

Hurricane Matthew
October 7-8, 2016

We survived Matthew without any injuries! A neighbor five blocks away was killed in his bed by a falling tree. We had winds in the 90mph range, and Tybee Island (our beach) recorded a 97mph gust. Tybee is 15 miles east of us.

Our power was out from Friday until Thursday, and we still don't have any internet service. This morning, I borrowed a "hot spot" device from my daughter for a short time, which allows me somehow without Comcast cable service to use wifi to write this message. Comcast estimates that their service should be restored in another three days, so I will not have any ability to send emails until then.

We had a storm surge in the 5-6' range, but fortunately the scheduled high tide at the time of the hurricane was 6.5', which is in the low range for our tides. With the surge, our tide was in the neighborhood of 12', which is very high, but low enough to avoid catastrophic damage to docks and bulkheads. We were afraid that our floating docks would float off of the top of the anchor pilings, but they remained in place.

We did not have any real damage to our home except for some blown off shingles which caused a few water leaks on the front porch. Our driveway was blocked by a fallen 30' live oak, and there are over 20 fairly large trees blown down in the back yard. I have an estimate for removing the trees of \$26,000. There is a lot of price gouging immediately after the storm, and I am sure I can have the work done for much less than that as things settle down.

Isle of Hope is a wreck! Many, many houses have large trees down on roofs and the debris from tree removal lines all of the streets six feet high in many places. Most people on the island evacuated, so the loss of life was minimized.

Ruthie, I, and our entire family (four different houses) elected to stay at home. I have lived in this house for more than seventy years and have never evacuated. However, at 3:00am Saturday morning, the wind began to howl

and became very scary. I had second thoughts about our decision not to leave! At that time a tree fell on our electric service line and jerked the service off the back of the house. The house shook, but of course I didn't realize what had caused the noise and shaking until the next morning.

Most roads on the island were blocked by downed trees, but neighbors dug out their chain saws and made the roads passable within three days after passage of the storm. We received very little help from our county government!

We are fortunate that our next door neighbor has a very large natural gas powered whole house generator, so he invited me to plug in a long extension cord into his generator, so we did have limited power for the freezer and the fridge and two electric lamps (many kerosene lamps). He also has a deep well, and I ran a garden hose from one of his spigots to one of mine, so we did have water during the ordeal (no hot water).

Our son, Noel, III, lives a mile from us and he has natural gas cooking and hot water, and he bought a small generator, so cooking and hot water was available at his home. The entire family gathered at his home each evening for family meals, which were delicious!

We are working through our recovery one day at a time and feel blessed that the damage was not worse,

Noel