

NEWS



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Orange County Executive

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For Immediate Release

09-07-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

Tropical Storm Irene certainly packed quite a punch when she hit our area last week. The devastation left in her wake – town centers, homes, and roads under water, bridges washed out, power and phones knocked out – was heart wrenching. But it was truly heart warming to see our community pull together at a time of great need.

The Orange County Emergency Services team tracked Irene as she made her way up the coast. As she got closer, they began the process of activating the Emergency Operations Center and communicating weather updates and critical storm preparation information to County residents. The Emergency Services team led by Commissioner Walter Koury and Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management, Seamus Leary, did an outstanding job of coordinating the County's response to Irene. Dozens of representatives from a broad spectrum of local agencies, organizations, and companies put in long hours around the clock to address the health, safety, and well-being of our residents. Community members from throughout the County also stepped up, volunteering to help family, friends, neighbors, and even complete strangers, as Irene's flood waters ravaged our region.

So many people from throughout the County in a wide variety of capacities played a role in helping our County weather Irene; it would take pages and pages to name them all. Please know that I truly appreciate the way our community worked together in the face of adversity. It is that caring spirit of our residents that makes Orange County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Unfortunately, for many residents, especially those displaced from their homes, the challenges of Irene are not yet over. If you are able to volunteer your time to help with clean up or donate food, clothing, household items, or other supplies, please reach out to a church, temple, or service organization in your community or consider making a contribution to the American Red Cross.

As Orange County continues to recover from the effects of Irene, we will take time this weekend to recognize Patriot's Day. This Sunday, September 11, marks the 10th anniversary of the most horrific terrorist attack on our nation. At a ceremony at the Orange County Arboretum (Sunday, 5 pm), we will honor the memory of the 44 Orange County residents who lost their lives on that tragic day and pay tribute to the brave military personnel who have so valiantly served our nation. We will never forget.

Until next week,

Edward A. Diana, County Executive