

HURRICANE RECOVERY UPDATE

The latest information available as of noon, Friday, 9/26/08:

NEWS, ETC.

- Council met last night. Over 60 residents were in attendance. City staff, council and especially me got an earful of heated complaints and personal attacks, much of it unwarranted and unsupportable. Nevertheless, I assume responsibility for insufficient communications. I have been reticent to distribute unconfirmed news and expectations of Center Point and others not directly controlled or accountable to the City. We have already experienced CP misinformation that residents assumed as guarantees for power restoration which were subsequently not attained. The fact is that CP cannot know in advance all of the problems they will find in the neighborhood and individual property service lines as the power grid is restored. Regardless, I will post the latest information as it is **reported** to me.
- Beginning today, we will post this “Hurricane Recovery Update” to the City’s website. It will be updated no less frequently than daily. Additionally, for those without internet access, copies will be available at City Hall for retrieval. We encourage the officers of home owners’ associations or leadership of neighborhoods to daily come to City Hall to retrieve information and distribute to their neighbors.
- I will be at City Hall this Saturday and Sunday from 9 – noon to respond to inquiries and receive visitors. Please understand that there will be no receptionist and that I can answer only one line at a time.
- It is my understanding that Hunters Creek Elementary will open Monday morning. In the event CP power has not been delivered to HCE by then, it is my further understanding that they are installing a generator. If there are any changes by the school district please check the school district’s web site for any updates.

POWER

- Center Point has indicated that the main trunk lines in the area south of Memorial, west of Voss are hot. They are now working from them to supply power to the homes in that area.
- As power is restored, Center Point must identify the individual homes that may have problems. CP suggests that everyone turn on a porch light so that when power is restore it will be evident to drive-by crews.
- CP estimates that power will be restored to 90% of the City by the end of this weekend.
- CP deployed additional equipment and personnel to HC yesterday. Indeed, and additional 100 linemen were devoted to HC at about 2 p.m.

DEBRIS

- At noon today, the City contracted with VF Disposal Services to pickup bagged debris from the curbs. However, VF will not be able to begin this effort for up to 10 days from now due to availability of equipment and labor. But, in 10 days it is hoped that most of the CP crews will be out of the way and the bagged debris retrieval may take only a day or so to complete. The cost of this service is estimated to be \$30,000.
- Omni is operating 15 – 20 trucks daily and has removed over 20,000 cubic yards to date.
- The disposal of intact fencing or other building materials must be handled by the residents. Other heavy trash pick up is still being handled by Royal on Fridays. Call Royal to schedule and get further information.
- Omni has agreed to accept the “Right of Entry” from HOA’s of private street neighborhoods. Specifically, they have accepted the document from North Country Lane. Therefore, Omni will attend to that street when their route gets there and after CP has exited.
- Omni is on Roaring Brook, Thamer, Marsh, Old Coach and Lindenwood/Shasta areas today and tomorrow. They will be concentrating on Kuhlman on Sunday in order to clear the roads of heavy timber that might otherwise impede school traffic Monday morning.

SECURITY

- I have activated the MVPD “Step Program” which puts additional patrol in Hunters Creek.
- MVPD has NOT reduced their patrol of our streets as some claimed last night. Indeed they have mobilized additional officers and even administrative staff. During the day, some patrol officers must be diverted to debris and Center Point job sites to provide traffic control.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- MVWA reports that 2 of their 3 pumping stations are operable. Pressure has not been affected principally because water demand is low. However as power is restored and water demand increases, pressure could be lessened. MVWA requests that all residents turn their sprinkler systems OFF.
- Turn ON a porch light or outside light to assist with power identification.

ONE FINAL NOTE

Piney Point is hosting a Villages-wide town hall meeting at St. Francis Episcopal Day School on Tuesday, September 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the school’s Fine Arts Center. Brad Tutunjian of CenterPoint and Mike Montgomery of MVWA will be discussing the status of recovery and respond to any questions.