

**Summary of Remarks to River Bluffs Residents  
in Anticipation of Hurricane Florence  
September 10, 2018**

River Bluffs (RB) managers gave residents a straight-forward briefing on things to consider as Hurricane Florence is bearing down on our area. These are some of the main points...

- Today and tomorrow, RB management will be working with crews to safeguard community property.
- This means residents need to be self-sufficient in preparing for and riding out the storm. Make sure your neighbors are well-prepared, too.
- Management is working with contractors to get dumpsters emptied and construction material removed or secured. All deliveries and routine work will stop after today.
- They will try to keep generators going at Porches, but it may not be open for business.
  
- **BIG QUESTION: Stay or Go?**
  - **If you stay**, be sure you have everything you need to survive several days without food, water, power, and communications.
  - We'll furnish two-way radios to some of the houses with generators to act as communication hubs for their neighborhoods.
  - Bring in everything outside your house – lawn furniture, ornaments, planters. Winds may exceed 100 mph and if so, they will tear away everything not nailed down. Flying objects become projectiles.
  - Understand the storm is likely to stall and could drop several feet of water. Do not go outside until the entire storm is finished.  
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  - **If you go**, don't wait until the last minute – you may get caught in traffic. Know the major routes in and out.
  - Let the gate greeters know your temporary address or be sure you neighbors know how to reach you.
  - For this hurricane, you'll need to head southwest and go a good distance. Going northwest or north (Raleigh, Charlotte) is likely to keep you in the storms' path. Also, these areas traditionally flood.
  - Don't assume you can return quickly. The geography surrounding Wilmington is low-lying and even the major roadways (140, 40, 74/76, 117) are likely to be under water and/or closed for some time.
  
- During the event, the gates will remain open. This is because they must be open if the power is out and because they will be damaged by wind if they remain closed. The greeters will not be at the gates until it is safe for them to return.
- Kayaks must be removed from their posts unless the owner is sure they are secured to withstand the wind. The small chains are not secure enough.

- Boat owners must remove their boats from the marina. Boats on trailers may be stored in the storage lot if they are properly secured.
- Every vehicle in the storage lot must be secured to avoid damage to nearby property.
  
- MOST LIKELY DAMAGE? Loss of electricity (which may include phone communications), downed trees, wind damage.
  
- GOOD NEWS: Note that we are almost 30 feet above the river, so even a strong storm surge should not cause river flooding. We expect the gas to remain on and the storm water to drain well into the retention ponds. However, some gas appliances have electronic starters...check your model instructions if they don't work.
  
- AFTER the STORM, exercise patience. Recovery will take a while.
  - Beware the aftermath in terms of insects, animals, and debris.
  - RB staff will return ASAP to oversee damage and set up repairs.
  - Exercise great caution around the water – extraordinary tides are likely to occur
  
- Finally, the RB staff will not be on site during the storm, as they must also prepare and shelter in their own homes. Listen to local media and the NOAA apps for the latest guidance. Do not contact them during the storm with problems. If an emergency arises, contact 911.