

RB Fire Recovery *NEWS FLASH*

November 13, 2007

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

In This Issue...

Page 2:

Increasing communication:
email lists, Web resources

Tax Reassessment
Information

Page 3:

Making Monetary
Donations

Floor plans may be
available

Available child care

The free “shop” at the
Westwood Club

Fire Station 33 Extreme
Makeover

Page 4:

San Rafael Church may be
looking for you?

We need help delivering
the NewsFlash

Upcoming Special Events
for Fire Recovery

Special Offers (continuing
to page 7)

Questions?

Contact RB Community
Foundation Fire
Recovery Coordinator:

Valerie Brown
vsquare@san.rr.com
858-692-2181

Community Rallies in a Multitude of Ways to Provide Goods and Services

Since the fires, our community has mobilized in many ways to start the process of recovery. In the past three weeks, the outpouring of support from a multitude of people has been truly astonishing. We have received monetary donations from as far away as China and Japan. Architects, contractors, attorneys, engineers and a host of other professionals have stepped forward to offer their services at no charge. Stay-at-home parents have offered up free child care services to provide those dealing with the logistical issues of fire recovery the precious gift of time. And donations of money, clothes, food, cleaning supplies and a myriad of other items have come pouring in.

The government has also been very active. Brian Maienschein’s office has played a crucial role in coordinating governmental response. Two meetings on fire recovery have been held, and more are planned, to help those who lost their homes or had their homes severely damaged move forward as quickly as possible in an organized way.

This effort has not been without its level of chaos, as is to be expected after such a calamity. In the past week, Valerie Brown has stepped forward to serve the crucial role of Fire Recovery Coordinator for The Rebuild RB Coalition, and has done a fantastic job of trying to pull all the pieces together, get the right people talking to each other, and get all those who want to help rowing the same boat in the same direction. This has been a Herculean effort, and we are deeply grateful to her for her efforts.

The result of all this activity is that we are seeing tangible progress in the community: Many families have found high-quality temporary housing and longer-term rentals. Many lots are in the process of being cleared. The schools are starting to operate on a more even keel, and the “normal” things in life such as kids’ sporting events, service organization meetings, and other activities are starting to happen again.

This issue of the *Westwood NewsFlash* contains an overview of some of the myriad of services, activities and items that are going on around our community. We apologize to anyone we left off the list – it is indeed a moving target at this point.

Increasing Communication

The beauty of the Web is the way it facilitates communication – but it also can be confusing trying to figure out where to go for help. Below is a list of the most helpful local resources we have found. As time passes, sites will be better linked to other sites and information will become more organized.

- **Rebuild RB Web Site:** www.rebuildrb.com has been created to assist families in Rancho Bernardo residents who have been affected by the fires. It will serve as a portal with information and links to a multitude of services and informational sites to try to give you a central point for information.
- **RB Community Council Web Site:** This site provides a constantly updated list of goods, services, and other resources being offered to fire victims. www.RBCommunityCouncil.com
- **Volunteer and need matching Blog for Westwood:** Westwood Volunteer Resources, <http://westwoodvolunteercrews.blogspot.com> is a Blog to help speed the matching of specific need requests with our Westwood volunteers wanting to help with the neighborhood's recovery.
- **Deputy Mayor of Poway Merrilee Boyack's Web site** <http://merrileeboyack.com> is a comprehensive website, based on her prior experience with the Cedar Fires.
- **Community Assisting Recovery** www.carehelp.org Web site has been providing free disaster recovery help, information and guidance for over ten years.
- **Scripps Ranch Civic Association Fire Survivor Web Site:** The Project Phoenix www.scrippsranch.org/PROJECTPHOENIX/default.asp Web site was developed by the Scripps Ranch Civic Association during the Cedar fire to support fire survivors and others.
- **San Diego North Chamber of Commerce San Diego Recovery Resource Guide** www.sdncc.com/sdfires2007/ has a lot of resources for fire recovery.
- **Friends and Family Community Connection** www.ffcc-sd.org/ has a Firestorm 2007 Relief and Needs Forum where you can post needs and/or volunteer.
- **Government Web sites:** www.sandiego.gov contains a Fire Recovery page with a ton of helpful information, forms etc on it. *It is updated regularly, so visit often.* Also visit Brian Maienschein's page on this Web site.
- **Translation Services:** The Westwood Elementary Ambassadors program has resources who can translate into a multitude of different languages. If you need help with insurance adjusters, permitting etc., please contact Christine Cloutier at ccloutier@powayusd.com.

Tax Reassessment information (provided by Merrilee Boyack, Deputy Mayor of Poway):

- **To have your tax payment placed on hold, with no penalty assessment:** If you file the calamity claim form, your tax payment is placed on hold and no penalties will be assessed. Your property will then be reassessed (the form will trigger it -- you don't have to do anything else). The Tax Collector will then send out an adjusted tax bill for you to pay. You then pay that lower amount. When you have a permit to rebuild your house, they are notified. Your property then will be reassessed.
 - **If you build a substantially similar house,** your assessment will be the same as it was (with full Prop 13 protection.)
 - **If you build a smaller home,** your assessment will be the *lesser of* the previous assessed value or the full market value.
 - **If you build a bigger home,** you will have the same assessment as you did before PLUS that portion which is bigger is reassessed and added. For example, if you had a 2,000 sq. ft. home and built a 3,000 sq. ft home, you would have the previous assessed value PLUS the assessment on the 1,000-foot increase.
- **Property tax relief information:** From the San Diego County website, Property Tax Relief for fire impacted households. www.co.san-diego.ca.us/ttc/pt_exem_excl.html#calamity To request a reassessment, please call 858-505-6262.

Floor Plans May Be Available

- **McMillin Realty** has copies of many of the original builder floor plans in their Rancho Bernardo office. If you would like a copy of your floor plan, please contact McMillin Realty at 858-487-2002. Or call Lori Shannon at 619-204-3517. They will provide it they have it.
- **The Westwood Club** may also have plans if your house is in Westwood. Check with Architectural Control at 485-6300 for assistance.

Child Care Services Available

- **Westwood Club Preschool extended care available.** Families currently enrolled at the Westwood Club Preschool should contact Ellen Weinstein, the director, to take advantage of extended times and service on non-school days.
- **Volunteer-based child care available.** Many families have volunteered to provide child care. The arrangement would be between the two families, in the volunteer's home. If interested, we can provide a list of volunteers and their respective "credentials." Please contact Valerie Brown at vsquare@san.rr.com if you have a need. Note: The Parks & Recreation option at Glassman Center is no longer available, so we will work on providing an alternative for our residents.
- **Extended Care through Westwood Elementary.** PUSD is offering Extended Student Services (ESS) before- and after-school care to those families who have lost their homes free of charge for a period of time. This of course is for sites where ESS is available. For Westwood Elementary, contact Tina Dores, Westwood ESS Manager, at 487-2510 for more details. For other schools, please contact your school's ESS program manager.

The Free "Shop" at the Westwood Club is Here for You!

The Westwood Club is now one of two distribution sites for the Rancho Bernardo area. The other site will be the RB Community Presbyterian Church. Hours are 8 AM-8 PM. Please come to the "shop" to meet your needs before you go pay for something – friends and neighbors are delighted to share with you during this difficult time! This station is open to all fire impacted families, not just WW Club members. Please check in at the front office with information verifying your fire damaged address.

RB Fire Station 33 Extreme Makeover Initiative

San Diego Fire Station 33, in Rancho Bernardo, is in need of an EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER. It was built almost 40 years ago for a 3 man crew and one engine. Now the station inadequately accommodates 6 men and women and a fire engine, a brush truck, *and* an ambulance. 30 years of deferred maintenance have left the station in terrible disrepair. A RB Family made a video that KNSD featured, asking EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER to make over our fire station. We would like to start a letter writing campaign to ABC asking them to help our community rebuild by supporting our RB firefighters. If you are interested in writing a letter, please address it to: Lock & Key Productions, c/o Family Casting, P.O. BOX 38670, Los Angeles, CA. 90038. Please feel free to ask any of your friends or family to join our campaign!

San Rafael Catholic Church May Be Looking For You!

San Rafael parish is trying to locate families that have been displaced by the fires. If you have been displaced and would like San Rafael Church to have your information, please contact Beth Siesel at sieselb@sbcglobal.net, or at 858-673-1040.

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 vsquare@san.rr.com.

Upcoming Special Events for Fire Recovery

Friday 11/16: Free informational workshop on rebuilding:

There will be a free informational workshop to assist in the rebuilding process on November 16th, 2:30-6:30 pm at the California Center for Performing Arts. Visit San Rebuilds at www.sandiegorebuilds.com. On a similar note, keep your eye on www.sandiego.gov for the city-sponsored meetings, events, and information.

Saturday November 17: Free community gathering for all of RB:

The Vons' Shopping center property manager, Mayor Jerry Sanders, Channel 8, music groups and various other sponsors are planning a free day of music and food at the RB Community Park. Come join in the fun and reconnect with your neighbors! The "rebuild Fire Station 33" association will be there also. Check the rebuildrb.com Web site early next week for more details.

Monday 11/26 and/or Tuesday 11/27, 7 to 8:30 pm: Seminars on Emotional Recovery:

Join Edie Davis, MA, MFT (Marriage, Family Therapist) and Cedar Fire Family members in two *free* evening sessions. You can attend one or both sessions. Location: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 14280 Poway Rd in Poway. Free childcare with a reservation - please email your child's name and age to: ediedavis1@yahoo.com and we will reserve a place for him or her. We will have a nursery open as well as a "homework room". To schedule free therapy sessions with Edie, call: 619-218-2874

Thursday November 29, 2007 from 6:00pm – 8:30 pm: Westwood Fire families – private dinner:

A free dinner will be held at the Westwood Club to let Westwood households who have lost their homes due to the fire meet with other affected Westwood households without any media coverage.

Free support group for women every Wednesday evening:

A free support group for women who lost their homes in the fires will meet every Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM at Pamela Underwood's art studio in Poway. To register for the group, please call Pamela Underwood at 619-857-8820.

Holiday-Boutiques for Fire Families:

- **Saturday 11/24, 9 to 3 Holiday Boutique at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:**
15750 Bernardo Heights Parkway. Public is welcome to donate on 11/23 between noon and 6 pm. Fire families are welcome to free shopping. Proof of ID and loss required for shopping.
- **Saturday 12/1 from 10:00 to 4:00: "Santa's Workshop" – holiday décor and gifts event:**
Community Church of Poway at 13501 Community Rd. All ages welcome. There is no cost - gifts, crafts, refreshments ALL FREE thanks to donations from the community! For more details, contact Debbie Hallmark at cpucc@sbcglobal.net, or at 748-3304.

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.

Fire relief funds:

- **The Buddhist congregations will provide relief funds to fire families** for as long as they have funds available. You must present photo ID and proof of loss. During the Cedar Fires, they presented families with \$500.
- **Fire relief funds are also available at the RB Community Foundation and from the PUSD Foundation**, as discussed above. There are many other sources for relief funds too including the Red Cross, FEMA, and various faith-based organizations in the community.
- **There are many sites for grant money** listed on the Deputy Mayor of Poway Merrilee Boyack's Web site – www.merrileeboyack.com

Insurance Advocacy/assistance: United Policyholders is a non-profit organization that's been helping insurance consumers, big and small, since 1991. For more information, visit www.unitedpolicyholders.org/socal_wildfire.html

Free clean-up assistance and equipment:

- Samaritan's Purse is offering **no red tape clean-up assistance and equipment**; information at Maranatha Chapel Fire Relief 2007, www.maranathachapel.org
- City Information on debris cleanup, erosion control, and lot clearing: Visit www.sandiego.gov/newsflash/firealert.shtml for the Recovery Web page.
 - Fire cleanup program fact sheet: www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/debrisfactsheet.pdf
 - Right of Entry Permit sheet, to permit the City's contractor the right to go onto your property and clear the lot: www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/rightofentrypermit.pdf
 - **Sandbag/erosion control station and volunteers:** As we face the onset of the rainy season, erosion control will become paramount in some of the hillier areas of the neighborhood that were damaged. Please see the City's Web site information on erosion control. There is a sandbag station down by the RB Community Park. Also, the local Boy Scouts have offered to help with your erosion control. Volunteer San Diego also has volunteers at the ready to help you out.
- **Tree trimming/cutting assistance:** The LDS Church has chainsaws and volunteers at the ready to help with tree trimming. Just contact them for details.

Temporary housing search assistance: The following people have locator services and lists for rental properties available to those who have lost their homes. Please contact these people directly for assistance.

- Free office space assistance for your temporary housing search. The Rancho Bernardo branch of Coldwell Banker Real Estate is offering space to facilitate the search for temporary housing. Address is 16363 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego CA 92128, 858-487-3333.
- Fjellestad, Barrett & Short Property Management (www.fbs-pm.rentals.com). Contact is Pam Neillo, Rancho Bernardo Operations Manager, 858 487-8519 and 858 487-4004
- Camille Capello at Sunrise Management: email ccapello@sunrisemgmt.com
- ART Rental Location's President, Jeff Reich, has offered a free locator service 858-279-2787, 3760 Convoy Street Suite 220, San Diego CA 92111.
- The Irvine Apartment Communities (www.rental-living.com) will extend the following move-in offers to any displaced TIC Office Tenants: \$750 Off First Months Rent at any IAC San Diego Community \$1250 Off First Months Rent at the Grand Reopening of Monte Vista IAC will also expedite application processing at all locations. The contact is Terry Welsh at 619-615-8016.

Free architectural services:

- **Free architectural services:** Westwood resident, Architect and General Contractor Deven Patel will provide his Architectural Service for FREE to anybody who lost their homes in this fire. He would appreciate the opportunity to build the homes as well, after preparing Architectural drawings. He can be contacted at devenneha@yahoo.com
- **Additional resource for free architectural services:** The San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is keeping a list of architects who have offered to do pro bono work. They are available at www.ajasandiego.com
- **Don't forget that your new plans need to be approved by the Architectural Review Committee** at the Westwood Club before they are submitted to the City for permits. The ARC form is available at the Club office and also online at www.rbwestwoodclub.com.

Free mattress set: Living Spaces Furniture is offering a free Sealy mattress set to people who lost their homes in the recent Southern California fires; one mattress set per household, choice of twin, double, queen, or California King, must be picked up at one of their 2 locations (LA area), valid through December 2008, and must provide FEMA award or insurance verification with address that matches driver's license. For more information, contact 1-877-266-7300.

Photographic assistance:

- **Free family portraits.** Project Heirloom (www.projectheirloom.com) contains a list of local photographers who are volunteering to take free family portraits for those who lost their homes.
- **Free photo restoration.** Lori Neumann Family Photography (www.photographybyloribus.com) is offering FREE photo restoration for those affected by the wildfires. Contact Lori Neumann, at loribus4art@yahoo.com or at 858-335-1421.
- **Provide photos to friend who lost their homes.** The Westwood Club, in partnership with Hewlett Packard, will be sponsoring an opportunity for friends and neighbors to scan and upload photos for fire families to view and have photos printed from. Details to be announced.
- **Visual Photography** also wants to help. If you lost your home in the fire and had photos taken by the studio in the last 24 months, call 679-9790.

Free Jewelry Refurbishing: *Artistry in Gold*, 13525 Poway Road, is offering to refurbish jewelry damaged in the fires for free. They are also offering those who lost Lladro, Swarovski or Lenox items, replacements at their cost. Call Jim or Roxann at 486-4373.

San Rafael Parish Families – Guardian Angel Program: San Rafael Parish Church has begun a Guardian Angel Program for the 65 San Rafael families whose homes were destroyed. Please contact Beth Siesel, 673-1040 or sieselb@sbcglobal.net for more details. If a family has a home and still has needs please contact Tom Hanson at 699-5847 or at thanson@san.rr.com.

Free cribs: USA Baby in San Diego is offering Munire cribs to fire families to replace those lost in the recent fire. To make arrangements, call USA Baby at 858-578-3334. Verification and proof of loss of home is required. See store for details. Valid only at 9262 Miramar Road, San Diego CA 92126 store.

Vision Care Related:

- **Vision Service Plan (VSP):** Members who have lost or broken their eyewear can call VSP at 800.877.7195. VSP will reinstate benefits regardless of eligibility. Individuals without VSP coverage can contact their local American Red Cross chapter and request a VSP eye care voucher. VSP has great discounts vs. standard "retail" rates, so this is a great benefit.
- **December 8: Free vision correction surgery for those who suffered a fire-related loss at Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute.** The surgeons and staff of Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision

Institute are donating free surgery to visually impaired individuals who have suffered a fire-related loss. Go to www.gbvision.com or call 800-New Vision (800-639-8474) to submit an application for screening. The surgeons will perform pro-bono surgery on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision's in-office surgical suite

Need a volunteer? Volunteer San Diego (www.volunteersd.org) has over 7,000 people who have stepped forward to help out. Just contact them to get volunteers – they are there for you!

Additional offers: These are not verified offers but were shared by Poway's fire response team, so please update us if any are not valid:

- Mervyn's is offering 15% off to fire survivors;
- Big 5 has a sale on metal detectors;
- At Home with Laurie Ann is offering a sale on Nov.15 & 16 called "Deals & Steals" where all the items are going to be sold for dirt cheap (\$3, \$9 etc). They have furniture from dining room tables to one of a kind, sofas, hutches etc. Location; 14149 Twin Peaks Road. Phone: 858-592-0412.
- The SDSU Alumni Association will replace free of charge, SDSU-related items for alumni lost in the wildfires, such as diplomas, transcripts, and athletic season tickets. Please contact SDSU Alumni Association, (619) 594-ALUM or at alumni@sdsu.edu.
- Ingredientz (www.ingredientz.com) 13654 Poway Road, the fine dining you create! Any displaced family can come into the store for 3 Free Entrees On Us. Call the store to place your order and we'll assemble it for you. Please give 48 hours notice. Good through December 31.
- 10 boxes of professional women's clothing are on display in the back room of St. Bart's thrift shop, 12845 Poway Rd # 214. Women who lost their homes and need to get back to work can come to the shop, ask to see a manager and they will take them back to see what we have. No cost, of course.
- San Diego Center for Play Therapy (www.sdplay.org) would like to give children who lost their homes in the fires specific toys of their choosing. Please contact us at (858) 675-9600 ext. 1 or Amy Wickstrom, MFT at awickstrom@sdplay.org, with specific requests.
- Poway Beauty Academy is offering a day of spa where those who lost their homes can receive complimentary facial, hair cut and manicure. They are open 10:45 – 8pm and Tues-Friday they have more appointments available. Bring your FEMA or insurance claims for ID. 748-1490. Good until Nov. 30th.