



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Town of Paradise Weekly Recovery Update

Meetings:

Tues. May 12th, 6 pm

Paradise Town Council Meeting

Virtual - <https://livestream.com/townofparadise>

Updates and Statistics:

Building Updates:

954 Building Permit Applications Received

782 Building Permits issued

138 Homes Rebuilt (certificate of occupancy issued)

Some Good News

How Exciting! Paradise Animal Control & Shelter has adopted out every animal at the shelter! Thank you to our hard-working Animal Control Officers, Shelter Staff and PASH! And thank you to our residents who stepped up to adopt all these deserving animals.

Weekly Spotlight

The May Community Information Meeting was held virtually via the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages. We heard updates from the Fire Department and Paradise PD. The Paradise Police Department reported their staffing is up! The Police Department has hired several new officers recently and is well equipped to handle the issues facing

our Town as we recover. The Fire Department also reminded residents to keep their lots clear of weeds as fire season is around the corner. Inspectors will be notifying residents who need to clear their property. You can let us know if you see a property that needs to be inspected through TOP Access [here](#). To find a local company to remove weeds, visit the Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce website [here](#).

What's new:

- On Wed. May 13th there will be a **new traffic signal in operation at Skyway and Black Olive Dr.** This project was funded by a grant in 2016 but was delayed by the Camp Fire.
- **Katie Simmons, the Town's new Disaster Recovery Director joins our team on Monday May 11th.** Katie will be working closely with FEMA, Cal OES, Town staff and residents to coordinate our recovery projects.
- **The 2020 Census is going on now.** If you haven't already, visit 2020census.gov to complete your census information online.
- **Butte County will set up a program to provide additional disaster case managers for Camp Fire survivors still seeking help navigating a complex recovery following the Board of Supervisors' approval of \$2.5 million in governmental and philanthropic grants.** With the grants, the Department of Employment and Social Services will bring in 57 three-quarters-time AmeriCorps volunteers to aid at least 1,400 individuals. Disaster case managers help connect survivors with resources like housing, transportation, employment and food and essentials.

Shelby Boston, the director of the Department of Employment and Social Services, said that the county is currently in the planning phase for the program. Recruitment will begin in a few weeks. The goal is to finish hiring and start serving people in June, which was the original target. The grants will support the program for a year.

- **The Paradise Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a \$135 million master facilities update.** The two-phased update includes:
 - The renovation of Paradise High School.
 - The construction of Ridgeview High School right across from the senior/junior high school on Maxwell Drive.
 - Improvements to Cedarwood Elementary, Pine Ridge School, Ponderosa Elementary, and at the Paradise Intermediate School, which is currently the Paradise Ridge Elementary school site.
 - A rebuild of the maintenance and operation site on Pearson Road.

- **The Paradise Recreation and Park District board approved an agreement to lease the Paradise Lake facilities from the Paradise Irrigation District.** PRPD says it will offer classes on kayaking, guided hikes, fishing, camps, art, and other programs, once the Coronavirus restrictions are relaxed. PRPD District Manager Dan Efseaff said “Adding recreation opportunities at Paradise Lake to the PRPD suite of properties and recreation opportunities aligns with our vision of becoming a destination recreation district.”
- **Camp Fire Shed Project:** Members of Paradise Adventist Church will partner with Maranatha Volunteers International to build and deliver 400 high-quality, secure storage sheds to selected recipients who live throughout the Camp Fire burn scar. The project directly benefits people who lost their homes, are living in RVs and who intend to rebuild.
- **Adventist Health announced it has launched its on-demand virtual services, allowing doctors to meet with patients remotely.** These virtual visits will allow for health workers and their patients to keep that safe distance but still receive the care they need. Providers will use the visits to screen for coronavirus cases, handle routine visits and the chronically ill, all while calming nerves of having to come into a clinic during the pandemic. To participate in a virtual visit, a patient just needs a smartphone, tablet or computer with a working camera and microphone. The doctor will send an email with a link for the scheduled visit and patients will just view the link and log on. Adventist Health said they are reaching out to patients to reschedule appointments as virtual visits, if possible. If you have a scheduled in-person appointment and would like it to be virtual, you can make that change by calling your office.
- **Do you need financial help to rebuild or repair your standing home?** Currently, there is \$2.3 million in local, state, and federal funds available to assist eligible households, who were under-insured or not insured, with their housing reconstruction and repairs. These funds are offered as deferred loans. They can be applied towards a variety of housing rehabilitation needs, including reconstruction of a home damaged or destroyed by the Camp Fire, correcting unsafe or unsanitary conditions, eliminating code violation, and weatherization and repairs to ensure handicap accessibility when combined with other repairs. For more information **please reach out to our Rebuild Advocates at 530-872-6291 ext. 411 to speak with someone directly.** At this time, we are only taking over the phone appointments until further notice.
- During this time of social distancing, we still want to **show love to our local businesses that are being flexible to stay open and support our**

community. For the most up-to-date list of open businesses please visit <http://www.paradisechamber.com/>.

- **Housing Urgency Ordinance:** After the fire, Paradise Town Council passed an urgency ordinance which allowed displaced residents to temporarily live on their property in an RV. This urgency ordinance expires on December 31, 2020. That means starting January 1, 2021, you must have an active building permit to live on your property in an RV.
- **Many private roads in the Camp Fire area are eligible for public assistance funding to remove Hazardous Trees through the State Hazard Tree Removal Program.** The Paradise Town Council and the Butte County Board of Supervisors **passed ordinances requiring the removal of hazard trees damaged by the Camp Fire from private property that may fall into public roadways.** Property owners may enter the Government Tree Program to have the trees removed by the State at **no out-of-pocket cost.** Enrollment in the Government Tree Program requires a Right-of Entry form. Property owners may also identify and remove hazard trees themselves but must submit an inspection form so an inspector may verify the removal of the hazard trees from the property. Property owners may also call the Tree ROE Center directly at (530) 552-3030 or submit Tree ROEs by email at TreeROE@buttecounty.net. The Tree ROE is available for download online at www.ButteCountyRecovers.org/treeremoval.

Recovery FAQ

Q: What is the best way to find properties that are available for purchase in Paradise?

A: Paradise has always been a great place to live, and now Paradise residents are true pioneers, rebuilding our community from the ground up. The best way to find properties for sale is to contact a local realtor. Visit the Paradise Association of Realtors website for more information: <https://paradiserealtors.com/>

Q: When will the Town get a siren for emergencies?

A: The Town of Paradise has applied for Hazard Mitigation funding through FEMA for an early warning system, including a siren or other audible notification system. Once those funds are awarded, the early warning system will be designed and installed in Town.