

Recovery begins in Leesburg, Lake and Sumter amid outages and Hurricane Milton devastation

<https://www.dailycommercial.com/story/news/local/2024/10/11/roads-destroyed-but-leesburg-lake-and-sumter-get-on-with-recovery/75627729007/>

Central Florida communities are rebounding from the havoc wrought by Hurricane Milton.

Julie Garisto

Leesburg Daily Commercial

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Power outages in Lake County totaled 22,798 homes and businesses, with 9,171 more in Sumter County, as of Friday morning, Oct. 11.

More information is available at our tracker, <https://data.dailycommercial.com/national-power-outage-map-tracker/>

However overwhelming it all seems, local government officials, residents and business owners are hard at work to recover from Hurricane Milton's devastating wrath on Oct. 9-10.

A Leesburg official reported to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that the city is "discharging treated effluent into surface waters due to Hurricane Milton."

"Our treated effluent consistently meets secondary effluent standards or better, and we are actively monitoring surface water quality through ongoing sampling," the city official reported to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. "This discharge is a result of flow rates exceeding the plant's design capacity. To date (the incident started at 11:15 p.m. Oct. 10, and the report was filed the next day) we have discharged approximately 10,000 gallons."

The incident location was listed as [Leesburg's Canal Street wastewater treatment plant](#), 628 N. Canal St.

Downtown Leesburg restaurants have been up and running, letting power-deprived residents know they have an option for a hot meal.

Restaurants open include [McCracken's Irish Pub](#), [Brick & Barrel Public House](#), [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#), [Chick-fil-A](#), [Kawachi Sushi & Bar](#), [Luna Azul Authentic Mexican Restaurant](#), [Marmaduke's Lodge](#) and [The Sipping Garden and Bistro](#).

Damage was far reaching in Leesburg and the surrounding area. When Daily Commercial reached out to the city, Commissioner Alan Reisman didn't go into specifics. He said, "There's debris and trees down everywhere." City Manager Al Minner didn't respond to our inquiries.

Semeion Richardson, CEO of Artist with a Purpose, postponed her 4th Street Live event Friday night to conduct outreach in [Carver Heights](#) and other hard-hit areas.

"Sooo many people in need," she texted to us. "I'm headed over there now to see the need."

Other areas include residences and businesses by the Dead River, and U.S. 441 at State Road 46.

Heading southeast, the damage seems even more devastating. In Mount Dora, the asphalt and a cement pipe broke apart on Wolf Branch Road between Niles Road and Round Lake Road. A sinkhole devastated Britt Road near Future Farms Road.

In The Villages, businesses were closed and traffic lights were out throughout the community. There was plenty of evidence of Milton's unwelcome visit to The Villages, [including the flooded boardwalk at Lake Sumter Landing](#).

In Clermont and throughout Lake County, parks and trails remain closed as officials inspect damages and remove numerous damaged and dangerous trees.

Utilities to contact if your power is still out

+ City of Leesburg Electric, 2010 Griffin Road, Leesburg; customer service: 352-728-9800; report outages: 833-223-1313; website: leesburgflorida.gov/electric

+ City of Mount Dora Electric, 510 N. Baker St., Mount Dora; customer service: 352-735-7151; report outages: 352-612-5739.

+ Clay Electric Co-op, 24950 E County Road 316, Salt Springs, local: 352-685-2111; customer service: 800-224-4917; report outages: 888-434-9844

+ Duke Energy: customer service: 800-700-8744; report outages: 800-228-8485

+ Sumter Electric Cooperative: report outages: 800-732-6141; real-time outage reporting: SECOSTormCenter.com

- Eustis Office, 50 W Ardice Ave, Eustis; 352-357-5600
- Groveland Office, 850 Howey Road, Groveland; 352-429-2195
- Sumterville Office, 330 S U.S. 301, Sumterville; 352-793-3801

Fuel for road rage

The Florida Highway Patrol issued an alert: "Emergency Shoulder Use was discontinued on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and interstate shoulders are ONLY to be used for emergency stopping. Motorists may NOT drive along the inside or outside emergency lanes." While this might sound obvious to most, many drivers are taking advantage of the past storm to violate road rules post-Milton.

How to get help

The need for cleanup and repair work needed after Hurricane Milton for Sumter County residents and businesses is daunting.

Two services are available for people in homes or places of business damaged by the storm: Crisis Cleanup at 844-965-1386 or Hope Florida at 833-GET-HOPE (438-4673).

United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties has a Disaster Recovery page at uwls.org/disaster-recovery