

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

On Monday, September 11, Hurricane Irma came through the Sylva Vista community bringing huge winds (measured at 120 mph at Clingman's Dome) that probably were sustained at 50 to 60 mph with gusts of 80 to 90 mph.

The two days previous to the storm, a volunteer work crew worked on the roads to clear drains and culverts and major damage that had already occurred to road in preparation for the rains that we anticipated. What we couldn't anticipate was the high winds from a storm that had dropped down to 50 to 60 mph gusts.

Apparently Irma met a high pressure ridge right over western North Carolina that produced the winds we experienced. Trees were uprooted and twisted off their trunks. Power poles were snapped off at the top. There were as many as 100 trees down on the roads in Sylva Vista and a few people were trapped between falling trees when they came home from work.

Eventually, everybody got home and, remarkably, there was no damage to houses, although a few homes lost some roof shingles. Major cleanup started on Tuesday and roads were cleared completely at the bottom of the mountain. Up above, there were trees, power poles and wires tangled and hanging onto the road. All we could do that day was clear a path up.

Thanks for everybody's patience as this process has been going on. Definitely hoping for sunnier days here!