

# Helene Update 10/4

(Please see previous updates for additional important information)

## **Hot Lunch on Sunday**

A Taste of Laos will be distributing lunch on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in front of the Ocean Blue Nail Salon at the Redington Village Plaza on 173<sup>rd</sup>. It will be available from 11:00 am til the food is gone.

## **FEMA Claims Assistance**

Rep. Luna's office will be doing mobile office hours at the County park in Redington Shores, today, October 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be helping constituents with FEMA claims.

## **Debris**

It has been confirmed that our first debris removal run will occur this Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, commercial properties are still ineligible for reimbursement under FEMA rules. We have been working to find the best information to help those properties.

## **DEBRIS REMOVAL FROM COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

The following information is from FEMA.

*Removal of debris from commercial properties, such as industrial parks, golf courses, cemeteries, apartments, condominiums, and trailer parks is generally ineligible because commercial enterprises are expected to retain insurance that covers debris removal. In very limited, extraordinary circumstances, FEMA may provide an exception. In such cases, the Applicant must meet the requirements of Chapter 7: I.G.1. approval process and FEMA must approve the work prior to the Applicant removing the debris. The policy on Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) can be found in the FEMA (2020) Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide v4 (Page 109) Chapter 7, I.G.4.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FDEM-Recovery- [Questions@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Questions@em.myflorida.com)*

**Waste Pro has advised that they can bring a claw truck to pick up debris from these establishments. Please contact them at 727-452-5278 or [wp121@wasteprousa.com](mailto:wp121@wasteprousa.com) to let them know what you need and rates for removal.**

### **Beaches**

The State has brought people in to remove the sand along Gulf Boulevard. The crews have started working today, beginning with the North beaches.

### **Supplies**

The distribution center in Redington Shores has now closed.

## **Mosquito Control**

Pinellas County Mosquito Control has treated all standing water throughout the town. If you have any water on your property you would like treated or have an issue with mosquitos, please call them at 727-464-7503.

## **Storm Damage Repairs and Permitting**

From our Randy Spears, our Building Official:

The Building Dept is prepared to expedite storm damage permits. If you have water damage, you can proceed to remove the necessary drywall (only what was damage) insulation and flooring to set fans to dry out the area. Once dried, then you can proceed with a permit. If you need to remove more drywall, cabinets, any electrical it is **REQUIRED** you have a permit.

Please keep in mind that all repairs and materials are subject to the FEMA 50% limitation on improvements and repairs. It is important to note that failure to obtain permits will affect the towns CRS rating & ultimately impact your flood insurance rates.

If you received extensive water damage, please contact Randy Spears at (727) 589-7688 or via email at [rspears@safebuilt.com](mailto:rspears@safebuilt.com) to go over the FEMA restrictions.

## **Housing Help for Displaced Families**

Pinellas County residents displaced by Hurricane Helene have several options for seeking short- and long-term housing.

### **FEMA Displacement Assistance**

FEMA Displacement Assistance helps survivors who can't return to their home following a disaster by giving them up-front money to help with immediate housing needs. The amount of money is based on 14 days of hotel costs based on a rate chosen by the state impacted by the disaster. The assistance is a one-time payment. FEMA may provide up to two weeks of funds for temporary lodging at a hotel, motel, or the home of friends or family, for displaced applicants who apply during the registration period.

Displaced residents can apply for this and other help by calling 1-800-621-3362, visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), or going in-person to the Disaster Recovery Center, at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo. For more info, see [FEMA Displacement Assistance Fact Sheet](#).

FEMA Serious Needs Assistance is also available to pay for emergency supplies like water, food, first aid, breast-feeding supplies, infant formula, diapers, personal hygiene items, or fuel for transportation. You could qualify for both forms of assistance by applying to FEMA by phone or online.

### **Pinellas Housing Options Website**

Pinellas County has posted a list of resources to help displaced people find short- and long-term housing options, including online search tools, real estate company information, short-term

rental companies, and apartment listings. Realtors and property managers are responsible for updating their available listings on their websites, but the listings and resources allow residents to more easily locate potential housing options. [See Pinellas.gov/hurricane housing](#).

### **Local Emergency Shelters**

The County continues to provide emergency shelters for people who need a temporary safe place to stay while looking for a longer-term home. Call the County Information Center at (727) 464-4333 for more information on emergency sheltering, including locations that accept pets and have support for people with special medical needs. County staff is actively helping individuals and families who are at shelters find other housing options.

### **Resources Available**

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

If you suspect price gouging, report it to the Florida Attorney General's Office by visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com) or calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

If you're looking for hotel accommodations in non-evacuation zones, [use the Hotel Evacuation Zone Look-Up Tool](#).

Updates will be posted on [disaster.pinellas.gov](https://disaster.pinellas.gov), sent out via [Alert Pinellas](#) and [Ready Pinellas](#), and on Facebook [@PinellasGov](#) and X [@PinellasGov](#).

**For more important information, please visit Pinellas County's Emergency Management website for a full list of resources at:**

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