



The Beachcomber

April - June 2011

NEW ERA OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City of South Padre Island launched its website (www.MySPI.org) in January of 2011 and entered a new era of citizen participation.

The City recently expanded its online video streaming suite to include electronic comments (eComments). South Padre Island is the first city in Texas to make this feature available. With the use of the new tool the City hopes to strengthen citizen participation and encourage civic involvement. The eComments tool allows citizens to review the upcoming City Council agenda and provide comments on particular items.

Prior to any City Council meeting, citizens can log on to www.MySPI.org, go to the City Meetings tab on the left and click on the eComment link next to an upcoming City Council meeting's agenda. They can then indicate their position on an item, add any additional comments related to that particular item or leave general comments for city staff. This tool provides a convenient alternative to in-person testimony, emails, phone calls and faxes.



Comments are provided to the City Council prior to the meeting so that they can be reviewed and addressed when the particular item is being discussed. This new tool will also benefit administrative staff, helping them to collect, consolidate, and route citizen feedback through an automated process.

Along with eComments, new service tools have been adopted by the City to increase communication with its citizens:

- **Share Your Ideas** – A service for sharing and developing ideas in the community to save costs, improve services or make the island a better place to live and visit.
- **Rumor Watch** – A service for reporting misinformation and getting correct information out to the community.
- **Email and Text Notifications** – The City has introduced new newsletters and an emergency notification service that can be subscribed to in email and in SMS (Text Messaging) format.



A weekly email newsletter is now available to increase communication with Island residents and visitors. The "Eye on SPI" weekly newsletter is published every Tuesday and contains information from all City departments. It also includes a weekly calendar of events and reports on any Ideas Shared or Rumor Alerts generated. If you are interested in receiving the "Eye on SPI" weekly newsletter you may log on to www.MySPI.org and click on the "Stay Informed" tab and register to receive email alerts and/or Text Alerts.

For more information on eComments and any other new tools you may contact:

- Information Services Director, Tim Howell at 956-761-3078 or by email at THowell@MySPI.org
- Communications & Technology Specialist, Carlos Centeno at (956) 761-6458 or by email at CCenteno@MySPI.org

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of South Padre Island will be conducting a community survey to gather valuable input from the community. The Survey will be available online and hard copies will be available at City Hall, the Visitor's Center and other locations. For more information on the survey's availability or how to fill one out contact Communications & Technology Specialist, Carlos Centeno at (956) 761-6458 or by email at CCenteno@MySPI.org.

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Mobi-Chairs



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MOBI-CHAIRS ON DEMAND!

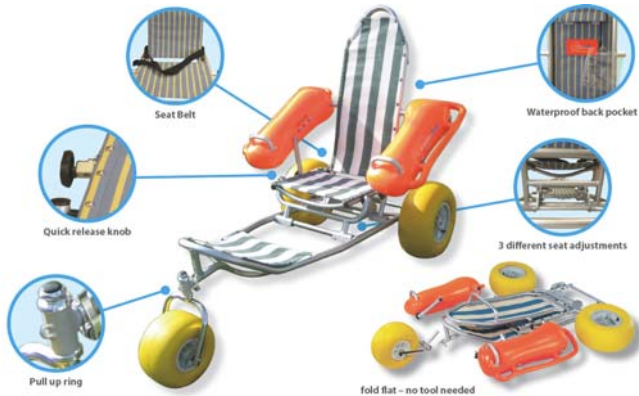
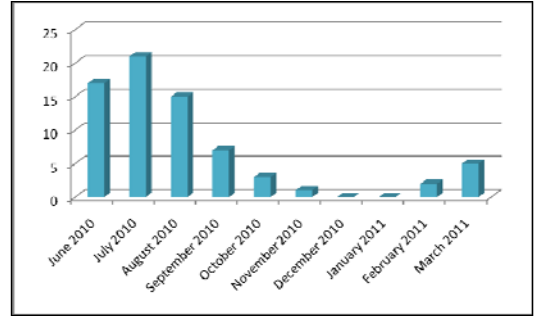
People come from all over to enjoy the beautiful beaches on South Padre Island. Therefore, making the beaches accessible to everyone is a top priority for the City. This includes persons with any mobility troubles or handicaps. With a mobi-chair, residents and visitors in wheelchairs or with any mobility issues can enjoy the beach without limitations.

In early 2010, the City of South Padre Island received six mobi-chairs from the General Land Office (GLO). Mobi-chairs are amphibious wheelchairs that are beach and surf accessible. They not only allow persons with special needs to get out and enjoy the beach but also allow them to access the water. Mobi-chairs have ballon type tires that allow the user to float and enjoy the warm waters.

The demand for mobi-chairs has grown since their arrival, especially during the summer months of June, July, and August. Records show that from June 2010 to March 2011, the Fire & Emergency Department have issued out mobi-chairs 71 times. Some of these were for multiple days but only count as a single checkout.

With the addition of the new mobi-chairs the Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson declared South Padre Island beaches the most accessible in Texas in 2010.

“The City of South Padre Island’s efforts to make the beaches accessible for all show real Texas hospitality,” Patterson said. “These new mobi-chairs will be the perfect complement to all the other improvements they’ve made here to make this the most accessible beach in all of Texas.”



The South Padre Island Fire Department exemplifies public service by not only providing the mobi-chairs, but by delivering and assisting with the use of the mobi-chairs. It is a full end-to-end service and one of which we are very proud to be offering,” says City Manager Joni Clarke.

The mobi-chairs are available at the Fire Station at, 4501 Padre Blvd, or you can call and reserve one at (956) 761-3040. The mobi-chairs are available 365 days of the year but do to a limited supply, it is best to reserve them early. There is no fee for the service for residents or visitors interested in using a mobi-chair. All that is needed is a valid driver’s license and contact information.

For more information on the mobi-chairs program you may contact Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, Burney Basket at (956) 761-3040 or BBaskett@MySPI.org.



GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election will be held in the City of South Padre Island, Texas on May 14, 2011 to elect a Mayor and two Council Members (Place 1 & Place 4).

Early Voting for the May 14, 2011 Election will be held at the Municipal Complex Building, 4601 Padre Boulevard between the hours of 8 AM to 5 PM on May 2, 2011 through May 10, 2011, except Thursday, May 5, 2011 and Tuesday, May 10, 2011, which the hours will be from 7 AM to 7 PM

The Ballot will consist of voting for the candidate of your choice for the seat of Council Member, Place 1 consisting of Robert A. Fudge and Roy De los Santos, Jr.

Unopposed candidates declared elected are Bob Pinkerton, Jr. for the Mayor's position and JoAnn Evans for Council Member, Place 4.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2011

Date	Event	Location	Time	More Information
April		Turtle Nesting Season Begins		
April 8	Tip O' Texas Birding Weekend	SPI Birding Center	7 AM - 7PM	(956) 243-8179
April 10	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
April 12	Artisans of Mexico	SPI Convention Centre	9 AM - 5 PM	(956) 761-3000
April 15-17	Beach-N-Biker Fest	SPI Convention Centre	10:00 AM	www.beachnbikerfest.com
April 15-16	AMI Fishing Tournament	Parrot Eyes	7:00 AM	(956) 233-5795
April 17	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
April 18-24		Holly Week - Semana Santa		
April 20-23	UNIK Music Fest	Mooncussers	6:00 PM	(956) 640-1320
April 21-23	Yuju Music Fest	Club Chaos	8:00 PM	www.yujufest.com
April 22-23	Ultimate Music Experience	Schillterbahn Water Park	6:00 PM	www.southpartyisland.com
April 22-23	Weekend Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
April 22-24	1st International SPI Fishing Tour.	Sea Ranch Marina		1-800-657-2373
April 23	Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup	Several Locations	9 AM-12 PM	(956) 433-1472 / 761-5494
April 24		Easter		
April 24	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
April 29-30	SPI Splash	Louie's / Mooncussers	9:00 PM	www.splashsouthpadre.com
April 30	Night Sand Crab Time Beach Run	La Copa Inn & Suites	8:30 PM	www.runintexas.com
April 30	Texas State Surfing Championship	Isla Blanca Park		www.surftgsa.com
April 30	Plant Sale	SPI Birding Center	9 AM - 2 PM	(956) 243-8179

May 2011

Date	Event	Location	Time	More Information
May 1	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
May 1	Pedal to Padre	Schillterbahn Water Park		(956) 541-9712
May 2-10	Early Voting for General Election	City Hall	8 AM - 5 PM	(956) 761-3039
May 7	Mother's Day Mercado	Laguna & Ling Streets	10 AM - 3 PM	
May 8		Mother's Day		
May 8	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
May 11	Tourist Appreciation Day	SPI Visitor's Center	11 Am - 2 PM	1-800-SOPADRE
May 14	General Election	City Hall	7 AM - 7 PM	(956) 761-3039
May 15	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
May 16-21	Turtle Days Shellabration	Sea Turtle Inc.		(956) 371-9120
May 18-22	South Padre Kite Round Up!	SPI Convention Centre Flats		www.spikiteroundup.com
May 21	Armed Forces Day Celebration	City Hall	10:30 AM	(956) 761-6458
May 22	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
May 27-28	Memorial Weekend Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
May 28-29	SPI Volleyball Tournament	Boomerang Billy's		(956) 761-6458
May 29	SPI Red, Wine & Blues Concert	Boomerang Billy's	8 PM - 10 PM	(956) 761-6458
May 29	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
May 30		Memorial Day		



**BULK RATE
PERMIT # 10**
South Padre Island, TX 78597

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2011

Date	Event	Location	Time	More Information
June 3	Friday Night Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
June 5	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
June 10	Friday Night Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
June 12	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
June 17	Friday Night Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
June 19	Surfrider Children's Surf Clinic	Isla Blanca Park	8:30 AM	www.robaroo3000@gmail.com
June 19	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	
June 24	Friday Night Fireworks	Laguna Madre Bay	9:15 PM	(956) 761-6433
June 26	Farmers Market	"The Shores"	11 AM - 1 PM	

SPI CONTINUES TO RECYCLE!

The City of South Padre Island and the Environmental Health Services Department has changed its recycling hours. The new hours are from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM every Saturday of the year. Residents can take their recyclable materials to 108 West Retama. During the past few months, we have had an influx on the demand for recycling from 8am-9am. Additionally, we are now using another company for our recycling needs but they do close at noon on Saturdays. Please recycle or reuse your plastic, aluminum, tin, newspaper, and cardboard.

Also, the Residential Curbside Recycling program started on Thursday, March 3, 2011. Allied Waste Services is providing 18 gallon recycling containers to residents that wish to subscribe to the weekly Recycling Collection Program. The cost is \$8.00 per month. Sign up for this service by calling Allied Waste Services, 800-423-7316. Items which will be collected include milk jugs, soda and plastic bottles, newspaper, aluminum cans, tin cans and cardboard.