



Waterbury Flood-Recovery Update

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012

Flood recovery news from RBW, the municipality, and the community

ReBuild Waterbury Connects Flooded Households with Disaster Relief Grants

Statewide flood-relief fundraising for individuals is being directed to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund (VDRF), a non-profit fund intended to assist with residential flood-relief. To access the fund, applicants must go through a flood-relief organization such as ReBuild Waterbury (RBW). Local residents who suffered flood damage in Waterbury, Duxbury and elsewhere in the 05676 zip code may contact RBW to place a grant application on their behalf. These funds are grants, not loans – they are not meant to be paid back. Applicants must contact RBW's Case Manager, Eileen Simpson. There are no income requirements; however, applicants need to exhaust other sources of flood relief such as insurance and federal funding.

RBW Chairwoman Theresa Wood said RBW has submitted three applications so far and is waiting to hear about grant awards. Several more applications are being prepared this week, she said.

The VDRF grants are from funds separate from the Phish concert fundraising which the Vermont Community Foundation directed to the Waterwheel Foundation. Those funds are being distributed to flood-relief organizations, not individuals. RBW, for example, received \$5,000 from Waterwheel.

Long-Term Recovery Committees Continue Work on Project Details This Week

The long-term community recovery planning effort continues this week with committee meetings focused on specific topics. Anyone interested in joining the process can attend a committee meeting. Save the date for two weeks - 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 15 - for a large community meeting where committees will present the projects they are suggesting move forward. That will be held at in the Thatcher Brook Primary School gymnasium. This week's committee meetings:

- **Housing and Human Services:** Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m., TBPS conference room. Topics: safe, decent, affordable and efficient housing; locations for new housing; responding to urgent health and human services needs.

- **Energy, Efficiency and Transportation:** Wednesday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m., TBPS conference room. Topics: enhanced transportation and movement, complete streets, Center for Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan, district heating.

- Meetings were held Monday for three committees: **Economic Development; Community Planning, Capacity-Building and Recreation; and Municipal Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation.**

Need a new mattress? The **Harwood Athletics Department** hosts a huge **mattress sale** this weekend! Check out new mattresses, box foundations and frames at discounted prices this **Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Harwood's Gymnasium**. National brands such as Simmons, Serta, and Corsicana will be offered. Sale prices include delivery, set-up, and removal of old bedding, as well as a substantial contribution to the Harwood Athletics program for its student athletes. Orders will be filled and delivered by the end of next week. For more information, contact Harwood Athletic Director Sue Duprat at duprats@harwood.org.

Flood-Hazard Area Regulations: Waterbury is in the process of adopting revised zoning regulations for properties located within the Flood Hazard Area. These regulations apply to all properties located in the National Flood Insurance Programs (NFIP) mapped 100-year floodplain. The program requires zoning permits for all building, repairs or improvements to these properties (including grading and paving and storage of equipment or materials) to ensure that new development is designed to minimize future flood loss. Town and village officials acknowledge that in some cases, work has already been done. However, they still encourage property owners to obtain after-the-fact permits if work has already begun or is completed. Having permits in place for flood repairs and rebuilding is key to the municipality's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program which lowers flood-insurance rates for homeowners. Property owners should contact Zoning Administrator Clare Rock (244-1018 or crock@waterburyvt.com) or Community Planner Steve Lotspeich (244-1012 or slotspeich@waterburyvt.com). The Planning and Zoning Department is located at the Main Street Fire Station.

MORE FROM ReBUILD WATERBURY

THANK YOU MYERS CONTAINER SERVICE! The trash-hauling operation based in South Burlington made a \$15,000 donation to ReBuild Waterbury this week. President Jeff Myers promised a donation once the company and the town cleared up a disagreement over the \$103,000 trash bill from containers used to collect flood debris immediately after the flood. That matter was settled last week.

THANK YOU MOVIE-GOERS! Many thanks to all who came out to watch *"The Summer of Walter Hacks"* at Thatcher Brook Primary School this past weekend. The two showings of the award-winning film by Waterbury's own farmer/filmmaker George Woodard raised \$1,630 for RBW. It will help buy building materials for home reconstruction projects and it counts towards the \$10,000 in individual contributions that Heritage Automotive will match for RBW.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SURVEYS: RBW Construction Manager Dave Kerr is canvassing flooded neighborhoods to check in at every household affected by flooding damage. He hopes to find out what homeowners need and let them know about how RBW can help those still rebuilding. He may have some volunteer helpers along to go faster. Watch for them!

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER WORK DAY: Volunteer crews head out to help homeowners with rebuilding projects on Saturday, meeting at St. Leo's Hall at 9 a.m. If your project needs help, call 839-6000 and leave a detailed message. Volunteers, please call organizers as well. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are welcome, especially those who can handle sheetrock and mud, and cleaners.

DISCOUNTED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Through RBW, local retailers will discount building materials for those doing flood repairs. Before you shop and buy, contact RBW Construction Manager Dave Kerr for individual store details, 839-6000 or dave.rebuildwaterbury@gmail.com.

Seen "Rebuilding Waterbury" yet? Produced by Mount Mansfield Media with support from Heritage Automotive Group, in So. Burlington, the 14-minute film highlights Tropical Storm Irene's impact on the Waterbury area and the ongoing recovery. The car dealer also will match the first \$10,000 in individual donations to RBW made since the launch of the clip. Watch it on www.rebuildwaterbury.org (revamped with help from MMM also). "Like" RBW on Facebook to keep up on the latest info.