



Photos: Montclairites' Fundraiser followup for the Walnut/Valley fire victims



Supporters arrive at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.



Lola St. Jacques contemplates the goodies arrayed at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.



*Young and old filter through the rooms of the Commonwealth Club at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.*



*The crowd gathers in the room for the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.*



Randi Goodman bids on a 'treasure trove' of local live music at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.



James Pakhomov and Joe Colwell wait to perform as event organizer Melissa DiMarco makes an appeal to the audience at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in the follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an

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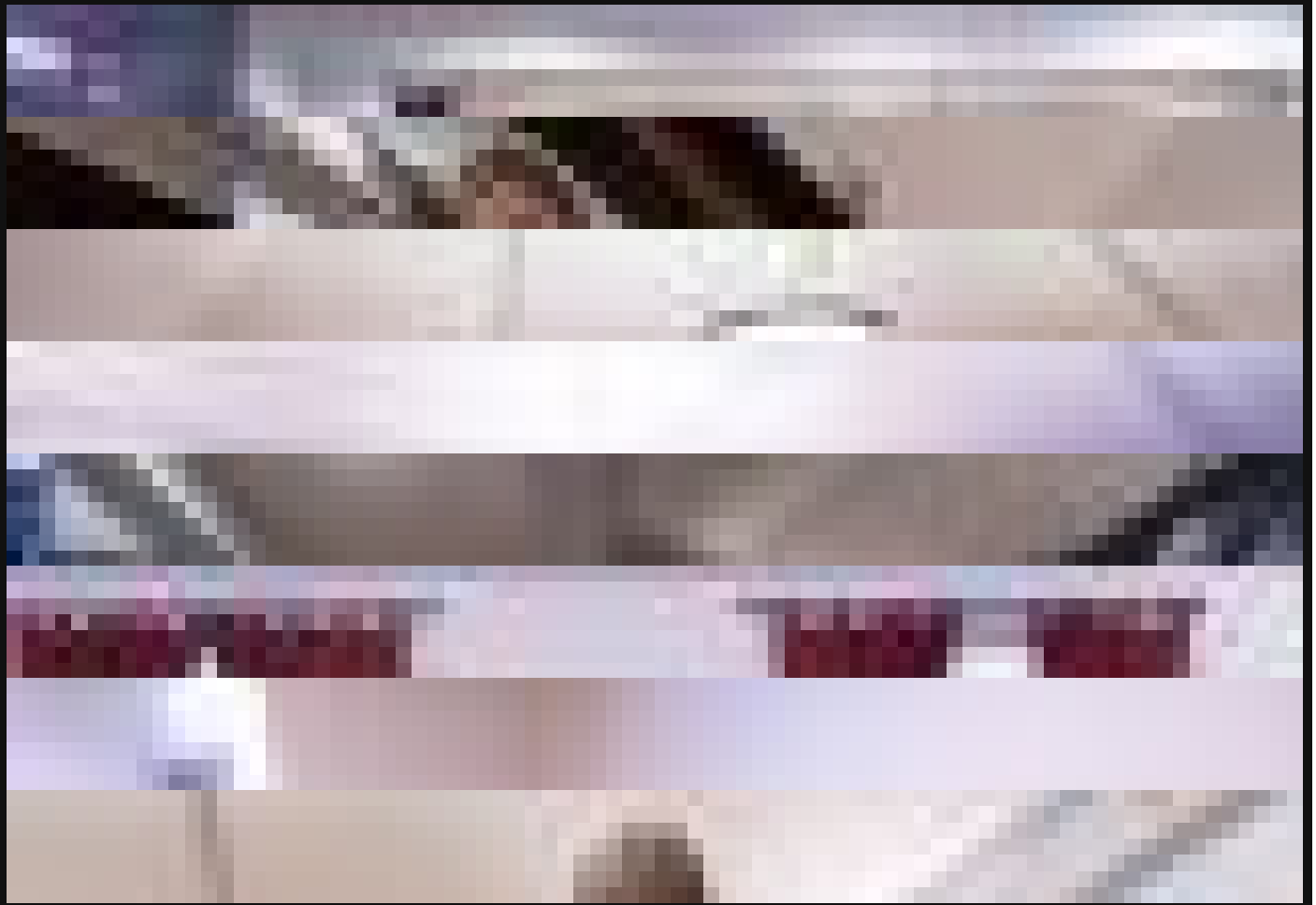


Good humor infuses the room at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an official report from authorities.



Josie Argentine sells her raffle tickets to Rich McMahon, right and John Anderson at the Where Are They Now? Walnut/Valley Fire Followup Fundraiser. Live music, hot food and drink, raffles, in a follow-up fundraiser Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the Walnut/Valley fire victims, in the Commonwealth Club, organized by Melissa DiMarco. The former residents are still without compensation pending an

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Organizer Melissa DiMarco writes on the announcement page, 'All proceeds go to tenants. Commonwealth feasting up some food free and in addition, a homemade BBQ station, including pulled pork, ribs, and brisket for sale. Kegs donated, live music from 5 live bands, raffles and auctions...'

"There are several reasons for a follow-up fundraiser. In the pursuit of being meaningful, transparent and purposeful according to the recovery timeline these are some of the reasons: Considering there were so many in the room and board house whatever we raise gets divided drastically. In addition, they have not been afforded yet the state recovery funding/reimbursement entitled to those suffering this type of tragedy as the fire report is still in the works. Please note, the tenants made just enough to pay minimal rent pre-fire even though most are hard-working members and contributors to town and society. Tenants are either elderly and retired living on pension alone or with medical conditions unable to contribute financially, or moved out of state with family hoping to make it back or still seeking long term housing. Rest (sic) are single, adult men trying to make ends meet and find a space to lay their heads at night in Montclair. Housing has not been found for all."