



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 3, 2017

Mark Twain once said, *"The report of my death was an exaggeration."* So, too, is any comment attributed to me that is not in this Message or in the Facebook posts that I've authorized Vicki Pitluk to dispatch. It is hurtful to the City and its residents when someone erroneously posts that I've said we are not going to rebuild Rockport. It isn't true.

New News:

1. Trash bins. If you're missing a bin, you may pick one up at the former Service Center, which is located at Laurel and Gagnon.
2. Mosquitos. If you're coming in to check on your home, don't forget to bring mosquito spray. Rain is forecast for Wednesday, which will exacerbate the situation. As mentioned in previous letters, the County is spraying nightly.
3. SBA. The Small Business Administration will be setting up in the Women's Club building next to Veteran's Park, near downtown by the harbor. FEMA is already set up at the park so this will make it convenient for everyone.
4. Sewer System – Please DO NOT use your toilets or pour anything but water down your drains. The wastewater system is not working and we're having to bring generators in to power some lift stations to avert sewage overflow. We really do not want to have to add backflow problems to our "to do" list.

Worth Reminding:

1. Garbage. Trash runs are being made DAILY and we've expanded services. Continue to put your household refuse in your blue and green bins. Make separate piles for building debris, trees/limbs AND appliances. Place them close to the curb or on your property – not the street. If you are missing a bin, we'll have information on how to get a replacement next week. Commercial clients should continue to use their dumpsters, which will also have enhanced pick up. The **Transfer Station** will open on Monday and will operate 7 days a week from 7 am – 6 pm for an indefinite period.
2. Warnings and Protection. If you have been staying in Rockport, it's very important to get a tetanus shot. They are FREE at the County Jail and the Urgent Care Center on 35. If you're cleaning up building debris or rain-soaked areas, be sure to wear gloves, thick shoes and a mask.

For those whose homes have been compromised, there is **a chance of mold** becoming an issue due to the high humidity. We are working on getting truckloads of Damp Rid delivered to the community.

3. Electricity. If your home has been badly damaged, please turn off the main circuit breaker to your house. We need to minimize the possibility of arcs and surges when power returns on September 8. We will have fire teams and AEP specialists available should fires break out. Also, if you are using a power generator plus household items directly into the generator, do not tie in to house power.
4. Water. The WATER BOIL ADVISORY is still in place. Leaks in the water system have been located and we're in the process of fixing them before our water supplier resumes pressurized service. Daily pressurizing is taking place from 8 am – 5 pm. Although there is water coming out of the faucet, it **SHOULD NOT** be used for bathroom purposes or pouring things down the drain. The system is being overloaded in its testing capacity and we're having to bring generators in to power some lift stations to avert a sewage overflow problem as the wastewater treatment plant is not fully operational
5. Debris Removal. There is a large contingent of volunteers that will undertake removal. They will begin in two places – (1) south of Market and (2) north of Henderson. They will continue outward. Once they have reached the end of City limits, they will move inward from the two sites.
6. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at Fat's in Lamar, old HEB parking lot and Castaways. Numerous churches also have necessities for residents in need and some good Samaritans are setting up throughout the city.
7. Government Assistance. Staff from the **Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)** will work next week out of Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard Street, from Tuesday, September 5 through Friday, September 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to meet with the public and answer their questions about insurance matters related to Hurricane Harvey. They will be located on the first floor in the alcove facing Leopard Street. On Saturday, September 9, they will be at the La Retama Central Library, 805 Comanche, in the library's conference room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. FEMA and the SBA have set up at Veterans Park near downtown and the harbor
8. Contractors. Beginning on Monday, all out-of-area contractors will be required to register at the Rockport Service Center. They will be vetted and given a special "City authorized" tag for their car. While this may be an inconvenience for them, it is a way to ensure that residents are getting work done by individuals/customers who are aware of our building codes and the regulations associated with TWIA certified roofing.
9. 911. We are receiving an inordinate amount of non-emergency calls on our system. Wellness checks and relative location requests should be directed to the Red Cross.
10. Mail. Our local post office is partially operational. They have started delivering mail to locations where a mail box is still standing. We will provide you with a direct contact and location in Corpus next week to check on the status of your mail.

11. Save the Tree? Some folks are unsure if their trees can be saved. The Texas A&M Forestry Service will be available to answer questions and look at your property. Informational handouts are being developed and will be available through the Rockport Service Center, Public Safety Center, Chamber and *The Pilot*. This is being coordinated through the Nueces Extension Office. 361-767-5250. There is a fact sheet available on line to help you make a determination – <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>
12. 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.
13. 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.

Rumor has it that there's a holiday tomorrow. Even so, we'll be working tomorrow and the days ahead to rebuild our fair city. It's getting better every day!!