police Officer**
- **Concessionaire (Temporary/Part-Time)**