



A Message from Mayor Wax

October 30, 2017

We urge you to use these letters, and information posted on City/Town/County web sites, as an accurate source of information coming from the twice-weekly Long-Term Recovery (LTR) meetings. It is the responsibility of the LTR team the distribution of goods and services throughout the county. A case management program for the distribution of building materials is being finalized.

1. The CURFEW has been lifted. The Burn Ban is still in place.
2. Old HEB Parking Lot. Distribution of goods and FEMA, SBA and TWIA assistance, as well as Rockport Strong Medical Relief, are still open at this location. Effective November 1, donations will NOT be accepted at this site. Individuals or organizations wishing to make donations should send an email to aransasrelief@gmail.com
3. Coast Guard. Reported today that 50 sunken vessels have been removed from the harbors. They are still present at Cove Harbor and urge individuals to call 361-444-3652 if they encounter hidden, sunken vessels in the waterways.
4. Financial Assistance. If someone offers to “help” you with an SBA loan for a small fee, please turn them down. The SBA staff is here and will assist you with any questions at no charge. To date, SBA has provided \$45.2 million dollars in Aransas County. The National Flood Insurance Bureau has paid out \$9.8 million. Upcoming deadlines are November 24 for Disaster Recovery and May 25 for Business Economic Injury Loans.
5. Economic Recovery.
 - a. A Recovery Fair will be held on November 8. Guest speaker is Matt Deighton, who, after surviving an EF5 tornado that destroyed his hometown, has devoted his energies to meeting children in areas rebuilding after disasters in Missouri, Minnesota, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, Georgia, New York, Newtown, Connecticut, San Bernardino, California, and Sendi, Japan.
 - b. Local Businesses – 352 are now open. Of the 21 hotels in the County, eight are currently open and the remaining 13 are finalizing plans for their reopening over the next 10 months.
 - c. Case Managers Needed. Texas Workforce and RioTexas are accepting application for case management positions. The jobs will be fully funded through grants and are for a minimum for two years.

- d. Economic Impact. The Long Term Recovery Group is undertaking a study and will be developing a program for grant applications. Completion date is 60-90 days.
6. Debris Removal. The incinerators have destroyed 6,000 cubic yards. Additional incinerators have been ordered and will be running as wind conditions and humidity permit. They are expected to complete the burn in mid-December. In the meantime, Crowder Gulf is moving from first phase vegetative to construction/building material removal.
 7. Home Clean-up Assistance. The Volunteer Reception Center at First Baptist Church is matching residents in need of assistance with volunteer groups. If you haven't signed up for help, please call 361-727-9011. Last week, 320 volunteers assisted with 141 "jobs." There are still projects in need of volunteers.
 8. CITY NEWS –
 - a. Utility Customer Service is fully operational at 402 Laurel, in the former service center. You may pay in person at the new location or online. The drop box at City Hall is still operational, but will be closed once construction begins.
 - b. Permits and Fees. There have been NO increases in permits and fees post Hurricane Harvey. The only new permit is for the Contractor Verification program and there are no fees involved.
 - c. Registered Contractors. There's an updated list of verified contractors. <http://www.cityofrockport.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2592>
IF you have a problem with someone who is on the list, please call the Building Department at 790-1125 or building@cityofrockport.com to file a complaint. When three complaints have been registered, the department will investigate the company and the situations. There have been several companies removed from the list and escorted out of the community.
 - d. Halloween at the Pool. The Halloween celebration will take place on **Tuesday, October 31** from 6 pm – 11 pm. The event features a haunted hay ride, swimming, refreshments and trick or treating. Cost is \$5 per person.
 - e. Trash and Recycling Carts. If you are missing a cart, please visit the Utility Customer Service office (see "a" above) or call 729-2213, ext 234.
 - f. Save the Date!! **Tropical Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 2.**

It's getting better every day!!