

Monday, Sept. 30, 2024



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected in the aftermath of this disaster which has impacted so many individuals and communities throughout North Carolina. Our hearts are with anyone still dealing with the repercussions of Helene.

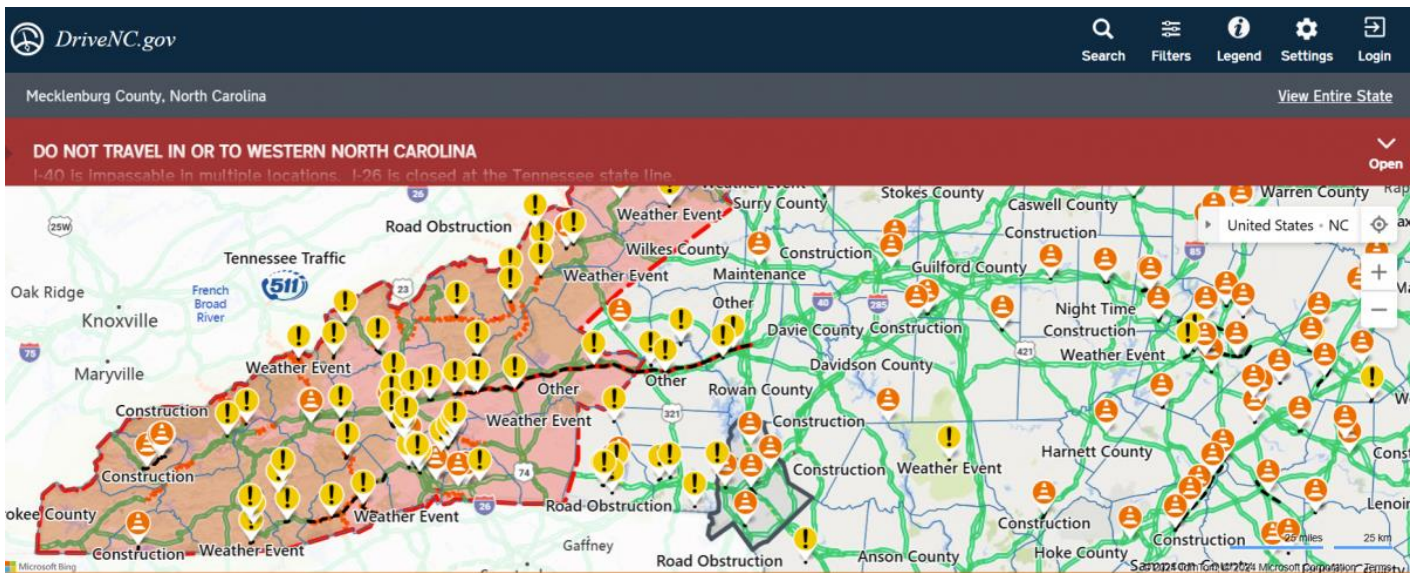
I wanted to provide you all with a few important updates, beginning with the fact that we do have a District Disaster Recovery team in place which includes DGE Donna Moffett and DGN Jerry Coughter.

First of all, there are numerous ways in which we can provide support for those in need:

- For people with immediate needs, please consider supporting the [Red Cross](#) or other local organizations involved in providing that type of support. Susan Tillis, wife of Sen. Thom Tillis shared this information recently about where donations could be made.
 - Cornelius, NC (Police station - Avery County stop today. They specifically need formula, baby wipes, etc.
 - In Concord, NC – Our drop-off location is at the Walmart near Concord Regional Airport at 5825 Thunder Road in Concord, NC 28027 for those delivering ground donations. Also, drop-offs outside the door of the main office at Cox Mill High School at 1355 Cox Mill High School Road from 9 am to 2pm
 - The Allen Tate office in Concord is also a drop-off location at 1339 Concord Pkwy N, Concord 28025
 - In Mooresville, NC – At Victory Lanes at 125 Morlake Dr.
 - In Statesville, NC – Statesville Regional Airport at 238 Airport Road in Statesville, NC 28677 and Helene Airlift Relief at 196 Delight Loop Statesville, NC 28677
 - In The Greater Charlotte, NC Area: Donations can be brought to Thrift Pony in Plaza Midwood, Wooden Robot Brewery, Compleat Kidz Belmont Clinic, Alchemy Co-Working in Gastonia
 - In York County, SC – Donations can be brought to Model A Brewing in Tega Cay.
- For longer term needs, our Donor Advised Fund (DAF) will have some funding available for use by clubs. We expect to have additional information on how these funds can be accessed in the very near future. We will also be looking for additional donations to the fund from Rotarians and others since we know needs will be ongoing. Please stay tuned and see my previous email regarding how you can contribute to the DAF.

- Our Rotary Zone has established a website for donations as well. You can make donations directly to the Zone through this link, however, understand that these funds will be used for disaster recovery efforts throughout affected areas in Zone 33 and 34.
 - <https://www.rizones33-34.org/disaster-relief/>
- We are working to have a designated spot on the District 7680 website for easier access by all to relevant information.

Second, I have also heard from people who want to get involved in clean-up efforts. The state of NC is asking people not to drive to western NC for efforts like this, as the roads are still considered closed in the greater part of western NC and power lines are still down. Please refrain from driving to western NC if at all possible. Visit DriveNC.gov for more information. The screenshot below is from 30 minutes ago.



Third, I wanted to make you all aware that I’ve been in contact with Catawba Riverkeeper relative to our District initiative to participate in cleanup efforts on Saturday, October 5th. They are literally making a site-by-site determination of what will be open and will get back to me as soon as they can. It’s likely that we will not know until Thursday which sites are available. Please remain patient.

Finally, I wanted to clarify that we have six counties in District 7680 which have been declared Federal disaster areas. They are:

1. Ashe
2. Alleghany
3. Alexander
4. Wilkes
5. Cleveland
6. Gaston

Warm regards,
District Governor Kevin Kendrick