

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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For Immediate Release

09-16-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

While residents, workers, volunteers, and local officials throughout Orange County continue to work tirelessly to clean up and return our County to normalcy following the devastating impact of tropical storms Irene and Lee, their effects continue to be felt throughout Orange County. I appreciate and applaud the hard work and dedication of all those who have stepped up to help our friends and neighbors.

As you are likely already aware, our County Government Center also fell victim to the storms and flooding. Last week it became imperative that we close the building in order to protect the safety and well-being of our employees, residents, and the people we serve while we assessed the damage and determined the best course of action for mitigation and clean-up.

Without a doubt, this has been a difficult week for residents and County employees alike. More than a dozen departments and 300 employees needed to be quickly relocated in order to ensure that the business of the County did not skip a beat. County staffers have been working tirelessly to find new space, move computers, phones, and records, and communicate the changes to the public – all while continuing the business of the County. I am exceptionally proud of the job our Team Orange has done, and continues to do, on behalf of the residents.

By Tuesday, title searchers were able to access records through the Real Property office in Goshen. By Wednesday, movers had begun the arduous task of moving thousands of documents, records, and maps from the County Clerk's office to the Parry Building at Valley View in Goshen. Beginning Monday, September 19, the Parry Building will be open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, to provide the Records services of the County Clerk's office.

Department of Motor Vehicle services are available at their regular locations in Middletown, Newburgh, and Port Jervis. Passport applications are being processed at the Department of Social Services offices at 11 Quarry Road, Goshen, and Pistol Permits and Veterans Discount Cards are available at the Sheriff's Office at 110 Wells Farm Road in Goshen. There will be no DMV or passport evening hours in Goshen until further notice. Questions regarding County Clerk services may be directed to 291-4400.

Rest assured we are not going this alone as we work to get homes, businesses, and infrastructure back in order for our residents. We have been in constant communication with our County legislators, as well as NYS Emergency Management Office, FEMA, and our state and federal officials to ensure we receive the disaster relief funding so desperately needed here in Orange County.

I greatly appreciate your continued cooperation and support as we deal with the Government Center and address these challenges. Please check the Orange County website at www.orangecountygov.com for the latest updates and information.

Until next week,

Edward A. Diana, County Executive