



A Message from Mayor Wax

December 27, 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 Long-Term Recovery (LTR) and other government and disaster recovery-related meetings.

1. Long Term Recovery (LTR)

- a. Case Managers with the Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group have begun reaching out to residents, who have gone through FEMA, SBA and the Unmet Needs Table. They will be responsible for the distribution of funds collected by the Chamber for Aransas County residents and additional monies donated to the CBDRG Foundation.
- b. First Town Hall Meeting went well and members of the LTR are following up on questions that required additional information. Answers will be posted on the web site, which is listed below. Meetings will be held every other month at 6 pm on a Thursday at the Aquarium Education.
- c. LTR Team may be reached by phone Monday-Friday from 9 – 5 at 361-790-9496 or via email: info@aransascounty.org. There is also a work-in-progress web site: www.rockportfultondisasterrecovery.com, which may also be accessed through the County's web site. Jennifer Herd has joined the team and will be monitoring the web site and answering emails and phone calls.
- d. The Chamber reports that 451 Aransas County businesses have re-opened. An additional 24 have advised that they will be opening on January 2. It is estimated that approximately 500 hotel rooms have opened up, which is still 1,000 short of full capacity. The Chamber also estimates that about ½ of the regular number of Winter Texans have returned. We appreciate them sharing the confidence we have in our community and expect many more in the winter months ahead.
- e. SBA has announced that \$2.967 billion in Hurricane Harvey aid has been distributed within the state. Of that amount, \$86.3 million went to Aransas County with residents receiving \$63 million and businesses the remaining \$20+ million.
- f. Next meeting of the LTR Team is Wednesday, January 3.

2. Holiday Closings/Schedule.

- a. The LTR and County Offices will be closed on January 1.
- b. Johnson-Crowder and TxDOT debris removal will be on hiatus December 22 – January 3 as all the area landfills are closed for the holidays.

- c. The SBA and FEMA operations under the white tent in the old HEB parking lot will be closed Saturday – Monday
 - d. City offices will be closed Friday, December 29 and Monday, January 1. There will still be 24/7 dispatch and utility services.
 - e. Transfer Station will be closed January 1 & 2 and reopen on the 3rd with its regular schedule and the reinstatement of fees for residents.
3. **City of Rockport News.**
- a. The Sid Richardson Foundation has generously offered to fund the rebuilding of the Little League fields, bleachers and associated buildings at Memorial Park. A draft plan is under review and completion is scheduled for opening day on April 7.
 - b. Republic Services has announced special dates for Rockport residents who have regularly scheduled trash pickup on Mondays. Pickup scheduled for Monday, January 1 will now be on Saturday, December 30.
 - c. Calendars for 2018 trash and recycling pickup dates are available online at <http://www.cityofrockport.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2649>.
4. **Counseling Services.** This time of year can be very difficult and, even more so, due to Hurricane Harvey. Please be aware of the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” at 66746 to talk to a trained counselor. Locally, AIM Hospice (729-0507) has been offering grief counseling on Saturday mornings.
5. **Trees.** Agri-Life will be offering sessions with arborists on January 13-14 to provide advice on proper pruning techniques and protection of stressed trees.

Here’s to a happy, healthy and hurricane-free New Year.