



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 22, 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.

It's been 28 days since the devastating touch of Hurricane Harvey turned our world upside down. Four weeks ago, all I could do was pray that the hurricane would diminish, that lives would be spared, and that our community wouldn't simply disappear. My prayers were not completely realized as we did suffer a major catastrophe, but with only two lives lost in the community and another death that befell an AEP first responder outside of our area.

While it may not seem like it, we've come a long way in four weeks. Utilities are working, streets are no longer a danger to tires and (fairly) passable, businesses are opening, and rebuilding is underway. This community has come together like no other – neighbors helping neighbors – and has been blessed with thousands of businesses, organizations and individuals – virtual strangers - who took time away from their own “normal” lives to help move us a few steps closer to normalcy. This is gratifying on so many levels – and I sincerely thank you.

New News:

1. Financial Assistance. The Buddhist TZU CHI Foundation, an international humanitarian disaster relief organization, met with first responders today and shared not only their thanks, but gift cards as well. Tomorrow, the organization will meet with Aransas County residents whose homes were destroyed. We are aware that not everyone who received a RED sticker was on the list. Our lists were not complete when the organization chose the date for their event. We are talking to them about having another event, if funds permit, to cover those residents. If not, we will continue to pursue other opportunities.

Please note that not everyone is guaranteed a grant. This is primarily for resident homeowners who are in immediate need of assistance, not for rental properties or second homes. Property owners and renters should go to the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, September 23 between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm. The properties are listed in numerical order and are on the City web site or may be accessed at <http://www.cityofrockport.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=2564>.

Upon arrival, register at the door by presenting a Photo ID, a utility bill showing your name and the service period including August 25, 2017 and receive an invitation letter. You must be

present with the required documents to receive the financial aid, no exceptions will be allowed. For more information about Tzu Chi, go to www.tzuchi.us/disaster-relief/harvey

2. We remain in a BURN BAN and Curfew – 11 pm – 6 am.
3. 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 in section 8 of "Worth Reminding" below.

The latest figures show that 245,370 cubic yards of debris have been removed to date.

4. 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. You may also fill out a form online that will go directly to a state run database <https://olympus.soc.texas.gov/services/volunteerhours/>

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...>

There are now centralized contacts for individuals wishing to donate goods and/or services.

aransasrelief@gmail.com for all physical donation inquiries

aransasvolunteers@gmail.com for groups of individuals wishing to volunteer

donate@onestarfoundation.org

There is also a centralized contact for residents needing assistance with cleanup. Call 844-965-1386. This is the primary source for work orders coming in from Operation Blessing, Samaritan's Purse, Team Rubicon and others.

5. Saturday Efforts – Aerial mosquito spraying. AEP will focus on street lights. We think this will be a big step towards some feeling of normalcy.
6. Signs!!!! Starting on Monday, September 25th, City Code Enforcement officials will be removing **ALL** pop-up contractor signs on right-of-ways.

7. Recovery Expo. During October's Seafair, there will be a centralized location with multiple agencies and programs to share information and assist citizens.
8. ACISD. The School District has announced construction updates, opening plans, fluctuations to the school day, and holiday changes on its Facebook page.

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 your July utility bills in person. Our Municipal Online Payments program is now up and working for those who were unable to make a payment prior to the storm. Do not be concerned about penalty fees, or water being shut off.

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. 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>**
8. 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.

9. 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.
10. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) and other necessities are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at old HEB parking lot. **This is also the central site for donation drop offs and pickups. Goods are now being managed and stored in an appropriate fashion.**
11. 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 \$7 million in loans and FEMA has distributed \$19.7 million to more than 12,400 registrants.**
12. 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.
13. Rebuilding. If you have suffered significant damage and are rebuilding, you will need to obtain a building permit in person at the Service Center. **Due to the high volume of inspection requests, the Building Department can no longer provide same-day inspections at this time. You may schedule an inspection for the next business day by calling the Building Inspection Department's 24-hour Inspection Request Line no later than 3:00 P.M. of the day prior of when you need the inspection.**
14. 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!!