



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 19, 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. City Council. A special meeting was held today to focus on the contractor/vendor verification program. It was decided to continue the process to assure residents that these businesses have been certain criteria, including proof of liability insurance, windstorm certification for roofers, and state licenses for electrician, mechanical and plumbing contactors. Several "scammers" have been escorted out of town. Remember, verified contractors MUST HAVE a special decal on their front window.
2. Stress Relief/Grief Counseling. If you or a family member are struggling to cope in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, associates with greencross.org will be sharing information and exercises at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 20 (tomorrow) at the Church Unlimited Pavilion at 902 E. Main.
3. Mosquito Spraying. The sprayers will be on the streets tonight.
4. TxDOT is securing its debris management site on the Bypass median near 12th Street. Southbound traffic will be limited to one lane to accommodate the trucks going to the site. Once they've finished their routes, they will hold a controlled burn that will include TCEQ, firefighting personnel and a strike team and will then assist with the debris removal in the county.

The County remains in a BURN BAN. There is discussion about opening it to controlled areas. We will let you know when things change.

5. Mail. There is now a kiosk in the Rockport PO parking lot from which you can purchase stamps and conduct other postal business. If you are not receiving your packages at the Ingleside Post Office, contact the Hector Garcia Main Post Office in Corpus Christi at 361-886-2238
6. Municipal Court. The Court is now operating from 410 E. Bay Street, which is one block south of City Hall.

7. Debris Removal. Please, please, please be patient. As mentioned before, Crowder Gulf is moving from the north and south regions of the County inward. It is a long process and your neighborhood WILL be services. To ensure that your debris IS removed, make sure that it is in three separate piles (trees, building material and appliances). Intermingling will delay pickup and it's possible that the Crowder Gulf may not be able to do a co-mingle pickup without causing damage to its trucks. If you wish to hire your own contractor to remove the debris, you may do so. However, the transfer station is not open to other debris removal companies and dumping anywhere within the City or County is illegal. A list of available landfills is available on the City's web site and also in section 8 of "Worth Reminding" below.
8. In-kind and Volunteer Service. If you or anyone you know has provided FREE assistance to our area, such as volunteer clean-up, food, equipment or materials, in-kind donations, etc., please deliver or mail this information to the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, 319 Broadway, Rockport, TX 78382.

The Chamber volunteered/was appointed to log this information for the community so that County and City employees could concentrate on their work of restoring and servicing the area. Each of the government entities is also keeping a log of time associated with hurricane recovery and government-related volunteer services like extra law enforcement officers, EMS providers, fire fighters, building inspectors, etc. There is no money changing hands in terms of volunteer services. FEMA has set guidelines for the "value" of these contributions, which may be included in expenses undertaken by the City/County/Town. Presently, the government entities must make up 10% of the cost while we're still in the disaster recovery mode.

Additional information, as provided by the Texas Emergency Management Team, can be found at <http://www.drc-group.com/.../EDS-Guidelines-Donations...> and also at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/.../05...>

Worth Reminding:

1. Electricity. AEP announced that the circuits are up at all the transformers. If you don't have power, it may be one of several issues: a) your main circuit breaker was turned off, b) there is a connectivity issue with the power lines or c) severe damage to the electrical systems in the structure. Call the AEP Outage line at 866-223-8508. If you have another concern, call AEP Customer Service at 877-373-4858.
2. Utilities. WE NEED YOUR HELP – if you notice a leak or seepage that we may not have been able to identify, please alert us to the problem. You may contact the City of Rockport's Water Department at 361-790-1160 during normal business hours. If there is an emergency, please call 361-729-1111 or 729-2222. City workers are on call 24/7.

We are aware that it is impossible to pay utility bills online and/ or to pay in person. We will let you know when our billing system is up and running. Do not be concerned about penalty fees, or water being shut off. Also, remember to report any leaks

3. The list of Verified Contractors is on the City's web site is updated regularly.
4. Local Businesses. As businesses open, the Chamber will add them to a list and publish it on their web site. This is for ALL businesses, not just Chamber members.
5. Tarps for homeowners are available at no charge in the parking lots of the old HEB.
6. Aerial Views. Drones have been taking photos of the Hurricane Harvey aftermath. Residents who wish to view before and after views of the area, should visit Harvey2017.eagleview.com
7. Curfew. 11 pm – 6 am
8. Garbage. 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. Commercial contractors must take their debris to a landfill. Here is a link for landfills in Texas – <https://wastebits.com/region/Texas>**
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at old HEB parking lot. Numerous churches also have necessities for residents in need and some good Samaritans are setting up throughout the city.
12. Government Assistance. 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. **To date, SBA has distributed \$5.4 million in loans and FEMA has distributed \$18.2 million to county residents and businesses.**
13. 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. There is a fact sheet available on line <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>. You may contact them directly by calling 956-8543.
14. 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.

15. City Offices. City Hall and the Bay Education Center, which housed the offices of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, are inoperable. While everyone's phone extension remains the same, the Mayor, City Manager, City Secretary, Municipal Court, Utilities and Human Resources will be housed in other City facilities – the Service Center on the Bypass and the former service center on Laurel. Once the changes have been finalized, we will make an announcement.

We have requested temporary buildings from FEMA that would house a majority of the former City Hall offices, as well as some County operations.

It's getting better every day!!



The Utility Customer Service Department surprised me with this shirt yesterday.