



## **A Message from Mayor Wax**

October 25, 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. City Council has approved the hiring of Sandra Clarkson to serve as the Interim Finance Director upon the retirement of Patty Howard at the end of this year. She has an impressive background including BBA and MBA degrees and CPA certification. She has previously served as a Municipal Financial Director, County Auditor and Municipal Financial Consultant.
3. Habitat for Humanity. This well-known national organization has expressed interest in coming to the area and helping to rebuild homes. More information to come as plans are finalized.
4. Tule Hike and Bike Trail is now open.
5. Rockport Strong Free Medical Relief. Located in the parking lot of the old HEB, this non-profit local group provides free medical services. It is an all-volunteer organization (in need of additional volunteers – both medical professionals and regular folks) and does not have regular operating hours at this time. A doctor WILL be on site Thursday and Friday.
6. Coast Guard. Reported today that 27 sunken vessels have been removed from the harbors thus far. Estimate 18-20 more and will do a follow-up with sonar to ensure nothing was missed.
7. Financial Assistance. FEMA announced today that it has distributed almost \$24 million to over 13,000 registered residents. SBA has provided \$1.2 million to 26 homeowners and \$275,00 to three business in Fulton. Within Rockport there has been 368 loans to homeowners totally more than \$26 million and \$7 million to 50 businesses.

8. Long Term Economic Recovery Plan. Members of the Long Term Recovery group will be at the Chamber of Commerce on **Thursday, October 26 at 5 pm** to address questions about the plan. The Chamber is located at 319 Broadway.
9. Mobile Housing Units. The Texas General Land Office will be working under FEMA's direction to facilitate the placement of 218 mobile housing units.
10. Debris Removal. To date, Crowder Gulf has removed 890,00 cubic yards of debris and TxDot has surpassed 220,000 cubic yards. The incinerators are destroying 350-450 cubic yards a day. Additional incinerators have been ordered and will be running as wind conditions and humidity permit.
11. 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, 233 volunteers assisted with 40 "jobs." There are currently 208 pending projects in need of volunteers.
12. CITY NEWS –
  - a. Utility Customer Service is fully operational in its new location - 402 Laurel, in the former service center – on Monday, October 23. 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 – no set date at this time.
  - 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 (CORRECTION).
  - 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](mailto: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. Doggie Dunk. The ever-popular open swim/play/slide for dogs will be on **Saturday, October 28** at the Community Aquatic Center from 10 am – 1:30 pm. The cost is \$5 per dog and \$1 per person.
  - e. Trick or Treat on Austin Street. Local businesses will be handing out goodies for children on **Saturday, October 28** from noon – 5 pm.

- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Save the Date!! **Tropical Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 2.**

It's getting better every day!!