



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 8, 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. GREAT NEWS. 95% of the area will receive power by 10 pm on Friday. The missing 5% are structures that were demolished by the winds OR have some damage to the meter or wires. 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. Other Utilities. Water and Sewer are now up and running 24/7. We still have a BOIL WATER advisory in effect and will lift it once we have established the proper levels. WE NEED YOUR HELP – if you notice a leak or seepage that we may not have been able to identify, please call 729-1111 or 729-2222 to alert us to the problem.
3. 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>
4. Building Inspections. Members of the Building Officials Association of Texas are visiting ALL buildings (residential and commercial) in the County to assess exterior, structural damage. They will start at the south end of the County and continue north until run out of real estate to review.

If there is a RED sticker, it means the property is unsafe and **should not be entered** for any reason. A YELLOW sticker indicates **caution**. Entry is at your own risk. A GREEN sticker or NO sticker means the structure appears to be fine. If you don't have a sticker, please don't assume that it's safe until you check with neighbors to see if they have received an inspection.

Please note that the review is only from the exterior. The inspectors are not gauging damage to the interior including electric, gas and water utilities or water/wind damage.

5. Lost Pets. Animal Control has teamed up with the Houston SPCA to post information on lost or found pets. You may access this information by going to one of two web sites: 1) www.findingrover.com or 2) www.houstonspca.org/harvey.

6. Mail. IF your mailbox withstood the winds and is still standing, you should be receiving your mail. If your mailbox disappeared from your property, you may pick up your mail at the Ingleside Post Office, located on 2230 TX-361.
7. School District Recovery. School re-openings will be phased in. Elementary and Pre-K will likely begin in approximately 30 days. It may take up to 6 months for the middle and high school due to substantial damage. Bus transportation is now being provided for ACISD students who are attending school in Portland-Gregory. The drop off and pickup site is the parking lot behind the Stadium. Elementary, Middle and High School students will board buses between 6:30 and 6:45 am. Return is approximately 4 pm. Pre-K morning pick up is at 6:45 with return at noon. Pre-K pm students will be picked up at 10:40 and return at 4.
8. Support from Austin. We have forwarded a request to the Governor's Commission asking for additional resources to expedite debris removal.

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. 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.**
4. 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.

5. Government Assistance. Staff from the **Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) will be at the La Retama Central Library, 805 Comanche, in the library's conference room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 9.** 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 **is now open** 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.
6. 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.
7. 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. All other calls should be directed to 729-1111 or 729-2222.
8. 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/>
9. 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.

It's getting better every day!!