



Dear Fellow Islanders,

Generally, as a rule I rely on Chris McCall, our Village Manager, to coordinate essential communications to the community through the Village's Voice. This allows for a single point of contact which I believe facilitates clear and accurate dissemination of information.

However, with regards to Hurricane Florence I would like to offer the following observations after my first day back on the island, although now I have returned to Southport.

Flooding and tree debris is widespread and far greater than any other event in my 35 years on BHI. Every street in the forest and many on the beaches are impassable. Fortunately, and inexplicably, structural damage is minimal. Of course, any damage to one's home and/or business is a terrible ordeal.

The Village has made some progress today in opening a single lane along many major Wynds, but deep flooding prohibits easy, and in some locations still, no access. Also, one 10" pump is operating with other smaller pumps operating and staged. Equally important is coordination with Duke Energy, Spectrum, Verizon, AT&T, FEMA and Brunswick County for debris management.

I commend the Village effort especially since some employees have been unable to access the Island. However, please take seriously my admonition that our island is uninhabitable at present and that tonight as I write to you I am unable to give you a timeframe for your return.

Please be assured that we are doing our best to minimize this disruption.

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

Mayor Andy Sayre

**Photo Aerials provided by Steve Montgomery**

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