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REGIONAL NEWS

Dutchess County awarded disaster grant

By SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON  
October, 18, 2007

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**HARLEM VALLEY** — Seven towns and two villages in the county have been awarded \$150,000 to combat natural disasters.

According to Dover Councilwoman Katie Palmer-House, the All Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant, offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be used to help communities identify potential and current natural hazards and develop strategies to prevent future natural disasters.

The towns included in the grant are Amenia, Beekman, Dover, Milan, North East, Pawling, Pine Plains and the villages of Millerton and Pawling.

"It is anticipated that plan development will take up to two years, including submissions of draft and final plans for FEMA approval," Palmer-House said. "With FEMA-approved plans, communities are eligible to apply for federal funding for local mitigation projects."

Amenia town Supervisor Janet Reagon said the town would probably use the grant for flood-related projects. Last April, Amenia suffered severe flooding damage during a nor'easter.

"Flooding is what's foremost on our minds, but the town can be subject to other hazards, like snow storms," Reagon said. "I'm sure many of the other towns have some recurring flooding devastation, so one potential project may be to identify areas of large culverts. Any project would take a while, and possibly not be done by 2009 at the earliest."

Pine Plains town Supervisor Gregg Pulver said the towns received the aid because they all worked together.

"All these towns doing this adds strength to it," Pulver said. "We speak with a lot more voices that way."

Pulver said flooding issues are also a concern in Pine Plains.

"For anyone who has the idea that natural disasters can't happen here, they have been proven wrong many times," he said. "In October 1987, we had power disasters and everything else during a storm. We received \$50,000 in Federal Emergency Management aid for this recent spring storm, so we have to be prepared and we have to get a piece of federal government aid when it is offered to us."

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Pulver said residents need to be aware that a natural disaster can happen.

"Whether it's a tornado or whatever, chances are slim to none, but it's still there," he said. "We need to have mitigation plans in effect to be prepared and in order to apply for future grants like these."

North East town Supervisor Dave Sherman said the grant is very positive for the area.

"Hopefully, we will begin to take care of problem areas that have been recurring," Sherman said. "Towns will be working together to develop plans. Consequently, we may work with planners to develop these plans."

According to Palmer-House, the grant provides 75 percent of funding for plan development with a 25-percent match from local towns. That match can be given through in-kind services.

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Top Stories

**Communities develop Hazard Mitigation plan**

By: Jennifer Barry

10/01/2008

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**Eight communities across the Harlem Valley have come together to be a part of the All Hazard Mitigation Planning Project.**

After the severe storms and flooding of 2007, local town governments realized that they needed to have a plan in place to help prepare for times of disaster.

With a plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), those towns would also be able to receive substantial grants towards repairs after a disaster strikes.

The towns of Amenia, Beekman, Dover, Milan, North East, Pawling, Pine Plains and the Village of Millerton recently came together, under the guidance of Kathryn Palmer-House, Ph.D., of Dover, and are now working to prepare a regional All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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The aim of the plan is to be proactive in identifying all possible significant hazards.

Once identified, local governments can work to reduce or eliminate the potential risks that these hazards might pose to both residents and property in the future.

Within the plan, a detailed history will be provided summarizing each community's experience with natural disasters and where it has been the most vulnerable.

From there, specific actions are developed that can help reduce community's losses when a natural disaster strikes.

Once the plan is approved by FEMA, communities are able to apply for federal grant monies to help relieve the effects of future disasters such as flooding.

Grants are also available for pre-disaster planning and hazard mitigation.

While the town and village governments in the area have been working to develop the plan, other community services are encouraged to be a part of the disaster planning.

Highway departments, school districts, environmental groups, and local and state law-enforcement groups all have valuable advice and experience that can aid in the disaster planning.



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Local officials can be contacted and notified about potential hazards in communities throughout the Harlem Valley.

Residents are also encouraged to participate in the All Hazard Mitigation planning meetings to share their ideas and their concerns with proposed mitigation measures.

There will also be opportunities to comment on the draft plan before it is submitted for approval to FEMA.

For plan information, and updates, contact your town supervisor or village mayor.

To contact Palmer-House, the All Hazard Mitigation Liaison for Northern and Eastern Dutchess County, call 845-877-3410.

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# NEWS

## Local towns continue disaster planning

By Jennifer Barry  
Staff Reporter

With many months of work and discussion behind them, representatives from the nine municipalities participating in the All Hazards Mitigation plan met with their consultants at Martha's Restaurant in Millerton for an update on their progress.

The towns of Arden, Beekman, Dover, Milan, Pine Plains and the Town and Village of Pawling have been involved in the creation of the plan. Most recently the Town of North East and the Village of Millerton signed on to participate as well.

The plan that the consultants are creating with the input of the involved municipalities allows for the pursuit of a \$200,000 grant to create a mitigation plan to prepare for natural disasters should they strike.

Project manager Anna Foley and engineer Richard Franks from the URS Corporation have spent several months with town and village representatives to identify what areas of Eastern and Northern Dutchess are at risk for natural disasters such as flooding, ice storms, earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Once the mitigation plan is designed, it will be revisited annually with the aid of URS representatives. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also requires that the plan be updated every five years.

This plan will also become a tool to be used by local planning boards when reviewing new applications.

A federal grant through FEMA has made the creation of such a plan possible; statewide projects are being managed by the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO).

The town of Dover is heading up the project with Dover Councilwoman Katie Palmer-House acting as the local liaison to all of the involved town and village governments.

According to Palmer-House, tremendous progress has already been made on the draft plan.

During their meeting, Foley and Franks gave a presentation to the attending representatives

**"The idea behind creating this plan is to break the cycle of responding to disaster."**

**Anna Foley, URS project manager**

on what hazards could potentially affect the involved communities.

"The idea behind creating this plan is to break the cycle of responding to disaster," said Foley.

The reasons for preparing a Hazard Mitigation Plan, she said, were to study the potential natural hazards and evaluate their effects.

The next step is to identify mitigation steps that can reduce the risks, should a disaster strike.

Once a plan is approved by FEMA, the participating municipalities will be eligible to apply for grants that will go towards those mitigation projects.

She did warn that the plan will only apply to the municipalities that participate in the planning process, that develop a mitigation strategy and that formally adopt the final plan.

Currently, the plan development is an ongoing process and one in which all municipalities are required to engage the public. Therefore, Foley and Palmer-House encouraged all representatives to include information on the All Hazard Mitigation planning process as a part of their regular town meeting agendas.

Some of the hazards that Foley and Franks said that the area is vulnerable to are extreme temperature and extreme wind, hurricanes, winter storms and dam failure.

For example, they said that over \$7 million of improved property in the Town of Arden was exposed to potential damage should the Thorne Dam fail.

By going through all of the potential hazards and putting a dollar amount on the property at risk, the towns will have the ability to quantify what they

risk if such a disaster should strike, Foley said.

He suggested that in their planning and identification processes representatives should look at improved property, emergency facilities, critical infrastructure, and historical and cultural resources that may be at risk.

They should also look at their town or village population and determine where and how the populace might be most at risk as well, he said.

From now until March 4, local representatives will be working to submit feedback on various aspects of the draft plan.

By April, the consultants said that they plan to begin discussing various mitigation strategies for the local jurisdictions.

While the town and village governments in the area have been working to develop the plan, other community services are encouraged to be a part of the disaster planning.

Highway departments, school districts, environmental groups, and local and state law-enforcement groups all have valuable advice and experience that can aid in the disaster planning.

Local officials can be contacted and notified about potential hazards in communities throughout the Harlem Valley.

Residents are also encouraged to participate in the All Hazard Mitigation planning by sharing their ideas and their concerns about potential hazards.

There will also be opportunities to comment on the draft plan before it is submitted for approval to FEMA.

For plan information, and updates, contact your town supervisor or village mayor.

To contact Palmer-House, the All Hazard Mitigation liaison for Northern and Eastern Dutchess County, call 845-877-3410.

Information on the plan may be provided during various town or village meetings. It may also be posted throughout the participating municipalities.

All information on the plan and its progress will also be posted to the Town of Dover's Web site at <http://www.townof-dover.us/AHMP.cfm>.

# Towns move forward with hazard mitigation plan

By CORY ALLEN  
Staff Reporter

MILLERTON — URS Corporation gave a report on the progress of a draft hazard mitigation plan for the nine municipalities constituting the Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project at a meeting Friday, Jan. 26, at Stoneman's Way Inn.

Developing a plan has been made possible by a \$200,000 federal grant through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

and the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). URS has been hired by the towns to put together a draft plan, and the meeting gave the municipalities an update on data that was being compiled as well as steps for the future.

Hose is the local liaison on the town of Dover's Hazard Mitigation Project. Representatives from URS are Anna Foley and Richard Francis, who gave a presentation on the basics of hazard mitigation plans in general, as well as where the specific plan stands in terms of

completion.

There was a kick-off meeting in September of last year, which was followed by several questionnaires to be filled out by each municipality. The towns are at different stages of completion with the questionnaires, and URS is looking to compile as much information as possible so the final plan can be tailored accordingly.

While plan development and local feedback are ongoing, several important deadlines are approaching on the horizon.

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## » HAZARD

including a Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable (RAID), which will consist of the working chapters that have been completed for the overall plan so far.

Time was spent going over hazard profiles and reviewing the geographical information that has been available to URS while it assesses possible hazards to the area, including droughts, earthquakes, landslides, floods and wildfires.

Pine Plains Councilman Bob Couse asked how it was possible to mitigate a natural disaster.

"Part of it is thinking about what has happened in the past," Foley replied, "but the risk is there for things that haven't happened in a long time, or ever. Flooding is something that comes to everyone's mind, but there are other hazards that you don't think about every day."

She stressed that simply because an area hasn't experienced a certain natural disaster doesn't mean it can't happen in the future.

During asset identification it became clear the data that URS was using to compile information on improved property, emergency facilities and other utilities and landmarks in the region was incomplete. Francis reminded the municipalities that it was up to them to fill in the blanks while they filled out their questionnaires.

Going forward, there will be several public hearings planned and Foley said it was very important to get this information out to the public.

"When FEMA grades your plan, they want to see that you put things out there, whether it's at meetings or posting things online," she said. "They want to see that the opportunities for the public are out there."

The targeted date for the completion of a draft plan is in May of 2009.

# MILLERTON NEWS

**Public Notice  
All Hazards Mitigation Plan  
Village of Millerton**

Please take notice that the Village of Millerton Board of Trustees would greatly appreciate any feedback from the public on the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The plan is available at the Village Hall, 21 Dutchess Avenue, Millerton, NY for review. Time has been spent assessing the possible hazards in the area. Please consider reviewing the current plan and present your input by April 10.

By order of the  
Village Board of Trustees  
Amber Jordan  
Village Deputy Clerk  
04-02-09

## Communities will expand scope of plan

By **KATIE PALMER-HOUSE**  
*Special to The Millerton News*

**HARLEM VALLEY** — For nine northern and eastern Dutchess County communities, development of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) will be expanded to include a broader scope of mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate potential damage that may be caused by natural hazards previously identified in the May 2009 draft plan.

In 2007, the towns of Armenia, Beekman, Dover, North East, Pawling, Pine Plains and Milan, and the villages of Pawling and Millerton, received a \$150,000 planning grant through the Federal Emergency Response Agency (FEMA) to develop the multi-jurisdictional plan. The collaboration was initiated with the support of New York state Sen. Vincent Leibell, who represents the nine communities, in the aftermath of the 2007 nor'easter that resulted in extensive flooding and infrastructure damage for several communities.

In 2008, the communities hired the URS Corporation of Wayne, N.J., to assist with plan development. In

addition, participating communities have collectively contributed \$50,000 as in-kind matching support through time, technology and other resources needed to develop the plan.

In the participating communities' draft AHMP plan, 10 significant natural hazards were identified that included drought, earthquake, extreme temperature, extreme wind, dam failure, flooding, ice jam, lightning wildfire and winter storm. While risks from a particular hazard may vary based on factors such as climatic events, topography and development, communities can often take actions that, over time, may reduce the potential for damage from natural hazards.

Possible actions for communities to prevent and reduce damage can range from pruning trees near utility wires to culvert upgrades, updated laws and ordinances to the acquisition of repetitively flooded properties and measures to improve emergency preparedness. With a FEMA-approved AHMP plan, the communities will become eligible to apply for future FEMA grant funding to help defray the cost of mitigation

projects.

Information on the 10 natural hazards addressed in the northern and eastern Dutchess County communities' draft AHMP is available by going online to [townofdover.us/AHMP.cfm](http://townofdover.us/AHMP.cfm) or in print version through a town supervisor or village mayor. Representatives from each of the nine participating communities welcome comments and feedback on the draft plan and suggestions for local actions including locations for potential mitigation projects.

Call 845-877-3410 for referral to a local AHMP community representative. Updates to the current draft AHMP are scheduled to be submitted to FEMA in March 2010. Following approval and adoption, the communities will formally establish an AHMP Core Planning Group to discuss and support local mitigation actions, conduct annual plan reviews and coordinate plan updates required by FEMA every five years.

*Katie Palmer-House is the northern and eastern Dutchess County communities' AHMP liaison.*

NORTHERN

# DUTCHESS NEWS

& Creative Living

Volume 1, Issue 44 • Feb. 24-March 2, 2010

**INSIDE: Millbrook woman considers run for 41st District Senate seat ... page 3**

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## Communities will expand scope of hazards mitigation plan

by Dr. Katie Palmer-House

For nine northern and eastern Dutchess County communities, development of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) will be expanded to include a broader scope of mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate potential damage that may be caused by natural hazards previously identified in the May 2009 draft plan. In 2007, the Towns of Amenia, Beekman, Dover, North East, Pawling, Pine Plains and Milan, and the Villages of Pawling and Millerton, received a \$150,000 planning grant through the Federal Emergency Response Agency (FEMA) to develop the multi-jurisdictional plan. The collaboration was initiated with the support of New York State Senator Vincent Leibell, who represents the nine com-

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Information on the 10 natural hazards addressed in the Northern and Eastern Dutchess Communities draft AHMP is available at <http://www.townsoflover.us/AHMP.cfm> or in print version through your town supervisor or village mayor. Representatives from each of the nine

participating communities welcome comments and feedback on the draft plan and suggestions for local actions including locations for potential mitigation projects. Contact Dr. Katie Palmer-House, AHMP liaison, at (845) 877-3410 for referral to your local AHMP community representative. Updates to the current draft AHMP are scheduled to be submitted to FEMA in March. Following approval and adoption, the communities will formally establish an AHMP Core Planning Group to discuss and support local mitigation actions, conduct annual plan reviews and coordinate plan updates required by FEMA every five years.

Dr. Katie Palmer-House is Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities AHMP Liaison



February 1, 2010

[Name]  
[Agency/Organization]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

**Re: Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities Regional  
Hazard Mitigation Planning Project**

Dear [Mr./Ms.] [Name],

Across the United States and around the world, natural disasters occur each day, as they have for thousands of years. As the world's population and development have increased, so have the effects of these natural disasters. The time and money required to recover from these events often strain or exhaust local resources. The purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to identify policies, actions, and tools for implementation that will, over time, work to reduce risk and the potential for future losses. Hazard mitigation is best realized when community leaders, businesses, citizens, and other stakeholders join together in an effort to undertake a process of learning about hazards that can affect their area and use this knowledge to prioritize needs and develop a strategy for reducing damages.

Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act"), enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 ("DMA 2000"), provides new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 continues the requirement for a State mitigation plan as a condition of disaster assistance, and establishes a new requirement for local mitigation plans. Local jurisdictions must now have a hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to be eligible to apply for grant funding to undertake hazard mitigation projects.

While the Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities (hereafter referred to as the "NEDCC", including the following nine jurisdictions in Dutchess County, New York: the Towns of Amenia, Beekman, Dover, Milan, North East, Pawling and Pine Plains; and the Villages of Pawling and Millerton) have always sought ways to reduce their vulnerability to hazards, the passage of DMA 2000, in conjunction with the devastating effects of the widespread flooding that occurred in the Ten Mile River valley in 2005 and 2007, helped local officials to recognize the benefits of pursuing a long-term, coordinated approach to hazard mitigation through hazard mitigation planning. The NEDCC has received grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency



(FEMA) for the purpose of developing this very hazard mitigation plan. Funding was received under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for development of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan for the NEDCC.

Our nine communities initiated the planning process with a Kickoff Meeting in September 2008. Our process is nearing completion, and the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was recently released. Our **Northern and Eastern Dutchess County Communities Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan** represents the collective efforts of nine participating jurisdictions, the general public, and other stakeholders. Natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring. However, the continued implementation of this plan over the long-term will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts associated with hazard events in our communities.

The NEDCC would like to invite you to peruse the draft plan at your leisure, and would welcome any comments you may wish to share with us. The plan is available for download on the web at:

[www.townofdover.us/AHMP.cfm](http://www.townofdover.us/AHMP.cfm)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 845-877-3410. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katie Palmer-House  
NEDCC Local Liaison  
Town of Dover

AHMP Outreach Letters sent Feb. 1, 2010

Dr. Craig Onofry, Superintendent  
Dover Union Free School District  
2369 Route 22  
Dover Plains, NY 12522

Mr. Lee Bordick  
Webutuck Central School District  
P.O. Box 405  
Amenia, NY 12501

Mr. Joseph Sciortino, Superintendent  
Pawling Central School District  
7 Haight St.  
Pawling, NY 12564

Ms. Linda Kaumeyer, Superintendent  
Pine Plains Central School District  
2829 Church Street  
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Mr. Ken Hale  
Harlem Valley Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 376  
Amenia, NY 12501

Fire Chief Aaron Scherer  
J. H. Ketcham Hose Co.  
P.O. Box 706  
Dover Plains, NY 12522

Fire Chief Shawn Howard  
Amenia Fire Company  
P.O. Box 166  
Amenia, NY 12501

Fire Chief Scott Boardman  
Wassaic Fire Company  
Firehouse Rd.  
Wassaic, NY 12592

Fire Chief Jason Watson  
Millerton Fire Company  
P.O. Box 733  
Millerton, NY 12546

Pawling Fire Chief  
Pawling Fire Co.  
P.O. Box 132  
Pawling, NY 12564

Fire Chief  
Pine Plains Hose Co.  
7 Lake Rd.  
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Chief Greg Becker  
Milan Volunteer Fire Dept.  
900 Route 199  
Milan, NY 12571

Mr. Edward Murray, CEO  
Northern Dutchess Paramedics  
P.O. Box 672  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Mr. John Murphy, Coordinator  
Dutchess Co. Dept. of Emergency Response  
392 Creek Rd.  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Mr. Ken Davidson, Chief Deputy Coord.  
Dutchess Co. Dept. of Emergency Response  
392 Creek Rd.  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Mr. Willis McCree  
American Red Cross, Dutchess Co.  
103 Hooker Ave.  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Mr. Dave Cadwell  
EMS Institute at Sharon Hospital  
P.O. Box 91  
Sharon, CT 06069