

Storm Damage Update

First, the boil water advisory is still in effect. You are to boil all drinking, bathing, cooking water, etc., for a full minute before use. We don't know when the advisory will be lifted, but as soon as we are aware of a change, an announcement will be made.

Normal trash pickup is in effect.

Heavy trash pickup has begun. We are trying to remove wet carpet, mattresses, etc., before furniture due to stench and bacterial issues. We hope to be well along in this regard by the end of the week.

A new generator was purchased at the main gate guard house as the one replaced just gave up the ghost and quit (cracked motor housing).

Front gate electronics are mostly back to working order and residents may now enter as before the storm.

There is talk about why the streets were flooded and why street drainage did not readily occur. I'm offering a simplified explanation of a fairly complex problem. The street drains are not plugged up. We have a gravity fed drainage system that allows street drains to drain into our lakes and ponds. Due to prodigious and copious amounts of rain dumped on us by Hurricane Irma, the lakes and ponds were already at capacity. Street drainage cannot occur under this condition. The lakes and ponds could not release excess water into the various canals that exist because the canals were filled to capacity. Work needs to be done regarding this problem and dredging canals is but one way of accomplishing this. Please understand, however, we had water of epic proportions pouring down on already saturated grounds and there was just no way to accommodate this excess water. I'm told we had more than a foot of rain water released by Irma in just a few hours. The problem is not confined to Westminster, immense flooding has occurred in Lee County in addition to numerous other counties in Florida.

We have just discovered floor damage at our home which was not apparent until yesterday afternoon. We have experienced wood floor warping. To those of you with wood flooring and carpet covering your floors, understand it may take 2, 3 or 4 days before you can consider yourself damage free. Please continue to check your flooring and walls around baseboards, etc.

We have a roving guard driving around the neighborhood during the hours of darkness. This should help alleviate the looting problem we experienced earlier. I should mention again to be alert to any unusual or suspicious looking activity around the neighborhood. If you see something that just doesn't look right, report it to the Sheriff's office. They can be reached at 239-477-1000.

We have elderly and limited mobility residents as well as residents who are not here. Please be kind and take a moment to help whenever you can. It will be most appreciated.

I'll report more when I can when conditions require additional announcements.

As before, stay safe and stay strong. The best is yet to come.