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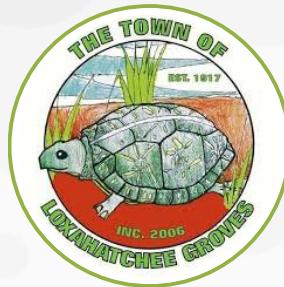
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HURRICANE MILTON UPDATE #1: TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES PREPARES AS STORM APPROACHES**

Loxahatchee Groves, FL – October 07, 2024 – The Town of Loxahatchee Groves Emergency Management and Public Works Departments are currently monitoring the progression of Hurricane Milton. As of the 11 AM National Hurricane Center update, Hurricane Milton is located 21.7N 91.7W or 720 miles west Southwest of Tampa Florida. The storm is currently moving ESE at 9MPH with a maximum sustained wind of 155 MPH. This makes Hurricane Milton a Category 4 storm and the National Hurricane Center anticipates this storm to reach Category 5 later today. A Hurricane Watch has been issued for Lake Okeechobee. Currently, Lake Okeechobee is at 15.5 feet and SFWMD is also monitoring this storm.

The current weather the Town has been and is currently experiencing is not associated with the Hurricane. This recent rainfall is associated with a separate low-pressure system.

While the majority of the effects of this storm will be felt by the souls on the west coast of Florida; the Town of Loxahatchee Groves can expect rain and Tropical Storm winds over the next three days.

Currently, Public Works staff is traversing the Town and verifying the Town-owned culverts are clear and operating first, then the secondary swales are being evaluated throughout the entire Town. Town management has directed staff to remove any blockages that may impede the flow of water to the main canals.

Staff is also verifying that all Town-owned properties are secure for the storm. Since Friday, Public Works management has been gradually lowering the levels of primary canals in the town and is maintaining a level around 15 feet. Please advise residents that the Town cannot drain below 14.5 feet as that causes issues throughout the town. At this moment, the canal level is at 14.63 feet.

All offices are open and Town Management will notify all staff and the public if conditions warrant closing any office in the town. Currently, Palm Beach County is at Level III Activation, which is Enhanced Monitoring. Town Management is currently drafting an emergency declaration for the Town and will reflect what Palm Beach County has implemented.

Updates will be provided as conditions change or as needed.

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