Today's News Roundup: 6 Months After Superstorm Sandy

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Six months after Superstorm Sandy struck New York City, the recovery is far from over and coastal communities are still trying to rebuild.

Hundreds of people displaced by the hurricane and living in hotels are expected to be evicted on Tuesday after a city-funded program comes to an end. Some homeowners, meanwhile, are facing imminent default on their mortgages, advocates say.

Businesses are still reeling from the disaster, with many still shuttered at the South Street Seaport and other areas hard-hit by the hurricane.

The federal government said it had approved a state plan to spend $1.7 billion in funds on rebuilding. Some of that money will go toward helping homeowners to rebuild. The New York Times reports that there are few takers of the state's offer to buy out their homes.

At a panel discussion on Friday hosted by Philanthropy New York , state Director of Operations Howard Glaser acknowledged that homeowners were frustrated with the progress of recovery efforts.

“There is anger out there, no question about it," he said. "This is actually the worst moment right now. This is a very tough time for folks that are affected. It’s going to get better.” On the same panel, New York City Economic Development Corporation President Seth Pinsky said "another reason" why people might be frustrated is that "easy problems to solve have been solved."

"Now the people whose problems are longer term are realizing that, in fact, the solution is going to take time," he said.

The city is set to receive a separate $1.8 billion in federal assistance money, but its plan has yet to receive approval.

The Cyclone roller coaster at Coney Island is open . Surfers are noticing a difference in the waves off Rockaway after the storm — and they are happy about it. Workers are rushing to build hundreds of picnic tables at beaches to replace many that were damaged by Sandy.

U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm is scheduled to hold a news conference today to talk about recovery efforts at Coney Island Hospital. Union labor officials and Council members plan to talk about hiring unionionized workers to aid in Sandy relief at another news conference at City Hall.

Weekend Roundup

The reasons for Cuomo's dropping popularity in upstate New York go beyond gun control, the Buffalo News reports . An investigation by the Times finds that job openings at the Empire State Development Corp., often go to candidates with ties to the governor. A gay state Senator wants to ban therapy that purports to treat homosexuality, the New York Daily News reports. The city wants to hire a breast-feeding expert for a new "breast-feeding empowerment zone" in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville, The New York Post reports .

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