



In the Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village Community Room, which was turned into a safe haven in response to Hurricane Sandy, at left, from left, Dr. Walter McNeil Jr., president, Orange Housing Development Corp.; Orange Housing Authority Commissioner and Chairman Clifford Ross; Orange Housing Development Corp. board member Coram Rimes; and Orange Housing Development Corp. Chairman Avram White discuss the emergency plan that



was put in to effect. At right, from left, Orange Housing Development Corp. Chairman Avram White, a Walter G. Alexander Village resident and Dr. Walter G. McNeil Jr., Orange Housing Development Corp. president, discuss the battery-powered space heaters, blankets, water and non-perishable items which had been made available in the community room of the Walter G. Alexander Village in Orange.

Hurricane Sandy knocks out power, but spirit of cooperation survives

Undergoing its first storm — one of historic magnitude — The Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village responded to the resulting power outage with an immediate “call to action.” Orange Housing Development Corp. board members and Orange Housing Development Corp. President Walter G. McNeil Jr. quickly addressed the situation by putting an emergency plan into effect. The first action item was to visit each resident, assess conditions and offer assistance — from transportation to securing shelter. Flashlights and batteries were purchased for residents. Orange Housing Authority worked with the Orange Emergency Service to ensure three meals were provided daily; while the Walter

G. Alexander Village Community Room was turned into a safe haven, where battery-powered space heaters were fired up, allowing residents to retreat for warmth. In addition, blankets, water and non-perishable items were made available, in efforts to assure residents a sense of comfort and security.

Walter G. Alexander Village, Property Management Team oversaw an operation that tracked residents living off the property and those still remaining at Walter G. Alexander Village. Once power was restored, residents living off premise were immediately notified. Management worked to provide FEMA information that would assist residents.

In addition to increased 24-hour security, Mayor Dwayne Warren directed the city of Orange Fire Department to assist with temporary lighting for senior parking lots.

In the aftermath, Orange Housing Development Corp. board members, The Alpert Group and Property Management representative Faith Moore hosted a housing meeting to address the power outage and future methods to deal with power outages on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

“It is imperative that residents know that residents recognize that management has an invested interest in making sure that resident’s safety and quality of life is a top priority for us,” said McNeil.

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