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June 2024

Friends and Neighbors:

I hope each of you are well and having a lovely start to your summer.

As you know, June 1st is the start of the hurricane season and the predictions are indicating a very active year. We have geared our newsletter toward this and hope that the information is helpful. While our desire is always to avoid storms, it is crucial that you be prepared.

Please know that my office is ready and able to assist you. I wish everyone a safe summer!

Best wishes,

Lori Berman

HURRICANE SEASON 2024

USEFUL LINKS:

I highly encourage you to check out the following resources if you do not already have them downloaded/bookmarked. Familiarizing yourself with this information now can make a huge difference in times of crisis.

[Official Palm Beach County Hurricane Planning Guide](#)

[Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Bureau](#)

[Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management - Facebook](#)

[ALERT PBC](#)

Now is the time to stock up on the supplies you need to weather any storm that comes our way. Florida's Disaster Preparedness Tax-Free Holiday has been expanded to offer four weeks of savings. The holiday began this past Saturday and goes through Friday, June 9. Another window starts Saturday, August 26 and goes through Friday, September 8.





This year, the list of tax-free items eligible was expanded to include household consumable items. In addition to flashlights, radios, tarps, batteries, coolers and generators, Floridians can now also save on paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, dryer sheets and more.

Items that Floridians can purchase tax-free include:

- Portable self-powered light source selling for \$40 or less;
- Certain portable self-powered, two-way or weather-band radios selling for \$50 or less;
- Tarps or other flexible waterproof sheeting selling for \$100 or less;
- Ground anchor systems selling for \$100 or less;
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks selling for \$50 or less;
- Packages of certain battery types, including rechargeable batteries: AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt or 9-volt, selling for \$50 or less;
- Non-electric food storage cooler selling for \$60 or less;
- Portable generators to provide light, communications or preserve food selling for \$3,000 or less;
- Reusable ice selling for \$20 or less;
- Portable power banks selling for \$60 or less;
- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms selling at \$70 or less;
- Fire extinguishers selling at \$70 or less;
- Carbon monoxide detectors selling at \$70 or less;
- Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 lbs or less selling at \$100 or less per bag;
- Individual wet dog or cat food cans or pouches selling at \$10 or less or equivalent if sold in a box or case;
- Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less;
- Portable kennels or pet carriers selling at \$100 or less;
- Manual can openers selling at \$15 or less;
- Leashes, collars and muzzles selling at \$20 or less;
- Collapsible or travel-sized food/water bowls selling at \$15 or less;
- Cat litter weighing 25 lbs or less selling at \$25 or less;
- Cat litter pans selling at \$15 or less;
- Pet waste disposable bags selling at \$15 or less;
- Pet pads selling at \$15 or less;
- Hamster or rabbit substrate selling at \$15 or less; and
- Pet beds selling at \$40 or less.

KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ZONE

Know Your Zone, Know Your Home

Every year it's important for residents to know if they live in an evacuation zone, a low-lying, flood prone area, a mobile home or an unsafe structure during hurricane season. These areas and buildings are most likely to be evacuated and knowing these zones helps Floridians prepare to evacuate and better understand orders from local officials.

In the event of a storm, you may have to evacuate your home and travel to a safer location. If an evacuation order is not issued for your area and your house is not in an evacuation zone, you may consider sheltering in place. If you shelter in place, it's important to know your home and its ability to withstand strong winds and heavy rain.

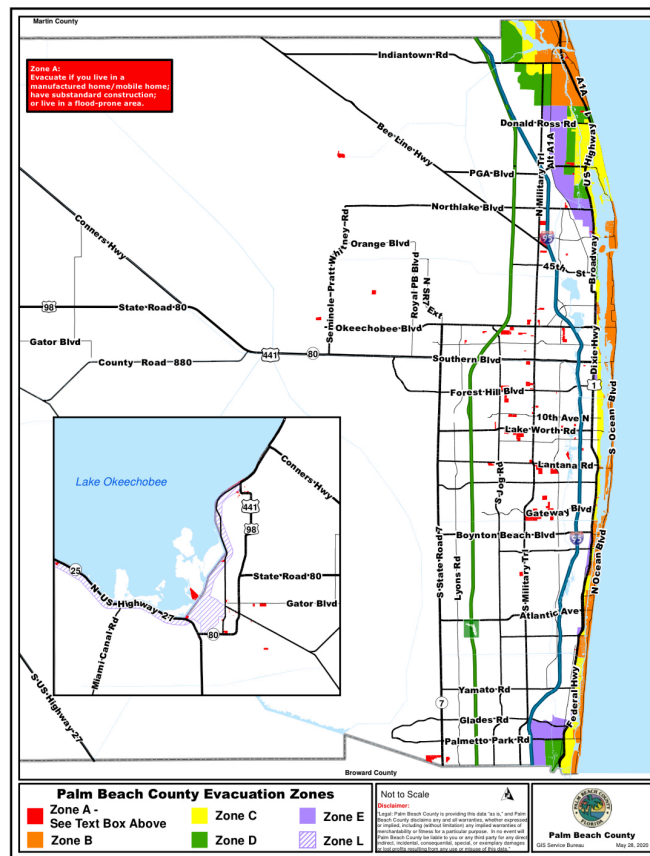
It only takes 3 feet of floodwater to sweep away a car - please check your zone!

Find out your evacuation zone [CLICK HERE](#).

[Hurricane Evacuation Zone map](#)

[For FLOOD Zone Look Up map](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY FLOOD ZONE MAP



Recycle Unused Hurricane Supplies

Learn More: swa.org/hcrc








SWA's May Household Hazardous Waste Tip: Old hurricane supplies need proper disposal

SWA Hurricane Website: swa.org/hurricane

Hurricane season starts June 1, and many of our Palm Beach County neighbors are making sure they're prepared. As you update hurricane supplies, keep in mind that some items should not be placed into the garbage or recycle bins, but instead, brought to one of the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's [Home Chemical & Recycling Centers](#).

Supplies requiring special disposal include:

- gasoline and **oil** from generators
- **propane tanks**
- all **lithium batteries** (rechargeable, button, single use)
- **rechargeable batteries** from electronics, flashlights or power tools

These items (and other hurricane hazards) can be dropped off for free by Palm Beach County residents at any of the seven [Home Chemical & Recycling Centers](#) listed below, where they will be recycled or disposed of properly.

The SWA's locations include :

- **Belle Glade**

Glades Regional Transfer Station

1701 State Road 15 in Belle Glade
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

- **Royal Palm Beach**

West Central Transfer Station

9743 Weisman Way in Royal Palm Beach
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

- **Lantana**

Central County Transfer Station

1810 Lantana Road in Lantana
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

- **Delray Beach – West**

Southwest County Transfer Station

13400 S. State Road 7 in Delray Beach
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

- **Delray Beach – East**

South County Transfer Station

1901 SW 4th Ave. in Delray Beach
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Remember, pollution prevention starts at home. A full list of household hazardous wastes can be found at swa.org/hcrc.

More information about proper waste disposal in Palm Beach County before and after a hurricane can be found at swa.org/hurricane.



Palm Beach County's Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED) announces the availability of State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Emergency Repairs Program funds. Funding will provide up to **\$50,000** to assist income eligible owner occupied residences to address emergency conditions such as roofing, electrical, plumbing, hurricane hardening (impact windows, doors, etc.) and structural repairs.

Eligible applicants can apply online by visiting the website at <https://pbcgov.com/HED>. The application portal will open **on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 8:00am, and close on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 11:59pm** (or until 50 applications have been submitted). Applications must be submitted online, and will be processed on a first submitted, first qualified, first served basis, subject to funding availability. All financial assistance will be in the form of a deferred loan secured by a recorded Mortgage, Promissory Note and Declaration of Restrictions. **NOTE: SHIP funding cannot be used to repair mobile homes.**

PRE-APPLICATION ORIENTATION: Before submitting an application, applicants are ENCOURAGED to attend one of the Virtual Pre-Application Orientations noted below:

- [Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 10:00 am](#)
- [Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:30 am](#)
- [Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm](#)

Program information and required documents needed are located on the website at<https://pbcgov.com/HED>

The Pre-Application Orientation Meeting WebEx link is:

<https://pbc-gov.webex.com/pbc-gov/j.php?MTID=mc445beacd32fa225a11f14808b528f32> [pbc-gov.webex.com]

(OR)

Dial (904) 900-2303 or (844) 621-3956 to join by phone

Meeting number access code: **2313 176 0595** Meeting password: **xKTd8SVYT26**

(OR)

Visit the website at <https://pbcgov.com/HED>

(OR)

Request link via email at HEDverify@pbcgov.com

For additional information, please contact:

Mortgage and Housing Investments Division at (561)233-3600

OR Antoinette Prescott at (561)233-3606 **OR** Rommel Sankhi (561) 233-3693

PRIMARY ELECTION KEY DATES

Deadline to register or change party: Monday, July 22, 2024

Early Voting: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., August 10, 2024 - August 18, 2024

Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be **mailed** to you: 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024

Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Election Day: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, 2024

IMPORTANT: Florida is a "closed primary" state. That means that only the voters registered within that political party may vote in that party's Primary Election unless a Universal Primary Contest (UPC)* occurs. You can change your party affiliation by submitting an updated Voter Registration Application at any time, but the change must be made **29 days before a Primary Election** in order to be valid for that election. All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote on issues and nonpartisan races during a Primary Election.

2024 BALLOT MEASURES

Floridians in November will vote on six proposed constitutional amendments. Passage of each proposal would require support from at least 60% of voters. Here are brief descriptions of the six issues:

2024 BALLOT MEASURES

Here's a closer look at the six ballot initiatives being presented to Florida Voters in 2024

AMENDMENT 1

Changes school board elections from nonpartisan to partisan beginning in the November 2026 general election and for primary elections nominating party candidates for the 2026 election

AMENDMENT 2

Establishes a State Constitutional right to hunt and fish

AMENDMENT 3

Legalizes recreational marijuana for adults 21 years old and older

AMENDMENT 4

Provides a constitutional right to abortion before fetal viability, or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's

healthcare provider

AMENDMENT 5

Provides for an annual inflation adjustment for the value of the homestead property tax exemption

AMENDMENT 6

Repeals a constitutional provision providing for public campaign financing for candidates who agree to spending limits

Legislative & Budget Update

Since our last newsletter, two of my bills were signed into law by the Governor. We are currently still waiting for the budget to be signed.

CS/SB 1316: Florida Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act

This bill replaces the current Florida Uniform and Principal Income Act. More specifically, it allows for total-return investing under the “modern portfolio theory”, provides for the transformation of an established trust into a uni-trust, offers versatility for more individualized estate planning, and includes a governing law provision aimed at minimizing jurisdictional disputes.

CS/SB 640: Purple Alert

This bill addresses revisions to the purple Alert, a bill I previously sponsored. The bill requires a statewide Purple Alert be issued only when an identifiable vehicle is involved. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement will issue statewide alerts that include activation of dynamic messaging signs and lottery terminals, and notifications to subscribers. If no identifiable vehicle is involved, dissemination of the alert will be limited to local distribution in the area where the person may be reasonably located. Local law enforcement would still be responsible for entering the case into the Florida Crime Information Center, notifying local media, informing all on-duty law enforcement officers, and alerting all law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction.

Recognizing Important Dates in June

Pride Month: Celebrated each year in June, Pride Month honors the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. As members of the LGBTQ community increasingly come under attack by far-right legislatures across the country, and particularly in Florida, it's critical that we remember we're all human, have a right to express our identities, and have the right to love and marry whomever we wish. Love always wins.

Juneteenth: Celebrated on Monday, June 19th, this recently established federal holiday (2021) honors the date when the last Confederate community of enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, received word that they had been freed from bondage. This is an important part of our American history, and we choose to honor its meaning. You can read more about the historical background of Juneteenth [here](#).



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