



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 18, 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. Electricity Outage – At 7 am this morning, a circuit breaker at the Pearl Street transmission station went down. Power was restored within an hour and a half. The cause is unknown and is being investigated. An additional 200 AEP workers are in town to fix some of the pole to building connectivity issues. They are getting 60- 100 reconnect orders a day and ask for your patience.
2. Curfew has been changed. It is now 11 pm – 6 am in support of the businesses that have reopened.
3. Distribution and donation sites. The Point of Distribution site at Fat’s has closed. The old HEB parking lot point of distribution is continuing. The donation site at 99 N. Austin site was closed due to safety issues. A new location will be announced shortly. Operation Blessing has departed and redeployed on the east coast. Samaritan’s Purse, another non-profit assistance group has taken over. There are still approximately 450 work orders on file.
4. Mosquito Spraying. The sprayers will be on the streets tonight and Tuesday night.
5. We have posted a map and report showing where debris has been picked up, future routes and any updates and changes.
(<http://www.cityofrockport.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2560>) When reviewing the maps, please note the blue lines are the areas that had a first pass, green lines represent sectors that were set up by the provider, and red lines denote TxDOT roads and highways, which are not the responsibility of the City or County. Once their work is completed, they will assist with county wide cleanup. **The current count on debris removed from the county is 185,712 cubic yards.** It’s difficult to accurately convert into tons as wood debris weighs less than building material debris. Based on a Google search, Cubic Yards x 1.4 = Tons

TxDOT is building a debris management site on the Bypass median near 12th Street. Southbound traffic will be limited to one lane to accommodate the trucks going to the site. Once they’ve finished their routes, they will hold a controlled burn that will include TCEQ,

firefighting personnel and a strike team and will then assist with the debris removal in the county.

The County remains in a BURN BAN. There is discussion about opening it to controlled areas. We will let you know when things change.

6. Traffic Signals and Stop Signs. Many of the lights and signs have been compromised by the hurricane making them “uncontrolled intersections”. If you notice a blinking or non-working light OR remember where a sign used to be, please come to a complete stop and proceed cautiously. We have asked TxDOT to expedite the repair of these lights as the City is only responsible for one traffic light.
7. Mail. The Rockport Post Office has installed a temporary facility in their parking lot for those who had post office boxes. Individuals who have standing mail boxes are receiving delivery. Those of us who are missing a mail box can pick up mail at the Ingleside Post Office on 361. The easiest route is to take 1069 by Lowes, go east and turn left at the first light. It's approximately three blocks down. **There is now a kiosk in the Rockport PO parking lot from which you can purchase stamps and conduct other postal business.**
8. Utility Bills. No bills have been distributed for August. Once the meters have been read and the systems are back in place, they will be sent out. The City has decided to charge a base rate as there is no way to determine whether water leaks/breaks were attributable to City or resident pipes.
9. City Offices. City Hall and the Bay Education Center, which housed the offices of the Parks and Leisure Services Department, are inoperable. While everyone's phone extension remains the same, the Mayor, City Manager, City Secretary, Municipal Court, Utilities and Human Resources will be housed in other City facilities – the Service Center on the Bypass and the former service center on Laurel. Municipal Court is temporarily operating out of Dr. Maroney's office on 3036. Once the changes have been finalized, we will make an announcement.

We have requested temporary buildings from FEMA that would house a majority of the former City Hall offices, as well as some County operations.

Worth Reminding:

1. Electricity. AEP announced that the circuits are up at all the transformers. About 96% of the county is back on the power grid. If you don't have power, it may be one of several issues: a) your main circuit breaker was turned off, b) there is a connectivity issue with the power lines or c) severe damage to the electrical systems in the structure. Call the AEP Outage line at 866-223-8508. If you have another concern, call AEP Customer Service at 877-373-4858.
2. 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.

We are aware that it is impossible to pay utility bills online and/ or to pay in person. We will let you know when our billing system is up and running. Do not be concerned about penalty fees, or water being shut off. Also, remember to report any leaks

3. The list of Verified Contractors is on the City's web site is updated regularly.
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.
5. Tarps for homeowners are available at no charge in the parking lots of the old HEB.
6. 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
7. Curfew. 11 pm – 6 am
8. 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.**
9. Lost Pets. Animal Control has teamed up with the Houston SPCA to post information on lost or found pets. You may access this information by going to one of two web sites: 1) www.findingrover.com or 2) www.houstonspca.org/harvey.
10. Mail. IF your mailbox withstood the winds and is still standing, you should be receiving your mail. If your mailbox disappeared from your property, you may pick up your mail at the Ingleside Post Office, located on 2230 TX-361.
11. Goods Pickup. Ice, water and MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are being distributed daily from 8 am – 6 pm at old HEB parking lot. Numerous churches also have necessities for residents in need and some good Samaritans are setting up throughout the city.
12. Government Assistance. TWIA (Texas Windstorm) has set up a mobile claims center at GSM Insurers at 1102 Laurel Street in Rockport and the Lindale Recreation Center, located at 3133 Swantner Street in Corpus Christi. The Small Business Administration **is now open** in the Women's Club building next to Veteran's Park, near downtown by the harbor, and **processing loans for individuals, as well as businesses.** FEMA is already set up at the park so this will make it convenient for everyone. **To date, SBA has distributed \$5.4 million in loans and FEMA has distributed \$18.2 million to county residents and businesses.**
13. Save the Tree? Some folks are unsure if their trees can be saved. The Texas A&M Forestry Service will be available to answer questions and look at your property. There is a fact sheet

available on line <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/canmytreebesaved/>. You may contact them directly by calling 956-8543.

14. Rebuilding. If you have suffered significant damage and are rebuilding, you will need to obtain a building permit. You may use this link: <https://rockport.seamlessdocs.com/f/CQcce> or go to the City's Web site and click on Building Department under the Departments tab. We will be posting more information about post flood requirements in the next few days.

It's getting better every day!!