



Waterbury Flood-Relief Update Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

GOT CHRISTMAS?

RICE H.S. ELVES ARRIVE SATURDAY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

Students and staff at Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington decided this fall to help local families who lost their Christmas decorations to Tropical Storm Irene. They have collected hundreds of decorations, thousands of ornaments, and “zillions” of lights, according to organizer Susan O’Brien. The Rice crew will set up their donations at St. Leo’s Hall Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have ornaments, lights, decorations, some artificial trees, wrapping paper, tape, scissors, stockings, tree skirts, garland, etc. and bags to pack it all in. All Christmas supplies will be free to families and individuals who were affected by the flood. There also will be a table to trim artificial wreaths and plain sugar cookies for the kids to decorate. Staff from ReBuild Waterbury will be on hand to help. O’Brien said all donations have been sorted and checked (including all light sets) to be sure everything is in good condition. No additional donations will be accepted on Saturday. Come to this fun event and leave with loads of Christmas supplies! For more information, contact O’Brien 578-8132, sobrien@rmhsvt.org; Mame McKee at ReBuild Waterbury, 456-0066, mame.rebuildwaterbury@gmail.com.

ReBuild Waterbury Needs the following:

1. **A volunteer office manager** with good organizational skills, people skills and computer skills to work closely with the Volunteer Coordinator. The office manager will be responsible for scheduling general office volunteers to answer phones, make copies, file, enter data. Up-front time commitment to develop a system would 10 hours a week, afterward approximately 4 hrs. per week. Availability by phone and email essential. Duration of position is 3 to 18 months. A three-month commitment is requested. For more details, contact Volunteer Coordinator Mame McKee, 456-0066, or mame.rebuildwaterbury@gmail.com.
2. **Volunteer skilled trades people** such as carpenters, plumbers, electricians, willing to put in some pro bono time this winter helping with reconstruction projects in flood-damaged homes. Contact Construction Manager Dave Kerr, 456-0076 or dave.rebuildwaterbury@gmail.com.
3. **Have a button-making machine?** Call 839-6000 or email Mame McKee.
4. **Is there a community group** interested in coordinating a distribution effort for donated household goods (not clothing) to flood-affected families and individuals? RBW is seeing a need for such but would need a partner group.

DISCOUNTED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: ReBuild Waterbury is working with local retailers to obtain discounts on building materials and supplies for those working on repairing and rebuilding after flood damage. Shop at Allen Lumber Co., Planet Hardwood, Waterbury True Value Hardware and Aubuchon Hardware stores. Before you buy, contact RBW Construction Manager Dave Kerr at 456-0076 or dave.rebuildwaterbury@gmail.com for details.

WATERBURY KICKS OFF LONG-TERM RECOVERY PLANNING

Last week, approximately 80 local residents and more than a dozen representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Administration began the process of planning for Waterbury's long-term flood recovery. Waterbury, along with Wilmington and Dover, has been chosen by FEMA to receive special assistance for long-term recovery planning. The goal is through a series of community meetings to identify the highest-priority projects for Waterbury. FEMA officials will help review these priorities with an eye toward matching them with funding sources. Brainstorming has begun on needs and ideas in the following six areas: housing, social needs, economic development, natural and cultural resources, municipal planning capacity, and infrastructure. Participants at the first meeting were encouraged to think big and long-term. The next community meeting is Thursday, December 15, at the Thatcher Brook Primary School gymnasium, with refreshments at 6:45 PM and meeting at 7 PM. Local officials are hoping for a large gathering to capture many ideas. Anyone needing special accommodations for the meeting may call FEMA's Kate McCarthy-Barnett at 617-816-6351 or email at kate.mccarthybarnett@dhs.gov. For more information about the long-term community recovery planning process, or to provide input, contact Selectboard Chair and state Rep. Rebecca Ellis at ellisvermont@yahoo.com or 839-0515.

RECYCLING RAISES \$8,000 for FLOODED FARMERS: VPIRG's Redeem to Rebuild bottle drive raised \$8,000 for the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund. Vermonters donated nearly 130,000 redeemable bottles and cans to the effort. VPIRG last week announced the drive's success at Depot Beverage in Waterbury, one of the participating redemption centers. Visit www.vpirg.org to see the video clip.

SIGN UP FOR HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES: The Waterbury Food Shelf is preparing holiday food boxes with all the fixings for a feast: turkey, stuffing, gravy, pie, fresh fruits, veggies and more. Sign up at the food shelf, 57 S. Main St., or call 244-1561. Leave a name, number of family members, and contact number. Hours: 10-noon Mondays and Fridays, Wednesday 2-6 p.m. If you cannot make those times, call director Cara Griswold for an appointment, 999-7014.

STILL NOT SETTLED WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS? The state of Vermont has a toll-free hotline offering advice and answers to questions involving insurance claims resulting from storm damage. The Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities & Health Administration (BISHCA) has staff to assist individuals with problems encountered getting assistance. BISHCA has received about 160 requests for information since the storm hit in late September. Contact Brenda Clark, Consumer Services Administrator, Vermont Insurance Department, 828-4886 / 828-1446 (fax) / 800 964-1784 (toll free in Vermont) or brenda.clark@state.vt.us.