



## A Message from Mayor Rios

July 25, 2018

Despite the recent lack of messages, I want to assure you there has been a great deal going on in Rockport and with the recovery process. We have made tremendous strides and still have a lot of projects nearing implementation – and which we'll be announcing as they come to fruition.

Last Saturday, Senator Ted Cruz visited with City and Council officials, and other government entities along the Coastal Bend. He took time to tour the County with the Judge Mills and myself to review our progress, assess our situation and identify our needs.

One of the things we mentioned was the excessive delay in getting answers regarding the clean-up of canal neighborhoods in the County. He called one of his senior staffers over, asked him to investigate -- and we received a call on Monday that the program was approved. Like other programs, FEMA will cover 90% of the costs. Estimates and timeframes will be announced soon.

### Other News

1. Newly elected United States Congressman Mike Cloud will be meeting with us late next week.
2. Major Announcements from the Chamber include:
  - 83% of the businesses in operation pre-Harvey are back in business
  - The unemployment rate has dropped to 6% from the late September 10% figure
  - Another 300 motel rooms will be opening before the end of the year
3. Aransas County Appraisal District is entertaining bids for pavilion rebuilding.
4. Photo Restoration. A representative from Texas Photo Renovators will be at the Aransas County Library on Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm to accept hurricane and water-damaged photos for digital restoration. The service is FREE for all Aransas County residents. They will restore up to 10 photos per household. Additional information is on the City's web site.
5. Now that we're at the 11<sup>th</sup> month since Harvey, we are restructuring our Long-Term Recovery efforts. Aransas County Project Manager John Strothman will head the initiative and work closely with County and City officials and staff, LTR staff and the LTR consultants as we continue the cleanup and rebuilding programs. While we'll no longer be meeting on a weekly basis, we will continue to keep residents informed through the Mayor's Message; posts on the City, LTR and County web sites; and social media. The number for LTR (361) 790-9496
6. Anniversary. The weekend of August 24-26 will offer numerous events and gatherings in observance of Harvey's landfall. This is a coordinated effort through the government entities, Chamber, businesses, churches and local organizations. We'll be sharing additional information as the date approaches.

Rebuilding a better Rockport.