



# ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

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## Aransas Pass Is A Safe Harbor

As what would become Hurricane Hanna was approaching the Coastal Bend, Shrimp Boats from the Gulf of Mexico began heading to the safety of Conn Brown Harbor here in Aransas Pass. Pictured below is one small grouping of shrimp boats. This picture was taken on July 24th. Hurricane Hanna began as a tropical storm, but became a low grade hurricane by the time it came ashore on July 25th south of Corpus Christi. Compared to 2017's Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Hanna damage here in Aransas Pass was not major. However, the City's EOC Director Lynn Pearce, First Responders, Public Works, IT and all City departments were all ready for the worst. Their planning and preparation paid off.





## Charter Review Committee Completes its Work

By State Law and as a requirement of the City Charter, every few years, the City must set up a commission to review and, if necessary, update the Charter. The City Council appointed 11 Commission members. The membership voted Wanese Butler as Chairperson (see picture below). Because of the COVID issue all meetings had to be conducted via video conferencing. Chairperson Butler can be seen below conducting the meeting via computer. The meetings were accessible to the public. The Commission voted to recommend 9 charter amendments to the City Council. Chairperson Butler will report the recommendations to the City Council during its August 3rd meeting. The Council will make the final decision about which changes will go on the ballot for voter action on August 17th.

## FEMA To Repair Sections Of Bulkhead At Conn Brown

Portions of the bulkhead at Conn Brown Harbor (CBH) were damaged by Hurricane Harvey. FEMA has agreed to repair those sections. It is estimated that the cost will be about \$3 million. This work will be one of the more expensive in the Aransas Pass Harvey Recovery. The blue areas shown in the aerial map above will be repaired by FEMA. The brown will be the City's responsibility. Currently, we are working on a grant to assist with the City portion.

A bulkhead is an embankment made of various protective items such as steel, concrete or rock or some other material, used to safeguard against flooding, slippage, erosion and other things that will damage the land. The current bulkhead at CBH has been in need of repair for many years.

Coupled with the current road improvements at Conn Brown Harbor, when all the work is complete, CBH and the new bulkhead will be an extremely attractive location for developers. Also, it will continue to be a statewide destination for fishermen.





## City Continues to Monitor and Safeguard Against COVID

City Employee David Harris is seen here disinfecting City facilities. Other city buildings also received a similar treatment. Such steps are necessary on a regular basis during the current COVID pandemic. Monday through Friday, Mayor Ramiro Gomez issues daily COVID reports in which he presents the daily COVID numbers. His report can be seen on Facebook and the City webpage. City staff follows social distancing procedures when interacting with the public.

## After Many Years, Storm Pump Issues Being Addressed

For years, there have been unresolved storm pump problems during heavy rains. The pumps prevent flooding by collecting and disposing of storm water. The City recently completed a major drainage study, which included suggestions on how to improve the efficiency of the storm pumps. Most of the pumps were not sized correctly when they were originally purchased and installed. In the case of pump station #1 (Maddox), FEMA is replacing the entire pump station and building. Pump #1 was damaged by Harvey. Pump station #2 (Goodnight—see pic below) was not sized properly when it was originally installed making it less efficient. Pump Station #3 (Euclid) is too large for the wet well and never has worked at 100% efficiency. Because the engines and pumps were not designed and sized correctly, that has caused pump station problems through the years. Understandably, probably because of costs, these flaws have not been addressed. However, the City is now going out for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to redesign and correct the faults. Additionally, the City has purchased three new 8 inch portable pumps and two 10 inch double suction pumps to use as needed until all pump stations can run at 100%. The City is working on funding sources for the design work and repairs not covered by FEMA.



# Here's What's Happening at Conn Brown

Conn Brown Harbor Construction



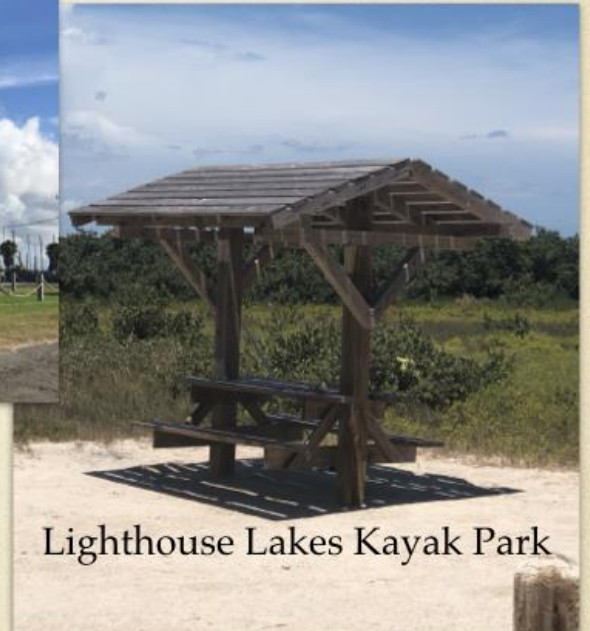
Harbor Master Building



Seaman's Memorial Tower



Harbor Point Park  
Fishing Pier



Lighthouse Lakes Kayak Park

July has been a busy construction month at Conn Brown Harbor. In addition to massive crowds of fisherman, the rebuilding of the roads and the addition of lighting and a walking/bike trail is now underway, thanks to EDA. The cross will be replaced on Seaman's Memorial Tower, thanks to FEMA. The new floodlights are in place. The Harbor Master Building is now under construction and funded by FEMA and the State of Texas. At the Lighthouse Lakes Kayak Park, all ten picnic shelters are repaired, thanks to funding from the Lion's Club, FEMA and the State. Observation decks are under construction. The fishing pier is nearing completion, with most lights now working, as well as repairs to the fish cleaning table. *Harbor Master Chuck West*