

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lee County launches website landing page to provide easy access to operational updates during Hurricane Helene**

Fort Myers, FL, Sept. 25, 2024 – Lee County has established a landing page dedicated to Hurricane Helene so that residents, businesses and organizations can easily check updates on county operations related to the storm, which is anticipated to bring inclement weather to residents tonight and throughout Thursday.

Visit [www.leegov.com/hurricane/helene](http://www.leegov.com/hurricane/helene) for the latest information.

Lee County offices will be closed Thursday. The web page will continue to be updated as employees working in emergency roles will continue in their duties.

There have been no evacuation orders for Lee County and no evacuation shelters are open.

As previously announced, Lee County will open two Safe Havens starting at 3 p.m. today. They are a safe place for anyone who does not feel secure in their housing situation and who perhaps does not have a friend's home or a family member's home to go to. The two Safe Havens will remain open tomorrow as Lee County monitors the conditions. They will be located at two county sites:

- North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL, 22903
- Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero, FL, 33928

To assist people looking to go to a Safe Haven, LeeTran has the following information:

- Routes 140, 240, 600, 590, 595 and 60 will operate until 10 p.m.
- Route 60 will provide service to the Estero Recreation Center starting at approximately 5 p.m.
- Route 590 will provide service to the North Fort Myers Library/Recreation Center throughout the day.
- LeeTran will have a vehicle available at the Pine Island Fire Station from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today to help transport people needing to reach the Safe Haven at North Fort Myers Recreation Center by utilizing the route 590 at Merchants Crossing in North Fort Myers.

LeeTran will suspend fares as of 5 p.m. today. Fixed-route services will end between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. with the exception of the Safe Haven transportation listed above.

To view a video of today's midday media briefing, go to <https://youtu.be/HRQYgRTzdmk>

Additional updates:

**Solid Waste:**

- Do not place waste at the curb tonight or Thursday. Lee County will suspend residential garbage, yard waste and recycling collection on Thursday due to winds anticipated from the storm.
- Regular household collections will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week. Thursday's collections will be picked up Friday, and Friday's collections will be picked up Saturday. Collections will resume as normal on Monday, Sept. 30.

- The county asks residents to please remove anything outside their homes that could blow away during the storm, and remove from the curb, garbage cans, lids and recycle carts. Please store them inside.
- All Lee County disposal facilities will be open regular hours on Friday and extended hours on Saturday.

### **Department of Community Development**

- The Department of Community Development asks that any unincorporated Lee County Residents with water intrusion in their homes, or those residing in the Special Flood Hazard Area with wind damage, send an email to [FIRInfo@leegov.com](mailto:FIRInfo@leegov.com) for assistance with permit requirements and resources. Residents also can visit [www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/disaster-recovery](http://www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/disaster-recovery) for information.

### **Parks & Recreation**

- The National Public Lands Day celebration that had been planned for Saturday at Prairie Pines Preserve has been canceled.
- All Lee County Parks & Recreation sites will be closed Thursday.
- Lee County pools closed this afternoon and will remain closed Thursday.
- Portable restroom trailers at Lynn Hall Park, Crescent Beach Family Park and Bowditch Point Park will be or have been removed until the storm passes
- Veterans Park Recreation Center and Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center will close at 6 p.m. today, following the end of the Club Rec program. These centers will remain closed on Thursday, Sept. 26, and will re-open on Friday, Sept. 27.

### **Library System**

- All library branches will close at 6 p.m. today and will be closed Thursday.
- Due dates and hold pickup dates will be extended until Monday.
- Electronic resources are available online at [www.leelibrary.net/online](http://www.leelibrary.net/online).

### **Human & Veteran Services**

- In partnership with Human & Veteran Services and law enforcement, the Salvation Army has opened an additional 40 beds at the Center of Hope LIFNAV Center, 2400 Edison Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901 for people experiencing homelessness.
- The department's HVS Reach app, which is available for free download on the Apple App Store and Google Play, will also be updated. Persons experiencing homelessness can sign up to receive push alerts from the app.

In addition to the new web page to easily get updates, members of the community should continue to take action to stay informed:

- Monitor reputable local media outlets, the National Weather Service-Tampa, and the National Hurricane Center.
- Follow Lee County Government and Lee County Public Safety on social media, including Facebook, YouTube, X and LinkedIn.
- Sign up for AlertLee and download the LeePrepares app from Google Play or the App Store.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: [www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters](http://www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters). Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](http://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc).