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FEMA opens 'Disaster Recovery Center' at Palm Coast Branch Library

October 26, 2016 – FEMA is opening a “Disaster Recovery Center” at the Palm Coast Branch Library to help Flagler County residents affected by Hurricane Matthew.

“This is great news,” Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We have had a call-in center open and a virtual assistance center online, but representatives from FEMA will be better able to answer specific questions about the federal processes and get Flagler residents the assistance they need.”

The Disaster Recovery Center is FEMA’s outreach office, and it will be housed inside the Palm Coast Branch Library, 2500 Palm Coast Parkway Northwest, in the same location where the Flagler County Assistance Center was set up. It was able to get computers up and running Wednesday and has already seen a few residents and will continue to through 6 p.m. as a soft opening. The Disaster Recovery Center will be open thereafter from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday – closed Sunday.

“The library will be busy but it is not expected to impact early voting or other library programs happening in other areas of the building,” said Library Director Holly Albanese. “The library is a good central location so it makes sense for the community to have the center here.”

Representatives from the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be on hand to answer questions about disaster assistance and low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses. Additionally, they will help residents apply for federal disaster assistance.

FEMA services include: guidance regarding disaster recovery; clarification of any written correspondence received; housing assistance and rental resource information; answers to questions, problem resolution and referrals to agencies that may provide further assistance; status of applications being processed by FEMA; crisis counseling; disaster legal services; and, disaster unemployment.