



## A Message from Mayor Wax

August 30, 2017

Day by day the City is getting better. There have been terrific efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents, first responders, state and federal emergency teams, business partners and the citizens themselves. Neighbors helping neighbors – it's what Rockport is, has been and will always be – a community that cares!

1. Rockport Wi-Fi, AT&T, Sprint and other specialists have outdone themselves in improving communication for both the clean-up, safety and public works efforts and, NOW, the citizens of Rockport. There is now limited bandwidth throughout the area. We ask that you be patient as it also means there will be dropped calls and difficulty texting.
2. Garbage Service is Returning. Residential trash pickup will start on Thursday. There will be no recycling pickup. If your trash is not picked up that day, please wait another day or so to call the City as the trucks will be filling up at a much faster than the regular routes.
3. Utilities. The Public Works Department and AEP are still hard at work to resume water, sewer and electricity. The WATER BOIL ADVISORY is still in place.
4. Gasoline is now available at three gas stations, thanks to donations of commercial generators.
5. Grocery Stores. Both HEB and Walmart lost their perishable foods. Walmart was hit harder having lost over 100 skylights and their entire inventory. Both are aggressively addressing repairs. HEB should open in two weeks and Walmart a bit later.
6. Donations. The Chamber has set up a page on Go Fund Me. Two separate accounts have been set up at 1<sup>st</sup> Community Bank. The first is a restricted account for Rockport's clean-up efforts and rebuilding. The second is for City of Rockport Employees, who sustained damage or total loss. They put the safety of residents ahead of their own personal needs.
7. Government Assistance. The Small Business Administration will be open for business on Thursday to assist businesses with loans, rebuilding and vital information. They will be operating out of the former Public Works Building located at the corner of Laurel and Gagnon. A FEMA office is at the First Presbyterian Church.
8. Rebuilding. If you have suffered significant damage and are rebuilding, you will need to obtain a building permit. You may use this link: <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CQcce> or go to the

City's Web site and click on Building Department under the Departments tab. We will be posting more information about post flood requirements in the next few days.

9. City Hall and Operations. Just a reminder that while City offices are closed due to damages, there are a great number of employees working behind the scenes. This includes members of our Public Works, Parks, Police and Public Safety Staff. And, a "satellite" City Hall has been in operation in Bastrop since last Friday to answer calls, relay information to us in the Emergency Operations Center, and coordinate communication on our web site and with social media pages.
10. Dispelling Rumors. Seen and heard that people are talking/posting about looters. I can tell you that there have been only two reports of looting in Rockport and that three people were arrested. We are cognizant of the challenge and have had incredible support from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the National Guard. I suppose the looters were unaware of the enhanced penalties for looting during a major disaster, but they'll certainly find out.

As I mentioned at the beginning, Rockport is getting better and better. Won't be a quick recovery, but I'm confident in its success.