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## County Drainage Improvement Project Brings Flooding Relief to Pahokee Residents

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Residents of Pahokee’s Citizens Villas subdivision are no longer experiencing flooding in their yards thanks to Palm Beach County’s Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. The Department of Economic Sustainability allocated \$320,000 to fund needed drainage improvements.

Under a contract awarded by County Engineering, AKA Services, Inc. recently completed the construction of new storm sewers and drainage structures to handle storm water runoff. The project involved work on 24 separate residential parcels and will improve the overall drainage of the area through the upgrades to the existing outfall and the installation of new outfalls.

Coordination with the property owners, utility companies, and the City of Pahokee were essential to bringing the project to fruition, and the results have already been noticeable. Following Tropical Storm Isaac, resident Lucinda Hood remarked, “Before the new drain, the water came right up to my house. Now, I have no problems.”

DRI funds have been made available to states and local governments for long-term recovery needs following the 2004, 2005 and 2008 hurricane seasons. Florida’s program has allocated more than \$318 million statewide for rehabilitation of damaged housing and storm water sewers, drainage and street improvement infrastructure.

Since 1974, Palm Beach County has helped urban communities develop decent housing and expand economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income, through the CDBG program. Among the eligible activities, the program funds the implementation of capital improvement projects to help alleviate flooding in low-lying areas.

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