

# May 2017

## **Reclaimed Water Leak Repaired at Northwest Plant**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (May 10, 2017)** – Workers at the Northwest Wastewater Reclamation Facility, 7500 26th Ave. N., noticed a leak in a reclaimed water effluent sample sink on Tuesday, May 9 at 10 p.m. The source of the leak was a broken PVC pipe. The pipe was replaced by 10:15 p.m. About 30 to 40 gallons of reclaimed (fully treated) water leaked onto and soaked into the ground. The leak was fully contained within the perimeter of the plant and did not reach any surface waters.

## **Grease Clog Removed After Small Sewage Spill**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (May 4, 2016)** – City of St. Petersburg Water Resources crews were able to quickly clear a grease clog from the sanitary sewer line in the 3800 block of 34th St. N. on Wednesday afternoon. However, an estimated 600 gallons of raw sewage seeped from the manhole at that location just prior to the clearing of the clog.

Much of that discharge was recovered by the Vactor truck that cleared the clog. A small amount was conveyed to a nearby storm drain, which discharges into Joe's Creek. Workers disinfected the spill scene and rinsed down the street following the clearing of the clog.

Crews responded to the scene after an alert was received from a nearby resident. The clog was cleared within a half hour of their arrival. Notification like this is important for Water Resources personnel to know when and where problems crop up.

Water Resources Dispatch operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They can be reached at (727) 893-7261

# April 2017

## **Untreated Groundwater Causes Localized Discharge**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (April 21, 2017)** – Today, as the city was pumping untreated well water into its water reclamation system to maintain pressure and volume of water available for irrigation, the flow of water from the well overwhelmed the sewer gravity line. This caused approximately 3000 gallons of groundwater to overflow from manholes near the area of the U.S. Coast Guard Station on Eighth Ave. SE

The unauthorized discharge was stopped immediately upon detection and lasted approximately 30 minutes from 10:20 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. About 750 gallons was discharged into the adjacent storm drains, 1500 gallons was vacuumed up, with the remaining 750 gallons evaporating on the pavement. Workers will determine why the line was unable to handle the flow before using the well again.

The city is permitted to use supplemental wells to add water to the reclamation system to maintain supply in extremely dry periods when residents are using an increased volume of reclaimed water for irrigation.

### **Minor Leak of Reclaimed Water at Northwest Plant**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (April 12, 2017)** –Workers at the Northwest Wastewater Reclamation Facility, 7500 26th Ave. N., discovered a steel pipeline had rusted through causing a discharge of about 15 gallons of fully treated reclaimed water. The water, which was being used to clean filters, was contained in a small area and soaked into the ground. No surface waters were affected. The incident occurred between 4:15 and 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11.

### **Final Pelican Mortality Report Released**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (April 3, 2017)** – After a nearly three-month investigation and study, independent scientists have released a report on what they believe killed or sickened dozens of pelicans in January of this year.

The findings from Arcadis -- whose scientists took numerous water samples from Coffee Pot Bayou and Riviera Bay Lake #1 (a mostly fresh-water retention pond) and studied the results carefully -- are contained in a final 90-page draft report just delivered to the city of St. Petersburg. Their theories on the introduction of nutrients into the lake, a cold-weather

inversion and reanimation of a powerful neurotoxin that killed and debilitated fish that the pelicans ate were reached independently.

“It was a well-done study,” said John Palenchar, interim director of St. Petersburg Water Resources. “We are satisfied with the results. The consultant, who was hired immediately after the discoveries of so many sick birds, acted autonomously to perform a study that met their objectives to their best professional judgment.”

Of particular note are the recommendations made by the consultants – including further study, work to decrease the lake’s phosphorus levels, use of aeration, and coordination of incident response between the city and other stakeholders (such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). “This will give us a game plan to move forward,” added Palenchar.

The full report has been posted in its entirety at [www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php).

## March 2017

### **Maintenance Scheduled to Repair Line Which Caused Leaking Manhole**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (March 18, 2017)** – On Friday, March 17 at 11:30 a.m., it was reported that a manhole between 801 94th Ave N. and 875 94th Ave. N. was leaking into an adjacent ditch line. Water Resources crews cleared the blockage, caused by roots growing into the line, and used a vacuum truck to suck up all of the water from the ditch. Further repairs are scheduled. Approximately 200 gallons were confined to the ditch and captured by the vacuum truck. There was no runoff to surface waters.

### **Leak from Bleach Containment System Noted at Northwest Reclamation Plant**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (MARCH 16, 2017)** – During routine cleaning of a bleach tank at the Northwest Water Reclamation Plant, 7500 26th Ave. N., on Wednesday, March 15, a leak was noted in the containment system. Approximately 30 gallons of diluted bleach leaked from the containment system onto the surrounding asphalt and evaporated, about three gallons

went into a storm drain. A sodium sulfite tablet was added to the storm drain to neutralize the chlorine as a precaution. The leak occurred at 8:30 a.m. and ceased at 9 a.m. There was no discharge to surface waters. The containment area is in the process of being repaired.

### **Minor Sludge Spill at Northwest Reclamation Plant**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (March 8, 2017)** – During the routine replacement of a pump at the Northwest Water Reclamation Plant, 7500 26th Ave. N., approximately 50 gallons of sludge spilled onto the ground adjacent to a clarifier between 7:30 and 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 7. The clarifier is used to settle out additional solids from the wastewater. The spill was contained to the immediate work site and did not affect any surface waters. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection was notified at 7:15 p.m.

## **February 2017**

### **St. Petersburg Launches Uni-Directional Flushing Program on Monday, February 13**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 10, 2017)** – In an effort to “clear the pipes” and maintain safe, clean delivery of water to customers in the city of St. Petersburg, the Water Resources Department will roll out a Unidirectional Flushing (UDF) Program on Monday, February 13, in the Isla Del Sol neighborhood.

UDF is a proven practice to clean and maintain potable water distribution pipes. It is a systematic flushing technique that isolates portions of the distribution system to achieve water flow in one direction. Using hydraulic computer modeling, UDF “sequences” are designed to achieve high-velocities in the target pipes to scour mineral deposits, biofilm and sediments that accumulate over time. These elements are simply “flushed” from the water mains through the high pressure process using clean water and are effectively removed from the distribution system.

The program will be rolled-out initially in the southern portion of the city’s water distribution system in order to gauge its effectiveness.

Neighborhoods south of 54th Avenue South, as well as parts of Point Brittany, Isla Del Sol and Lakewood Terrace that are on city water will be affected. Private water systems and master-metered complexes will not be

flushed as part of this program. Residents will see crews in 41 flushing zones tapping fire hydrants to release the directed water between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. In all, they will be utilizing 400 valves and 150 hydrants to flush the system. The entire six week operation is slated to start February 13 and run through the March.

Residents in the immediate vicinity of flushing may notice temporarily discolored water (caused by turbulence from the scrubbing process) and lower than normal water pressure. The discoloration does not pose a health risk. However, citizens should avoid using tap water or running the washing machine or dishwasher until flushing is complete. While the water WILL be safe, it is recommended that users run the faucet for five to 10 minutes until the water appears clear. If the water does not clear after this procedure, please call Water Resources at 727-893-7261. After the hydrant flushing, this portion of the water quality system maintenance will be complete.

Neighborhoods which will be affected by the program will be alerted to nearby impending work with door hangers and street-side signage. For more information, visit [www.stpete.org/UDF](http://www.stpete.org/UDF) or contact Bill Logan, Public Works Communications Manager, at 727-893-7250 or [bill.logan@stpete.org](mailto:bill.logan@stpete.org).

### **Northeast Reclaimed Water Discharge Confined to Plant Property**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 2, 2017)** – About 2000 gallons of reclaimed water leaked from a broken pipe at the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility at 1160 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE in St. Petersburg Wednesday.

The entire spill of the fully-treated reclaimed water was confined to an in-plant retention pond about 100 feet away from the discharge. The leak was first reported shortly before 11 a.m. and was completely contained before noon.

There was NO discharge to any adjacent properties or waterways.

### **Reclaimed Water Service Back To Normal in St. Petersburg**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 1, 2017)** – Reclaimed water service is at full strength and operating as normal after the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility was taken off-line earlier this week.

A miscalculation of data during on-going quality testing led plant operators to take the plant off-line after small amounts of fecal coliform were detected. However, after checking the studies more closely and reconciling the data, there was, in fact, no violation of Florida Department of Environmental Protection standards.

“Everything is back to normal,” said Plant Operator Craven Askew. “There was no violation.”

Even during the period where the plant was not supplying reclaimed water to the city system, there was no disruption in service as the other St. Petersburg plants kept the water flowing.

St. Petersburg's water reclamation system is not only the first to be built in the United States, it remains one of the largest in the world. The city's innovative system provides more than 37 million gallons per day to over 10,600 customers -- primarily for lawn irrigation. Reclaimed water is also an integral part of the city's overall water conservation effort.

## January 2017

### **Northeast Reclaimed Water Off Through Beginning of February**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 31, 2017)** – After required lab-studies showed minimal levels of fecal coliform in reclaimed water from the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility during January, operators have stopped supplying water to the city's reclaimed system. The stoppage will likely last through the beginning of February. The stoppage was required to meet Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) guidelines which require zero levels of fecal coliform in 75 percent of that month's reclaimed daily water samples.

“This is not a spill and there is no cause for alarm,” stated Charles Wise, Water Reclamation manager for the city’s Water Resources department. “This gives us an opportunity to get down to a non-detect level again.”

As of this past weekend, tests showed one or two CFU’s during eight days in January. Plant operators point to annual maintenance issues and some minor repairs as possible causes for the positive test results. Detection of these colony-forming units, or CFUs, in reclaimed water samples is not unusual. Wise says samples taken from a residential bathroom or kitchen counter would likely produce positive results.

As part of the permitting process with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, a notification of this violation has been posted. A copy of that notice is available for viewing at [www.stpete.org/water/wastewater\\_collection\\_and\\_maintenance.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/wastewater_collection_and_maintenance.php).

## **Rehabilitated Pelicans Released; Studies Continue Into Avian Sickness**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 26, 2017)** – Following two weeks of care and rehabilitation, seven brown pelicans have been released back into their native habitat – near the rookery at Snell Isle in the waters of Coffee Pot Bayou.

“I’m happy with that,” said Kris Porter with Owl’s Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife. Porter and her team of rescuers were responsible for nursing the sick pelicans back to health after almost 70 birds were found sick or dead near the site of a fish kill earlier this month in a retention pond near Riviera Bay located close to the pelican’s breeding colony at Snell Isle. That rookery is also home to hundreds of birds who have exhibited no ill effects since the initial discoveries.

Warning signs were posted by the city of St. Petersburg on January 15 as a precaution, while scientists took water samples and studied potential causes of the avian sickness. The signs were later removed as water quality test results were found to be well within the accepted parameters for recreational use. Studies by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Arcadis, an independent firm hired by the city, continue. Those results are expected within the week. So far, tests have ruled out a number of possibilities, but no specific reason has been found.

Porter, who has more than 40 years' experience working with wildlife and wildlife rescues, says while the pelican deaths may actually be from natural causes, the nearby fish kill and red tide caused by the cold weather inversion, may also be factors. "It seems that we see pelican issues every January, but I'm just happy to have these birds better."

More information will be released when results of toxicology and in-depth water testing are finalized.

## **Sanitation Department Phones and Computers Back In Service Following Outage**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 23, 2017)** - The St. Petersburg Sanitation department is back in business following an outage this morning that affected office phones and computers. Customers needing assistance may contact the department at 727-893-7838 or [www.stpete.org/sanitation](http://www.stpete.org/sanitation).

## **Temporary Outage Affects Sanitation Department Phones and Computers**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 23, 2017)** - The St. Petersburg Sanitation department is currently working to fix an outage affecting phones and some computers. Customers needing to report URGENT issues regarding trash or recycling collection should call the Mayor's Action Center, 893-7111, or [www.stpete.org/actioncenter](http://www.stpete.org/actioncenter).

## **Water Quality Tests Continue After Nanoplankton And Red Tide Found**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 20, 2017)** - Warning signs have been removed from waters along Coffee Pot Bayou, but state-sponsored and independent scientists continue to study the water quality following the recent rash of pelican deaths.

Initial test results, compared with a recent baseline series of samples provided by the city of St. Petersburg, showed water was within recreational use parameters. Despite increased water testing in the area,

recent events have not caused a decrease in visitors to Coffee Pot Park. Activity by residents on social media indicate that there is more fish and wildlife activity in the waters over the past week.

A water sample collected Thursday, January 19, by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff at Riviera Lake #1, the site of an initial cold weather inversion-related fish kill last week which led to discoveries of sick or dead brown pelicans, has turned up bloom concentrations of nanoplankton. Meanwhile, a water sample collected at Bayou Grande, meanwhile, where a dead white pelican was found, showed background concentrations of *Karenia brevis*, or red tide. Results of those tests, as well as necropsies on the dead pelicans, should be ready by next week. Research teams from the city, state and an independent study group will continue to monitor the waters for any unusual activity during the weekend.

The latest information is available at [www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php).

### **Sanitation Department Phones and Computers Back In Service Following Outage**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 19, 2017)** – The St. Petersburg Sanitation department is back in business following an outage yesterday, January 18, that affected office phones and computers. Customers needing assistance may contact the department at 727-893-7838 or [www.stpete.org/sanitation](http://www.stpete.org/sanitation).

### **Warning Signs Removed; Water Quality Testing Continues**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 19, 2017)** – Following recent tests on water in and around Coffee Pot Bayou which have come back within normal ranges, Public Works crews have removed the warning signs around the shoreline. The warning signs had been recently placed around Coffee Pot Bayou as tests were being conducted following the discovery of numerous sick and dying brown pelicans.

“The water quality is not in question in Coffee Pot Bayou,” stated John Palenchar, Interim Water Resources Director. “And we are working with all concerned to try and find out what made the birds sick.”

A total of 17 pelicans have been sent to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Wildlife Lab in Gainesville for necropsy. Samples taken during necropsy will be sent to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Georgia for further testing and additional samples will be sent to FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg to be tested for algal toxins. Busch Gardens is sending blood, fecal, and tissue samples to the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute to be tested for algal toxins. Toxin analysis to determine if this is potentially related to red tide will be available 2-3 days after samples are received. Results from samples submitted to SCWDS will take longer, possibly weeks.

Today, biological testing experts from Arcadis are taking further samples for their independent testing.

“There is no pre-conceived notion as to what may be going on out here,” said Scott Lehman, Arcadis Senior Asset Consultant. “Our intent is to be that third party review to see if we find anything independent of what the city is finding.”

So far, Palenchar says the city has found that the water quality is “well within the parameters for recreational usage.”

The test results from the independent consultant Arcadis will likely be ready by early next week.

For updates, visit [www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php) or follow us @StPetePW.

## **City Continues Water Testing Regarding Bird Deaths Alongside FWC Investigation**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 18, 2017)** – St. Petersburg Public Works employees have collected 15 dead or dying pelicans since January 12. They've also stepped up to assist in the investigation as what's making the birds so sick, working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, local rescue groups and learning institutions.

Since Stormwater, Pavement, and Traffic Operations Director John Norris and his crews responded to fish kill in a retention pond earlier this month near Riviera Bay, St. Petersburg Public Works staffers have assisted with everything from gathering water samples to sign placement – warning residents and recreational water users of the enhanced testing.

“The good news is that the water is in good shape,” said John Palenchar, Interim Water Resources Director. “We are continuing with follow-up sampling and data sharing with FWC and our environmental consultant.”

A reminder from the FWC: Citizens observing sick or dead birds or other wildlife are encouraged to make an online [bird mortality report](#) or to call FWC’s Fish Kill Hotline at 1-800-636-0511.

The City of St. Petersburg is continually updating our water quality samples and posting the information through the “[Recreational Water Quality](#)” tab at [www.stpete.org/waterquality.php](http://www.stpete.org/waterquality.php).

Further findings will be updated as they become available both at [www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org) and through [@StPetePW](#).

### **Temporary Outage Affects Sanitation Department Phones and Computers**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 18, 2017)** – The St. Petersburg Sanitation department is currently working to fix an outage affecting phones and computers. Customers needing to report URGENT issues regarding trash or recycling collection should call the Mayor’s Action Center, 893-7111, or [www.stpete.org/actioncenter](http://www.stpete.org/actioncenter).

### **Riviera Bay, Coffee Pot Bayou Water Test Results Near Normal; Bird Testing Continues**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 17, 2017)** – Initial test results from water samples taken from waters in and around Coffee Pot Bayou and Riviera Bay have shown no abnormalities.

“From all we’ve seen, the water there is in overall good shape,” said

Interim Water Resources Director John Palenchar. “But we will continue testing, and so the signs will stay up for awhile.”

Warnings for recreational water users about the dead pelicans (first seen at a retention pond near Riviera Bay, then over the past weekend in and around Coffee Pot Bayou) were posted along the shore line from North Shore Park through Coffee Pot Bayou. The signs informed residents about the enhanced and cooperative testing being spearheaded by the city of St. Petersburg and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC). The City has also brought in an independent biologist to further study what’s causing the birds to be sick.

Initial water samples from the retention pond where the sick birds were first encountered showed low levels of dissolved oxygen. Samples from nearby Riviera Bay and waters further south into Coffee Pot Bayou had normal levels of oxygen. In addition, the other tested elements fell within normal parameters for recreational waterways, with the exception of a lone site near the Coffee Pot Bayou boat ramp that showed poor water quality.

“We will continue to work with the FWCC and our independent partners to pinpoint the problem,” said Palenchar. Palenchar added that the incident is in no way related to last summer’s heavy rains and the subsequent discharge of potentially treated sewage water.

The latest information can be found at [www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php](http://www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php). More information will be released when it becomes available.

## **St. Petersburg Brings in Additional Assistance to Investigate Sick Pelicans –Update #1**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 17, 2017)** – In an effort to expedite and enhance current testing and investigation into a troubling discovery of sick birds near local waterways, the city of St. Petersburg is calling in an independent ecologist to assist.

Scientists with Arcadis U.S., based in Melbourne, Florida, have joined with St. Petersburg Water Resources and investigative crews from the Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to gather clues into what is causing the Pelicans' sickness.

“We want to have experts evaluating this,” said John Palenchar, Interim Water Resources Director, “Independently tasked to find out – as soon as possible – what’s causing this.”

St. Petersburg has been dealing with this situation since last week, when a fish-kill was reported on January 12, at a stormwater retention pond in the Riviera Bay area.

“RBLake #1” is a freshwater stormwater pond with many exotic tilapia, which are susceptible to low temperature and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) issues. Adequate dissolved oxygen is necessary for good water quality, as well as a necessary element to all forms of life. Natural stream purification processes require adequate oxygen levels in order to provide for aerobic life forms. As dissolved oxygen levels in water drop below 5.0 mg/l, aquatic life is put under stress. The lower the concentration, the greater the stress. Oxygen levels that remain below 1-2 mg/l for a few hours can result in large fish kills.

Preliminary data from that pond showed readings at approximately 0.32 mg/l, with 4,900 pounds of fish removed from Riviera Bay Lake.

FWCC have taken water and algae samples to test for quality and is also testing the birds that died to determine cause of death.

The second location is Coffee Pot Bayou, about 3 miles south of Riviera Bay. Scientists are investigating the probability that the affected birds initially fed on fish at RB Lake#1 and flew to Coffee Pot Bayou, which is near a substantial pelican habitat.

All testing -- by the FWCC, City of St.Petersburg, and now Arcadis -- will be coordinated and used to formulate a plan to keep the birds safe, as well as to alert residents and recreational water users to any potential problems. Further details and results will be released when they become available.

## **City of St. Petersburg Assisting With Discovery of Dead And Sick Pelicans; Testing Water For Potential Cause**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (January 16, 2017)** –After more than one dozen pelicans have been found dead or sick in or near local waterways, the City of St. Petersburg Public Works Administration, which includes Water Resources and Stormwater departments, are working alongside the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other local partners to remove the birds and identify the cause of the illness.

“We are testing the water for biological indicators and dissolved oxygen content and expect results on Tuesday. Per Mayor Rick Kriseman’s direction, we are also pursuing more extensive testing in order to better determine a cause prior to Florida Fish and Wildlife’s necropsy results,” said Interim Director of Water Resources John Palenchar.

A cold-weather fish kill near Riviera Bay Lake last week was also accompanied by reports of sick pelicans. John Norris, Director for Stormwater, Pavement and Traffic Operations for the city said that more than one ton of fish were removed from the lake by his crew. “We have not yet determined if there is a connection between the fish kill in Riviera Bay and the pelicans found sick or dead in other parts of the city,” said Norris.

The Department of Environmental Protection has also been notified, although there are no reports of a recent spill or discharge into our waterways.

In an abundance of caution, signs with the following message have been posted along waterways from St. Petersburg’s downtown to Weedon Island.

### **WARNING**

**Unknown Potential Health Risk**

**DO NOT PLAY SWIM OR FISH IN THIS AREA**

Due to recent Bird illnesses in this vicinity, residents and cautioned to avoid contact with surface water until further notice. Water Samples are being taken and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is being apprised of the situation. FWCC can be contacted at 888-404-FWCC. The City Water Resources Department can be contacted at 727-893-7261.

# December - 2016

## **RECLAIMED WATER LINE BREAK AT VINOY GOLF CLUB**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (December 13, 2016) – City crews have begun repairing a 20-inch diameter reclaimed water main line between the seventh and eighth hole at the Renaissance Vinoy Golf Club at 600 Snell Isle Blvd., NE. The discharge was reported to the city's Water Resources Dispatch Office at 9:05 a.m. today and ended at 1 p.m. The estimated amount of discharge was 120,000 gallons of reclaimed water which was contained entirely in a private stormwater retention pond within the affected area of the golf course.

Repairs are expected to be completed by Friday, Dec. 16. The Golf Course will be open for play during its normal operating hours.

To report a city public works issue, please contact the Mayor's Action Center at 727-893-7111, [action@stpete.org](mailto:action@stpete.org) or online at [www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org).

## **ENHANCED WATER TESTING SHOWS HIGHER BACTERIA LEVELS IN THREE CITY LOCATIONS**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (December 9, 2016) – In an effort to better inform and educate citizens of St. Petersburg about their valuable water resources, Public Works officials are expanding the regularly scheduled testing of area recreational waterways. As part of that enhanced weekly testing, three (3) local waterways have been found to have poor water quality due to levels of 71 or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water. They are as follows: Salt Creek/Bartlett Park Lassing Park Fossil Park Lake It is recommended that no there be no swimming until further testing (early next week) shows a drop in the bacterial levels. Further information about the testing and potential dangers from increased Enterococci levels can be found at <http://www.stpete.org/water/waterquality.php>.

# November - 2016

## **UPDATE: PRIVATE FORCE MAIN BREAK AT 2nd ST. N AND 99th AVE. N**

ST. Petersburg, FL (November 12, 2016) - Contractors and city inspectors were on site today to review the appropriate repair/replacement for the 8" force main break which occurred yesterday. As the line was already scheduled to be permanently relocated to the adjacent manhole as part of a 2nd Street Bridge force main relocation project, the line will either be repaired or replaced following excavation. Work will begin Monday and is expected to be completed within the week.

Currently, wastewater is being diverted to the manhole with no further spills expected. Upon closer inspection late yesterday afternoon, it was estimated that the original spill (contained) may have been as much as 975 gallons, not 200 gallons as was originally reported. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection was notified as per protocol. There was no additional overflow and no threat to public health and public safety.

## **PRIVATE FORCE MAIN BREAK AT 2ND ST. S. AND 99TH AVE. N.**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (November 11, 2016) – City crews were on site this afternoon to inspect an 8-inch force main break, which resulted in a leak of approximately 200 gallons of wastewater, all within a contained area. The private line comes from a nearby apartment complex and enters the city's sewer system. The discharge has been diverted to a nearby manhole. Contractors anticipate repairs to be completed on Saturday, November 12.

There was no overflow to surface waters and there is no threat to public health and safety at this time.

## **MAYOR RICK KRISEMAN UNVEILS WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (November 11, 2016) – City crews were on site this afternoon to inspect an 8-inch force main break, which resulted in a leak of approximately 200 gallons of wastewater, all within a contained area. The private line comes from a nearby apartment complex and enters the city's

sewer system. The discharge has been diverted to a nearby manhole. Contractors anticipate repairs to be completed on Saturday, November 12.

There was no overflow to surface waters and there is no threat to public health and safety at this time.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (November 3, 2016) – Today, St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman unveiled his Wastewater Improvement Plan. The plan will increase the capacity of existing plants, line and seal targeted pipes and manholes, engineer enough redundancy in our system to sustain operations for two weeks should one of our three plants go offline or be otherwise rendered inoperable in a crisis situation, and operate totally within the rules and guidelines of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, even during a crisis.

Additional capacity through the complete reopening of the Albert Whitted Wastewater facility or other facility expansions remains under consideration.

The plan calls for an estimated investment of \$304 million on projects through 2021. Some of this money has already been budgeted; the plan will require an additional \$142 million to complete the work. Short-term projects will take approximately two years, and the plan should be completed in five years. A healthy economy makes this important investment feasible, without any immediate need to reprioritize other unrelated city advances.

Said Mayor Kriseman: “Our residents and our environment have been failed by an outdated and compromised wastewater system. It is time to execute this plan so that we are well-prepared for a future of extreme rain events.”

## **October - 2016**

### **MAINTENANCE OF RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEM SCHEDULED FOR EARLY THURSDAY MORNING**

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (October 26, 2016) - Maintenance flushing of the city's reclaimed water system via fire hydrants will begin at 2 a.m. on Thursday, October 27, along Fifth Ave. S, and Poinsettia Ave. between 62nd St. S. and 74th St. S. Residents may notice water in the streets being directed into storm drains.

Periodic flushing of a water system using fire hydrants is a normal permitted operating procedure for both potable and reclaimed systems to help maintain water quality.

Technicians will be working to maintain adequate pressures in the entire system although customers may experience intermittent reclaimed water pressure near the affected area. A number of fire hydrants are in the service area and will be used for this operation.

## **RECLAIMED WATER LINE BREAK REPAIRED AT SOUTHWEST PLANT**

CONTACT: Water Resources Department, 727-893-7261

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (October 24, 2016) - A construction crew hit a reclaimed water line at approximately 7:50 a.m. this morning at the city's Southwest Water Reclamation Facility, 3800 54th Ave. S. An undetermined amount of reclaimed water (fully treated) leaked onto the site where it was contained. Repairs were completed by 8:45 a.m. There was no impact to any adjacent properties and no risk to public health or safety.

## **POTABLE WATER LINE BREAK NEAR ALBERT WHITTED, REPAIRS UNDERWAY**

CONTACT: Water Resources Department, Dispatch, 727-893-7261

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (October 14, 2016) – Crews are on the scene near Albert Whitted Airport to repair a 4-inch potable (drinking) water line break affecting the United States Coast Guard Station. Repairs are underway and service is expected to be restored by noon today.

Sanitary sewer service and the reclaimed water system are not affected by this repair. During the investigation, and to isolate the problem, wastewater

was diverted to the decommissioned Albert Whitted Water Reclamation Facility temporarily affecting the incoming flow at the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility. When it was determined that the break was in a potable line, wastewater flows were directed to the Southwest facility as normal. No wastewater discharge of any kind occurred as a result of this investigation.

To report a city public works issue, please contact the Mayor's Action Center at 727-893-7111, [action@stpete.org](mailto:action@stpete.org) or online at [www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org).

## **Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 2

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/7/16 9:30 am

### **What's Happening:**

Hurricane Matthew is currently a Category 3 storm with 120mph winds and is hugging the coast of Central Florida. Although damage has, so far, been less than anticipated, the East coast is still receiving significant impacts from the storm and will continue to receive storm impacts through tonight. Pinellas remains under a Tropical Storm Watch.

### **Impact on St. Petersburg:**

Through the night, St. Petersburg received some recorded gusts up to 33mph. Winds have been above normal, but did not reach tropical storm strength. No damage was reported to the EOC other than a downed tree branch. The National Weather Service is forecasting less than ½ inch of rain for our area. Extremely strong rip currents are expected along the beaches of Pinellas County. St. Petersburg can expect higher than average high tide; although we do not anticipate any flooding to occur in the absence of rain.

### **What St. Petersburg Is Doing:**

- The EOC partially activated at 6pm yesterday and was in operation until 9am this morning. The Office of Emergency Management will

continue to monitor conditions until Hurricane Matthew clears the state of Florida.

- The Citizens Information Center (Mayor's Action Line) was staffed through the night in the EOC.
- A shelter, located at Northside Baptist Church, 6000 38th Avenue North, was opened yesterday at 2pm for citizens. A total of 7 residence stayed through the night. The shelter will remain open until all evacuees can return safely home or until they can be relocated to another shelter. We expect that to happen this afternoon.

### **What To Expect:**

- We anticipate the Tropical Storm Watch for Pinellas County to be removed this afternoon.
- Pinellas County has closed all public schools today.
- By noon today, Pinellas County should be past the worst effects of Hurricane Matthew.

## **Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 1

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/7/16 9:00 am

After monitoring the storm through the night and this morning, the St. Petersburg EOC deactivated at 9a.m.

The local forecast calls for less than 1" of rain and breezy conditions. St. Petersburg had no significant damage to report.

- One downed tree branch that briefly blocked traffic on 4th St. S at 59th Ave S.
- Wind speeds stayed between 18-26mph overnight, with gusts reaching 33mph.
- Seven people spent the night at the shelter within city limits at Northside Baptist Church, 6000 38th Ave N.

Strong rip currents expected for the next few days. Possibly a higher than normal high tide expected for later today, although we don't anticipate street flooding (unless we receive heavier than forecasted rainfall).

## **Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 3

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/6/16 2:30 pm

### **What's Happening:**

Hurricane Matthew is currently a Category 4 storm with 140mph winds and will reach the east coast of Florida this evening. There have been no major changes in track; the storm is expected to skirt much of Florida's eastern seaboard. Pinellas remains under a Tropical Storm Watch.

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Direct hurricane impacts are expected in Florida today and tomorrow.
2. Do not focus solely on the forecast track as the storm impacts are larger than the error cone and any movement to the west will be strong tropical storm conditions to our area.

### **Impact on St. Petersburg:**

The National Weather Service is forecasting sustained winds of 25 to 35 mph and occasional storm bands with 40 to 55 mph wind gusts. These conditions are expected to begin early Friday morning and last a good portion of the day Friday. No evacuation is being called in Pinellas County. In an abundance of caution, three shelters will be available at 2 p.m. today should residents want to shelter there. The shelters will also be available to support residents from the east coast who are not able to find hotel accommodations.

### **What St. Petersburg Is Doing:**

- The EOC will partially be activated at 6pm this evening and will remain in operation until winds have subsided tomorrow afternoon.

- The Citizens Information Center (Mayor's Action Line) will be staffed through the night in the EOC. That number is 893-7111.
- A shelter, located at Northside Baptist Church, 6000 38th Avenue North, was opened at 2pm for citizens who may be affected by potential strong winds.

### **What To Expect:**

- Pinellas County has CLOSED all public schools tomorrow, Friday.
- The City libraries and recreation centers will be CLOSED tomorrow, Friday. Other City functions will operate business as usual.
- No evacuation is being called in Pinellas County

Maintain situational awareness for this storm by staying connected to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service forecasts.

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

## **Pinellas County Update - 12:51 p.m.**

All Pinellas County Schools & school district offices will be CLOSED on Friday, Oct. 7. [pcsb.org](http://pcsb.org)

## **Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 1

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/6/16 9:28am

Matthew is expected to bring high winds with gusts 40-55mph and 1" of rain. The storm will be closest to us Friday 6am-10am but we will feel the effects most of Friday.

Here's what to keep in mind:

- Bring in outside patio/pool furniture
- Bring in hanging/potted plants

- Stay clear of downed power lines
- Try to limit travel as we are expecting traffic from East coast evacuees

While this is not expected to bring heavy rainfall, remember to avoid deep water on roadways. We will continue to provide updates as necessary.

## **Storm Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 2

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/5/16 4:30pm

### **What's Happening:**

Hurricane Matthew is currently a Category 3 storm with 120mph winds and is continuing its trek towards the Florida Peninsula. The 11am NHC update showed the hurricane track just off the coast of Florida Thursday thru Friday, but new forecast models look to be predicting the storm is a little further west, possibly making landfall on Florida's east coast tomorrow. This means tropical storm force winds would extend further west into Florida, bringing a larger effect to St. Petersburg.

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Direct hurricane impacts are possible in Florida tomorrow. Tropical storm and hurricane watches have been issued for many counties in Florida. Currently, Pinellas County is not included in a Watch or Warning, but this could change with future advisories.
2. Do not focus solely on the forecast track as the storm impacts are larger than the error cone and any movement to the west will be strong tropical storm conditions to our area.

### **Impact on St. Petersburg:**

Currently no storm surge or heavy rainfall impacts to Pinellas County are forecast. Expect gusty winds regardless of the path the storm takes. On its current path we can expect 15-25 mph winds with gusts around 35. If the storm shifts left, we could receive sustained 20-30 mph winds with gusts upward of 40-55 mph.

## **What St. Petersburg Is Doing:**

- The EOC is set up and on standby.
- Should the need arise, a shelter will be opened for citizens who may be affected by potential strong winds. The shelter will be located at Northside Baptist Church, 6000 38th Avenue North. The decision to open such a shelter may not come until tomorrow late morning and will be decided by Pinellas County Emergency Management.
- Fire Rescue has contacted all special needs registrants living in mobile homes or are electrically dependent to inquire if they desire to evacuate, if recommended.

## **What To Do:**

Maintain situational awareness throughout the week by staying connected to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service forecasts.

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

## **Storm Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #:** 1

**Event:** Hurricane Matthew

**Date/Time:** 10/4/16 2:00pm

### **What's Happening:**

Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti near the town of Les Anglais around 7 AM this morning as a Category 4 storm. Eastern Cuba and the Bahamas are next in line for landfall from this major hurricane. Some slight weakening could occur today while Matthew interacts with the high terrain of Cuba and Haiti, but the environment is favorable for the hurricane to maintain category 4 status for the next 2 days. Some weakening is anticipated by the next forecast period due to an increase of the wind shear. Most of the global models indicate a westward ridge, and this pattern should force the hurricane to turn toward the northwest across the Bahamas and to the waters just east of Florida. The timing of this westward turn will affect what impact the hurricane will have on Florida.

## **KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Direct hurricane impacts are possible in Florida later this week. Tropical storm and hurricane watches have been issued for portions of the eastern Florida peninsula and the Florida Keys.
2. Do not focus solely on the forecast track as the storm impacts are larger than the error cone and any movement to the west will be strong tropical storm conditions to our area.

## **Impact on St. Petersburg:**

Currently no storm surge or heavy rainfall impacts to Pinellas County are forecast. This could change by Wednesday's forecast especially after Matthew passes over Cuba into the Straits of Florida. The potential for tropical storm force winds to impact Pinellas County is now 32%, and may continue to fluctuate as the storm progresses northward and forecasts are updated.

## **What St. Petersburg Is Doing:**

The Office of Emergency Management is actively monitoring the situation and is placing the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on stand-by for a possible activation on Thursday-Friday. Decisions about any needed actions will come late Wednesday and early in the day Thursday as further forecasts are released. The Office of Emergency Management is having twice daily conference calls with the County Emergency Management Office and National Weather Service for the most updated information.

## **What To Do:**

All departments should review their disaster preparedness plans (DOP Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7; Annexes C, E, H, K, and O). All staff should prepare/review their family preparedness plans. Maintain situational awareness throughout the week by staying connected to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service forecasts.

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

## **Storm Update - Hurricane Matthew**

**Update #: 2****Event:** Hurricane Matthew**Date/Time:** 10/3/16 2:00pm**What's Happening:**

According to the National Hurricane Center: Little overall change in intensity is expected during the next couple of days, with the exception of some weakening due to possible land interaction with Haiti and eastern Cuba. However, there could be fluctuations in intensity due to eyewall cycles that are difficult to predict. While Matthew is expected to be a little weaker once it moves into the Bahamas as the shear increases somewhat and the ocean heat content decreases a little, it is expected to remain a dangerous hurricane through the next 5 days.

Category 4 Hurricane Mathew is expected to be off Florida's east coast by Thursday, 10/6. Florida's east coast is currently slightly outside the five-day forecast cone, only a slight delay in the timing of the turn N or changes in steering weather patterns could put Florida in the track potential of Hurricane Matthew. Wind impacts could be felt as early as Wednesday in SE Florida. Track modeling consensus is good, but there is considerable uncertainty in the intensity forecast.

It is important to note while most of the track models currently keep Matthew east of Florida, there is still enough uncertainty that direct impacts in Florida cannot be ruled out. In addition, it is still too soon to determine whether, or how, Matthew could affect the remainder of the U.S. East Coast.

**Impact on St. Petersburg:**

No impacts to St. Petersburg are forecast. This could change during the week (likely between Wed & Friday), especially after Matthew passes over Cuba into the Straits of Florida. The potential for tropical storm force winds to impact Pinellas County has now increased to 16%, and may continue to increase as the storm progresses and forecasts are updated.

**What St. Petersburg Is Doing:**

The Office of Emergency Management is monitoring the situation but is taking no other actions at this time. The EOC is not activating. Use normal office contact numbers for EM staff.

## **What To Expect:**

Maintain situational awareness throughout the week by staying connected to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service forecasts. Additional information from EM will be forthcoming if changes in the storm forecasts make taking protective actions necessary.

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

## **SEWER REPAIRS TEMPORARILY AFFECT TRAFFIC**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (October 5, 2016)** – Motorists need to be advised that 22<sup>nd</sup> St. N. between Fifth Ave. N. and Seventh Ave. N. is closed temporarily as Water Resources crews work to repair a 24” sanitary sewer line.

Crews are also on the scene at 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and Fourth St. S. to repair an 8” sanitary sewer line. The four lane roadway is reduced to two lanes until repairs are completed.

To report a city public works issue, please contact the Mayor’s Action Center at 727-893-7111, [action@stpete.org](mailto:action@stpete.org) or online at [www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org).

# **September - 2016**

## **Pinellas: Federal assistance available to local victims of Hurricane Hermine**

Eligible Pinellas County residents and business owners can receive federal assistance for damages caused by Hurricane Hermine during the period of Aug. 31 to Sept. 11.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams will be in the community over the weekend to explain the disaster relief program and encourage application. FEMA staff will be wearing FEMA staff shirts and have FEMA ID tags.

President Barack Obama signed a Florida Disaster Declaration on Sept. 28 and ordered federal aid to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by Hurricane Hermine.

Disaster relief is available for residential or business damages, large or small, sustained during Hurricane Hermine that are not covered by personal insurance, including:

- Temporary Housing
- Home Repair (including septic or sewer system, well or other water system, HVAC, Utilities)
- Home Replacement: Under extreme conditions and as limited funding may allow.
- Other Needs Assistance provides grants **for uninsured, disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs**. Flood insurance may be required on insurable items (personal property) if they are to be located in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Assistance includes:
  - Medical and dental expenses.
  - Funeral and burial costs.
  - Repair, cleaning or replacement of clothing, household items (room furnishing, appliances), specialized tools or protective clothing and equipment required for the applicant's job, necessary educational materials (computers, school books, supplies).
  - Clean-up items (wet/dry vacuum, air purifier, dehumidifier).
  - Fuel for primary heat source (heating oil, gas).
  - Repairing or replacing vehicles damaged by the disaster, or providing for public transportation or other transportation costs.
  - Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster (including storage or the return of property to a pre-disaster home).
  - Other necessary expenses or serious needs (for example: towing, or setup or connecting essential utilities for a housing unit not provided by FEMA).

- The cost of a National Flood Insurance Program group flood insurance policy to meet the flood insurance requirements.

Federal funding is also available to state, tribal and eligible local governments as well as certain private, nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Hermine. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Individuals making claims must first register their loss with FEMA via any of the following methods:

- Apply online to [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov);
- Contact FEMA by smart phone or tablet using the FEMA app or going to <https://www.fema.gov/> or;
- Call the FEMA toll-free number 800-621-FEMA (3362) or 800-462-7585 (TTY). Telephone lines are answered from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

A Disaster Recovery Center will be established in the coming days for in-person applications and to provide additional information to those wishing to apply. Location and hours of operation information will be released as soon as it is made available.

More information is available online at [www.fema.gov/recovery-directorate/assistanceindividuals-and-households](http://www.fema.gov/recovery-directorate/assistanceindividuals-and-households).

Low interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are also available to help with residential or business losses not covered by insurance. Information on SBA disaster loans may be obtained by calling (800) 659-2955 and (800) 877-8339 (TTY), or by going online to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The Small Business Administration filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 28, 2016. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 28, 2017.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency).

The Pinellas County “Doing Things for You” app is available for residents to report issues and access useful resources. Pinellas County can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. More information is

available on the county website, [pinellascounty.org](http://pinellascounty.org), which features LiveChat for assistance. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **Update on Hurricane Matthew**

The City of St. Petersburg is monitoring Hurricane Matthew. Currently there are no storm impacts forecast for our area and the City's Emergency Operations Center is not activating. Changes in storm forecasts could make protective actions necessary early next week, so the Office of Emergency Management will monitor the storm's progress closely this weekend and will provide updates as needed. It is important for residents to maintain situational awareness over the weekend by staying connected to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service forecasts.

<http://weather.gov/tampabay>

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

## **Waterline Break Near Gandy Blvd.**

CONTACT: Water Resources Dispatch, 893-7261

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER LINE BREAK IN THE VICINITY OF GANDY BLVD. AND 94TH AVE.  
N

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (September 28, 2016) - City water crews are on the scene of a possible water main break on the northwest corner of Gandy Blvd. and 94th Ave. N. No customers are affected at this time. There may be minimal disruptions in the area (after hours) as workers isolate the break and do the necessary repairs. The line is currently under pressure and is being directed into the city's storm drain system. Water quality will not be affected. Traffic disruptions are not anticipated. Repairs are expected to be completed by the end of the week depending on the extent of the break.