FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler shelters open 6 a.m. Thursday

October 5, 2016 – In preparation for the impacts of Hurricane Matthew, the Flagler County Emergency Operation Center will open two shelters at 6 a.m., Thursday, one will accommodate special needs while the other will accommodate the general population and people with pets.

“Shelters, whether special needs or general population, are available as a last resort for those who have no other place to go,” said Steve Garten, public safety emergency manager. “Special needs shelters provide only limited medical care, and it is up to the individual to bring a 72-hour supply of all medications, and personal items.”

Sleeping bags, pillows and blankets should be among those personal items, as cots are available in limited numbers. Air mattresses are not permitted.

Rymfire Elementary, located at 1425 Rymfire Drive, Palm Coast, will accommodate those with special needs – people who require assistance with daily living or who have medical conditions that prevent or hinder their ability to care for themselves, as well as those who require electricity for oxygen. A family member or caregiver should stay at the shelter with the individual.

Bunnell Elementary, 305 N. Palmetto Street, Bunnell, will accommodate other residents who have no other place to go. Pets – dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, rodents and turtles – are the allowed pets. There is a four-pet maximum. Pet owners should bring current vaccination records and supplies, including crates and medications.

“We currently have a voluntary evacuation in place in the coastal area and for those who live on tidal waters, and we really encourage those residents to plan to stay with a relative or friend,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We want everyone to be safe.”

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