



A Message from Mayor Rios

June 12, 2019

On any given day, and sometimes several times a day, I hear or read about residents' frustrations with hurricane recovery. With the City being on the slow end of FEMA and GLO reimbursements, I can certainly commiserate. But, as with everything, knowledge and persistence are the key to getting results.

The City, County, Long Term Recovery Team and Chamber post information on their respective web sites about funding opportunities, hands-on assistance, and financial distributions throughout the community. This information is also shared in *The Pilot* and numerous social media pages on Facebook.

I encourage you to check out these resources and learn about what's available and what's been happening. For example:

GLO has a Homeowners' Assistance Office that is open daily in the shopping center adjacent to Popeye's. And, several entities have come together to provide assistance through referrals and direct funding – they are open every Thursday at the **Aquarium Education Center**. Information about these programs are available on the web sites listed above or by calling the Long Term Recovery Center.

Rebuild Texas, a non-profit organization and the recipient of funds from the George Strait concert, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and corporate/individual donations, has distributed more than \$8.9 million in Aransas, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio and Bee counties in the areas of community and economic development, education and childcare, health, housing, small business, and workforce and transportation.

Rockport-Fulton Chamber Foundation raised more than \$1.4 million through a "Go Fund Me" account and other donations, which are being managed for Aransas County by the **Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group** under the auspices of the **Coast Bend Community Foundation**.

Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group has already expended over \$2 million in Aransas County, with an additional \$2.8 million committed to repair, replace and rebuild homes.

Samaritan's Purse presented the keys to a local homeowner this week for its 100th manufactured home in our community.

Coalition Unmet Needs Roundtable has committed approximately \$3.7 million for 125 projects in Aransas County.

Key Allegro Bridge. Funding has been approved and geological testing will be done this month. The bulk of the work will not start until the beginning of TxDOT's fiscal year on September 1.

Flooding on Broadway and Fulton Beach Road – Mitigation grant funds have been approved, but not yet released at this time.

Road Issues – The high, water table has made it difficult to address the bad road and pothole situations at various locations around the City. Our staff continues to meet with our engineers, TxDOT, and Aransas County to mitigate the problems areas. The replacement of the manhole and bridge box, required by a sinkhole on Augusta, will be complete by July – if weather conditions permit.

City Hall is not salvageable. A request for proposals for demolition has been posted. It will be torn down within the next three months. Until our new facility is built as part of the downtown anchor project with the County (separate building), we'll continue to operate from the Rockport Service Center and Laurel Street locations.

Garbage News. Beginning July 15 there will be changes to some of our garbage routes. This is to accommodate the addition of three new truck routes to handles the problem of certain routes packing out before the end of the route and having to return the next day to complete pick up. Affected customers will be notified by direct mail, a Code RED message {a link can be found at the bottom right of the home page on the city's website (www.cityofrockport.com) if you haven't already signed up}, signs, and other messages.

City Parks are back to normal. And, in the case of Memorial Park, better than ever. If you haven't had a chance to see the major enhancements to the ball fields, I encourage you to do so. And, thanks to new grants, we'll be adding a fitness court that has several exercise stations. In addition to the new fitness court, the grant will pay to move the skateboard park, which is currently adjacent to the Community Pool, to a larger area in the northeast corner of Memorial Park. The old skatepark location will then be redeveloped into three pickleball courts.

Police Department – Our new Chief of Police Gregory Stevens joins us on Wednesday, June 19 from his most recent position as Chief of the City of Lubbock's Police Department.

Movie in the Park – We had to reschedule our first offering to Thursday, June 13. We'll be offering more free movies and popcorn at Memorial Park in late summer.

Aquatic and Skate Park – A great place to cool off this summer. Go to the Parks and Leisure Services Department's page on the City's website (www.cityofrockport.com) for this month's hours of operation.

Get Involved. There are immediate openings on four citizen advisory committees – Parks, Planning and Zoning, Tree and Landscape, and Building and Standards Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. You may download an application at: <https://cityofrockport.com/DocumentCenter/View/13847/Application-for-Boards-and-Committees---October-2018>. Please submit to the City Secretary's office asap.

Rebuilding a BETTER Rockport.