



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 4, 2024

Contact: Mike Donila Rylie McClurg
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs Talks About Storm Damage, Help, and Donations

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— During his Weekly Update that will post around 10 a.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about the damage Hurricane Helene caused in North Carolina and Tennessee and what role Knox County played in the relief effort.

“Massive damage was caused to local infrastructure, such as water and sewer services,” Mayor Jacobs says. “Currently, the biggest need is still drinking water. For instance, Cocke County was able to get their water plant back online, but because of all the damage and contamination, they will remain under a boil order until further notice.”

Mayor Jacobs also mentions the Federal Emergency Management Agency and how immediate disaster response is led by state and local governments, non-profits, churches, and the local community.

“By Friday afternoon, helicopters from the Tennessee National Guard, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Knox County Sheriff’s Office were airlifting victims from the rooftop of the Unicoi County Hospital,” he adds. “Our Sheriff’s Office also rescued about 2 dozen people from rooftops in Newport.”

“Swiftwater rescue teams from the Knox County Rescue Squad and the Knoxville Police Department raced to upper East Tennessee to help,” Mayor Jacobs continues. “Virtually every emergency response agency in east Tennessee that had the capacity to assist deployed within hours. As the situation evolved, other governments and organizations aided. For instance, folks from Sevier County’s emergency management agency, which itself was dealing with some flooding, helped Unicoi County setup their Emergency Operations Center.”

Mayor Jacobs also notes that the biggest need is still drinking water and encourages folks to continue to drop off donations of bottled water at the Knox County Engineering & Public Works Building at 205 W. Baxter Avenue in Knoxville during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Mayor Jacobs, Mission of Hope, and Knoxville Wholesale Furniture have also teamed up to host a canned food and bottled water drive this Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knoxville Wholesale Furniture Clearance Center, 7428 Kingston Pike.

###