

## Waterbury Flood Relief Weekend Update 10/14/2011

News from the Waterbury Flood-Relief Effort at the Main Street Fire Station and Municipal Office,  
temporarily at Thatcher Brook Primary School

**NEW HOURS AT THE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER:** Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration have scaled back hours to 9-5 Monday-Saturday. Closed Sundays. FEMA representatives can register those who had flood damage, answer questions, review claims and update information, particularly regarding housing. Deadline to register is Oct. 31. Or call FEMA: 800-621-3362. SBA staff can help with loan applications for homeowners, businesses and renters.

Some reminders from FEMA:

- FEMA's assistance for home repairs comes in grants, which do not have to be paid back. Paperwork to register is not excessive. FEMA staff in person or by phone can help with applications.
- When in doubt, register. Even if damage was minor, you could be eligible for assistance.
- If you have not heard from your insurance carrier yet, you still should register with FEMA by Oct. 31 to be eligible for benefits when that gets sorted out.
- There is no income limit for FEMA assistance. It is not taxable income and it does not affect benefits from other federal programs (Social Security, food stamps, etc.).
- If you are denied benefits, be sure to check in with FEMA to understand why. Oftentimes a simple error or omission in an application can result in a denial and fixing it could make a difference. You have 60 days to appeal a rejection.
- If your housing situation has changed and you still need temporary housing, update your status with FEMA to be eligible for assistance with rent and to help find a new home.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration provides low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes, as well as private non-profit organizations with property damaged by the disaster and expenses due to the disaster. If you are referred to SBA after you register with FEMA, you should fill out the paperwork to see whether the SBA can offer you a loan. If you do not qualify for an SBA loan, you may be eligible for additional FEMA grant money. However, if you do not fill out an SBA packet, it may close the door to other FEMA grants. For more information, call 800-659-2955, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or see SBA staff at the Main Street Fire Station.

**SATURDAY VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS CONTINUE:** Volunteer help for Waterbury-Duxbury homeowners continues Saturday. Homeowners are asked to call the Flood Relief Hotline 802-839-6000 or stop by the Main Street Fire Station local help desk to request help with specific projects. Organizers hope for 30-50 volunteers to form work teams. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in groups. Call 839-6000 or email Belle McDougall to volunteer [btmcdougall@gmail.com](mailto:btmcdougall@gmail.com). Meeting place: St. Leo's Hall, 109 S. Main St., 9-4. Lunch provided.

**FOOD SHELF HOURS:** Monday and Friday 10-noon; Wednesday 3-5 p.m. In case of emergency or if you cannot make it during those hours, call director Cara Griswold 802-999-7014 to arrange a time to visit. The Food Shelf is still well-stocked. Monetary donations are most appreciated now. They cannot accept more food donations.

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency** will have staff at the Disaster Recovery Center at the Fire Station Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-5 starting next week. The agency has a number of loan and grant programs for homeowners and businesses to help with repairs and reconstruction after a disaster. Stop by to find out more.

**REBUILD WATERBURY POSITIONS:** ReBuild Waterbury, the long-term flood-recovery group formed to oversee reconstruction to help local residents return to their homes, is interviewing candidates for three jobs. The team will work over the next year or so to focus on damaged homes to help with rebuilding projects, particularly where project costs exceed homeowners' resources. The Case Manager will work with local residents to figure out where construction help is needed. The Construction Manager will help plan the projects, get materials and oversee the jobs. The Volunteer Manager will organize volunteers to get the work done. Send inquiries as soon as possible to ReBuild Waterbury, P.O. Box 633, Waterbury, 05676 or to [rebuildwaterburyjobs@gmail.com](mailto:rebuildwaterburyjobs@gmail.com). *ReBuild Waterbury is a project of Revitalizing Waterbury.*

**REPLACING APPLIANCES?** The local help desk at the Fire Station has information on how to acquire free or inexpensive household appliances and building supplies through the Resource ReLief Voucher Program at the ReStore in Burlington and Barre. Vouchers are available to help purchase washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, furniture, and other basic household essentials. For those who have suffered structural damage, vouchers are available for building materials through the company's ReBuild operations in Burlington and Barre. These include lumber, doors, flooring (if available), and water heaters (if available). Ask at the help desk, the flood relief hotline or visit/call the ReStore in Barre, 28 Granite Street, 802-477-7800 ext. 20.

**CRISIS COUNSELING AVAILABLE:** The Vermont Department of Mental Health is offering crisis counseling and emotional support to Vermonters affected by recent flooding, thanks to a grant from FEMA. Call toll-free 855-767-8800 to access 'Starting Over Strong' (SOS) services. SOS can help communities, families and individuals of any age recover from the emotional stress after the flood. SOS aims to help people cope with their current situation and experiences from the flood, review disaster recovery options, and find healthy ways to deal with loss and stress. The department hopes to run the program through July 2012. <http://healthvermont.gov>.

**DISTRIBUTION CENTER on Rt. 100:** Still has lots of gently used winter clothing, outerwear, shoes and household items like linens, towels, etc. Stop by to replace items lost in the flood. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9-noon and 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9-noon.

**BOTTLE DRIVE TO HELP VERMONT'S FARMS:** *Redeem to Rebuild* is a statewide bottle drive to support Vermont farms that suffered losses from Tropical Storm Irene. All donations will benefit the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund established by the Vermont Community Foundation with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to provide grants to farms. The drive runs through Nov. 16. Bring returnables to Waterbury's Depot Beverage. Info. at [www.vpirg.org](http://www.vpirg.org).

**COLLECTING FLOOD STORIES:** A group of volunteers are asking Waterbury-Duxbury residents to share their flood experiences for a book illustrated with photos by local photographer Gordon Miller. Proceeds will go to ReBuild Waterbury. Stories by adults and children are welcome. Keep them short (400 words or fewer). Don't worry about editing. Deadline Oct. 20. Send to [floodstories@clifonline.org](mailto:floodstories@clifonline.org). For information, contact Duncan McDougall at [duncan@clifonline.org](mailto:duncan@clifonline.org).

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE COOL SHIRTS** the Waterbury Fire Department made for flood relief? They've already sold about 300 of the deep-orange shirts with the "Our Community" message. You can find them around town including K.C. Bagels, Sweet Tooth's, Maxi's and the GMCR Outlet store. \$10 each. All proceeds go to the Good Neighbor Fund. Youth and adult sizes available. Call Sally Dillon for more information, 802-498-3761.