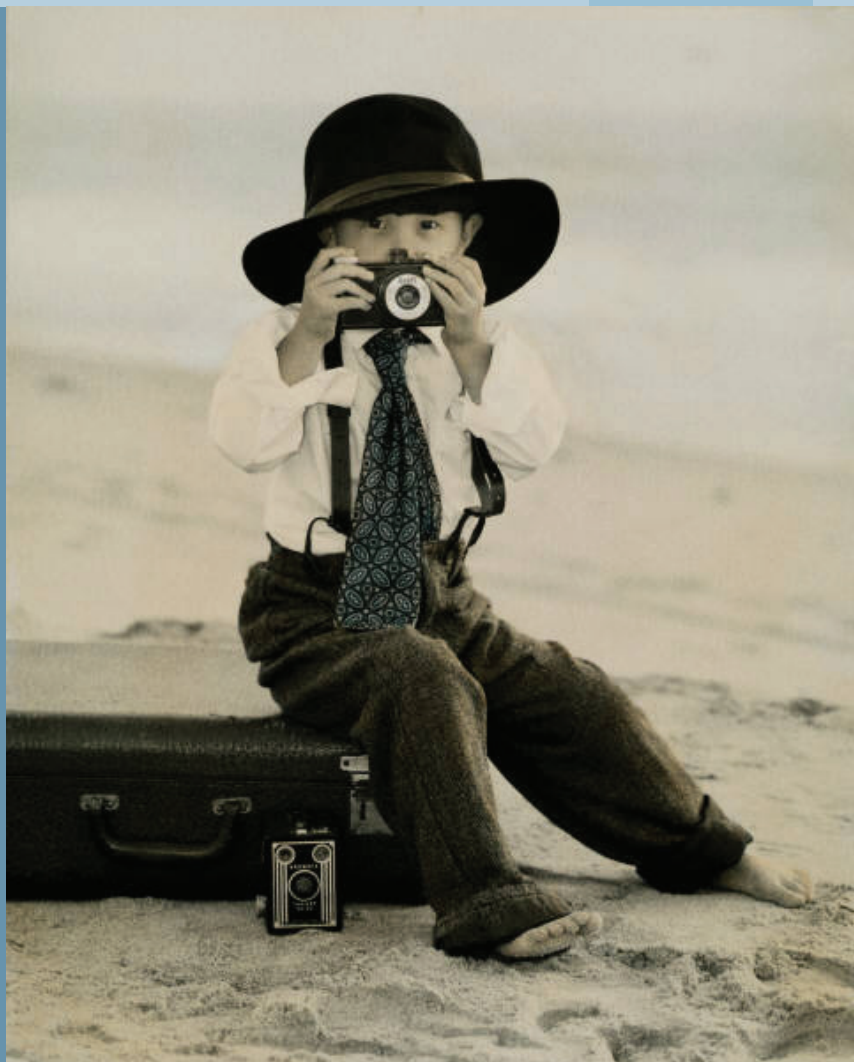


## SNAPSHOTS

2012-2013

City of South Padre Island, Texas





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# Message from the City Manager

With the end of each fiscal year, the City of South Padre Island captures its most notable events through the creation of Snapshots, which serves as the city's annual report and complements the Mayor's State of the Island Address that is presented to the public in November.

It has been 50 years since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech and this occasion serves as a great reminder of the passion for service and civility that Dr. King represented.

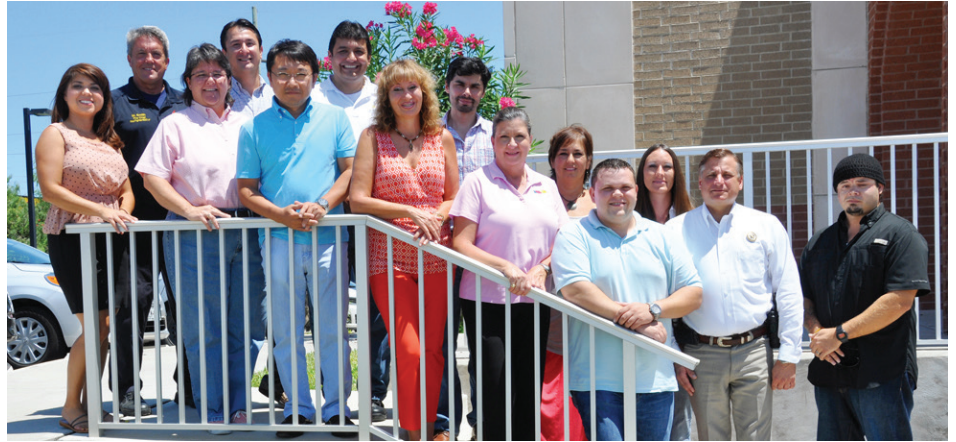
The "SPI Team" has learned the importance of how shared organizational values can play a central role in enhancing performance. We have embraced "SPI" as our core values:

S – Service

P – Professionalism

I – Integrity

We will soon be implementing our employee recognition program that will honor those who model our core values. We discovered the reason most organizations need a change in culture is to better engage employees and raise the organization's performance level. Through employee engagement, we believe that we have improved the internal capacity of our local government to better serve the community. Our passion for service is, without a doubt, our link to each other and to the City that we serve.



*City of South Padre Island Leadership Team*

Our civility is grounded in our respect for diversity and a graciousness that resonates from our spirituality. As agents for positive change, we embrace government transparency that starts with open and honest communication, and a commitment to highlight the positive attributes of the city while still improving on areas of concern. Transparency results from each person's willingness to serve the greater good of the community; it is not hiding behind anonymity or relying on undisclosed sources. It begins with a commitment to treating others fairly and to embracing common courtesy to better set the tone of the environment in which we operate. It is essential to tell our story in a framework that emphasizes the progressive attributes of our government, the positive attributes of our community and our many achievements.

While my time at the City has come to a close, I leave the organization with a group of capable, ethical and compassionate staff members who have a remarkable work ethic and passion for service. This passion for service is highlighted by the city leadership team's desire to further refine its role within the organization through the development of its guiding principles, which are found in the next page.

In conclusion, I am sincerely grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the City of South Padre Island. It has been an honor.

*Joni Clarke  
City Manager*



# Leadership Team

We, the South Padre Island Leadership Team, shall build organizational **TRUST** by:

- Trusting others and being trustworthy ourselves.
- Trusting that each of us is honest, fair and benevolent in dealing with each other, our co-workers and the public in general.
- Trusting that each of us gives 100% in our daily lives.
- Showing support for our team members and building them up, especially when times get tough.
- Being honest and fair.
- Doing what we say we are going to do.

We, the South Padre Island Leadership Team, believe that **COMMUNICATION** is crucial and valued through:

- Understanding what others are saying by being an active listener.
- Communicating with integrity.
- Refraining from participation in office and community gossip.
- Communicating to staff regularly about decisions made by City Administration and City Council.

We, the South Padre Island Leadership Team, believe we should **INSPIRE** employees by:

- Fostering an environment where staff can excel and thrive.
- Valuing staff as important members of the organization.
- Recognizing all professional accomplishments and community contributions.
- Encouraging staff success through professional development.
- Respecting the interest of staff and appreciate their loyalty.

We, the South Padre Island Leadership Team, believe we should **RESPECT** others by:

- Respectfully acknowledging others roles in the organization.
- Respectfully listening to others' opinions.
- Respectfully caring about their feelings.
- Respectfully valuing their time.
- Respectfully acknowledging their physical space.

We, the South Padre Island Leadership Team, believe it is important to be a **ROLE MODEL** by:

- Serving as an example for staff, peers, leadership and citizens through our words and actions.
- Admitting to our mistakes and doing our best to remedy our shortcomings.
- Solving problems proactively and identifying solutions by working together.
- Practicing polite and courteous behavior.
- Demonstrating a good work ethic.
- Being fair and equitable in our treatment of others.
- Acknowledging that being good stewards of the City's and Taxpayer's resources is essential.
- Representing the City in a positive and professional manner.

# Awards & Accomplishments

## Awards & Accomplishments

### Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City of South Padre Island received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 23rd consecutive year that the City has achieved this award.

### Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The City of South Padre Island received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the 2012 Annual Budget. The award reflects the commitment of the City of South Padre Island to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

### Municipal Court

The City of South Padre Island Municipal Court was recognized by the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center for participating in Municipal Courts Week 2012

in November. A list of cities that participated was published in an issue of the Recorder.

### Delgado Named 2013 TMHRA HR Management Professional of the Year



The City is proud to have the 2013 State's top Human Resources Management Professional of the Year. The prestigious award was presented to Administrative Services Director Wendi Delgado at the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association Conference in May of 2013 in Frisco, Texas. She was also recognized by the City Council at the May 15 Council Meeting with a Proclamation. This award recognizes the significant contributions to the field of municipal human resource management of the most deserving individual throughout Texas in the last 18 months. This is a huge accomplishment; we are so proud of you, Wendi!

### SPI Awarded TML 2012 Mu- nicipal Excellence Award in Public Safety



The Texas Municipal League (TML) awarded the City of South Padre Island the 2012 Municipal Excellence Award

in Public Safety for cities of less than 25,000 population at the TML Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Grapevine November 13-16. The award was presented for the City's "Spring Break 2012 Emergency Medical Response." City Manager Joni Clarke and Fire Chief Burney Baskett accepted the award.

### TEHA Award of Excellence



The City's Environmental Health Services Department was recognized by the Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA) with the Award of Excellence in October 2012. This award recognizes Environmental Health Programs throughout Texas that achieve a high degree of professionalism and commitment to the communities they serve. The City of South Padre Island Environmental Health Services Department (EHSD) has been a member in good standing with TEHA for 11 years.

### WAVE Achieves 2nd Highest Ridership in the State

According to the FY2012 Texas Rural Transit Districts Peer-To-Peer Comparison and Performance Data reports, The WAVE had the second highest ridership among the state's

39 rural systems. The only system with higher ridership has a population of almost 62,000 and covers 248 square miles. The WAVE's total ridership for FY2012 was 593,404. The average ridership for all rural systems in Texas for FY2012 was 181,017.

### **EHS Awarded 3rd Consecutive Perfect Score**

For the third consecutive year, the Texas Department of Agriculture awarded the Environmental Health Services Department a perfect score on their Vector Control Inspection. The City has three Noncommercial Political Pesticide Applicator licensed officers and all their records, type and storage of pesticide, pesticide safety, M.S.D.S. sheets and proper use of pesticide were found to be in compliance with all federal and state regulations. Great job staff!

### **Scenic City Certification – Silver Award**



The Scenic City Certification Silver Award was presented at the November 7, 2012 City Council meeting. This Silver Award recognizes the City's success in its development efforts and visual appearance. SPI was proudly upgraded two levels to silver recognition. The Silver Award was presented by the Executive Director of the Scenic City Certification Program. Accepting the Silver Award was Mayor Robert N. Pinkerton, Jr., City Manager Joni Clarke and Environmental Health Director Victor Baldovinos.

### **Panciera Awarded for Life-saving Response**



SPI Police Sgt. Victor Panciera received the Director's Award for Lifesaving at the 9th Annual Texas Parks & Wildlife Law Enforcement Award Ceremony in Austin. Assistant Police Chief Javier Garza attended the ceremony that recognized Panciera's response to an accident on the beach, where he immediately administered life-saving aid to a fellow law enforcement officer injured on scene.

### **Stukey, Ochoa Win Silver at Texas Police Games**



Sgt. Stukey and Officer Ochoa, along with their teammates from Brownsville, won a silver medal in bowling at the 2013 Texas Police Games. Congratulations!

## **Certifications**

### **Fire Department Staff Increased Certifications**

In the last fiscal year, fire staff achieved the following certifications: Ricardo Negrete, Jr - Fire Inspector, Felipe Herrera - Driver/Operator, Jeff Lutrick - Fire Instructor I, and Gary Wilburn - Fire Instructor II. Congratulations!

### **Floodplain Manager**

Public Works Director Marcy Newman is now a Certified

Floodplain Manager (CFM) and helps SPI reduce potential flooding disaster losses, with emphasis on mitigation to alleviate the cycle of damage-rebuild-damage that reduces negative drain on the City's human, financial and natural resources. She helps in the daily implementation of flood loss reduction activities, including enforcement of our flood damage prevention ordinances, updating flood maps, plans, and policies of the City as they pertain to our continued ability to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

### **Court Clerk Certifications**



Araceli Sanchez passed the Court Clerk Level 1 Certification test taken in May of 2013 at

the Court Clerks Regional Seminar at the Pearl. Congratulations! Other Administrative Services certified employees, include Cindy Garza-Vasquez – Court Clerk II, Wendi Delgado – Court Clerk II, Crystal Martinez – Court Clerk I, and Araceli Sanchez – Court Clerk I. All Administrative Services Department employees are working toward the final certification of Certified Municipal Court Clerk.

### **DeRousie Completes 1st Year of Travel & Tourism College**

Visitor's Center Manager Lilia DeRousie completed the first year courses offered by the Texas Travel Industry Association's Travel & Tourism College held at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Lilia hopes to use her newly acquired knowledge to make the Center an even greater asset to both our community and valued visitors.

### Service Awards

The following employees were recognized for their years of service at the annual Thanksgiving luncheon held November 2012:

#### *Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Myrna P. Garcia, Maintenance, 10 Years

Connie Ledbetter, Outside Sales Representative, 15 Years

Sylvia Soliz, CVB Director, 15 Years

Raymundo Rios, Maintenance, 20 Years

#### *Environmental Health Services Department*

J. Victor Baldovinos, EHS Director, 10 Years

#### *Finance Department*

Rosa E. Guzman, Accounting Coordinator, 10 Years

#### *Fire Department*

Felipe Herrera Jr., Firefighter, 5 Years

Yolanda Cruz, Administrative Assistant, 25 Years

#### *Police Department*

Gregory Lance Hobbs, Police Officer, 10 Years

George Stuke, Sergeant, 10 Years

Gilbert Silva, Sergeant, 15 Years

#### *Public Works Department*

Jesus Rey Martinez, Maintenance, 5 Years

Charles Bennett, Maintenance, 5 Years

DeWayne Goodwin, Fleet Maintenance Manager, 5 Years

Alejandro Barrera, Maintenance, 10 Years

Mary Ann Guillen, Administrative Assistant, 10 Years

James Mitchim, Building Official, 15 Years

Hector Torres, Equipment Operator II, 25 Years

#### *Transit Department*

Macario Sosa, Lead Vehicle Operator, 5 Years

Oscar Torres Jr., Lead Vehicle Operator, 5 Years

### Professional Leadership

#### Smith Appointed Regional Coordinator for Texas Crime Victims Association



Police Chief Randy Smith was appointed Regional Coordinator (Region F) for the Texas Crime Victims Association. Region F which encompasses 28 counties in South Texas. He will assist and serve on the Board of Directors handling this area encouraging greater participation in assisting those affected by crime and in training those that assist crime victims.

#### Smith Helps Develop Texas Police Leadership Series

Police Chief Randy Smith was one of 25 Texas Police Chiefs selected to participate in the curriculum building focus group at the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) at Sam Houston State University. The goal of the focus group was to develop training topics for the next two-year cycle of the Texas Police Chief Leadership Series.

### Promotions

#### Jones Named Interim City Manager

Assistant City Manager Darla A. Jones was appointed Interim City Manager at the August 7, 2013 City Council Meeting after City Manager Joni Clarke tendered her resignation. Jones assumed the responsibility of Interim City Manager on August 31, 2013.

#### Soliz Promoted to CVB Director Position

Sylvia Soliz was promoted to CVB Director. She has been with the city nearly 16 years, previously serving as Regional Sales Manager for the RGV. She has built strong relations with the hotel industry and community. Soliz is leading the team with new ideas and direction.

#### Martinez Promoted to WAVE Transit Supervisor

The WAVE congratulates Richard Martinez on being selected as the new Transit Supervisor. Martinez previously served as Vehicle Operator.

#### Sanchez Promoted to HR Generalist

Araceli Sanchez was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Human Resources Generalist in June 2013. Araceli started with the City in 2006 as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer and has since worked with the Municipal Court, Finance, Information Technology and Human Resources. Great Job Araceli! You do such a great job!



# City Manager's Office



From left, Anthony Holland, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Naida Robles, Public Information Officer; Joni Clarke, former City Manager; Darla Jones, Interim City Manager; Susan Hill, City Secretary; and Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources Manager.

## 28 Years of Service



February 1, 2013 marked City Secretary Susan Hill's 28th year with the City of South Padre Island.

Congratulations, Susan!

## Public Information Statistics

The City Secretary's Office processed 1,130 public information requests during the 2012/13 fiscal year.

## SPI's 40th Birthday Celebration

April 10, 2013 marked the City of South Padre Island's 40th Birthday! The Spirit Committee hosted the event in the City Council Chambers. The celebration was a huge success with more than 100 citizens in attendance. Mayor Pro-Tem JoAnn



Evans offered a welcoming speech and Local Historian Steve Hathcock offered a brief overview of the

Island's history. Additionally, Leslie Blasing provided entertainment for the patrons while they enjoyed a beautiful birthday cake.

## Hurricane Awareness Meeting

The City of South Padre Island held its annual "Hurricane Awareness" meeting for citizens and visitors on May 22, 2013 in the City Council Chambers. Local officials along with representatives from the National Weather Service discussed the 2013 Hurricane Season. The agenda also included a discussion of the City's emergency plans in the event of a hurricane and the valuable lessons learned from Hurricane Dolly in 2008.

## 4th of July Beach Parade

City Administrators extended their appreciation and thanks to Mary K. Hancock and the different City departments that helped make the 4th of July Beach Parade a huge success.

## Vehicle Replacement Policy

A Vehicle Replacement Committee was established to improve how vehicles are identified for replacement. The City will use the Vehicle Replacement Committee to help administer the vehicle replacement program by developing criteria that will ensure the City is making replacement decisions based on set criteria. The Committee also developed a standard operating procedure as it relates to vehicle maintenance.



### Appreciation Dinner

The City held a dinner for area legislators August 29, 2013 in appreciation for their support of the island. Recently legislators fought to successfully pass HB 3042 in this legislative session, which provides an additional 1% of state hotel occupancy tax to be used for beach maintenance, for a total 2%. The additional revenue could total an estimated \$700,000 annually.

### Citizens Survey 2013

The City of South Padre Island administered its 2013 Biennial Citizen Survey from June 4-20, 2013. The results help City Council and City leaders create action plans and focus municipal efforts on citizens' concerns.

## Safety Committee

The Safety Committee is committed to providing a safe work environment that minimizes accidents and liabilities by raising employee awareness of safe practices. The goals of the committee are to improve participation by increasing education and communication to staff.

Chairman, Wendi Delgado – Administrative Services Director

Vice Chair, Araceli Sanchez – Human Resources Generalist

Secretary, Maria Norwood – Administrative Assistant

Member, Juan Loya – Assistant Fire Chief

Member, Gilbert Silva – Police Sergeant

Member, Jay Mitchim – Chief Building Official

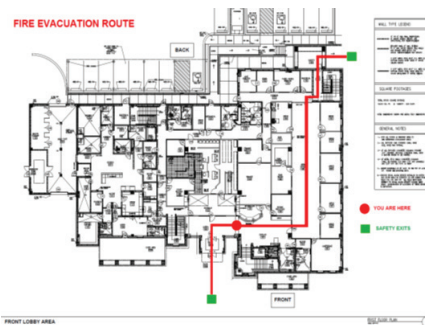
Member, Victor Baldovinos – Environmental Health Services Director

Member, Susan Hill – City Secretary

Member, Crystal Martinez – Deputy Court Clerk

Member, Marcy Newman – Public Works Director

### Fire Extinguishers and Evacuation Routes



Fire Evacuation Routes were created and posted in the City Hall building this year. Each one indicates two routes that will lead a person to safety away from the building. The Safety Committee also printed red stickers and placed them on each fire extinguisher in the building to make sure they were visible to

the public. Thanks to Araceli Sanchez for taking the input from the Safety Committee to create such great documents.

### Safety Training

The Safety Committee began holding quarterly safety meetings for employees this year. The Committee invites interested employees to take advantage of one-hour training programs concerning workplace safety. These are the programs that have been held so far in 2013.

1st Quarter: Back Injury Prevention Training

2nd Quarter: Public Building Security

3rd Quarter: Driving Safety



## Investment Committee

The Investment Committee takes employees' interest in capital markets and their willingness to review the City's supplemental retirement program to ensure the financial portfolios continue to meet the goals and objectives of its members. The committee reviews the fund performance in the context of long term trends and recommends adjustments.

Chair, Araceli Sanchez – HR Generalist

Vice Chair, Eddie Salazar – Senior Accountant

Secretary, Susan Hill – City Secretary

Member, Debbie Carpenter – Transit Coordinator

Member, Lori Moore – Accounting Coordinator

Member, Cindy Garza-Vasquez – Municipal Court Clerk

Trustee, Rodrigo Gimenez – Finance Director

Trustee, Wendi Delgado – Administrative Services Director

## Spirit Committee

The Spirit Committee is a vibrant group of colleagues who embrace and model the City's core values, create team building events, and promote positive working relationships. The Committee is dedicated to showing each employee that they are appreciated and valued for their service to the community.

Chair, Anthony Holland – Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Member, Carlos Centeno – Communication Technology Specialist

Member, Lili DeRousie – Visitor's Center Manager

Member, Crystal Martinez – Deputy Court Clerk

Member, Maria Norwood – City Hall Receptionist

Member, Naida Robles – Public Information Officer



2013 Valentine's Day Bake Off

1st - Dolly Castillo

2nd - Rosie Guzman

3rd - Cipriano Torres



SPI's 40th Birthday



Ice Cream Social



Quarterly Birthday Celebrations - January 2013



2012 Christmas Parade



Quarterly Birthday Celebrations - April 2013



Quarterly Birthday Celebrations - July 2013





*Beach Walk/Run - August 14, 2013*



*Beach Walk/Run - September 25, 2013*

## Wellness Activities

Group wellness activities are held the second and fourth Wednesday of the month to offer employees a group setting to help motivate everyone to be physically active. Activities included working out at the Fire Station Gym, a walk on the beach and a fun pool workout!

## Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee provides employees fun opportunities to make health and fitness a part of their daily life. The Committee hosted a community blood drive, in addition to various fitness activities. Members:

Chair, David Travis – Code Enforcement Officer

Member, Naida Robles – Public Information Officer

Member, Judith Lehn – Administrative Assistant

Member, Dolly Castillo – Accountant

Member, Marta Martinez – Administrative Assistant/Assistant City Secretary

## BYOB (Bring Your Own Bike) Scavenger Hunt

The Wellness Committee held a BYOB (Bring Your Own Bike) Scavenger Hunt in June 2013. Teams solved riddles that led them through more than 11 miles throughout the island to the finish line.



*Winners:*

*1st Place- Clint Robinett & Rikki Little*

*2nd Place- Maria Norwood  
& Araceli Sanchez*



# Administrative Services



*From left, Maria Herrera, Municipal Court PT Administrative Assistant; Cindy Garza-Vasquez, Municipal Court Clerk; Araceli Sanchez, Human Resources Generalist; Judge David Colwell, Maria Norwood, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant; Crystal Martinez, Deputy Court Clerk; and Wendi Delgado, Administrative Services Director.*

## Human Resources

### Citywide Training

Supervisor Training was held September 2013 at the Convention Center for City staff. This was a great training; we hope that the supervisors will use some of the new techniques presented to assist with their daily supervisory duties. The title of the course was Effective Supervision, Build or Refresh Your Skills for Supervisory Success. The main objectives of this course focused on making the transition from co-worker to supervisor, coping with supervisor challenges and managing your time and stress. Forty City employees attended this training.

### Annual Total Compensation Statements

Each full-time employee received an individualized Total Compensation Statement in February 2013 in their payroll check. The statement details the total compensation package, including all benefit costs and salary for each employee. This is a huge task for the HR division. A special thanks goes out to Araceli Sanchez for completing the majority of this project on her own. This is the third consecutive year the benefit statements have been created.

### Workplace Survey

The HR division held meetings throughout January 2013 with all employees to conduct the Annual Workplace Survey for the City Manager. The survey was anonymous and we used an election

ballot box to collect all surveys. Once all surveys were complete, a comprehensive document was created by the HR division and provided to the City Manager. The workplace survey is conducted annually to identify any workplace issues or concerns.

### Deer Oaks Employee Assistance Program

Last year, the City formalized its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Deer Oaks, a behavioral health organization, to help employees and their dependents assess and cope with work-related concerns or personal issues that may be affecting their well-being. We are proud to say that our current utilization rate is 11.77%, which is well above the national average of 4-6%. A big thanks goes out to Maria Norwood, who is tasked with communicating this program to employees each week by reminding everyone of the many free services available.

### TML IEBP Regional Meeting

The City of South Padre Island hosted the 2013 TML IEBP (TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool) Regional Meeting on May 9 at the Convention Centre. Maria Norwood and Araceli Sanchez attended this meeting. Topics included updates on upcoming health changes and benefits, as well as new tools that will facilitate the provision of health benefits to employees.



## Spring Break

The HR division processed new hire orientation for 108 employees to work during Spring Break this year.

For each employee, the HR division must process the application, paperwork, conduct a background screening, document drug testing, report to the State of Texas Office of the Attorney General and report to E-Verify. E-Verify is a system utilized that reports individuals who are not authorized to work in the United States based on the documents submitted for verification on the I-9 Form. Maria Norwood, Araceli Sanchez, and Wendi Delgado are extremely busy during late January and February getting everyone ready to work in the Police, Fire, Environmental Health, and Public Works Departments.

## Municipal Court



## Spring Break

The Municipal Court held court daily from March 9th to the 23rd. Municipal Court staff began the workday around 6:00am to ensure that all citations from the previous night were entered into the system and ready for processing. The Municipal Court also assists with the preparation of paperwork for those individuals in jail to see the Judge. When Spring Break ends, the paperwork begins and is usually completed by September each year. The Court staff did a great job during this time period. Just check out the picture. Pictured above is the Municipal Court Window line on a Saturday in March of 2013.

## New Hires

### Full-Time

#### *Convention Centre & Visitors Bureau*

Astrid Torres, Information Counselor

Michelle Le Masters, Outside Sales Representative (Dallas)

Megan Flowers, Outside Sales Representative (Houston)

Travis Milum, Outside Sales Representative (Austin/San Antonio)

Morgan Taylor, Outside Sales Representative (Rio Grande Valley)

Rodrigo Cantu, Maintenance

#### *Development Department*

Sungman Kim, Development Director

#### *Environmental Health Services Department*

Edgar Cruz, Code Enforcement Officer

#### *Finance Department*

Rodrigo Gimenez, Finance Director

Eduardo Salazar, Senior Accountant

#### *Fire Department*

Jorge Mora, Fire Fighter

Steven Claffy, Fire Fighter

Oscar Gonzalez, Fire Fighter

Oziel Garcia, Fire Fighter

Stephen Flores, Fire Fighter

Marciano Montanez, Fire Fighter

Carlos Restrepo, Fire Fighter

Marcus Smith, Fire Chief

#### *Information Services*

Paul Holthusen Jr., IT Manager

#### *Police Department*

Jessica Mar, Dispatcher

Rafael Martinez, Dispatcher

Angelita Banda, Police Officer

Mayra Marin, Police Officer

#### *Public Works*

Marcy Newman, Public Works Director

Efrain Ramirez, Mechanic

Randy Flores, Beach Maintenance

#### *Transit*

Cruz Valdez Jr., Vehicle Operator

Ruben Padilla, Vehicle Operator

### Part-Time

#### *Environment Health Svcs. Department*

David Morales, Code Enforcement Inspector

Luis Guevara, Code Enforcement Inspector

#### *Fire Department*

Stella Anzaldua, Fire Fighter

Caleb Silva, Fire Fighter

Christopher De Leon, Fire Fighter

Marc Munoz, Fire Fighter

Alberto Juarez, Fire Fighter

#### *Information Services*

Sam Ballenger, Network Technician

#### *Municipal Court*

Maria Herrera, Administrative Assistant

#### *Police Department*

Randy Salazar, Police Officer

Joseph Cisneros, Police Officer

Jose Lopez, Police Officer

Daniel Salinas, Dispatcher

Ernest Delgado, Dispatcher

## Warrant Round-Up

The Municipal Court participated in the 2013 Great Texas Warrant Round-up for the first time. Press releases were sent out regarding the program and statistics were recorded from February 16, 2013 - March 10, 2013. The Court mailed more than 6,000 letters to all of those with warrants with the City. Crystal Martinez and Cindy Garza-Vasquez worked extremely hard to get this

program together and prepare the massive amount of warrant letters that were released on February 15th, 2013. This program was extremely successful, with a total collected of \$38,891.25. The Municipal Court Staff did a tremendous job and will continue this program next year.

# Convention & Visitors Bureau



*Convention & Visitors Bureau Staff*



## Totally Beachin'

The CVB selected a new marketing agency. San Antonio based Machete Creative, LLC will now handle the CVB's advertising efforts. Machete has launched the CVB's newest Totally Beachin' marketing campaign and it is now making waves on TV and radio stations.

## Events

The CVB was busy hosting a variety of events and conferences; from cheerleading to concerts to school administrators. The CVB clients keep staff on its toes with their various events and creative ideas.



## New Sales Team

The CVB is proud to welcome four members to the Sales Team. New Houston representative Megan Flowers and Michelle LeMasters in Dallas bring vast experience in tourism and are ready to showcase SPI in these competitive markets. Travis Milum represents SPI in Austin and San Antonio and Morgan Taylor joined the team for the Rio Grande Valley. The new members have hit the road attending various tradeshow, familiarization tours and meeting with clients, as well as being very active in Meeting Planners Associations marketing SPI as an amazing destination.



*Visitors Center Staff*

## Visitors Center

The South Padre Island Visitors Center welcomed another full-time employee, Astrid Torres. The team now consists of three full-time employees and one part-time employee, that makes sure the lovely Center always looks presentable and clean for the guests.

The Visitors Center always strives to provide visitors with accurate and detailed information on all the fun things they can enjoy at beautiful South Padre Island. The new phone system has made operations even more up-to-date and easier to manage.

The Visitors Center will continue doing its utmost to provide outstanding customer service with a great attitude and a huge Texas smile.



## Continuing Education & Training

CVB employees are staying up-to-date with education and increasing certifications. Rosa Zapata was awarded a \$1,000 college tuition scholarship; she is a student at The University of Texas Brownsville. Mayra Nuñez completed the criteria for two new certifications, Group Sales and Group Servicing from the Texas Association of Convention & Visitors Bureau.

## Special Events

### January

SPI Polar Bear Dip  
Penguin Plunge  
Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walk  
Market Days

### February

Walk For Women Chili & Bean Cook-off  
SPI Market Days Schlitterbahn Music Fest

### March

Spring Break Car Show & Sound Off  
Ultimate Music Event-Electronic Music

### April

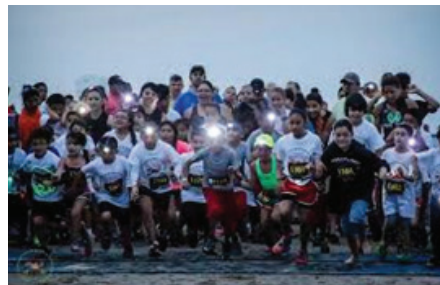
Beach & Biker Fest  
TGSA Surfing Championship  
Sand Crab Night Run  
SPLASH

### May

SPI Kiteboard Roundup  
Run the Jailbreak Beach Escape  
Pedal to Padre  
SPI Beach Volleyball  
Memorial Day Fireworks  
FIREWORKS Memorial Day-Labor Day  
FRIDAY—Laguna Madre Bay  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY—Beach in Andie Bowie Park

### June

Great Texas Catamaran Race  
Shark Run



### July

July 4th Fireworks  
4th of July Beach Parade  
Beachcomber Art Show & Sale

### August

Texas International Fishing Tournament  
Lady Kingfish Tournament

### September

Fall Concert Series on the Bay  
Labor Day Fireworks  
SPI Beach Volleyball  
SPI Dive Week

### October

Fall Concert Series on the Bay  
Sand Castle Days



Walk for Women  
SPI SPLASH  
SPI Triathlon  
**December**  
SPI Holiday Parade  
Breakfast with Santa  
12 Days of Christmas

# Development Services



*Pictured, Sungman Kim, PhD, MBA, MLA, AICP, ASLA/RLA, GISP (Director of Development Services) and Marta Martinez (Development Services Administrative Assistant/Assistant City Secretary).*

## Parks & Open Space Master Plan

The Department of Development Services has been working on Parks and Open Space Master Plan and it is waiting for public input stages. This is a systematic approach to provide high quality services and opportunities for all residents, business owners, and their future generations.

## Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Development Services helped assign zoning districts for the properties that were annexed in December 2012. The Department is reviewing certain sections of the zoning ordinance to improve living quality of residents; to accommodate better parking locations; and to fine-tune with the recently adopted Form-Based Code (Padre Boulevard & Entertainment District Code). This effort is expected to evolve into the development of a unified development code.

## Comprehensive Plan

The City's Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2008 requires an evaluation with necessary updates every five years or less. This fiscal year, Development Services began the process of updating the plan, that was originally created for the year 2020; the updated version will extend to the year 2025. The process includes: 1- Data Collection & Analysis, 2- Vision Sessions with the Public, 3- Staff's Internal Review, 4- Recommendation of Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission (and/or Joint Workshop Sessions with the P&Z and the Council), and 5- Adoption by City Council.

## Welcome Package

The Department of Development Services prepared a welcome package for newcomers, including residents, business owners, and visitors. The package provides information about our island that can get them up to speed a lot faster

than having to search different sources on their own.

## GIS

The Department of Development Services updated the Zoning District Map and published the City Map Book with the current zoning delineation. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) comparing the currently effective 1999 version and the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map has also been prepared.

## Economic Development

The City of South Padre Island is committed to the promotion of high quality development in the City and to an ongoing improvement in the quality of life for its citizens. Insofar as these objectives are generally served by the enhancement and expansion of the local economy, it is the City of South Padre Island's intention to provide stimulation measures for economic development on the island. The Department of Development Services has been assisting the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in developing Economic Incentives Policies (per Chapter 311 and 312 of Texas Tax Code and Chapter 380 of Local Government Code) and prepared the application forms.



# Environmental Health Services

## US FDA Grant

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) awarded a \$2,500 grant to the SPI Environmental Health Services (EHS) Department for the second year in a row. The grants are awarded to municipalities that are working on the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, to provide financial support for equipment, training and education opportunities for staff.

## New Brush Ordinance



To further help beautify the island, the City Council approved a new ordinance that regulates when brush and bulky items may be placed on the right-of-way for removal by Allied Waste. Residents that have an active account with Allied Waste may place brush and bulky items on the right-of-way beginning on the 25th day of the month through the last day of the month; the brush and bulky items are collected on the first three workdays of every month. EHS staff patrols the city to ensure all piles of brush and bulky items are removed and our streets look clean and aesthetically pleasing.



From left, Edgar Cruz, Code Enforcement Officer; Victor Baldovinos, EHS Director; Judith Lehn, Administrative Assistant; Cipriano Torres, Code Enforcement Officer; and David Travis, III, Animal Cruelty Investigator.

## Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week



Along with the National Animal Control Association, SPI celebrated Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week to recognize the professionalism of animal control officers. Animal control officers and animal cruelty investigators commit countless hours in building cases to prosecute irresponsible pet owners and protect and save animals in need. The City's EHS Department has four animal cruelty investigators proudly serving our community. Pictured with Mayor Pro-Tem JoAnn Evans

are Environmental Health Director/ Animal Cruelty Investigator J. Victor Baldovinos, Animal Cruelty Investigator Cipriano Torres and Animal Cruelty Investigator David K. Travis III.

## Food Safety Awareness

EHS participated in Food Safety Awareness Month in September. The Mayor read a proclamation at the September 4, 2013 City Council meeting. The goal is to educate the public on the importance of preventing foodborne illnesses and this year, the campaign spotlighted the increasing importance of food allergen awareness brought attention to the restaurant and foodservice industry's commitment to excellence in all aspects of food safety education and training.



## Recycling Program Enhancements



Since its inception four years ago, the City's recycling program has enhanced its services in partnership with Allied Waste. A new waste recycling truck that is specifically designed for recycling and can hold 40 yards of material with five side-load compartments was added this past year. This is a great addition to the existing two trailers that carry eight containers each for the collection of paper, plastic, aluminum, cardboard and tin. Also, drop off services are now available every Saturday, instead of twice a month. Internally, the City is also recycling ink and toner cartridges, fluorescent and compact fluorescent lights, batteries that contain lead and acid, cell phones, electronics, tires and scrap metal. The materials collected would normally occupy hundreds of yards of landfill space, but through the recycling program, they become a commodity with the life of the original product extended beyond the intended use.

## TEHA-STC Conference

The Texas Environmental Health Association – South Texas Chapter's (TEHA-STC) Annual Educational Conference is held every December



and brings attendees, vendors and speakers to the Island during our non-peak season. The EHS Department has been responsible for bringing the conference to SPI for the past 10 years. The conference provides continuing education hours, training and certification for Code Enforcement Officers, Registered Sanitarians, Health Inspectors, Animal Control Officers, and Pesticide Applicators. Current board members include Secretary Victor Baldovinos and President-elect David Travis. The 2013 Annual Educational Conference will mark the 10th anniversary of the South Texas Chapter, and we look forward to many more years of success!

## Community Shredding Event



The South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the City's EHS Department, Keep South Padre Island Beautiful Committee, the Better Business Bureau of the Rio Grande Valley, the US Postal Service and Valley Shredding Services of Los Fresnos, coordinated the first community shredding event in April. The public was invited to drop

off documents that were shredded on site with the latest in secure paper shredding technology. Those who participated, drove up with sensitive paperwork and drove away with the peace of mind that their documents containing personal information were no longer taking up valuable storage space and were safely destroyed and reserved for recycling.

## Christmas Tree Recycling



The City accepted Christmas trees for recycling in December and January. The trees were collected at the Saturday recycling drop-off site by the old City Hall and also picked up from the rights-of-way. The 42 trees collected were turned into mulch that was then made available to the public. This process reduces landfill waste and allows the reuse of the product.



### Anti-litter Beach Program

The “Treasure It, Don’t Trash It” anti-litter beach program was created to reduce littering on our beautiful beach. The program was in effect from May 27- September 2, 2013. EHS hired two litter patrol inspectors to educate beachgoers on keeping our beautiful beaches clean and enforce local ordinance violations. The inspectors issued 328 warnings and 45 citations for “Glass on Beach”,

while also issuing 301 warnings and 16 citations for “Littering”. Inspectors also passed out table tents to hotels, motels, property management companies and placed them on dining tables of local restaurants that publicized common beach-related violations. The program was a tremendous success, with violations declining throughout the summer. Staff patrolling the beach saw significantly less trash than last

summer, even with an increase of visitors frequenting the beaches this year. Additionally, volunteers from The University of Texas at Brownsville, Surfrider Foundation – South Texas Chapter, Keep South Padre Island Beautiful Committee, Sierra Club and a local citizen targeted four heavily populated beach locations to educate visitors, remove trash from the beach, and hand out trash bags to beachgoers.



### Recycle Land

The Keep SPI Beautiful Committee and the City’s EHS Department hosted another successful Recycle Land Event in November 2012. The event collected glass, electronic waste, plastic, cardboard, aluminum, tin and paper. Organizations, including the Keep SPI Beautiful

Committee, The Art Affair, Surfrider Foundation – South Texas Chapter, Sea Turtle, Inc. and Home Depot also educated participants on the impact of recycling, how to recycle, and the negative impacts of polluting our ecosystem. The Recycle Land Event has had an increase in participants each year!



# Finance Department

## Master Lease Agreement

A Master Lease Agreement was approved in November 2012 with Merchants Leasing, as part of a fleet replacement program approved by Council in May 2012. We received the first of the leased vehicles in February 2013, which were outfitted and placed in service for use prior to Spring Break. Terms of the individual leases were finalized and all new leased vehicles have been received and placed in service.

## IRS Audit

The South Padre Island EDC was selected for audit by the Internal Revenue Service. The finance department collected and organized all information requested. The IRS completed the audit in a timely manner and found the EDC to be in compliance with IRS regulations.

## HB 3042

The passage of House Bill 3042 allows the City to receive an additional 1% for a total of 2% of the state's portion of the hotel motel tax. The two percent in funding is allocated for cleaning, maintenance of, and erosion control of the City's beaches. The Finance Department assisted in compiling the necessary data in a timely manner, so it could be presented by the City's lobbyist to our state legislators.

## Updates/Planning for New Fire Department Schedules

The Fire Department will institute a new Quad-Weekly work schedule



*From left, Rodrigo Gimenez, Finance Director; Cynthia Erickson, Accountant II; Rosie Guzman, Accounting Coordinator; Dolly Castillo, Accountant; and Eddie Salazar, Senior Accountant.*

beginning in October 2013. Finance worked together with TimeClock Plus to acquire and setup the additional software module needed to implement the new work schedule.

## Electronic Paystubs

In order to promote efficiency and reduce waste, paystubs will begin to be emailed to employees next fiscal year. Finance and Information Services worked together with Incode to obtain and place in service the additional software module needed to email the paystubs.

## City Auctions

Auctions of the City's surplus items have been assigned to the Finance Department. In the most recent

auction 91 items were sold for a total gross of \$24,638.66.

## Convention Centre Renovation & Expansion

The Finance Department is collaborating with Estrada Hinojosa, the City's financial advisors, to fund the renovation and expansion of the Convention Centre with the sale of revenue bonds.

## HOT Collections

Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) collections and auditing services were outsourced to MuniServices, LLC. The Finance Department assisted with MuniServices in their analysis of Hotel Occupancy Tax payments for the past four years for auditing purposes.

# Fire Department

## Chief Baskett Resigns, Fire Fighter Smith Promoted

Fire Chief Burney Baskett provided the City his resignation with June 28, 2013 being his last day of service to SPI. Chief Baskett was offered the Fire Chief position at Copperas Cove. Chief Baskett did an incredible job during his tenure at the City receiving a letter of commendation, being instrumental in the City winning the TML Excellence Award in public safety, and transforming his department into one of the finest fire departments.



Fire Fighter Marcus Smith was selected to be the new Fire Chief. Smith served the City of Lancaster, Texas from 1984 to 2013 and retired

from the Lancaster Fire Department as a Captain prior to accepting a position with SPI. He also served his hometown of Wilmer, Texas as its Fire Chief from 2005 to 2012 to help his community as his schedule would allow. Smith has an advanced firefighter certification, is a licensed paramedic and is an emergency medical service instructor. His 37 years of experience include ten years as a volunteer and 28 years as a career firefighter. Smith joined the SPI Fire Department on March 1, 2013 and began serving as Fire Chief starting June 29, 2013.

## Resident Donates Jeep to SPI Fire Department

A local resident dropped by the Station just before Christmas and donated a rebuilt 1984 Jeep. It is the right color, too! After receiving its decals and lights, it was put into service for Spring Break as a rapid EMS response unit.

## Gulf Coast Regional Lifeguard Competition



The SPI Beach Patrol competed in the Gulf Coast Regional Lifeguard Competition held in Galveston in June 2013. Our team of four lifeguards finished 3rd overall, qualifying the team to be considered for "Team Texas" at the national competition in August. The team members were: George Brown, Hayden Jones, Kendrick McCormack, and Dillon Connelly, who were accompanied by Beach Patrol Coordinator Jim Pigg. The Galveston competition is one of eight regional contests preceding the United States Lifesaving Association National Championships held each August in California. The team competed in areas including Swim Rescue, Paddle Rescue, Rescue board, beach flags, rescue race and ironman. The Gulf Coast includes Galveston, Austin, and Corpus Christi.

## Fitness Monitoring

For the past three years, the Fire Department has conducting an annual test to monitor the progress of the physical fitness program. In the beginning, physical fitness participation was voluntary and unorganized, with no set time and limited equipment. Lt. N. Waters and Firefighter J. Barker created a fitness chart showing the progress. The SPI Fire Department employees have been getting fit, with 19 percent of the Fire Department reaching Superior fitness this year, up from zero percent in 2011 and 2012. Additionally, with the fully equipped gym now a part of the new Fire Station No. 1, physical training is now mandatory.

## SPI Fire Station Featured in Ole Décor Magazine



The new SPI Fire Station was fit for its own photo shoot! Ole Décor, a local magazine showcasing luxury homes, décor, design, art and real estate, was there to photograph our outstanding facility in January 2013. The Fire Station was featured in their spring issue. To see the full article, visit <http://issuu.com/oledecor/docs/spring-2013>, page 34.



## Fire Truck Warning Devices



The fire truck traffic warning devices have been installed on Padre Blvd. These devices are located on the north and south side of Retama St. Firefighters will activate these devices when responding to an emergency call. These flashing lights will make it safer when entering Padre Blvd. during heavy traffic.

## Coffee & Conversation



Chief Marcus Smith was the guest speaker at the SPI Chamber's Coffee & Conversation meeting in September 2013. He spoke on the newly adopted Knox Box ordinance (a key lock box for residential and commercial buildings)

and the City's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating, which determines insurance rates for both residential and commercial properties. Pictured is Councilman Bob Fudge, Chamber President Roxanne Guenzel and Chief Smith.

## Students Field Trip Visits



Fire Station #1 welcomed Garriga Elementary students in May. A total 621 children toured the station and learned important fire safety information.

## ISO Rating Improvement Planning

Fire Department, Building Department, Police, and Laguna Madre Water District staff met with ISO (Insurance Service Office) representatives in September 2013 to begin the process of improving the City's ISO rating. This rating may affect

property insurance premiums, such that adopted changes could have a significant impact for SPI property owners.

## BRITE



Fire and Beach Patrol members participated in BRITE (Beach Rescue Interagency Team Exercise) in August, with Cameron County Beach Patrol, US Coast Guard Station STA South Padre Island, and US Coast Guard AIRSTA Corpus Christi. The exercise helps the various agencies practice coordination during a simulated rescue of an incident resulting in fire and significant injuries to 8+ persons in the water in order to identify strengths, gap, and best practices in emergency response and foster expanded partnerships through professional interaction.

## SPI Fire Department Statistics FY 2012-2013

Major Incident Type	# incidents	% of Total
Fires	31	1.47%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat- no fire	1	0.05%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1369	65.00%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	43	2.04%
Service Call	44	2.09%
Good Intent Call	321	15.24%
False Alarm & False Call	293	13.91%
Special Incident Type	4	0.19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>99.99%</b>

# Information Services

## Technology Upgrades

The City underwent a major upgrade in technology. Information Services replaced 40 computers at City Hall and the Convention Centre and all network switches were upgraded at each facility. All workstations were also upgraded to the latest version of Microsoft Office 2013.

## Video System

Information Services staff upgraded the audio visual system in the City Council Chambers. The project consisted of upgrading software, audio control, video source for the podium PC, microphone replacement and two camera monitors for the control room.

## Telephone System

The City's new VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone system was installed on June 28, 2013. The City changed phone systems for improved services and added functionality. The project started with the Fire Department and continued throughout all City departments.

## Online Booking Engine

IT Manager, Paul Holthusen worked with ARes Travel in the development of a reservation booking engine for the City of South Padre Island. The reservation system offers area hotels, motels and rental agencies the ability to display their rates online. Visitors may filter properties by location: Beachside, Bayside or Inner



*From left, Sam Ballenger, Network Technician; Frank Washington, Jr., Network Systems Administrator; Paul Holthusen, Information Technology Manager; and Carlos Centeno, Communication Technology Specialist.*

Island. Visitors can also purchase admission tickets to local attractions or book their entire getaway package including a flight and rental car. The Booking Engine can be found at [www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com).

## Calendar

Information Services Department staff developed a new City calendar. This customized calendar will allow the public to submit calendar entries, share calendar entries and filter calendar entries by category, such as Free Events, Dining & Nightlife, Family Friendly and more. The calendar can be viewed on [www.myspi.org](http://www.myspi.org) and [www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com).

## Watch Guard

Watch Guard equipment in each police patrol unit has been

upgraded with state of the art High Definition (HD) equipment. This upgrade consisted of HD cameras, HD microphones and HD DVRs for each unit.

## Information Services Director

Friday, May 3, 2013 was the last day for Information Services Director, Tim Howell. We wish him well with his future endeavors.

## IT Manager



On Monday, May 6, 2013 the City welcomed Paul Holthusen as its Information Technology

Manager. Paul has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois as well

as eight years of experience. Paul started with the City as a Technology Consultant on October 1, 2012. In his short tenure, Paul has made tremendous improvement with the technology infrastructure that has allowed all staff to operate more efficiently.

### Network Technician



On Monday, July 15, 2013, the City welcomed Sam Ballenger as its Network Technician.

Sam has an Associates Degree in Computer Networking and Security Technology from Texas State Technical College in Harlingen and more than five years of experience.

## Information Services Communication Statistics

2012-2013

### Eye on SPI Newsletter

Editions	Website	Blog	Constant Contact	Total	% per Edition
47	15646	952	653	17251	367

### Facebook

Status Updates	176
Photo Updates	308
Shared Links	172
Cover Photos	68
Photo Albums	18
Events	10
Videos	2
Total:	754
Interactions	232815
Views	30232
New Likes	623

### Twitter

Tweets	431
ReTweets	123
Mentions	201
New Followers	1391

### Blog

Blogs	160
Views	9682
% per Blog	61



# Police Department

## Trunk or Treat



SPI Police participates in various community activities, including the "Trunk or Treat" at the Island Baptist Church on October 31, 2012. Pictured are Police Officers Mike Aguilar, Victor Chavez and Martin Rodriguez.

## New Transport Van



SPI-PD used seizure funds to purchase a new transport van with state of the art equipment. Chief Smith explained how the van will assist with transporting individuals arrested during heavy event periods, thus keeping patrol unit available for calls. The van also will help to reduce overcrowding in our local jail by easily relocating county prisoners to the appropriate facility.



*South Padre Island Police Department 2012-2013*

## National Night Out 2012



On October 2, 2012, SPI hosted National Night Out. The event is designed to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. It is a great opportunity for first responders and the community to build partnerships, while reviewing quality methods to combat criminal activity.

## Radio & Dispatch Upgrade

We have finally completed our Project 25 radio and dispatch console upgrade. This was a federal mandate requiring local, state and federal entities to become digital capable within our communications abilities. This has been an ongoing project for years.



## Watch-Guard Upgrade

Watch-Guard, our in-car video system was recently upgraded to the latest digital version on the market. For a small fee and trading in our used units, we were able to acquire the newest system on the market.



# Public Works



*City of South Padre Island Public Works Department 2012-2013*

*Crews moved sand to prepare for Sandcastle Days 2012 in front of Clayton's Bar.*



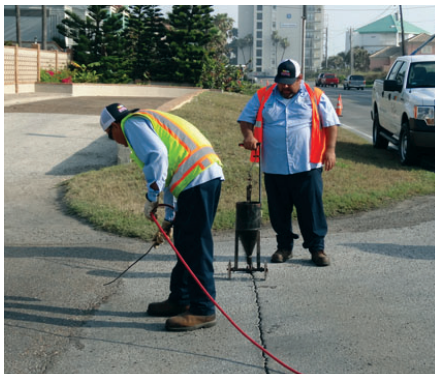
*A total 2,850 palm trees were trimmed in October 2012 and July 2013 at a total cost of \$32,775.*



*The old Public Works conference room was converted into two offices in January at a cost of \$4,668, including office furniture.*



*In November 2012 crews set up a Christmas tree, banners and rope lights on center medians on Padre Blvd. in preparation for the holidays.*



*PW crews completed a crack sealing project as part of their street preventive maintenance.*



*Crews installed landscape timbers and rope to create a 10' safety access lane for maintenance, beach patrol, code and emergency vehicles by Clayton's, Wanna, Wanna, & Saida Towers. This lane is in use from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. It will be re-installed in March for Spring Break, as well.*



*In June 2013, a contractor and PW relocated 10 beach flag warning poles that were being covered by growing dunes.*





*In May 2013, PW installed solar powered advance warning signs off Padre Blvd. by new Fire Station No. 1. These signs help fire trucks safely access Padre Blvd. and warn motorists that emergency vehicles are approaching.*



*In October 2012, Beach Maintenance Crew installed Mobi Mats donated to the City by the Texas General Land Office.*



*In December 2012, PW celebrated the retirement of Hector Torres who served the South Padre Island community for 25 years.*



*In May 2013, PW replaced railroad ties and timbers on the second median near the causeway. They also added ground cover and adjusted sprinklers to help beautify the median.*



*In August 2013, faded street signs were replaced. South-facing street signs fade from extensive sun exposure, making them difficult to read, particularly at night.*



*Crews installed signage and orange fencing at several designated locations for Spring Break 2013.*



*The Laguna Madre Water District cleaned storm sewer inlets and lines in September 2013 at a cost of \$15,000.*



*Full reconstruction of E. Huisache and spot repairs on Laguna and Gulf Blvd. started in August 2013 and will be completed in October 2013. Additional work is being done to repair pavement on Gulf Blvd., Laguna Blvd., Acapulco, Campeche and Morningside. Design of parking and bike/pedestrian improvements on Gulf Blvd. is also part of the project.*



*Crews prepared for storm surges and high tides associated with Tropical Storm Ingrid, which reached hurricane status before being downgraded.*

# Transit Department



*City of South Padre Island Transit Department 2012-2013*

## Training

- Transit Coordinator, Debbie Carpenter, attended training in Chicago, IL. The course, Procurement Series III – RFP's and Competitive Contract Negotiations, covered the following topics: Acquisition Planning and Strategy, Competitive Proposal Negotiations, Non-Competitive and Emergency Contract Negotiations, Negotiating Architectural/Engineering Service Contracts, Other Negotiated Procurement Methods, Negotiation Skills and Concessions.
- Transit Coordinator, Debbie Carpenter, attended the Texas Department of Transportation video teleconference in Pharr, TX to review the new annual Request for Proposals.
- Transit Supervisor, Richard Martinez and Transit Mechanic,

Joe Gonzalez attended Engine Management and Electronically Controlled Transmission training at T.S.T.C. in Harlingen. The training course was sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts.

- Transit Coordinator, Debbie Carpenter, attended the Texas Department of Transportation South Regional Workshop in Corpus Christi. The workshop is one of many held across the state to discuss and review the annual Request for Proposals.
- Transit Supervisor, Richard Martinez, attended World-Class Training's new management training course in Harlingen, TX.
- Transit Supervisor, Richard Martinez, and Transit Mechanic, Joe Gonzalez, attended training in Harlingen. The courses were sponsored by CARQUEST Technical

Institute and included Digital Storage Oscilloscope operation and diagnosis of common vehicle problems using a lab-scope.

- Transit Supervisor, Richard Martinez and Lead Driver, Oscar Torres attended the Reasonable Suspicion Determination for Supervisors Seminar in Weslaco.
- Transit Director, Jesse Arriaga, attended the Semi-Annual Transit Operators meeting and William King Cole Effective Local Government Series in Austin in January.
- Transit Director, Jesse Arriaga, participated in the following webinars hosted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): Sec 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities, Sec 5311 - Rural Formula, Sec 5310 - Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, Sec 5326 - Asset Management, and Sec 5329 - Safety.

## MAP-21

The passage of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, better known as MAP-21, made changes to parts of the Federal Transit Law. TxDOT is examining the alignment of existing policies and procedures in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) with new or amended federal requirements in MAP-21. TxDOT hosted the three webinars to discuss the proposed TAC changes and to accept feedback from small urban and rural transit agencies.



## New Hires

- The WAVE would like to congratulate Richard Martinez on being selected as the new Transit Supervisor, and welcome Joe Gonzales as our new Transit Mechanic. We are excited to have these gentlemen on our team!
- The WAVE would like to welcome its two newest full-time bus drivers, Ruben Padilla and Cruz Valdez.
- The WAVE would like to welcome back part-time bus driver Frank Cuevas.

## New WAVE Bus Stop

The new bus stop on Harding Boulevard in Laguna Heights has been very successful, serving as many as 89 riders per day. This new bus stop provides safer service to WAVE passengers on the south side of Highway 100.

## Audit

The Transit Division has completed its fiscal year 1st quarter audit with Texas Department of Transportation. The WAVE was found to be compliant with all financial supporting documents

## New Truck



The Transit Division recently purchased a new truck to replace the yellow van. The new truck will primarily be used to exchange drivers on the Laguna Heights route at the south end of the island.

## TTA State Rodeo



The WAVE was represented at the TTA State Bus Rodeo was held in Austin. Bus drivers Julian Hernandez and Orlando Jimenez and Transit Supervisor Richard Martinez attended the event.

## Multi-modal Project



• An archaeological excavation of the future Multi-Modal Project site was completed. Workers are pictured below digging trenches to gain some idea of subsurface conditions and record the necessary profiles. The archaeological survey is a requirement for projects funded with FTA resources.

• Gignac & Associates and Parsons Brinckerhoff were selected to perform the architectural and engineering phase of the future multi-modal transportation center. The selection was approved and The WAVE will began negotiations with the firm immediately.

• Transit Director, Jesse Arriaga, met with architects from Gignac & Associates to review proposed images for the exterior design of the new facility.

• Transit Staff and Development

Director and design team member, Dr. Kim met with Gignac & Associates to review changes and final project site and building drawings. The meeting also included discussing a timeline and conducting required peer reviews throughout the project.

## Ridership

According to the FY2012 Texas Rural Transit Districts Peer-To-Peer Comparison and Performance Data reports, The WAVE had the 2nd highest ridership among the state's 39 rural systems. The only system with higher ridership has a population of almost 62,000 and covers 248 square miles. The WAVE's total ridership for FY2012 was 593,404. The average ridership for all rural systems in Texas for FY2012 was 181,017.

## New Regional Route

The City of Brownsville, the City of McAllen, the City of South Padre Island, and Valley Transit Company have established a three legged intercity route that will provide non-stop intercity service from UTPA to McAllen, from Brownsville to McAllen, and from Brownsville to South Padre Island. Connecting regional hubs in the area and a commitment to seamless transportation were the primary driving forces for this project.

An unveiling of the new project was held in August 2013 at the La Plaza at Brownsville terminal located in Brownsville. City Manager Joni Clarke and Transit staff Jesse Arriaga, Richard Martinez, and Debbie Carpenter attended the unveiling and ribbon cutting. Congressman Filemon Vela and State Representative Eddie Lucio III also attended the event. Several

television and radio stations were present and interviewed the various transit system directors as well as other distinguished attendees.



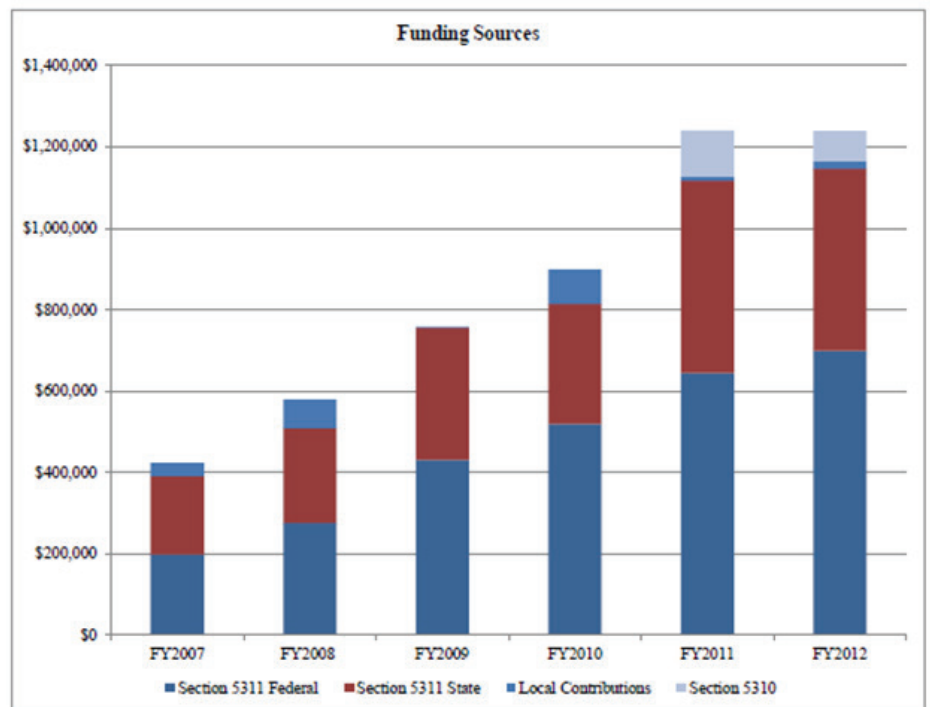
## New Buses

The Transit Division purchased two new buses to add to its fleet.

## Transit Mobility Program

The Transit Mobility Program at Texas A&M Transportation Institute prepared and forwarded record of The WAVE's transit district historical operations and financial data and performance reported through state fiscal year 2012. Below are a few of the comparison charts for The WAVE:

	Passenger Boardings	Revenue Miles	Revenue Hours	Operating Expenditures
FY2007	277,122	198,161	10,945	\$422,906
FY2008	309,081	212,799	11,968	\$509,693
FY2009	308,863	213,134	12,297	\$522,510
FY2010	334,654	253,077	13,332	\$666,297
FY2011	454,502	302,450	16,945	\$888,499
FY2012	589,337	357,934	20,511	\$1,045,439
Difference	30%	18%	21%	18%



# Boards & Committees



## City Council

*Robert N. Pinkerton, Jr., Mayor  
JoAnn Evans, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Alex Avalos, Council Member  
Alita Bagley, Council Member  
Robert Fudge, Council Member  
Sam Listi, Council Member*



## Board of Adjustments & Appeals

*Roy De los Santos, Jr., Chairman  
Paul Fedigan, Vice Chairman  
James Helms, Member  
Jerry Pace, Member  
Jim Winholtz, Member  
Stephen Burch, Alternate  
Chris Huffman, Alternate  
Peter Maheu, Alternate*



## Convention & Visitors Transition Board

*Cesar Cantor, Chairman  
Bryan Pinkerton, Vice Chairman  
Bill Donahue, Member  
Barry Patel, Member  
Rene Valdez, Member  
Anne Weiss, Member  
Michael Jones, Ex-Officio Member  
Jose Mulet, Ex-Officio Member*



### Development Standards Review Task Force

*Nancy Moyer, Chairman*  
*Alfredo "Fred" Hernandez, Vice Chairman*  
*Joe Baker, Member*  
*Joe Logan, Member*  
*Steve Walker, Member*



### Economic Development Center

*Scott Friedman, President*  
*Joanne Williams, Vice President*  
*Ben Levenson, Treasurer*  
*Roy Bailey, Member*  
*JoAnn Evans, Member*  
*Roxanne Guenzel, Member*  
*Ramona Kantack Alcantara, Member*



### Historic Preservation Committee

*Steve Hathcock, Chairman*  
*Mary Ann Tous, Vice Chairman*  
*Melba Fassold, Member*  
*Courtney Hill, Member*  
*Susan Holmes, Member*  
*Angie Roach, Member*  
*Leo F. "Speck" Sanders, Member*







### **Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee**

*Jody Hughes, Chairman*  
*Wanda Ballou, Vice Chairman*  
*Kathy Grebb, Member*  
*Jim Helms, Member*  
*Debbie Huffman, Member*  
*Robert Weiss, Member*



### **Planning & Zoning Committee**

*Patrick McNulty, Chairman*  
*John Giesecking, Vice Chairman*  
*Deanna Bowman, Member*  
*Chris Huffman, Member*  
*Russel Judah, Member*  
*Ramona Kantack Alcantara, Member*  
*Gary Olle, Member*



### **Shoreline Task Force**

*Paul Munarriz, Chairman*  
*Troy Giles, Vice Chairman*  
*R. Guy Blatnik, Member*  
*Charles Brommer, Member*  
*Robert Nixon, Member*  
*Barry Patel, Member*  
*Neil Rasmussen, Member*

### **Board of Ethics Committee**

*Walter King, Chairman*  
*Shane Wilson, Vice Chairman*  
*Charles Costanza, Member*  
*Dabney Helms, Member*  
*Dean McCormick*

### **Keep SPI Beautiful Committee**

*Robert Nixon, Chairman*  
*Susan Hoehne, Vice Chairman*  
*Julio Colunga, Member*  
*Susan Geery, Member*  
*Nancy Marsden, Member*  
*Elaine Sanchez, Member*  
*Mary Tannenbaum, Member*







## **City of South Padre Island City Council 2012-2013**

Robert N. Pinkerton, Jr., Mayor

Jo Ann Evans, Mayor Pro-Tem

Robert A. Fudge , Council Member

Alex Avalos, Council Member

Sam A. Listi, Council Member

Alita Bagley, Council Member