

Hurricane Matthew - Week Four Update: November 4, 2016 Highlights for the Town of Hilton Head Island

The FEMA Disaster Assistance Center opened in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, One Town Center Court, on Thursday November 3rd. Some 70 citizens were served on the first day. The Center will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; and from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturdays until further notice.

Those with offers of assistance – as well as those in need of assistance - should continue to call the help line: 843-524-HELP. Our non-profit and faith communities remain ready to help anyone in need.

Debris clean-up crews began working in the major PUDs. Two meetings have been held to assist smaller subdivisions and residents with assembling the data required by FEMA in order to be considered for eligibility for private road debris clean-up. Nearly 20 subdivisions submitted data which has been forwarded to FEMA for their consideration.

Our debris contractor, Crowder Gulf, had nearly 80 vehicles working to pick-up debris this week. Crews were in every major PUD and on the public roads each day. To date they have picked up 361,756 cubic yards of debris. A total of nearly 23,000 hazardous limbs and over 2,100 hazardous trees have been removed along the roadways. We continue to seek sources that can accept the wood chips; though a large portion of the wood chips are being used at the county landfill as daily cover over the trash rather than using fresh dirt.

Follow-up detailed inspections for all structures that received a yellow or red placard have been completed. Damaged structures account for less than 15% of all structures and those with 50% or more damage account for just under 1.5% of all structures. If anyone having a yellow or red placard has any questions regarding the status of their structure, please contact Chris Yates, Chief Building Official, at 843-341-4600.

Nearly 240 emergency building permits have been issued. Processing of non-emergency building permits resumed this week and nearly 110 such permits have been issued this week.

A team from the SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), FEMA, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was onsite this week to tour the beach and meet with staff to provide guidance on plans for repairing our damaged beach. All plans for emergency beach repair work will have to go through an independent review process with USACE acting as advisors to SCEMD and FEMA. We are on a tight timeline to take advantage of the presence of the dredge.

The following Town parks have re-opened to the public as of 11/4/2016:

- Coligny Beach Park
- Alder Lane
- Shelter Cove Community Park
- Compass Rose Park
- Barker Field Expansion
- Mitchelville Beach Park
- Veteran's Memorial at Shelter Cove Community Park
- Folly Field Beach Park
- Cordillo Tennis Courts
- Burkes Beach Access
- Fish Haul Creek Park
- Rowing & Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park (Dock closed for repairs)

Parks will continue to be opened as repairs are completed and it is safe to do so.

While restoration efforts continue, it will be a long process and patience is urged.