

NEWS



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For Immediate Release

11-3-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

Just a short time ago in this very column I wrote about the unusual natural and weather-related events we'd experienced in Orange County over the past few months – tornado, hailstorms, earthquake, tropical storms, and flooding of historical proportions. Now, we can add to the list a fierce Nor'easter that dumped an unseasonable foot and more of snow on our region.

The pre-Halloween snow storm brought snow to Orange County the likes of which have not been seen in our area since the Civil War. Fifteen inches was reported in Harriman and 13 inches in the Town of Newburgh. It was quite unreal to have snow on the ground for trick-or-treating!

To prepare for the storm, the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning and ran operations until 10:30 Sunday night – 37.5 continuous hours. The EOC re-opened at 8 a.m. Monday morning and remained staffed until 11 p.m. More than 20 departments, businesses, organizations, and agencies were represented at the EOC to ensure the needs of our Orange County residents were being met. Thank you to all those who served at the EOC, as well as those from municipalities throughout Orange County, who worked so hard to keep roads clean of snow and clear of tree limbs, to keep services running, and to get power and other utilities restored as quickly as possible.

At times like this, during the storm, clear and regular communication, is critical to effectively managing the situation. The Orange County Emergency Management Facebook page did an outstanding job of keeping people informed. One Goshen resident shared with me that the Emergency Management Facebook page was their "lifeline" during the storm. If you haven't "Liked" them on Facebook yet, be sure to do so. In addition to providing status reports and updates, a wealth of useful storm preparation and emergency management information is available through the page.

Hopefully Mother Nature will give us a break for awhile now and we can get back to enjoying the beautiful fall season our area is known for before she hits us with more of the white stuff.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness,

Edward A. Diana, County Executive