

**NATION**

# SC town needs a 'miracle' after Hurricane Matthew

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

NICHOLS, S.C. - Nearly a month since floodwaters consumed this Mayberry-like hamlet in rural South Carolina, few have returned. The fear is that many never will.

Nichols wasn't directly hit by Hurricane Matthew, but its location 50 miles inland from Myrtle Beach, between two converging rivers, caused it to fill up like a bathtub after 18 inches of rain fell.

A stew of water, fuel, fertilizer and sewage settled in homes for more than a week. As the water receded, toxic black mold grew rampant, leaving nearly all of the town's 261 homes uninhabitable. Brown lines, which start midway up once-white doors and get increasingly darker closer to the floor, show how the receding water "got nastier and nastier," said the Rev. Eddie Collier, pastor of Nichols' Methodist church.

He knew he was in trouble when he woke up in bed about 3:15 a.m. Oct. 10, and his hand hit water. His wife's cellphone had just enough power to make one call, and they were rescued by boat several hours later.

While waiting for help, he opened a window. "But the odor was horrific," Collier said. "I actually closed the window back."

This is among homes already gutted to the studs, thanks to the help of church volunteers and AmeriCorps members. Many more need to be gutted. Collier said he's encouraging parishioners and neighbors to come back to clean out. The longer they wait, the more unsalvageable their homes will be, he said.

He saw one set of neighbors briefly. "They threw up their hands and left. I haven't seen them since."

Most of the people in town recently were there only for the cleanup process. Lifetimes' worth of belongings were piled high along the streets. On some, the stench of molded furniture, wood and carpeting mixed with rotting food in garbage bags, waiting to be hauled off.

Looking at a yard full of trashed belongings, Bill Gleason got choked up as he motioned to family photos. "I'm fine except when I talk about the pictures," he said.

He and his wife, who recently got a job with a propane gas company in Nichols, moved in two weeks before 2 1/2 feet of contaminated water consumed their home.

"I just sank pretty much everything I had into renovating this place," he said. They're not coming back.

Nothing's been done at James Jones' home. The 69-year-old Vietnam veteran said he can't even walk inside with his respiratory issues. He tried to get help through Veterans Affairs, he said, but was told he doesn't qualify for homeless assistance because he owns a home.

"We're in bad shape," he said. He and his wife left the shelter last Thursday to live with a nephew.

Few residents, if any, had flood insurance. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering pitance.

Mayor Lawson Battle said he worries about "the citizens who couldn't make ends meet before this happened."

Most of the town's 300 residents are retired or disabled, and they can't afford to take out the low-interest loans FEMA offers, he said.

"These people are not getting the resources they need to even get back to town," he said, noting that 300 vehicles were also ruined. "It's going to take a huge miracle to fix Nichols."

The town's six churches and all 22 businesses were flooded. Glass fronts along Main Street smashed from the pressure; 3/4 feet inundated the pharmacy, washing residents' prescriptions into the watery mix.

By last Friday, only a seed-cleaning business and auto mechanic shop had reopened.

"We're trying to salvage and get help to the farmers," said Nichols Farm Supply owner Jimmy Deavers 66, whose son-in-law founded the town. He and his wife are living in their home's second floor. "I was lucky because it didn't get the whole house."

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## School District of Indian River County

### Report to the Community

On August 12, 2012, the voters of Indian River County, pursuant to §1011.73(2) Florida Statutes, approved the continuation of a 0.60 ad valorem millage for essential operating needs such as teachers, instructional materials, and technology in order to provide all students with high quality educational opportunities beginning July 1, 2013, and ending four (4) fiscal years later on June 30, 2017, with annual reporting to the citizenry. This advertisement is in full and complete compliance of this voter approved reporting requirement for an accounting of all proceeds received as a result of the Essential Operating Needs Millage Referendum levy:

<b>Revenue Received from 0.60 Essential Operating Needs Levy:</b>	
Proceeds from fiscal year 2015/16, 0.60 Essential Operating Needs levy	\$ 8,874,276
Rollforward of 2014/15 unspent collections and purchase orders:	\$ 4,410,399
<b>Total Levy and Rollforward:</b>	<b>\$ 13,284,675</b>

<b>Expenditure of funds received:</b>	
20,260 Math, World Language, Language Arts, Social Studies, Reading textbooks, workbooks, bundled packages, resource books, online editions, kits, manipulatives, eBooks, teacher editions, additional items, and shipping:	\$ (1,351,155)

<b>Personnel (Jobs saved):</b>	
2 Physical Education Teachers*	\$ (126,600)
3 Art Teachers	\$ (181,322)
14 Media Specialists	\$ (905,617)
2 Music Teachers	\$ (112,641)
9 Reading Teachers	\$ (623,976)
<b>Total Personnel Expenditure:</b>	<b>\$ (1,950,216)</b>

\* 1 P.E. Teacher is contracted to work for 4.5hrs/day

<b>Technology:</b>	
▶ Purchased 2,268 classroom tablet PC's with charging carts for Digital Learning 1:1 Initiative at secondary schools	
▶ Purchased 13 laptop carts with 362 tablets PC's for mobile elementary school labs	
▶ Replaced 1,000 student and teacher computers more than 5 years old	
▶ Upgraded district wide network connectivity by implementing a redundant fiber ring network architecture	
▶ Installed fiber circuit on 58th ave. for increased network resiliency	
▶ Purchased professional design and support services for fiber upgrades	
▶ Upgraded Core Network switches for increased network capacity and redundancy	
▶ Purchased 192 network switches for expanded wireless connectivity	
▶ Purchased 50 Wireless Access Points to increase wireless coverage	
▶ Purchased training for digital classroom 1:1 teachers	
▶ Purchased wireless display adapters for digital classrooms	
▶ Replaced failing PA speakers and amplifiers at multiple schools	
▶ Upgraded data center servers and storage	
▶ Upgraded computer network Main Distribution Facility at Gifford Middle School	
▶ Purchased new headend control system for elementary Closed Circuit TV	
▶ Purchased cabling and wiring services for more than 350 data and power outlets	
▶ Purchased Microsoft Office 365 design and migration services	
▶ Upgraded security camera systems at multiple secondary sites	
▶ Contracted for Vulnerability and Network Risk Assessment	
▶ Purchased network management software	
▶ Renewed district web and e-mail filtering software and appliance	
▶ Renewed network Intrusion Detection System	
▶ Purchased EduLog Web query software for transportation	
▶ Contracted for configuration, support, and professional development for new Student Information System (FOCUS)	
▶ Purchased licensing for FOCUS custom student form builder	
▶ Continued funding for sunset position of Application Analyst for the conversion and implementation of the FOCUS Student Information System	
▶ Renewed licensing for Learning Management System (LMS) software	
▶ Purchased and renewed Digital Content licenses	
▶ Upgraded Digital Content Management system	
▶ Purchased classroom Audio Visual system hardware for upgrading and repairing classroom technology at all school sites (LCD projectors, document cameras, sound system, voice enhancement, wall controls...)	
▶ Repaired electronic projection screens at multiple school sites	
<b>Total Technology:</b>	<b>\$ (6,197,340)</b>

<b>Allocated to Charter Schools:</b>	
▶ 5% of proceeds allocated to Charter Schools:	\$ (443,699)
<b>Total Charter Schools:</b>	<b>\$ (443,699)</b>

<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>\$ (9,942,410)</b>
<b>Funds received but not yet spent:</b>	
▶ Outstanding Purchase Orders issued for Textbook purchases	\$ (3,387)
▶ Outstanding Purchase Orders issued for Technology purchases	\$ (1,503,646)
▶ Available funds received and rolled forward into 2016-2017 School Year for Technology projects	\$ (1,835,232)
<b>Total funds received but not yet spent:</b>	<b>\$ (3,342,265)</b>
<b>Grand Total of uses of proceeds received from the voter approved 0.60 Essential Operating Millage to reconcile:</b>	<b>\$ (13,284,675)</b>

Report for 2015-16