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RIPR News   **4:45 PM** FRI NOVEMBER 2, 2012

Block Island recovering from Sandy

By SUMMER E. ALLEN

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Sandy was the worst hurricane to hit Block Island since 1954. Roads and seaside businesses were particularly hard hit, but all in all Block Island was lucky.

According to Pippa Jack, Editor of the Block Island Times, waves ripped out the kitchen and dumped sand and water into the popular seaside restaurant Ballard's. Another seaside restaurant, the Beachhead, suffered external damage but is open. The Town Beach Pavilion looks rough but is still standing. The beach itself didn't fare as well. Huge chunks of dune are completely gone.

The most striking damage is to Corn Neck Road near where it connects to the beach. "Half the road is gone" says Jack. "There are huge chunks of asphalt sort of lying scattered here and there and sort of tipping over into the beach. It's going to need to be completely rebuilt." Spring Road was also hard hit. Luckily, there are alternate routes for these roads, and the roads should be repaired by spring.

Jack says people on the island really came together after the storm. Block Island Power quickly returned power to the one hundred houses that lost it. New England Airlines allowed people to get on and off the island even when the Westerly airport didn't have power. And the morning after the storm, volunteers came out to help beachfront store owners deal with the damage.

Do you have insight or expertise on this topic? Please email us, we'd like to hear from you. news@ripr.org (mailto:news@ripr.org) .

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