



## A Message from Mayor Wax

February 7, 2018

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)** - LTR Team may be reached by phone Monday-Friday from 9 – 5 at 361-790-9496 or via email: [info@aransascounty.org](mailto:info@aransascounty.org). There is also a web site: [www.rockportfultondisasterrecovery.com](http://www.rockportfultondisasterrecovery.com), which may also be accessed through the County's web site. You'll find information and direct links on the CBDRG's efforts, fundraising, resources, debris process and more.

The LTR Team will hosted a Public Forum last Thursday, February. The event was recorded and is available through the web site. The next Public Forum will be in April.

### 2. Debris

- Crowder Gulf WILL NOT pick up tires or loose concrete. Tires may be taken to the Transfer Station for a small fee. Aaron's Concrete in Aransas Pass will accept concrete. There is no for drop off and they will pick up for charge. Their phone number is 512-618-1962.
- Last pass for curbside debris removal will begin on February 12.*** Remember to separate your piles into vegetation, building materials and appliances. This does not include marine debris or the personal property debris removal program listed below.
- Personal Property Debris Removal is available for homeowners who are unable to move their debris to the street. The deadline to register is February 12 in person at the Library or through the LTR web site – [www.rockportfultondisasterrecovery.com](http://www.rockportfultondisasterrecovery.com). Waiting for the final word from FEMA when it will commence.
- More than 3.19 million cubic yards of debris have been handled.

### 3. Funding and Assistance

- CITGO and Habitat for Humanity announced a cooperative effort whereby the company is providing \$1.4 million in assistance for the construction of 22 homes

in Aransas County. Two of our City employees, **Art Smith** and **Patty Butters**, have been actively involved in this project in their free time. We want to commend them for their dedication to our citizens on the job and off.

- b. Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaboration between the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation and is seeking to raise \$100M. To date, it has raised \$92M, mostly from generous Texans such as George Strait, and distributed more than \$11 million throughout the state. RTF has already made five investments into the Rockport community, totaling \$1.7M (and \$2.6M to the Coastal Bend region). Investments so far include: \$830k to Aransas County ISD, \$351k to First Learning Tree, \$250k to Odyssey Afterschool Program, \$250k to small businesses via the United Corpus Christi Chamber and \$4.6k for a special event.

In addition, RTF has helped launch programs that small businesses and non-profits can avail for further assistance:

- i. For non-profits, Good360 will help match your product needs with corporate giving. Email Tiffany Everett: [tiffany@good360.org](mailto:tiffany@good360.org).

- ii. For small-businesses, the LIFT Fund will provide loans up to \$25k at 0% interest rate to qualifying small businesses. Email Laura Estrade: [lestrada@liftfund.com](mailto:lestrada@liftfund.com)

- iii. For foster care organizations, the Texas Center for Child & Family Studies will provide grants up to \$50k to non-profit foster care organizations. Email Katie Olse: [kolse@tacfs.org](mailto:kolse@tacfs.org)

- c. John Sharp and John Barton with the State's Rebuild Texas initiative met with City and County leaders on Monday to review our programs and hear about our needs. It was a VERY fruitful discussion and we were assured of their full support. The State has provided us with over \$25 million to cover our share for the debris removal process (90% FEMA, 10% local governments) - a huge savings for tax payers.
- d. Today, City and County leaders participated in a conference call with FEMA regarding a Community Disaster Block Grant, which is a five year, low-interest loan for government entities. This program is similar to loss of business insurance and would help local governments make up the shortfalls in property tax, sales value, fees, permits and other income vehicles. Acceptance in this program will help to offset major increases in property taxes for the 2018-2019 fiscal years.
- e. Assistance for Businesses - The Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce is conducting a local business impact assessment survey to assess local business impact and needs after Hurricane Harvey. It is vitally important to first identify the needs of local businesses and second tailor resources to meet those needs –

regardless of whether the business is a member of the Chamber. The survey may be found at the link in this paragraph. Deadline for submissions is February 14.  
[http://www.rockport-fulton.org/Business\\_Assessment\\_Survey\\_2018](http://www.rockport-fulton.org/Business_Assessment_Survey_2018)

- f. The Disaster Recovery Center moved to 3136 Hwy 35 N on Friday. This is the location of the former AC Motorsports and is next to Sears. SBA will be operating out of the Library on Thursday.
- g. If you need assistance with property clean up, repairs, and moving mobile/manufactured housing, please contact the Volunteer Reception Center at First Baptist Church. They keep a master list of residents needing assistance and match them with incoming volunteer groups, including the Mennonites, Amish, Umcor, San Antonio Rebuilds, Samaritan's Purse and others.
- h. Volunteer Cleaning Groups. Please contact the Long Term Recovery Team or the Volunteer Resource Center if you are thinking about doing some hands-on clean up. There are scheduled activities for certain areas. It's important that these efforts are coordinated and that arrangements made for the disposal of accumulated debris, which must follow certain guidelines and should not be placed in public trash containers.

#### 4. More Information.

- a. A link to OPEN local businesses is available at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12o\\_w39Sat5S-oNQ4UxHPQviKBYWZYKsoPiraes7pJLw/edit#gid=1725234370](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12o_w39Sat5S-oNQ4UxHPQviKBYWZYKsoPiraes7pJLw/edit#gid=1725234370)

If you scroll to the end, you will find a list with proposed opening dates for other businesses. There are currently 493 businesses now open in the area. Today, Bealls announced it will be reopening on March 29.

- b. A link to available hotel rooms and rentals is available at <http://www.rockport-fulton.org/media/uploads/files/Hotel%20Motel%201A.pdf>
- c. It was announced today that Little Bay Primary will be sold by the school district once repairs have been completed. For additional information: <https://www.acisd.org/index.cfm?p=newscenter&mainnewsid=3382>
- d. Water Well Testing. The Agri-Life office is offering its final free water testing program. Sample kits may now be picked up in their office and must be delivered on February 14 between 8 – 10 am.

It's getting better every day.