



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 23, 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. The TZU CHI Foundation, an international humanitarian disaster relief organization, met with first responders on Friday and 450-families today to share thanks, hope and gift cards. This incredible organization is also currently lending aid in Mexico City and South America. The U.S. Director has asked if he could return and discuss further humanitarian assistance, including the rebuilding of the area's spiritual foundation – our local churches. I will personally be attending these meetings with select members of our staff to ensure that the process runs smoothly and that we're able to better communicate the criteria, timelines and other matters to our residents.
2. We remain in a BURN BAN and Curfew – 11 pm – 6 am. These are measures as there are few working streetlights, not to mention stoplights, AND we want to prevent the risk of fires in our tinder house of a community.
3. Debris Removal. **Please, please, please be patient.** Crowder Gulf began working in the Copano area today. TxDOT has finished most of Market Street, 1069 and 35 N near the airport, which had high risk sight lines.
4. KSAT TV. This San Antonio television station was in Rockport doing live feeds interviewing residents, relief organizers, the director of the Art Center and myself. They will be doing a special "Coast Recovery Show" on Monday from approximately 4:30 pm – 7 pm.
5. Disaster Recovery Center. We are in the process of putting together a multi-agency resource center in the old HEB parking lot. It will be a consolidation of state, federal and relief organizations under a huge tent. FEMA moved in today. SBA and TWIA will move sometime next week.
6. Recycling. **Regular recycling will resume the first week in October.** Please check your calendars for the appropriate pickup day for your household. You may use the green bins for normal trash bin service through the end of this month.

7. Signs!!!! Starting on Monday, September 25th, City Code Enforcement officials will be removing **ALL** pop-up contractor signs on right-of-ways.
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.**
9. 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.

11. Government Assistance. 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!!