

Newsday TuesdaySM



NEWS FROM THE CITY OF WESTON

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

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WESTON'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

TAKE A GLIMPSE OF WESTON AT WORK DURING HURRICANE IRMA

While many Weston residents braced for Hurricane Irma at home, the City of Weston's emergency management team was fully activated at the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The team continuously monitored the storm and operated a call center around the clock from Friday, September 8th through Monday, September 11th to ensure the safety of Weston residents. City facilities reopened on Tuesday.

Weston's EOC is located on the second floor of the Administrative Services Center, located next door to City Hall. Opened in July 2015, the three-story building was built to withstand 200 MPH winds and has standby generators to ensure for the continuity of municipal operations through an emergency activation.

In addition to the EOC, the Administrative Services Center houses Permitting Services (commonly referred to as the Building Department), Zoning Code Services, Code Enforcement, Fire Marshal/Fire Code Services, Technology Services and Records Storage. During the activation for Hurricane Irma, the City also had a representative assigned to Broward County's EOC and maintained contact with Broward County's Emergency Managers to coordinate response efforts as needed.





MONITORING HURRICANE IRMA FROM THE WESTON EOC





PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY AFTER THE STORM

There aren't many places more conducive to exercising than Weston. The City has an extensive network of sidewalks and over 51 miles of marked bike lanes. While bicycling and walking are great fun and great for you, as with any sport or mode of transportation, precautions must be taken to prevent serious and even life-threatening injuries.

Cyclists must obey all applicable traffic control devices such as traffic signals, signs and markings. Know and use proper hand signals when turning and be especially cautious when passing through intersections. The Broward Sheriff's Office will enforce traffic laws for cyclists in the same manner that they do for motorized vehicles.

After a storm such as Hurricane Irma impacts our area, significant debris in roadways and sidewalks increase the likelihood of accidents. If you do venture out, please look out for the following:

- Inoperable traffic signals.
- Downed trees/branches and street signs that may block bike lanes or sidewalks and force you into traffic.
- Lighting may be out in some areas. It is recommended to stay off roads at dark until conditions return to normal when storm debris has been cleared and lighting has been restored.





BROWARD COUNTY HOME DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Broward County's Home Damage Assessment is a helpful tool used by the County to identify areas impacted with heavy damage before assessment teams are able to canvass the County. The Home Damage Assessment Program asks residents to report damage to their home, as soon as it is safe to go outside.



BEFORE THE STORM

Print the [sample photos](#) and place with your important papers in a waterproof container. This will help you classify any damage to your own property after the storm.

Bookmark the Home Damage Assessment Webpage on your phone at gis.broward.org/ReportHomeDamage/

AFTER THE STORM

Report damage to your home to Broward County by calling 311 or complete the form at gis.broward.org/ReportHomeDamage/

LESSONS LEARNED IN HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Following Hurricane Irma, we all have a reminder of what needs to be done to prepare our homes and family for a hurricane.

Power Outages

Even though many utility lines are buried underground throughout Weston, electricity can still be impacted during any storm. If you have a generator, be sure to have it ready to go (tested and fueled up) before a watch is issued and have the additional fuel supply. Don't forget to stock up on fresh batteries for flashlights.

Food Safety

It is important to have enough non-perishable foods for your family. It is also a good idea to freeze water bags to help keep fresh food items chilled following an extended power outage. Quart bags filled with water and frozen flat easily line coolers in the event of a power outage. After the storm, discard questionable items that may have spoiled due to lack of refrigeration. It only takes four hours of lost power for food to spoil. When in doubt, throw it out.



Pool Preparations

Prepare your pool by lowering the water level (no more than 2 feet) and adding extra chlorine to prevent contamination. Do not drain the pool or put pool furniture in the pool. Be sure to turn off the power to the pool pump and remove the pump and store indoors, if possible.



HELP AFTER A HURRICANE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS COUNT

Across the country people are doing what they can to help their neighbors in need. If you're thinking about donating money to a charity to assist victims of Hurricane Harvey or Irma, here are some tips to ensure your donation counts:

- Donate to charities you know and trust and that have a proven track record.
- Avoid charities that seem to have sprung up overnight in connection with current events. Some are scams. Charities formed quickly – even if they are meant well – may not have the infrastructure to be effective.
- Research the charity with the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, or GuideStar. These organizations provide lists of charities they have screened that are raising funds for specific causes.
- Don't assume that charity messages posted on social media are legitimate. Research the organization yourself. Search the organization name and words like "scam."
- Designate the disaster. Charities may give the option to designate your giving to a specific relief effort, this will ensure your funds are going to help hurricane victims, rather than the organizations general fund.
- Give directly rather than through a paid fundraiser. Professional fundraisers get a percentage of your donation, sometimes 50 percent or more.
- When texting to donate, confirm the number with the source before you donate. The charge will show up on your mobile phone bill, but donations are not immediate.
- Check out the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) volunteer and donation page](#). It outlines the best ways you can help people and communities who are impacted by a disaster.

[Read more](#) about about charity scams from the Federal Trade Commission.



CONNECT WITH YOUR CITY

What's on
the Web?

Do you want to stay updated with events, emergencies, news, and information of your city? Look no further than your computer, T.V and radio!

On our website, we have links to all the different ways you can connect with us, from social media to TV channels and AM radio!

Click on any of the web icons to direct you to the site!





IMPORTANT CONTACTS

CHECK YOUR CREDIT REPORT ANNUALLY

AnnualCreditReport.com

This will not impact your credit score.

CREDIT BUREAU CONTACTS

Equifax 1-800-349-9960

Experian 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion 1-888-909-8872

RECOVERING FROM IDENTITY THEFT

IdentityTheft.gov



THE EQUIFAX DATA BREACH TIPS TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

Following the recent Equifax data breach, it is recommended to take steps to prevent identity theft. Some ways to do that are to place a credit freeze on each of the three major credit bureaus – Equifax, Transunion and Experian; another is to place fraud alerts on your credit which requires that an agency verify your identity prior to extending new credit to you.

Fraud Alert

Fraud alerts are free and are active for 90 days. You can renew it, but you will have to remember to do so or else it will expire automatically. Victims of identity theft are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which lasts seven years.

Credit Freeze

With a credit freeze no one, not even you, can access your credit report to open new accounts. You will get a PIN number to use each time you want to unfreeze and freeze your account to apply for new credit. For non-ID theft victims, the cost for a freeze is approximately \$10 per credit bureau each time you take action on your account.

Visit EquifaxSecurity2017.com for details on this recent data breach and to read more about the potential impact. Visit <https://www.identitytheft.gov/Info-Lost-or-Stolen> for details on how to protect yourself following the data breach.



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH September 12th to October 15th

Annually, The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. Visit HispanicHeritageMonth.gov for details.

Locally, Broward County Library offers a range of fun, free events for all including children's programs, classes, performances, cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts and book discussions.

Here are some ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage at Broward County Libraries:

October 1 | 4 - 5PM Performance: Miguelangel Estampa Flamenca
Main Library, 100 S Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 954-357-7444

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 6 to 7:30PM Basic Spanish, adults only, Northwest Regional Library, 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33065, 954-357-7990

October 5 | 10:30 to 11:30AM Fiesta Storytime & Craft, ages 3-5, N Lauderdale Saraniero Library, 6901 Kimberly Blvd., N Laud., FL 33068, 954-357-6660

October 5 | 10:30 to 11:15AM Raise a Reader @ Sharkey's Storytime, children's program, Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University, 3100 Ray Ferrero, Jr. Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314, 954-262-5477

Throughout the year, the [Weston Branch Library](#), 4205 Bonaventure Blvd., 33332 offers you the opportunity to brush up on your Spanish at the FREE Spanish Café program offered for beginners through advanced.
Call 954-357-5420 for details



UPCOMING CITY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Westonfl.org/Events



CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 25, 2017

7:00 PM

Weston City Hall, 17200, Royal Palm Boulevard

A regular meeting and second budget hearing of the Weston City Commission.



FREE MOONLIGHT MOVIE IN THE PARK

Saturday, October 14, 2017

8:00 PM

Event Stage in Weston Regional Park, 20200 Saddle Club Rd.

Featuring *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2*

The Guardians must fight to keep their new-found family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage. Action | Science-Fiction | 137 min. | PG-13

Bring lawn chairs or blankets and relax... the movie is on us!



ONGOING CITY PROGRAMS



BSO WESTON POLICE SERVICES

More information on programs listed below call 954-389-2010 or visit the [Police Page](#) on our website.



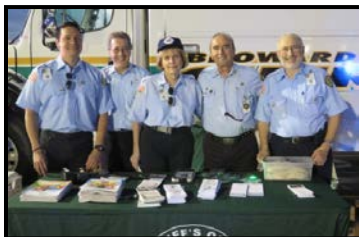
SAFE SELLING TRANSACTION ZONE A LOCATION FOR ONLINE BUYERS/SELLERS

BSO's Weston district office's parking lot serves as a safe-haven for the City's online buyers and sellers to meet at 17300 Royal Palm Boulevard. Flyer: [Safe Transaction Zone](#)



LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER PROGRAM

For young men and women ages 14-21. The program provides interaction with law enforcement and other community advisors in a serious, regimented atmosphere where students can demonstrate personal initiative. Offers students the opportunity to learn & experience lawful citizenship as they participate side-by-side with certified BSO deputies in ongoing training and community service projects. For detailed program information, [click here](#).



CITIZEN OBSERVER PATROL (C.O.P.) PROGRAM

COP's are the additional eyes and ears of the community, assisting and enhancing BSO policing efforts. Members of the Broward Sheriff's Office of Countywide Operations professionally train volunteers. Assignments in addition to patrol, include performing checks on unoccupied residences at owner's request, checking on elderly or homebound and reporting potential problems and neighborhood hazards and assist at Weston community events. You must be 18 years of age with a valid driver's license. Interested? Please call the Weston District at **954-389-2010**.





Sheriff Scott Israel

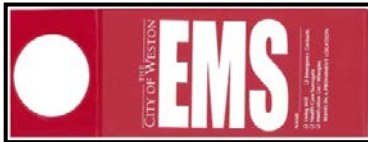
HOMEWATCH PROGRAM

Planning to go out of town this summer? Be sure to register for BSO's Homewatch program. BSO will check your home daily for signs of suspicious activity. [Click here](#) to download the application to complete and submit to the Weston District Office.



BSO WESTON FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

More information on programs listed below, call 954-389-2015 or visit the Fire Department web page.



FREE EMS GO PACKETS

These packets hold medical information and legal documents for EMS and hospital personnel can be aware of your medical conditions.



FREE CPR CLASSES

FREE CPR classes for residents, organizations, and businesses. Classes are offered at Weston Fire Station No. 81. Classes are also offered at your own location with a minimum of 8 persons. Call 954-389-2015 Monday – Friday.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The Weston CERT Program educates citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Join today! Call 954-389-2015. View Weston CERT [online](#).



WESTON COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

For additional information on the programs below, call 954-385-2000.



REGISTER FOR CODERED

Residents and businesses should register with the City's CodeRED Emergency Notification System. **Register:** www.westonfl.org/Residents/Hurricane/CodeRed.aspx



E-NOTIFICATIONS: WESTON DELIVERS THE LATEST NEWS DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX

Newsday Tuesday: The official City e-Newsletter. A once weekly newsletter delivered each Tuesday morning with city news articles, information, and events.

E-Notifications: Updates on projects; media releases; events and more. **Subscribe at:**

<http://www.westonfl.org/Events/EmailSubscriptions.aspx>



WESTON GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

The Weston government access channel can be found on these channels with local cable television providers:

Blue Stream – Channel #25

Comcast Cable – Channel #78

AT&T U-verse – Channel #99, *scroll to Weston Government TV*



WESTON GOVERNMENT RADIO 1680AM

Tune in for information on City events, programs, services and more. In the event of an emergency, all broadcasts will be interrupted and emergency notifications will be provided.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Twitter:** [@CityofWeston](https://twitter.com/CityofWeston) and [@WestonFLAlert](https://twitter.com/WestonFLAlert)

 **Flickr:** [CityofWeston](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofweston/)

 **YouTube:** [CityofWeston](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofweston/)



HURRICANE SEASON IS JUNE 1ST – NOVEMBER 30TH

Be ready this hurricane season by making your plan now and picking up supplies throughout the season. Don't wait until a storm threatens our area. Follow our new Twitter alert [@WestonFLAlert](https://twitter.com/WestonFLAlert) to receive emergency notifications. Visit Westonfl.org/Hurricane or Ready.gov for information on how to prepare your home and business. *Be Weston Ready this hurricane season!*

For City information regarding **Hurricane Irma** please visit the Weston website Homepage at <http://www.westonfl.org/Default.aspx>

THE
CITY OF WESTON
YOUR WORLD IS HERE