

Helene Update 10/1

(Please see previous updates for additional important information)

RV Habitation

We have lifted the prohibition of having recreation vehicles at your property. You may have and live in your RV as long as it is completely on your property as it cannot be in the street. This exception is being implemented for 3 months and will be reviewed and extended as necessary.

Clean Up

We have met with the debris removal company this morning. We are expecting the first sweep through the residential sections of town within the next week. The company will make additional sweeps as needed.

Please make sure your debris is curbside and separated into household/construction debris in one pile and yard/tree vegetation in a separate pile.

Unfortunately, we were advised by the debris removal company that FEMA will not cover commercial properties (including apartment buildings). We have sent out communication to businesses regarding removal and possible financial assistance.

Beaches

The bridges will open to all traffic beginning at 4:00 pm today. The Sheriff's Office has issued a statement that there will be saturated patrols from 7:00 pm through 7:00 am to help prevent unlawful activity.

With the restrictions lifted, there will be an influx of unethical people wanting to prey on our situation. Please confirm any contractors you use are licensed by calling 727-582-3100, Option 2. Do not hand over large prepayments for services.

Electric

We now have power throughout the town. We were very lucky that we were not part of the grid damage that will take months to repair according to Duke Energy.

FEMA Assistance

Anyone impacted by Helene needs to apply for FEMA assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 or applying online at disasterassistance.gov.

FEMA will not cover all costs but can help offset costs not covered by insurance or in the case of not having insurance.

People from FEMA will be out visiting in the communities helping people sign up for assistance. Do not give your private information to anyone before ensuring they have proper FEMA documentation.

Make sure all repairs are documented and properly permitted to ensure reimbursement.

Supplies

The National Guard has set up a distribution center at the Pinellas County park in Redington Shores. They have water, food and cleaning kits available for residents.

Resources Available

Anyone needing assistance with clean up can contact Volunteer Crisis Cleanup at 844-965-1386 to be paired with volunteers.

The County is also working on housing availability for those whose homes are not habitable and have no other accommodations. Information available at the link below.

For more important information, please visit Pinellas County's Emergency Management website at:

<https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/>