



Dear Fellow Islanders,

Your island is moving forward in its recovery with progress made every day, but as long and brutal as the storm was, the recovery is equally challenging.

Our initial assessment of damage was woefully optimistic with the flood and rain intrusion damage not obvious from either the fly-overs or the first inspections from the streets. Unfortunately, many of you and your neighbors have major damage with no easy fix. This event, like none other the island has experienced was declared a Federal Disaster for a reason.

The FEMA debris removal negotiations have worked through the expected discussions of scope of work and necessary equipment required. Implementation is well underway. We thank our local contractors, volunteers and especially many of you for the invaluable participation.

FEMA assistance is not without an end date and so it is paramount that both Vegetative and Construction & Demolition debris be placed by the streets by Thanksgiving weekend as was previously communicated. Having said, as of today the Village has learned from the debris management contractor of their intent to complete a "final pass" beginning December 3rd, 2018. The "final pass" means that you now have up to December 3rd to get ALL storm related debris to the street at which point the debris contractor will make one last pass down each road to pick up whatever debris remains. Once this "final pass" has concluded, the expense for debris removal moving forward will be the property owner's responsibility.

Less certain is how difficult it is going to be for our island builders and others to work through the recovery process. Village Staff, especially Stephen Boyett, our Development Services Director & Building Inspector, will have an enormous amount of work ahead.

Last Friday the Village Council formed a Task Force ([Click Here](#)) to receive and evaluate suggestions for improving storm response. Please let your thoughts be known.

Lastly, I would like to ask for your continued help. Whether it is separating your debris (including paint cans clear from other debris), picking up the island wide refuse, or raking the detritus from the former debris piles on your streets, please step up. If we all jump in, it will make a very big difference!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JA Sayre".

Mayor Andy Sayre