



PRESS RELEASE

Hurricane Helene #1

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2024

City of Richmond Hill is Preparing for Hurricane Helene

Richmond Hill, GA (September 26, 2024) – The City of Richmond Hill is currently under a Tropical Storm Warning and a Tornado Watch. City staff and officials are working in collaboration with Bryan County emergency management officials to prepare for Tropical Storm Helene.

Potential impacts for the City of Richmond Hill include: tropical storm force winds, elevated tides/storm surge, isolated tornadoes, periods of heavy rainfall, and high surf.

- **Rain:** 3-4” of rain predicted for our area.
- **Wind:** Sustained winds of approximately 30 mph, with tropical storm force gusts up to 62 miles per hour.
- **Tornadoes:** There is an increased risk for tornadoes. Our area is forecasted to receive impacts beginning this afternoon into Friday morning. This is a widespread storm; impacts are expected to reach far beyond the cone of uncertainty.

“Public works has been working tirelessly to prepare, clearing drainage ditches and storm drains throughout the city,” said Mayor Russ Carpenter. “First responders are working extra shifts throughout the duration of the storm.”

In case of an emergency, residents should call 911.

Stay informed: for up-to-date local information, we recommend visiting our website at <https://bit.ly/HELENERH>.

We also advise following our official social media channels at:

- Facebook: @WeAreRichmondHill

- X: @Richmond_HillGA
- Instagram: @wearerichmondhillga

Official weather reports can be obtained from the National Weather Service, Charleston, SC at <https://www.weather.gov/chs/>

Key Updates:

- **Joint Press Conference:** Today at 4:30 PM, Bryan County Government, the City of Richmond Hill, and the City of Pembroke, will hold a joint press conference about Hurricane Helene and potential impacts to Bryan County. The conference will be held at the Commission Chambers, Bryan County Administrative Building at 66 Captain Matthew Freeman Drive, Richmond Hill, GA 31324.
- **City Closures:** City administrative offices will be closing at 2:00 pm today. Critical staff and first responders will remain on-duty. Further closures will be announced on our website and official social media channels.
- **Park Closures:** The trail, playground and pavilion at J.F. Gregory Park and Sterling Creek Park will be closed at 12 pm today. Both parks will be assessed for damages and repair (if needed) after the storm has passed.
- **Sandbags:** In preparation for Tropical Storm Helene, the City of Richmond Hill is providing sand and sandbags for residents at the former GDOT lot on Timber Trail, near Port Drive. Residents are expected to fill their own bags. Also, please remember to bring your own shovels.
- **Public Works:** Our public works crews are diligently working hard to prepare our city for the impending effects of Helene. We ask that residents do not place yard debris out for collection. We are expecting some strong wind gusts and yard debris can get blown into the storm drains and cause drainage issues.

We caution residents to continue preparing for the storm.

- **Review your emergency plan.** Make sure that everyone in your household knows your emergency plan. Begin gathering emergency supplies for your household. Don't forget to include medication, disinfectant supplies, and pet supplies. While no evacuations are expected, make sure to know your evacuation route and zone.
- **Avoid the water.** Storms create hazardous ocean conditions, including higher tides, rough surf, and dangerous rip currents. It's important to avoid the Intracoastal Waterway during storms. If you see someone in trouble, call 911 immediately.

Media Contact: Dawnne Greene, City Clerk | 912.312.3568 | dgreene@richmondhill-ga.gov

ABOUT THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL:

The City of Richmond, Ga., is a quiet family community, located just minutes south of metropolitan Savannah. The city of more than 18,000 residents retains a small-town charm and offers citizens a diminished crime rate, outstanding educational opportunities, community services, recreational facilities, and beautiful scenery. Visitors are impressed by its southern charm, rich history, variety of outdoor adventures, fishing and great local seafood. With its distinctive history and scenic beauty, Richmond Hill is coastal Georgia living at its finest. For more information about Richmond Hill, please visit www.richmondhill-ga.gov or call (912) 756-3345.

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