

# Update on Flood Recovery

Nicolas Storrellicastro

City Manager

August 8, 2023

# Public Property & Streets Damage

- Work on **City buildings** is ongoing.
  - Demolition and treatment of City Hall and Public Safety has been completed. Next step is a bid on renovations and repairs.
  - Wheelock basement has been cleared and is being treated. Preservation Trust of Vermont toured the building last week and there may be funding assistance for repairs.
- **North Main Street** has been rehabilitated.
  - Repaving began last week and stretched into this week due to the weather.
- **W Patterson Street** between Ayers Street and Orange Street is closed indefinitely.
  - Will evaluate pedestrian access before the start of the school year.
- **Pike Street** between Howard Street and George Street is closed indefinitely.
  - Landslide concerns remain, experts engaged.
- **Berlin Street** from Smith to N. Main (including the bridge) is closed indefinitely until safety assessments of the bridge can be conducted.
- There remain streets in need of flood-related damage, such as Cliff Street and Washington Street.
  - In order to comply with FEMA reimbursement requirements, the City will re-bid paving for flood-related damage.



# Flood-Related Debris pick-up

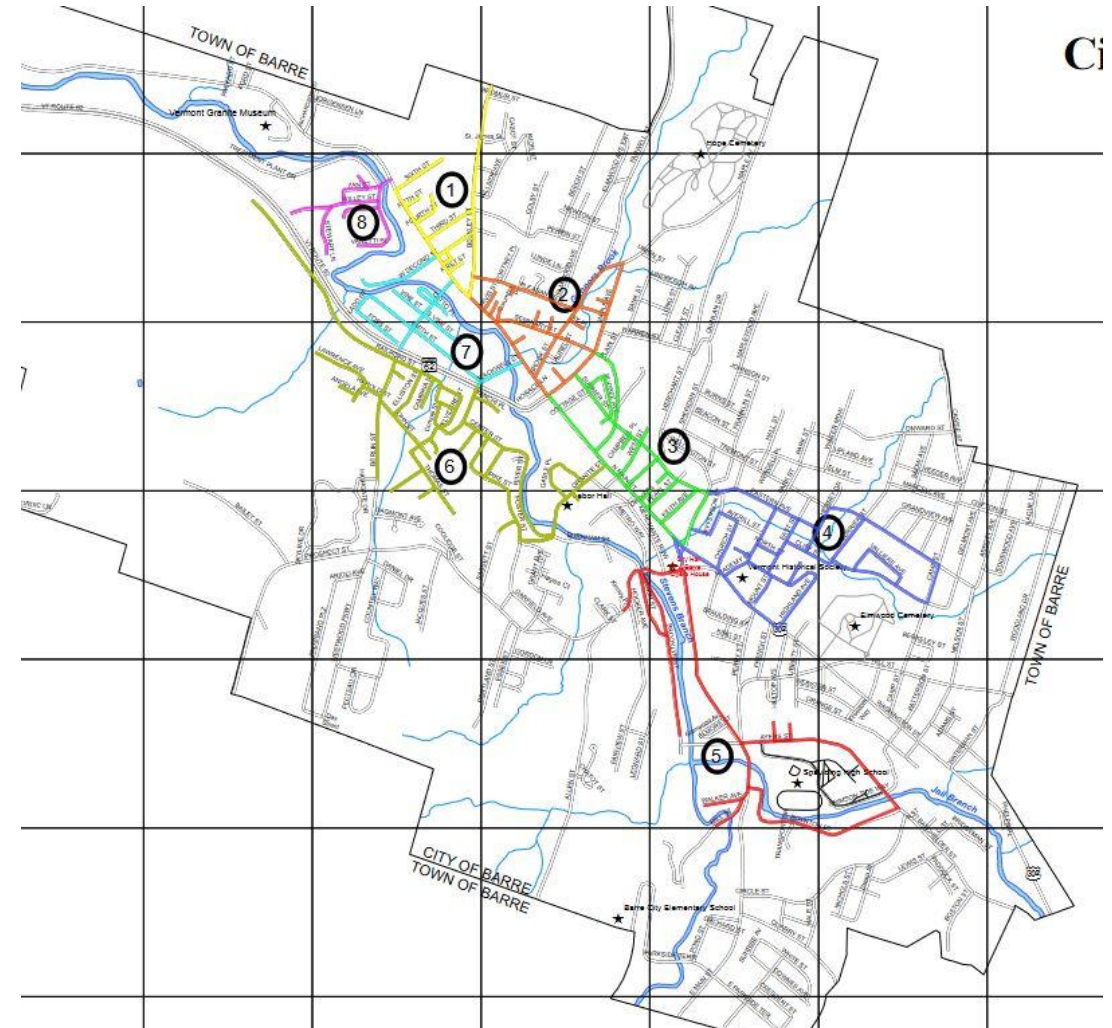
- On 7/25, the City transitioned from private haulers to the State's contractor for **flood-related debris pick-up**
  - Contractors prioritized the hardest hit 8 zones designated by the City for initial passes
  - The FEMA authorized pass for **commercial debris ended Friday, August 4**. Moving forward, **commercial debris must be removed by the owner**
  - **A 2<sup>nd</sup> residential pass started Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** and is expected to wrap up Friday, August 11
    - A 3<sup>rd</sup> residential pass, if necessary, will begin Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

In order to be picked up by the State's contractor, **flood-related debris** must be placed on the edge of your property.

**X** on the sidewalk

**X** on the street

**✓** on the edge of your property where the hauler can reach it



# Household hazardous waste drop-off at the Aud

- Barre residents can drop off flood-related household hazardous waste at the Auditorium.
  - ✓ Fuels (flammables and thinners)
  - ✓ Propane
  - ✓ Bleach
  - ✓ Acids
  - ✓ Caustics (bases)
  - ✓ Aerosols (spray cans)
  - ✓ Paints (non-aerosol)
- The site will be open for about **2 weeks**.
- If residents cannot physically drop-off materials, sort them on the corner of your property (NOT on City streets or sidewalks) and volunteers will be doing collections.



# Landslide risks

- Landslides are an ongoing concern.
  - ~**20 identified landslides** since the flood, 4 directly impacting structures
  - The City has reported these to our insurance, and we do not believe they will be covered
- There is not much legal precedent or statute in Vermont to provide a clear path forward.
  - Generally speaking, the City could expect some immunity, but the overall legal landscape remains unclear.
- City representatives visited the highest priority landslides last week with representatives from FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, State DEC, and experts from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- Contract pending with a geotechnical specialist.
- **Next step:** Receive expert assessments and mitigation plans for the impacted areas most at risk.



# Assessments of damage to residential homes

- Upwards of **110 properties significantly damaged** (or destroyed) by the flooding, primarily centered in the North End.
- FEMA Substantial Damage Determinations still being processed
  - City staff were accompanied by State Agency of Natural Resources staff as well as Florida experts to conduct surveys.
  - Results from those visits are still pending and not yet returned to the City.
- Permits applications are starting to come in.
  - In addition to other required permits, residents doing **ANY** kind of repair work **MUST** get a flood hazard permit if the property is in the floodplain.
  - The Council has waived the fees for these permits, but residents must still go through the application process.
    - 1 flood hazard permit has been issued that is related to the July 2023 flood
    - Multiple applications are pending, as all flood hazard applications must be reviewed by the State floodplain manager prior to being issued by the City



# Renters and FEMA

- Renters in Washington County can apply for FEMA assistance.
- Eligible expenses:
  - Temporary housing
  - Replacement or repair of personal property
  - Replacement or repair of tools
  - Uninsured or out-of-pocket medical, dental, childcare, moving and storage expenses.
- Renters with concerns should report complaints to Code Enforcement:  
<https://www.barrecity.org/complaint-form.html>

~91 residences remain Yellow tagged (electrical, heating)

~15 residences remain Red tagged (landslides, structural)



# Red Cross Shelter closed as of 8/4, on “stand-by”

- **Total days of operation:** 25 days (July 10 - August 4th)
- **Total # of shelter residents:** 247 people in 184 households
  - Estimated 96% from Washington County
- **Highest overnight population:** 215
  - During the evacuation of Barre, more than 400 individuals took immediate refuge in the Auditorium. When the Red Cross completed all electronic registrations on 7/11, 215 individuals had checked into the shelter.
- **Estimated Red Cross volunteer hours:** 4,836
- **Number of Meals served at the Auditorium:** 2,830
  - An additional 2,538 were served elsewhere in Barre
- **Number of Snacks served at the Auditorium:** 3,597
  - An additional 1,531 were served elsewhere in Barre

The CVDART animal shelter also closed on 8/4.

Total # of pets cared for: 41

- 34 cats
- 5 dogs
- 1 “small animal”



# Relief Organizations and FEMA Presence

- Red Cross and Salvation Army are no longer staged at the Auditorium.
  - **Salvation Army remains active locally** and assisting residents
- Southern Baptist Relief remains staged at the Auditorium.
  - Water, food, mold remediation, muck outs.
- Daily coordination meeting with relief groups and recovery stakeholders, including Barre Interfaith Group and BADC.
- The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center remains activated at the Auditorium in the basement
  - Open 7 days a week 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

# Volunteer opportunities

- Volunteers have been deployed around the City to help with debris removal, canvassing and assisting with muck outs.
- City hired a part-time volunteer coordinator (Adam Jacobs) to help manage volunteers.
  - Receive requests for assistance
  - Match and deploy qualified volunteers to tasks
  - Track hours for FEMA in-kind match
- Daily weekday volunteer hub at City Hall Park (11:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- Saturday volunteer hub at Aldrich Library (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
- We appreciate the people who have stepped up to help Barre recover.

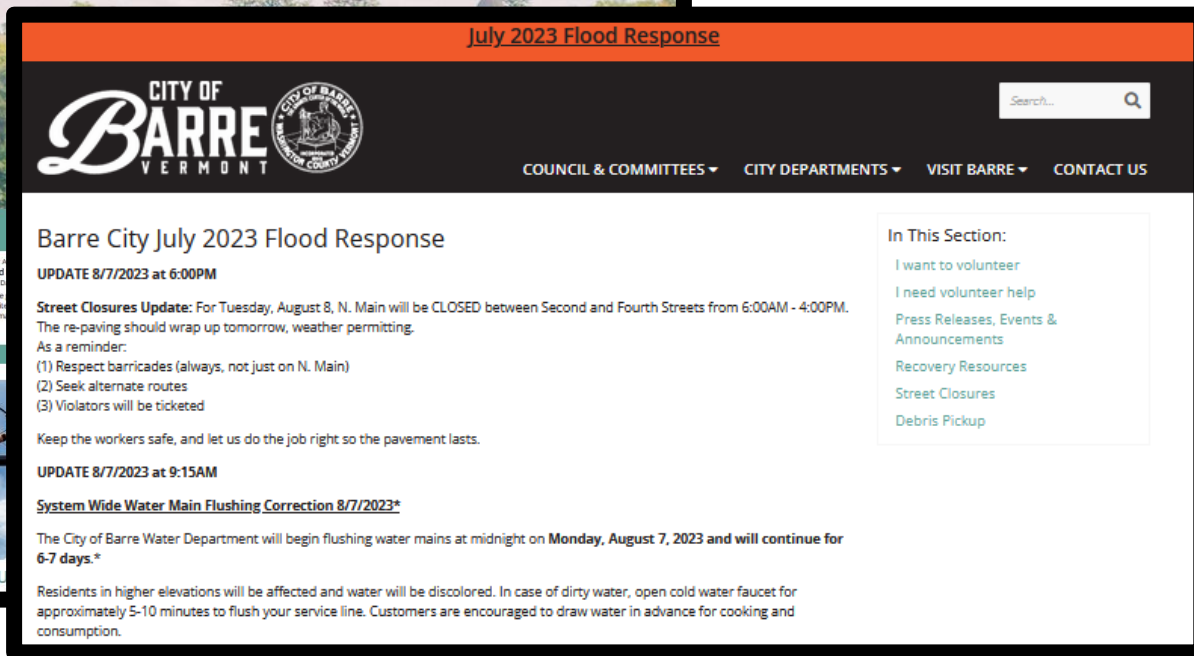
# Relief for homeowners

- The City Council has taken several actions to provide relief to residents facing substantial flood damage:
  - Abatement of water/sewer bills
  - Waiver of building and flood hazard permit fees
- In addition to specific relief for impacted residents, parking meter enforcement has been suspended and property tax abatements will be forthcoming for impacted taxpayers.
- Additional relief measures to consider:
  - ***Move to suspend electrical permit fees for residents making flood-related repairs with the waiver period ending upon two weeks' notice from the City Manager, and authorize the City to refund any such fees paid since the July 10, 2023 flooding event.***

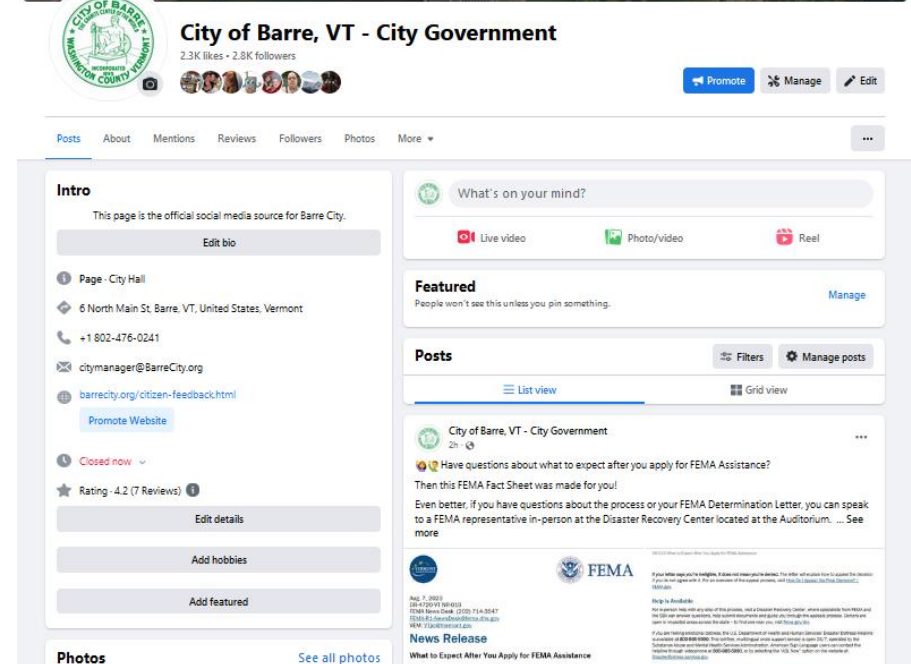
# How to stay informed?

[www.barrecity.org](http://www.barrecity.org)

Click "July 2023 Flood Response" Banner



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Thank you  
Questions?