



### **NEWS RELEASE October 23, 2013**

#### **City and Partners Extend Shelter for Displaced Residents**

The City of Santa Maria is pleased to announce it will extend use of its Minami Community Center for a Red Cross shelter to November 1<sup>st</sup>, for those persons displaced by the October 12<sup>th</sup> fire at the Town Center Inn, to provide them with additional transition time to obtain long-term sustainable housing arrangements. Many should be able to return to their former residences at the Inn by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Red Cross will continue to provide short-term shelter operations at the City-owned facility. Santa Barbara County will continue to provide ongoing social services and case management services for each of the clients. The City continues to work with the Red Cross and Good Samaritan personnel to assist in shelter operation.

Additionally, the City's Fire Department and building division are working closely with the owner of the fire-damaged building to facilitate repairs as soon as possible, so that some units in the north wing can be reoccupied by some of the displaced residents as soon as next week.

Displaced residents have been staying at the Red Cross-operated shelter at the Minami Community Center since the fire. The City closed and relocated several recreation programs operating from that building in order to provide shelter accommodations.

To assist those displaced, the public is encouraged to make financial donations to either the American Red Cross "Disaster Relief, Santa Maria Fire" fund, or to the Good Samaritan Shelter in Santa Maria.

The early morning fire caused more than \$1.4 million in damages. During the fire, people attempting to escape the flames and smoke were hanging out of windows and were rescued by firefighters and police officers. Seven residents were taken to hospitals for smoke inhalation and minor injuries, and were treated and released.

Questions may be directed to the City Manager's Office, 925-0951 ext. 372.

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