



## A Message from Mayor Wax

September 6, 2017

Sometimes in the throes of an emergency, certain information may be erroneously inferred and then passed along as verified. Such was the case with the report of the return of power from Market Street to Fulton. What WAS powered were the trunk lines that go to the main distribution center off Pearl Street AND the lights along 188. The power for residents and businesses continues to be Friday at 10 pm. We apologize for the miscommunication and premature hope. But, IT IS coming!!!

### New News:

1. Aerial mosquito spraying starts on Thursday. Airborne assets will serve Aransas, Nueces and San Patricio Counties. Nightly County-wide spraying continues.
2. ACISD. Today there were recovery crews at all the campuses. No timetable has been established for classes to resume. The first schools to open will be the elementary schools, followed by middle and high school.
3. Hazardous Materials. If you had major damage to a structure that housed hazardous materials such as paints, pesticides, etc., please take them to the Transfer Station for proper disposal. Residents are asked to use the Prairie Street Entrance.
4. Trash Bins. Container bins are no longer available for pick up. If you didn't replace one lost by the storm, please ask neighbors, friends or family if they can help until normal operations resume.
5. Wastewater. We have installed generators along major lift stations throughout the City. This will allow us to get back to full operation once the power is restored. In the meantime, we ask that you NOT use your toilets at this time.
6. Hay. The Agri-Life Center has a limited supply of hay for livestock. Moore than Feed is also open for business.

### 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. **Do not block the bins with debris or vehicles as the automated trucks are unable to access many bins on their rounds.** Make separate piles for building debris, trees/limbs AND appliances. Place them close to the curb or on your property –

not the street. The **Transfer Station** will operate 7 days a week from 7 am – 6 pm for an indefinite period. **Residents should enter via Prairie Street and Commercial contractors through Airport St.**

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 Lamar Volunteer Fire Department, County Jail, Code 3 Urgent/Emergency Care at Pearl and Enterprise, 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 to house power. **Please turn off your air conditioning systems and any appliances, lamps, coffee pots, clocks and other items that may be plugged in. We need to de-energize homes when power resumes to minimize potential damage.**
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. **Once the power has resumed, you should continue to boil all consumable water for another 72 hours.** Bathing, cooking and washing will be fine.
5. Debris Removal. Major debris pickup for City and County residents began today with concentration on public right of ways, i.e., clearing streets. This is ongoing and will ramp up to 60 vehicles. Don't forget to separate building materials and yard waste and leave them in your yard or driveway, not in the street. Yard debris will be processed through a chipper.
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. TWIA (Texas Windstorm) has set up a mobile claims center at GSM Insurors at 1102 Laurel Street in Rockport and the Lindale Recreation Center, located at 3133 Swantner Street in Corpus Christi. The Small Business Administration will be setting up in the Women's Club building next to

Veteran's Park, near downtown by the harbor, and **processing loans for individuals, as well as businesses**. FEMA is already set up at the park so this will make it convenient for everyone.

8. Contractors. **All contractors** are 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. 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/>
11. 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.
12. 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 August 25 to answer calls, relay information to us in the Emergency Operations Center, and coordinate communication on our web site and with social media pages.

It's getting better every day!!