FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County to host temporary permitting office in Island Park to help residents to obtain permits for repairs to Hurricane Helene- and Hurricane Milton-damaged buildings

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 16, 2024 – The Lee County Department of Community Development will open an additional temporary, remote permit office at Rayma C. Page Elementary School, 17000 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, to allow Island Park residents to obtain permits for repairs to existing buildings damaged by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

The entry into the temporary permit office will be on the south side of the school. The remote location means staff will be readily accessible to help Island Park-area residents navigate the permit process, especially those residents without internet service.

Residents must be Island Park residents to use the temporary location. Residents acting as their own contractor can submit permit applications, have them reviewed and – in some cases – issued from the remote office. The applicants need only a description of the work and their address, and staff will walk them through the process.

Hired contractors are asked to continue to use the existing electronic permitting process. Residents seeking a full demolition or complete replacement of a structure still need to visit the main Department of Community Development permitting office at 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers.

Lee County Government is reminding residents in unincorporated areas to pull permits for work on their homes to repair storm damage caused by Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton.

Any unincorporated Lee County residents or businesses within the Special Flood Hazard Area with any damage to their homes or businesses, including water intrusion, must obtain a permit for all repairs. Email <u>FIRMinfo@leegov.com</u> for assistance with permit requirements and resources, and be sure to include the following information:

- Contact information
- Property address
- Type of damage
- Height of the water that entered the home

Residents also can find more information at <u>www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/disaster-recovery</u> or by calling 239-533-8948.

The county may add additional temporary, remote permitting office locations in unincorporated Lee County as needed.

An existing remote operation is set up on Pine Island. Learn more about that location here.

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