



A Message from Mayor Wax

December 4, 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 Long-Term Recovery (LTR) meetings.

Today, Judge Mills, Mayor Kendrick and I testified before the (TX House) Urban Affairs Committee in Corpus Christi. In addition to discussing our housing issues we shared the disconnect between FEMA, SBA, TWIA and insurance companies and slow responsiveness.

1. **The Burn Ban is still in place.**
2. **Assistance.**
 - a. Housing. Aransas County now has 136 temporary housing units, of which 36 are on residents' properties. A special, strike force meeting with FEMA, GLO, the Governor's Office, State Senator Lois Kolkhorst and the Long-Term Recovery Group will be held on December 7 to address short, mid and long-term housing needs and its economic impact on the community.
 - b. Volunteers. Last week 103 volunteers assisted with 63 requests. Rebuilding Together, a national non-profit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods by providing free home repairs and modifications to low-income homeowners, will be working with the Volunteer Center to assist residents.
 - c. Long Term Recovery Group now has a local number for residents to call with questions about the recovery plans. It is open 9 am – 5 pm Monday-Friday. 361-790-9496. To contact them by email: info@aransascounty.org
 - d. SBA has approved \$72.2 million in loans in Aransas County. Of that amount, \$57.5 million was for homeowners. Businesses may still apply for "business injury" assistance through May 25.
 - e. Children's Christmas Book Giveaway on Saturday, December 9 from 11 am – 1 pm at the Aransas County Public Library.
3. **Information Sessions.**
 - a. **The Texas Tribune** will be holding a day-long symposium at Texas A&M CC on Friday, December 8. The topic is "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey." To register, visit www.texastribune.org/events. The symposium will also be streamed on their web site.

- b. **Rebuilding Rockport-Fulton Community Workshops/Focus Groups** *December 11: Tourism 4 – 5:30 pm, Downtowns 6 – 7:30 pm. December 12: Local Community 9 – 11 am, Industry 1 – 3 pm, December 13: Recovery Leaders and School District 9 – 11 am, Realtors 1 – 2:30 pm, Economic Development 3:30 – 5 pm. December 14: Developers and Contractors 9 – 10:30 am, Large Employers 11 – noon, Housing Strategies 1 – 3 pm, December 15 – Economic Development and Wrap up Session of Focus Groups 1- 3 pm.* These sessions are open to the public, but space is limited. Sign up by going to www.rockport-fulton.org and clicking on the calendar for your topic preference. The workshops will be held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the Public Safety Center located at 714 Concho St. in Rockport.
 - c. **Hurricane Harvey Facts and Damages** will be the topic of a special presentation by Joh Metz of the National Weather Service on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 pm at the Fulton Community Church, located at 215 N. Third Street.
4. **Debris.**
- a. First pass is 90% completed. Crowder-Gulf has picked up more than 1.8 million cubic yards.
 - b. Debris removal has now begun on private roads within the County. More information available at <https://www.aransascounty.org/harvey/private-property-debris-removal/online-right-of-entry-form-instructions/>.
 - c. Transfer station will resume normal hours on Tuesday, December 5. Tuesday through Saturday 9 am – 5 pm. Residents will continue to have free usage through December and contractors may use the facility at a charge.
 - d. TxDOT has started clearing on the State roads in Holiday Beach and will work south to Lamar.

It's getting better every day!!