



## A Message from Mayor Wax

May 9, 2018

### BIG News

- Aransas County Navigation District will begin underwater debris removal in the ski basin with the help of a sonar side scan. This is being done as an immediate safety measure and without the benefit of funding sources. Once funding has been secured, work will be extended to Little Bay and Aransas Bay.
- Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) funding has come through. Homeowners, who did not register earlier this year, may do so at the Library from 9 – 6 on weekdays beginning May 14.
- Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) has disseminated \$1.37 million for almost 60 projects in Aransas County. These monies are from the Chamber Foundation's fundraising campaign. Materials for the CBDRG and Volunteer Center efforts come from the donations stored at the Aransas County Airport.
- FEMA has announced that it will maintain a presence in the County for at least two years.
- FEMA has released another \$1.5 million to the County for Hazard Mitigation projects. The Long Term Recovery (LTR) Team submitted a proposal for 17 projects totaling \$95 million. These projects are for properties within the county, city, town and navigation district.

### More News

- LTR executive members met with the General Land Office in Portland today to get first hand information on the \$120 million that will be disseminated through six major projects in the Coastal Bend.
- Workforce has provided a grant for a Strategic Public Information Officer. Over the past eight months various State agencies have sent representatives, who worked two-week shifts. This will provide better continuity and communication for residents. And, as a reminder, Workforce is available to help residents in their search for employment. The van is stationed at the Chamber offices.
- The Chamber reported that 819 businesses have reopened and there are now 849 guest rooms available.
- The Aransas County Appraisal District has temporarily moved to the former Value Bank located at 11 Hwy 35N.
- Congratulations to LTR Team member Amy Montgomery on receiving the regional "Phoenix Award" from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award is presented to an individual whose efforts enabled community recovery.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Emergency Management Conference in San Antonio May 15 – 18
- Hurricane Meeting in College Station May 30-31

*Note: There may not be a Mayor's Message those weeks.*

## Reminders

- Dumping on streets and highways and private property (without the owner's permission) is illegal and subject to fines.
- Information and handout materials from the "Rebuilding After the Storm" grant information workshops are available on the City of Rockport's web site under the "Floodplain Management" tab. <https://goo.gl/DdJrrZ>
- Counseling services are available to Aransas County residents on Tuesday evenings from 5 – 7 pm at the Aransas County Library. There is no charge to residents. The program is underwritten by Rebuild Texas and other foundations.
- The deadline for applying for the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans is in two weeks.
- FEMA Transitional Shelter program has been extended to June 1.

## Special Notices from the City.

- Individuals wishing to serve on one of the citizen advisory committees may pick up an application from the City Secretary's office in the Rockport Service Center OR visit the City Secretary page on the City's web site.
- City Council will be meeting on Thursday, May 10 instead of the normal Tuesday meeting to comply with election regulations and induct the newly elected Mayor and council members for Wards 2 and 4.

It's getting better every day.