



TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE, INC.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 8, 2012

Town of Chincoteague Residents and Visitors

RE: Hurricane Sandy

To All Concerned:

The recent impact of Hurricane Sandy, and the following Nor'Easter have been a great concern to our community. Our sympathy and support go out to each of you who have experienced flooding and property damage as many trees were blown over. Thank you for your patience and participation in helping neighbors during the wait for power to be restored, and cleaning up storm debris.

As your Mayor, I had the opportunity to meet with Governor McDonnell, Congressman Rigell, officials from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and FEMA to thank them for their support. Our small island community is blessed to have the protection of Assateague Island and the federal and state agencies that manage our coastline.

When the storm passed, one of our first concerns was for the condition of the beach and parking areas that are so important to our economy. Refuge Manager Lou Hinds, Superintendent Trish Kicklighter and I were first on the scene with a helicopter tour of the storm damage. Later assessments have confirmed that the beach and parking areas will need some reconstruction similar to the repairs from Hurricane Irene last year. Both of our federal managers have indicated that they are committed to restoring beach access once again before next summer, with details to be worked out over the coming months.

Additionally, photos were circulated that showed a breach from the northern portion of swan cove pool to the ocean. We need not worry about the breach, as it turns out, the breach is a good thing and is allowing flooding to drain back into the ocean. We are told it will heal before summer, as it has in the past.

Thank you for your concern, and rest assured that the Chincoteague Ponies have enjoyed free range of the Refuge during the event enabling them to go to high ground.

Sincerely,

John H. Tarr
Mayor