



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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Legislature Committed to Rebuilding Ulster County Following Hurricane Irene Devastation

Hurricane Irene was the worst natural disaster in the history of Ulster County. The damage it caused, in conjunction with Tropical Storm Lee on its tail, was devastating to many areas of the County. People lost their homes, bridges and roads were destroyed, and local farmers lost millions of dollars in crops. Ulster County Legislators toured the County to evaluate the destruction. It was clear that Ulster County personnel, Emergency Management staff, and first responders had been working around the clock, providing expeditious response to thousands of people in need. It was also apparent that the road to recovery would be challenging and costly. "The devastation I witnessed in the Town of Shandaken was unbelievable," said Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, Frederick J. Wadnola. "On behalf of the Legislative Body, I want to thank all of the County employees for their tireless efforts to help their neighbors in need during this very difficult time."

With the help of our State officials, Ulster County was able to obtain emergency aid necessary to help in the rebuilding process. At a recent meeting of The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, a resolution approving a \$15 million bond to continue rebuilding efforts received unanimous support. The \$15 million, the majority of which will be reimbursed through federal and state agencies, will be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of County roads, bridges, culverts, embankments, tunnels, viaducts, underpasses, waterways, drainage works, dikes, bulkheads and incidental improvements and expenses for damages caused by Irene. Chairman of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, Legislator Dean Fabiano, said he and his Committee are dedicated to facilitating the reconstruction process in any way possible. Legislator Fabiano also recognized the efforts of those who have contributed to helping the community. "I would like to thank the all of the staff at the Department of Public Works for a job well done. I am impressed with their quick response time and all of the hours they have dedicated to making things right," said Legislator Fabiano. "I would like to give special recognition to Bridge Supervisor Robert Graney who was able to get temporary bridges put up within one day," he added.

Property owners who experienced damage as a result of Irene are encouraged by FEMA to apply for aid as soon as possible by calling 1-800-621-3362 or registering online at www.disasterassistance.gov. Next action on the bond resolution will occur when the Government Services & Administration Committee Members vote on the legislation during their meeting on Monday, September 19th.