

## Neighborly News #3

*Summarizing county, city and community updates in support of Tubbs fire Recovery*

Neighborhood Liaisons, including county Block Captains (BC) and interested residents offer periodic information from civic and other sources of interest.

Highlights of 2/28/19 BC meeting (click for [full meeting notes](#)) Jesse Oswald, the City's Chief Building Official and Bob Oller, a Quality Control Associate with the City were informational speakers.

1. Oswald and Oller provided **rebuild stats and updates**, including the fact that out of ~1500 homes lost in the Fountaingrove and Hidden Valley areas, only 350 are officially in the rebuild status – where permits have been issued and first inspections scheduled.
2. **Contractor and labor issues**
  - There is speculation that **1,000 rebuilds is the current tipping point** for what available labor can handle.
  - Important fact – legally, contractors “own” the permit once it is pull. If a homeowner wants to change contractors, there is a **process to legally change contractors**. If a permit is still under review, best to put it on hold and change the contractor information on the permit vs. possibly being held hostage if the permit is issued to the out-of-favor contractor.
3. Oller reported that the agenda item dealing with the **noise and safety issues**, extending construction time for critical items will be in front of the City Council in April.
4. Underground work by the **utility** companies has been mostly completed.
5. **Streets** are being monitored for indentation due to construction activity.
6. **Santa Rosa City tree removal** in the **planter strips and on public land** where they have potential to become a hazard will begin in April.
7. Neighbors must work together on **drainage issues** to determine the integrity of a drainage system when properties are present upstream and downstream from one another.
8. There are many different rules regarding the size, location, and construction of **fences**. The Rebuilding Documents on the City website have details.
9. **Insurance Issues** - Reportedly many people who have not yet begun to rebuild are being excessively **questioned by insurance providers** who do not seem aware of the many different factors holding up a rebuild. Oswald to assemble an informational document that may be useful when dealing with those providers.
10. Will Abrams, a D1 block captain and a participant in our D3 meetings has become a party to the motion before the Public Utilities Commission – **Order Instituting Rulemaking to Implement Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans Pursuant to Senate Bill 901 (2018)** and has offered to share the documentation.
11. Supervisors Zane and Gorin's Sacramento meeting with **California Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara** was productive. Lara agreed to a **meeting in Santa Rosa** with the fire survivors who will provide details on insurance issues that impacted rebuilding efforts.
12. **Free Seminars**
  - **3-9-19 Free Financial Planning for Fire Survivors** – Certified Financial Planner® (“CFP”) volunteers and the Financial Planning Association of San Francisco Pro Bono Committee offer free financial planning sessions for fire survivors. These one-hour sessions are not sales pitches. If there is enough interest, they may schedule more.
  - **3-28-19 & 4-6-19 Landscape Template Series** – Save your spot for Part 1 Overview of the Landscape templates (learn what you need to bring to Part 2), and Part 2 Hands-On Breakout Session.

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### 13. Upcoming BC (District 3) Speakers – submit questions to your BC

March 14	Linda King, UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County	Landscape hardening
March 28	Speaker Open/Gabe	
April 11	Chris Godley – Director, Emergency Mgt. Division (or Staff)	Q1 update on priority projects under EMD purview
April 25	Mike Gossman – Deputy County Administrator, Office of Recovery & Resiliency	Q1 update on 2 of 10 priority projects (insurance/utilities-hardening infrastructure)