



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 7, 2017

Although these letters come through the City, please know that it is a multi-jurisdictional effort that includes Aransas County and the Town of Fulton. Our level of cooperation is unmatched. We are truly One Voice --working together to rebuild.

New News:

1. Electricity. AEP confirms that 95% of the area will receive power at 10 pm on Friday. There are small pockets that are up. If neighbors have power and you don't, please make sure your meter is "energized," i.e. little hands moving around and dials turning. If not, call the AEP Outage line at 866-223-8508. If you have another concern, call AEP Customer Service at 877-373-4858.
2. A list of Verified Contractors is on the City's web site and is updated regularly. Go to <http://www.cityofrockport.com/664/Contractor-Verification>
3. Building Inspections. Beginning tomorrow, members of the Building Officials Association of Texas will be visiting ALL facilities in the County to determine livability and continuing operation. They will start at the south end of the County and continue north until run out of real estate to review.
4. Support from Austin. Governor Abbott met with many officials representing devastated area within the Coastal Bend. He has established the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas and named John Sharp, chancellor of Texas A&M and a former elected official, to oversee its efforts. The Governor, Chancellor and other state principals underscored their commitment to a long term recovery for the area.
5. Transfer Station. Hours will change next Tuesday. It will be operational from 9 – 6 five day a week. Because of the huge amount of debris, the Station will only accept certain, separated materials from uninsured individuals. These include hazardous waste, electronics and appliances.
6. ACISD. Information on the status of schools is available by calling 512-463-9603. The line will be open from 8 am – 5 pm seven days a week.

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 until you receive an "all clear" announcement.** Bathing, cooking and washing will be fine.
5. Debris Removal. Major debris pickup for residents is underway. **Significant resources from Crowder Gulf and Thompson Consulting have cleared the right of ways and are working south of Market Street and North of Henderson. They'll go to the far edges of the County – north, south and west, then move inward, and start all over again. Concentration is on residential properties. This is a costly and laborious project, but will continue until the major debris is gone. PLEASE assist us with this effort by separating your debris into building materials and yard waste and NOT put materials in the street or impede access by parking in front of the debris. They are currently removing about 25,000 tons a day and we expect the amount to go up as more vehicles are added.**
6. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at old HEB parking lot and Castaways. **The operating hours for the Fats location in Holiday Beach/Lamar are 10 – 6.** 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!!