

Engineering Through A Hurricane Disaster

An NSPE member's new book highlights the challenges of recovering after a natural disaster.

Angela R. Newland's professional engineering career path has included serving as a city engineer, an airport authority executive, and engineering consultant. The 40-year member of NSPE recently added the title of book author to her resume with the release of *The River House*. In this book, readers are introduced to Engineer Victoria and her husband, Kevin, who experience a more than two-year fight to get their home reconstructed following Hurricane Irma. Engineer Victoria mirrors the life of Newland following her move from Ohio to Florida. This transition started off as a dream, but soon spiraled into a homeowner's worst nightmare and put her engineering expertise to the test.

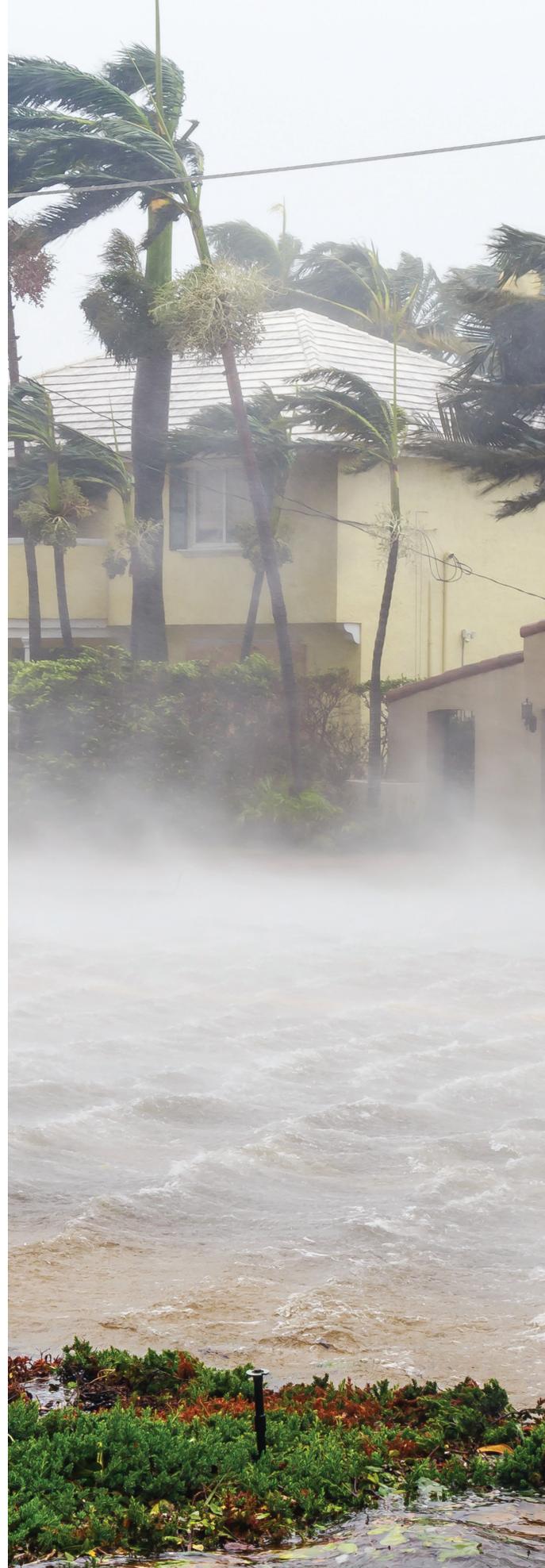
"Engineer Victoria and her husband purchased the house of their dreams on the Caloosahatchee River in southwest Florida in 2016. Although the house was over 40 years old, the couple happily endured various home repair and improvement projects knowing that the stunning beauty of the home's location was well worth any aggravation. Their blissful state of mind was shattered less than a year after they purchased the property when Hurricane Irma paid an unwelcome visit.

The hurricane's horrific damage to their beloved home was only the beginning of their agonies. The tense saga of dealing with a dysfunctional property insurance company was then superseded by the convoluted process for getting their house reconstructed to the current building code."

Angela Newland felt compelled to take her personal and professional experiences to showcase the challenges that more and more Americans are facing from natural disasters and extreme weather events. "I wrote this book to help anyone living in a hurricane-prone area understand what could happen if their house is severely impacted by a hurricane. The damage caused by a hurricane is just the beginning of a very long and frustrating process a homeowner will experience if the damage is severe."

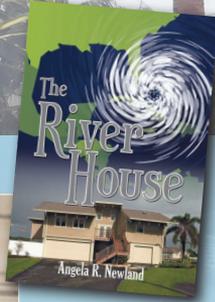
Despite the hurricane removing part of their home's roof and causing some water intrusion, Engineer Victoria and Kevin thought they could still live in the house, pending a decision by their home insurance company on financing the needed repairs. Within a week after the hurricane, that assumption was proved wrong when the roof continued to leak and mold started to grow throughout the house.

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THE AUTHOR
ANGELA R. NEWLAND



Angela Newland, P.E., F.NSPE, grew up in central Ohio and graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Ohio State University. She spent the first half of her career working for the City of Columbus in Ohio. The second half of her career was spent working as the vice president of planning and engineering for the Columbus Airport Authority, and then in a similar position at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida. She became the Ohio Society of Professional Engineer's first female president in 1999.

Newland retired from full-time engineering work in 2016. She and her husband, Ron, then purchased an older home on the Caloosahatchee River in southwest Florida. Her first published book, *The River House*, is based on her experiences at this home before, during, and after Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Now living in Lenoir City, Tennessee, Newland enjoys gardening, crocheting, traveling, hiking, running, writing, and participating in marathons. She currently serves as an NSPE House of Delegate representative for Tennessee. She also owns a home in central Ohio, which allows her to frequently visit her daughter and two super cute grandsons.

The River House (published by Newman Springs Publishing) is available for purchase online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and the Apple iBooks Store. Angela Newland can be contacted through her website www.anewlandbooks.com or at angelanewland1@gmail.com.

During the 27-month reconstruction process, the couple and their cats lived in rental homes and at some point in a trailer next to their damaged home.

Their interactions with the insurance company were often tense. There was no positive response or financial support for over five months and the couple had to hire an attorney. The situation veered close to the cusp of litigation before they were able to reach an agreement with the insurance company to reconstruct the house. The reader will get insight into Engineer Victoria's frustrating and occasionally successful efforts to work with the insurance company's architect and contractors on the reconstruction efforts. The book ends with a series of cliffhangers and, characteristic of Newland's engineering training and experience, there is a chapter offering lessons learned. "Every event described in this book is true," Newland states. "I changed the names of every person and the company to protect the various parties involved."

Newland offers a necessary spotlight on the profession through Engineer Victoria, who uses her extensive career in civil engineering project management to facilitate the reconstruction of her house. Victoria's organizational skills, knowledge of architectural and engineering design, familiarity with government permitting processes, and expertise in building project management prove to be invaluable throughout the book. "The importance of this book lies not just in the descriptions of the constant twists and turns of the home reconstruction process, but also in helping readers know what they can do before a hurricane arrives to protect themselves from some of the post-hurricane insurance claim nightmares described in the book. Hurricanes are unpredictable monsters that need to be respected and avoided at all costs."

Newland's next books will be a fiction series based on her experiences as an airport engineering executive. They will highlight the behind-the-scenes aspects of being a female professional engineer overseeing billion dollar capital improvement programs at large US airports. "I want to share the phenomenal experiences I have had working in the airport management sector in order to help others appreciate the effort and excitement involved in that aspect of the engineering profession." **PE**

**NEWLAND OFFERS
A NECESSARY
SPOTLIGHT ON
THE PROFESSION
THROUGH ENGINEER
VICTORIA, WHO
USES HER EXTENSIVE
CAREER IN CIVIL
ENGINEERING
PROJECT
MANAGEMENT TO
FACILITATE THE
RECONSTRUCTION
OF HER HOUSE.
VICTORIA'S
ORGANIZATIONAL
SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE
OF ARCHITECTURAL
AND ENGINEERING
DESIGN, FAMILIARITY
WITH GOVERNMENT
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THROUGHOUT THE
BOOK.**