



## A Message from Mayor Wax

September 26, 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. We remain in a BURN BAN and Curfew – 11 pm – 6 am. These are safety 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.
2. Debris Removal. **Please, please, please be patient.** The most recent debris removal report may be found at: <http://www.cityofrockport.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=2570>. As of today, 341,742 cubic yards have been removed. Crowder Gulf estimates they have completed 40% of the needed work.
3. Rockport Parks. Good news and bad news. The good news is that none of the playground equipment in the various parks was damaged. Bad news is that there are some serious structural and equipment damages that may be safety issues. Until these are resolved, Memorial Park and the Aquatic Park remain closed. It's estimated that it may take six weeks before use of the pool can be resumed.
4. Damage Assessments. As mentioned in previous letters, there were three organizations evaluating the damage to properties within the County. These include the Building Officials Association of Texas, Red Cross and the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System. The process is still ongoing. As of today, it's estimated that of the 8,722 structures, 957 were destroyed and 2,057 received major damage. The combined figures represent 35% of buildings in the area.
5. Donations. The Aransas County Donation Center, located in the old HEB parking lot, has published a list of needed donations. <http://www.cityofrockport.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=2571>. Hours of Operation: 10AM – 4PM until further notice [aransasrelief@gmail.com](mailto:aransasrelief@gmail.com)

Volunteers. A Volunteer Reception Center has opened at 1515 N. Live Oak, Rockport  
Hours of Operation: 8-5PM M-SAT 1-5PM SUN [aransasvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:aransasvolunteers@gmail.com). Donation Tent  
Volunteer Sign Up  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=5080a44acaa2aabff2-donation&view=standard>

6. Rockport Fulton Chamber Foundation. A report on the fundraising efforts and progress may be accessed at: <https://cocpresidentsblog.blogspot.com/?m=1> or visiting the "Hurricane Harvey" section on the Chamber's web site.
7. ACISD. The School District will be holding Parents' Meetings on Wednesday, September 27 and Thursday, September 28 from 6:30 – 7:30 at First Baptist Church, located at 1515 N. Live Oak. You may attend either day. The purpose is to discuss bringing the children back to school in Rockport. It is estimated the Elementary School will start on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Middle and High School the end of October.
8. 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.
9. Disaster Recovery Center. We have put 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 is operating on the premises. SBA and TWIA should be there shortly.

Worth Reminding:

1. 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.

2. The list of Verified Contractors is on the City's web site is updated regularly. As of 9/26, there are 989 registered contractors. There have been 10 complaints lodged against contractors and five companies have vacated. The registration/verification process is to ensure, among many things, that the contractors have proof of liability insurance and state licenses.
3. Municipal Court. The municipal court office is temporarily located at 410 E. Bay St. Accepting payments via money order in the office. Online payments can be made by calling 1-800-272-9826 or at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com). Case number is required when making online or phone payments. Communication can be sent to us at [Court@cityofrockport.com](mailto:Court@cityofrockport.com). Court business communication is monitored regularly through cell phone due to down phone service and internet service at the office. Mail should be sent to 2751 SH 35 Bypass, Rockport, TX 78382
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. **If your business is open and you're not on the list, please alert the Chamber.**
5. 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](http://Harvey2017.eagleview.com)

6. 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>**
7. 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.**
10. 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.**

**Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans. Now open and assisting with groceries, utilities, rent, medical, transportation, diapers and other expenses. 507 S. Ann St. 361-790-9828**

8. 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. 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.

It's getting better every day!!