

RB United NEWS FLASH

December 4, 2007

The newsletter to help households impacted by the recent fires recover as quickly as possible.

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Note: all the items in this issue are new from last time. Please refer to the mid-November issue for additional resources.

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Do we still need the paper NewsFlash? If you do not have access to a computer, please let Valerie Brown know so we can assess the need for continuing paper communications.

Questions?

Contact RB United
Community Project
Coordinator:

Valerie Brown
rebuildingrb@gmail.com
858-485-1292
www.rbunited.com

RB Community Upbeat at the One Month Mark

Our community recently observed the one month mark since the fires rampaged through and caused so much damage to our neighborhoods. Since then, a large number of lots have been scraped, other homeowners have signed up for the City's lot clearance program, and most families who were displaced have found suitable temporary housing. Houses that were damaged are being repaired, rebuilding permits are being issued, and a couple of houses are already in the frame-up stage. Additionally, the community has rallied in a phenomenal way to help those who were impacted.

RB United Launches

Over the past month, a coalition of organizations has been formed. It is called RB United—Rebuilding RB Together. It consists of the RB Community Council and Planning Board, San Diego Foundation, City government representatives, community service agencies, Westwood PTA and Westwood Foundation representatives, and others.

The RB United Coalition will provide services to *all* community members impacted by the fires, not just those homeowners whose houses burned. We recognize that many affected members of our community will not have to rebuild. Some were renting, and lost all of their belongings. Others were displaced because their homes and/or belongings were damaged.

RB United's "Point Person" is Valerie Brown

Valerie Brown has joined the RB United Coalition to serve as the Project Coordinator. She is the point person for all of the efforts surrounding community recovery. *If you were impacted by the fires, please contact Valerie Brown with your current contact information.* She has access an abundance of resources including volunteers, some rental properties, gift certificates and donated items. Please also feel free to contact her with your specific needs. Her contact information is to the left.

RB United's Centralized Web Site's Role

One of RB United's goals is to provide a centralized place where fire-impacted community members can go to find out information about *all* the available resources. This would include links to services, information on the rebuilding and recovery processes, including City and Homeowners' Association requirements, information on support groups, financial support, free products and services, reduced-fee products and services, etc.

The Web site will be www.rbunited.com and should launch within a week.

New Products and Services

Note: The last issue of the RB *NewsFlash* contained a large amount of information about donated goods and services, upcoming events, and other resources available to impacted families. The information continues to flood in, so this edition contains new information. Please keep your copy for future reference in case you need it. This issue and all back issues will also be available online at the RB United Web site, www.RBUnited.com

Financial Support

- **The Sempra Energy Foundation 2007 Fire Assistance Fund** is available to *anyone* affected by the fires (not just SDG&E customers). The Foundation will make its best effort to provide relief to those most in need until all funds have been exhausted. Applications for aid are available in both English and Spanish. The fastest way to apply is online at http://www.sempra.com/community/foundation/fire_assistance.htm. You can also call toll-free (866) 262-4842 (8am to 5pm M-F) to request an application.

Cleanup Support

- **Cleanup assistance and equipment:** Samaritan's Purse is offering no red tape clean-up assistance and equipment; information at http://www.maranathachapel.org/ministries/for_all/2007_fire_relief.html
- **Dumpster Permits:** If you need to put a dumpster or storage container on the street, permit applications are NOW (thanks to Brian Maienschein's office and the Tutunjian Family!) available at the Rancho Bernardo Local Assistance Center (LAC) at the Rancho Bernardo Community Park.
- **Free Tree/Plant Debris pick up:** The City of San Diego Environmental Services will assist fire-impacted property owners by picking up private tree and plant debris (only) that they pile up curbside. Call (858) 694-7000 to schedule a pickup. For the county areas, the phone number is 1-877-308-8111.

Erosion Control

As we start the rainy season, slope mudslides and toxic runoff into the Lake Hodges watershed become significant concerns. City officials are providing advice and assistance. Poway residents can call (858)668-4668. San Diego residents can visit www.sandiego.gov or call Erosion Control Assistance: (858) 485-1292, OR (858) 538-8129 (RB Recovery Center) or contact Valerie Brown. Also, visit the City's site at www.sandiego.gov/newsflash/firealert.shtml for erosion control information.

According to the Poway News Chieftain, free sand bags, gravel bags and straw rolls are being offered at:

- At Rancho Bernardo Community Park on W. Bernardo Dr, near the dog park;
- At Valle Verde Park parking lot just north of Espola on Valle Verde Rd.;
- In the overflow parking lot of Lake Poway Rd approaching the lake;
- On Midland Rd. across from the train barn in Old Poway Park; and
- On Garden Rd across from the Elementary school.

Rebuilding Support

- **Floor Plans as Available:** McMillin Realty, as a company, would like to offer the RB Floor Plans and property profiles (neighborhood information, recorded deeds...) free to all 2007 Firestorm victims. If you need your floor plan, please contact the McMillin Realty office in Rancho Bernardo at (858) 487-2002 or call Lori Shannon at (619) 204-3517.
- **Free Contractor Background Checking and Contract Review Services:** A Westwood resident with twenty four years construction experience has offered her services to verify licensing (validity &

in trade they are offering), verify workman's compensation coverage, review contracts, and obtain certificates of insurance, for free. Please contact Valerie Brown for more information.

- **Discounted Building Materials:** The Habitat for Humanity ReStore located at 10222 San Diego Mission Road is offering an additional 20% discount on already discounted building materials to families rebuilding. Please bring your FEMA card with you.
- **Additional Information:** Team Colby Homeowner Advocate's website provides a lot of information on the rebuilding process. <http://www.tchomeowneradvocate.com/home>

Assistance with Insurance Issues

- **Free Disaster Recovery Handbook and Inventory Guide:** United Policyholders (www.uphelp.org), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that educates consumers about insurance issues, publishes of The Disaster Recovery Handbook and Personal Property Inventory Guide. It is available free of charge at the Cedar Fire Survivors Table at the RB Local Assistance Center.
- **Household Inventory Assistance Tool:** When you need to do a household inventory, it is almost impossible to remember everything you have in your house. Community Assisting Recovery website (www.carehelp.org) has a Personal Property Inventory Worksheet/Database to help remember the things you had in your house.
- **“Out of the Ashes” Box:** Scripps Ranch volunteers are distributing portable, plastic tote containing pre-labeled hanging files and manila folders to help organize the many important forms, receipts, and documents acquired during the recovery process. The free totes are available at the RB Assistance Center or at the RB United Coalition. For further information, please contact Valerie Brown.
- **A series of sessions on insurance and under-insurance with attorneys was recently held.** These were publicized on <http://www.rbcommunitycouncil.com/> and a variety of other places. Valerie Brown also emails alerts to all fire victims for whom she has email address. *Please* remember to check the Web sites regularly and to make sure Valerie has your email address so she can keep you up-to-date.

Free Legal and Financial Advice

- **Free Legal Assistance:** Legal Help, a toll-free legal assistance hotline, 1-866-636-9041, is available from 9 AM- 5 PM for fire victims who cannot afford a lawyer. This service is provided by the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division, FEMA, the State Bar of California and Foley and Lardner LLP.
- Members of the CA society of CPA's are offering free financial advice to fire families. To meet with a volunteer, please call 1-800-922-5272 ext. 6242.

Additional Rental Assistance Services

- Home Matching (www.homematching.org) is a network of concerned California citizens working together to help each other during a critical disaster that matches people who can offer shelter with people who need temporary housing. This is a person-to-person exchange run by volunteers. There is no screening process in place.
- Fjellestad, Barrett & Short Property Management (www.fbs-pm.rentals.com) has a list of available rental properties. For more information, please contact Pam Neillo at (858) 487-8519 or (858) 487-4004.
- More rental assistance— Camille Cappello at Sunrise Management, ccappello@sunrisemgmt.com
- ART Rental Location's President, Jeff Reich, has offered a FREE locator service for rental properties for fire-impacted families. (858) 279-2787, 3760 Convoy Street Suite 220, San Diego CA 92111.

Additional Support Groups and Emotional/Mental Health Services

- **Jewish Family Services** has started a free support group. The group meets Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 PM at 16486 Bernardo Center Drive, #268. Pre-registration is required. Open to the entire community. For information and to pre-register, call 1-800-295-4254.
- **The Fired Up Sisters** is a newly formed group for women whose homes were lost or damaged due to the 2007 wildfires. For more information (or if daycare is needed), please contact, Kathryn Homer, (858) 451-0811, thehomers@sbcglobal.net or Renee VanHeel, (858) 225-4008, rvanheel@san.rr.com.
- **Scripps Health Employee Assistance Program** is providing free counseling services to all in our community who need it. Please contact Valerie Brown for information on how to access the services.

Child Care - Additional Services Available

In addition to the items discussed in the last *NewsFlash* (WW Club preschool extended care, volunteer-based child care, and potential free after-school care through PUSD's ESS program), there is a new option: Don't forget about the Westwood Club Holiday Minicamps. For (must pre-pay) \$5 per day, WWC members, ages 6-12, can register for December 26, 27, and/or January 2,3 12:00pm – 5:00pm mini-camps at the Westwood Club. For more information, please contact Nora at the Club at 618-1220.

The Free "Shops" are Here for You!

The Westwood Club and RB Community Presbyterian Church "shops" are full of items waiting for you! Please come to the "shop" to meet your needs before you go pay for something. Both shops are open to all Rancho Bernardo fire impacted families.

We Need Help Copying and Hand-delivering Newsletters

If you, your business, or a service group to which you belong is able to hand-deliver or mail newsletters to RB households, please contact Valerie Brown at rebuildingrb@gmail.com.

Useful Links, Soft-Copy Newsletter

www.rbunited.com has a resource listing of Web links to government sites, community resources, and useful phone numbers. Also, the email version of this newsletter contains links too. To subscribe, email ptaupdate@san.rr.com with subject line of "Subscribe to RB Community Fire Recovery Newsletter" and you will receive timely, informative updates and the e-newsletter. Resources are listed just this time on the back of this newsletter too.

Upcoming Special Events for Fire Recovery

- **December 4th: Free family portraits**
HP is doing free family portraits, for people who have lost photos in the fires, at the [Westwood Club](#) December 4. Please call (858) 722-9193 for a sitting time.

New Holiday Related Events:

- **December 7-9th: Community Christmas Boutique:** The Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church is hosting a Community Christmas Boutique, December 7-9th, as a gift to the families of the 2007 San Diego Firestorms. The
- **Sunday, December 9th - 10 am to 2 pm, Family Holiday Fair at the Bernardo Winery:** Enjoy free admission, parking, and entertainment at the Winery's Uncle Vito's Park, 13330 Paseo Del Verano North. All proceeds from the raffle as well as anything received from vendors beyond the event cost will be donated to Habitat for Humanity for the Fire Rebuild Efforts. The event will feature pony rides and a jumper for the kids, free wine tasting and delicious food for the adults and live music, and a variety of other entertainment.

- **Monday, January 10, Rebuilding Workshop:** The San Diego North Chamber of Commerce is hosting an event to bring together service providers associated with building and home improvement (architects, builders, landscapers etc.) with those who need their services. The session will take place from 9 to 1, and location is TBD. The flyer can be found at http://www.sdncc.com/media/Rebuilding_Workshop_final_web.pdf

New Special Offers

Note: Information on these offers is provided as a service only. There are no guarantees or endorsements from the publishers of this newsletter.

Free goods and services:

- **Replacement Webkinz:** If your household lost webkinz in the fire, Carol Miller (petsfindahome@comcast.net) is donating *untagged* webkinz (the code has been used – this is only for the plush toys) to the children that lost everything in the fires. Please let rbhorselover@san.rr.com know which webkinz you have lost and we will try to replace the plush toy.
- **Free flu shots:** The County of San Diego HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) is now offering free flu vaccine at three County Local Assistance Centers (LACs) and three American Red Cross Family Assistance Centers to those affected by the wildfires.
- **Free Yoga Classes:** Visit yogabodyandmind.org or call Carol (858) 271-5948.
- **Free jewelry appraisal:** Unicorn Jewelry in the Vons shopping center offers free appraisal to fire survivors.
- **Free replacement Intuit software.** Intuit (www.intuit.com) is offering free replacement software to be delivered as soon as conditions permit.
- **Free new and used footwear:** Footwear etc. (858) 613-1221, 16777 Bernardo Center Drive has a section of their store filled with donations. Some of the shoes are gently used, and others are from Footwear etc and Naot (a shoe manufacturer that has just donated an additional 200 pairs of new shoes). Store Hours: M-F 9:30am-7:00pm, Sat. 9:30am-6:00pm, Sun. 11:00am-6:00pm.
- **Fire Relief Pet Assistance:** The San Diego Humane Society's program provides financial support to pet owners directly affected by San Diego's recent wildfires. This Program will provide reimbursement of up to \$500 per household to cover pet-related expenditures incurred due to the fires. Reimbursement is available for veterinary expenses, transportation and boarding expenses, pet food, livestock feed, and pet or livestock supplies. Pet owners directly affected by the fires may find out more about the Fire Relief Pet Assistance Program and complete an application for assistance by emailing Kimmy O'Connor at koconnor@sdhumane.org, or calling (619) 243-3434.
- **Free handmade blankets:** A group of knitters is organizing people from all over to make comfort blankets. If you would like to request or nominate someone for a handmade blanket, please visit sandiegowildfireblankets.blogspot.com

Photographic assistance:

- **Replacement school pictures:** The Impressionist school picture company have taken the school pictures at many Poway Unified elementary schools and the high school. If anyone would like their children's pictures reprinted we will reprint their pictures for free. We may even have pictures archived from 2 years ago. For more details, contact Patti Duvall-Burke., email driver8235@yahoo.com. For Westwood Elementary, contact your PTA yearbook chair.

Discounted Goods and Services

- **Spa Mode,** (858) 673 1244, is offering 50% off either a massage or facial or coaching package.
- **Discounted Pampered Chef Products:** Linda Doll (office: (858) 776-1017, cell: (858) 774-1532) is offering her cost (25% off) any/all Pampered Chef Products. The discount is good for 12 months from date of your documented loss, for individual orders only.

- **15% off at Pottery Barn:** 15% off purchases for retail store purchases or catalog orders (NOT through the Web site), Documentation of your loss is required. This discount is good until 11/14/09.
- **Discount at Footwear etc:** (858) 613-1221 16777 Bernardo Center Drive is offering a 20% discount for anyone impacted by the fires.

Useful Phone Numbers:

- American Red Cross 1-866-438-4636
- AT&T 1-877-722-6787
- CA State Contractor License Board 1-800-962-1125 or 1-800-321-2752
- ReBuild Escondido (760) 746-FIRE
- City of Poway (858) 668-4586
- City of San Diego Building Permits: (619) 694-8236
- City of San Diego- RB LAC (858) 538-8129
- Councilman Brian Maienschein (619) 236-6655; (858) 924-9406 RB LAC
- County Mental Health Services 1-800-479-3339
- Cox Cable Hotline 1-888-999-6597
- Dead Animal Removal (619) 390-8204
- DMV 1-800-921-1117 or 1-800-777-0133
- Erosion Control Assistance: (858) 485-1292
- Fraud Hotline 1-800-315-7672
- FEMA 1-800-621-3362, TTY: 1-800-462-7585
- Garbage (858) 492-5060
- IRS 1-800-829-1040
- Mayor's Office (619) 236-6330
- Police (619) 531-2000
- City Attorney (619) 236-6220
- Environmental Services (858) 492-5056
- Developmental Services (619) 446-5000
- Permits (619) 446-5000
- Neighborhood Code Compliance (619) 236-5500
- Rancho Bernardo Local Assistance Center Annex (858) 538-8070
- Recycling (858) 492-5010
- San Diego City Council (619) 236-6440
- San Diego City Information (619) 236-5555
- SBA: 1-800-659-2955
- Street Maintenance (619) 527-7500
- SDG&E 1-877-789-9866
- Time Warner: Mark Farrar (858) 357-6226
- Traffic Engineering (619) 533-3126
- US Dept of Veterans Affairs 1-800-827-1000
- Water Emergencies (619) 515-3500

Our deepest appreciation to Bureau Veritas of Rancho Bernardo for printing the NewsFlash for us. Thanks also to Debbie Holcomb of Westwood Elementary PTA for the e-newsletter and Valerie Gieseke, Westwood Elementary Foundation, for writing the NewsFlash.