

14,000 homes on the Ridge. Through their collaborative efforts, they've been able to find homes for about 100 households, Peacocke said, and work with local governments to provide section 8 housing vouchers specifically for fire survivors. This year, they have a goal of helping 10 to 20 households rebuild through a volunteer home-building program, similar to Habitat for Humanity.

Another important part of the recovery has been their disaster recovery case work, Peacocke added. Data they have collected has helped the community get a better handle on the impacts of the fire and compete for grants, one of which helped them open an ROC resource center.

Peacocke emphasized that the recovery really is long, perhaps much more so than folks anticipate. They're still measuring the impacts to their community one year later, and in that same time frame, less than 1 percent of the homes that had been destroyed by the fire had been rebuilt and reoccupied.

Peacocke knows that doesn't sound very encouraging, but Butte County is off to a great start.

"Early on, one of the most comforting things to hear is, 'You're not alone. We're going to walk through this with you.' Without a commitment to long-term recovery ... some of the most vulnerable and, many times, anyone who was significantly impacted by the fires can feel isolated and alone and forgotten.

"There's [more] incredible stories of compassion and generosity that await your community, [that] I know are in your future, but the truth is it really takes a long time and it requires cooperation and collaboration together over the long haul," he said.

As for the Kerstons, they are determined to resettle in Paradise "in one way, shape or form," Chris said. They are passionate about the outdoors, spending much of their free time before the fire fishing and kayaking at Paradise Lake.

"Even though the homes and the forests are gone, so many things we love about the Ridge are still there," he said. "[Kelsey] said, 'I want to go back.' And that's where my heart was. Being a part of the rebuilding effort was a no-brainer."

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA
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Butte County Public Works
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Christmas Tree Recycling Programs 2019

Chico & Durham

Boy Scouts Troop 2

Pick up program: January 12th \$10-\$35 donation requested. Call 514-7108 to request pickup (Message phone) Leave name, address, ph. #. You can also request for a pickup online at: www.troop2chico.com and use PayPal to donate. You can mail your request to P.O. Box 7025 Chico, CA 95927. Have trees on curb by 8am. No flocked trees.

* Drop-off locations January 12th:

Our drop sites on Saturday January 12, 2019 will be from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the following locations:

- Hooker Oak Park, 1928 Manzanita Avenue
 - Oakway Park, 8th Avenue and Highway 32
 - Butte Bible Fellowship next to the Almond Plaza, 2255 Pillsbury Road
- Sign-up online at <http://www.troop2chico.com/christmas-tree-pickup>

Recology Butte Colusa Counties

Curbside: collection for current yard waste customers: Place trees next to yard waste containers on regular yard waste pick up day. Must be cut into 3 ft or smaller sections. Remove all tinsel and ornaments. No flocked trees.

Waste Management

Curbside: Cut trees into 3' lengths and place in yard waste containers for collection on regular yard waste day. Remove all tinsel & ornaments. No flocked trees.

Oroville & Thermalito

Recology Butte Colusa Counties

Contact 533-5868 for more info.

Curbside: curbside collection for current customers. Place trees next to yard waste containers on regular collection days. Must be cut into 3ft or smaller sections. Remove all tinsel & ornaments. No flocked trees.

Drop-off: Free drop-off at: 2720 South 5th Avenue. M-F 8am-4pm, Sat 8:30am-4pm. Remove all tinsel & ornaments. No flocked trees.

Gridley & Biggs

Waste Management

Call 846-0810 for more information

Curbside: Cut trees into 3' lengths and place in yard waste containers for collection on regular yard waste day. Remove all tinsel & ornaments. Biggs residents can drop trees off at the Biggs/BCFD station on B Street from December 26th to January 9th.



Happy New Year

www.RecycleButte.net

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