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## Hurricane Irma and Other News

We had a full agenda for this week's Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting. In addition to making up as much of the cancelled Sep. 12 meeting as possible, we got updates on Hurricane Irma preliminary damage assessments and recovery efforts. We also set a workshop for 1pm on Tuesday, November 7, to review the response to Hurricane Irma. We'll talk more about that in October.

For this update, we have [More About Storm Debris](#), another request to use the [Self-Reporting Tool](#) the County set up as part of its efforts to measure Irma's effects and plan their response, and a reminder about our October [Coffee with The Commissioner](#) next Thursday. Also, today's [Most Frequently Asked Question](#), regarding pool cages. (Here's [a link](#) to all the past

newsletters, if you're just joining us now and are interested in the information already shared.)

There's a lot of talk about how we "dodged a bullet" with Irma's final path, and for many of us that's true. But it is sobering to reflect on how many of our neighbors didn't dodge anything at all, and have a long road ahead of them in sorting out their homes and businesses. There are many campaigns and drives and benefits to help the communities most affected; these neighbors will need our support long after most of us have returned to 'normal.' I hope all who can will contribute to these efforts, and I salute all who have. This willingness to lift each other up is part of what makes Collier County so special.

**Andy**

PS: Congratulations to the tech staff for making yesterday's BCC meeting the first to be livestreamed on Facebook! Now Facebook is added to the [local cable channel](#), [watching live](#) through the County's website, and [viewing the video minutes](#) as ways to be a part of your local government (even if you are far away from your Naples home). Your Communications staff are committed to making the workings of your county as open and available to you as possible.

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## Storm Debris Removal By The Numbers



Speaking of a long road ahead, let's talk some more about debris removal - it's going to be a process, as they say. Based on the update at the BCC meeting yesterday, here are some important numbers you might be interested to know:

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## 4.2 Million

That's how many cubic yards of storm debris Collier County needs to deal with. For some perspective, Hurricane Wilma left us with less than 1 million cubic yards.

## 3.2 Million

The volume of the Great Pyramid of Giza in cubic yards. So we could build the '*Great Pyramid of Irma*' and still have enough debris left over to completely

cover 5 of our high schools' football fields with debris stacked 100 feet deep.

# 67

The number of Florida counties affected by Hurricane Irma. In other words, *ALL* of them. Plus some more in Georgia. Then there's all the parts of Texas and Louisiana affected by Harvey, and then the wildfires out West, and of course the devastation of Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria . . . This is creating huge demand nationwide for debris removal equipment and personnel, as you might imagine.

# 71

The number of debris removal trucks currently operating in and for Collier County. The trucks have to be certified by FEMA before they can begin working, so that's another process which takes time.

# 200

The number of trucks expected to eventually be deployed here.

# 10

The number of trucks being added each day, as lesser-impacted communities complete their work and trucks are freed up to come here.

# 4 - 6

The number of months estimated to completely clean up the storm debris. Good-natured patience is what is called for here, a job of this magnitude will take time.

# 77 Million

Amount in US dollars the storm debris removal is expected to cost. The county

has applied to FEMA to be reimbursed for a portion of this cost. We will be tracking this and reporting back on how our application is going.

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If you have the ability to transport your debris and don't want to wait for the county's contractor to get to you, there are self-drop-off sites open. [Read more about these sites](#), and review the rules for sorting your debris (Remember: No Bags!!).

Please note that debris collection efforts during the next few weeks will focus on the hardest hit areas first, including Everglades City, Goodland, Copeland and Immokalee, as well all 55 public school sites and county parks and other public facilities. There is not a schedule for individual neighborhood collection. If a schedule is created, we'll be sure to let you know.

Still have questions? Call 239-252-2380 for answers.

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## Today's Most Frequently Asked Question: "What should I do about my damaged pool cage?"



Irma was almost as hard on our area's pool cages as she was on our trees, and I have heard from many of you about the long wait-times to get a quote for cage replacement, let alone to get the work completed. As you know, for safety reasons (and for your protection from liability), you are required to have your pool enclosed. If you don't otherwise have a fence that complies with the code, you need to enclose your pool in some other way as soon as possible; see the examples above.

Your Code Enforcement team created [this document](#) to help you understand

your options and obligations. Permits for repairs of hurricane damage will be expedited. Call 239-252-2400 with any other questions.

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We've heard from some of you who would like to attend but have pesky things like jobs to be at instead. Feel free to send in your questions, even if you can't make it. We'll draw from submitted questions, and send out a newsletter following the event with all the questions and the responses from the Commissioner.

Click the image above to let us know you're attending (including how many are in your party) or to submit a question. Hope we'll get to meet some new friends and say hi to some old ones next week!

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**Please Help Our County-Wide Assessment**

Your Emergency Management team is asking you to use [this voluntary tool](#) to self-report damage from Hurricane Irma. At today's Commission meeting they stressed how important it was to get as many people as possible to complete it. So click above or [HERE](#), complete the form, and then forward this along to friends and neighbors. As we mentioned last week:

- This form is NOT an application for local, state or federal assistance.
- You don't have to give identifying personal information, but if you do, you should know this form will be a public record.

Thanks for your support in helping the County's team with their recovery efforts!

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