



A Message from Mayor Wax

September 20, 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. Governor Abbott, Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke, Texas a&M Chancellor Chancellor Sharpe, Commissioner George P. Bush, Todd Hunter, Geannie Morrison, Lois Kolkhorst, and country western star George Strait will be at Ace Hardware from 10 am – noon tomorrow for as part of the state’s “Rebuild Texas” Commission.
2. Financial Assistance. The Buddhist TZU CHI Foundation, an international humanitarian disaster relief organization, will be providing financial assistance for Aransas County residents who have majorly damaged or destroyed properties. The list was developed from the Building Official Association of Texas’ damage assessment of the area and includes those structures that received a RED sticker.

Property owners and renters should go to the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, September 23 between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm. The properties are listed in numerical order and are on the City web site or may be accessed at <http://www.cityofrockport.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=2564>.

Upon arrival, register at the door by presenting a Photo ID, a utility bill showing your name and the service period including August 25, 2017 and receive an invitation letter. You must be present with the required documents to receive the financial aid, no exceptions will be allowed. For more information about Tzu Chi, go to www.tzuchi.us/disaster-relief/harvey

3. The County remains in a BURN BAN. There is discussion about opening it to controlled areas. We will let you know when things change.
4. Damage Assessment. Approximately 70% of the studies undertaken by the Red Cross and Texas Task Force 1 show that 643 buildings in Aransas County were destroyed and another 1,162 received major damage.
5. FEMA Housing. Trailers are on the way. We are pursuing shelter options at the Aransas County Airport, which could accommodate up to 300 residents.

6. Debris Removal. Please, please, please be patient. As mentioned before, Crowder Gulf is moving from the north and south regions of the County inward. It is a long process and your neighborhood WILL be services. To ensure that your debris IS removed, make sure that it is in three separate piles (trees, building material and appliances). Intermingling will delay pickup and it's possible that the Crowder Gulf may not be able to do a co-mingle pickup without causing damage to its trucks. If you wish to hire your own contractor to remove the debris, you may do so. However, the transfer station is not open to other debris removal companies and dumping anywhere within the City or County is illegal. A list of available landfills is available on the City's web site and also in section 8 of "Worth Reminding" below.

The latest figures show that 217,691 cubic yards of debris have been removed. This does not include the TxDOT effort with its 100 pieces of equipment and 200 employees.

7. In-kind and Volunteer Service. If you or anyone you know has provided FREE assistance to our area, such as volunteer clean-up, food, equipment or materials, in-kind donations, etc., please deliver or mail this information to the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, 319 Broadway, Rockport, TX 78382. You may also fill out a form online that will go directly to a state run database <https://olympus.soc.texas.gov/services/volunteerhours/>

Additional information, as provided by the Texas Emergency Management Team, can be found at <http://www.drc-group.com/.../EDS-Guidelines-Donations...> and also at <https://www.dps.texas.gov/.../05...>

There are now centralized contacts for individuals wishing to donate goods and/or services.

aransasrelief@gmail.com for all physical donation inquiries

aransasvolunteers@gmail.com for groups of individuals wishing to volunteer

donate@onestarfoundation.org

Or, call 844-965-1386

Worth Reminding:

1. Electricity. AEP announced that the circuits are up at all the transformers. 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. City workers are on call 24/7.

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. Here is a link for landfills in Texas – <https://wastebits.com/region/Texas>**
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 Insurors 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 \$7 million in loans and FEMA has distributed \$18.8 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 at the Service Center.
15. 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. 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.

It's getting better every day!!