

Razing house, raising hope

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SPRING LAKE - Scott Carpenter, of Brick, was quite busy inside 47 South Blvd., Saturday morning, ripping out a set of wooden doors from the home.

But the homeowners, Shawn and Robbie Ellsworth, didn't seem to mind the racket. They donated their home to Coastal Habitat for Humanity for the day as part of the organization's demolition sales.

Demolition sales are held when homeowners choose to donate their house to Coastal Habitat for a day prior to demolition. The nonprofit organization, a local affiliate for Habitat for Humanity International, prices everything in the house that owners will leave behind. A one-day sale is conducted for the public.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, people were lined up with their tool boxes outside the Ellsworth home, ready to scoop up all sorts of bargains.

The list of items ran from brass arched windows, French doors, skylights, a sprinkler system, brand-new oak kitchen cabinets, a stone fireplace, architectural molding, kitchen and laundry appliances, and more.

Demolition Team Coordinator Adrienne Nittolo called the fundraising effort a "win-win-win" situation.

"It's less in the landfill; items are repurposed so they have a new life; and then the homeowners can get a tax deduction," said Nittolo, 61, of Wall.

All sale proceeds go to Coastal Habitat's general build fund—specifically to build new lots on the West Side of Asbury Park, said Maureen Mulligan, CHFH Executive Director.

"It's really neighbor helping neighbor," Mulligan said.

The project, Westside Redevelopment, is partnered with Affordable Housing Alliance and Interfaith Neighbors to build 28 affordable housing units in Asbury Park, according to the Coastal Habitat website.

Carpenter, 27, who bought a set of doors with the framing and molding for \$200, thought it was a great event for a good cause. Now, he's looking to volunteer with the nonprofit.

The Ellsworths, who have another home in Princeton, greeted those shopping through their home, which will be demolished this week.

Although the couple only owned the house for a few months, Robbie Ellsworth, 61, said it was "weird" to see people come and take it apart.

"We've talked about the fact that if we had lived here for 30 years ... I don't think we could come here today. But we don't really have an emotional attachment to it," she said.

"Habitat for Humanity is a great organization. It helps a lot of people," said Shawn Ellsworth.

During its demolition sales, Coastal Habitat sells a variety of items, such as floors, windows, doors, woodwork, appliances, electrical and plumbing fixtures, cabinets, decking, furnishings and more.

Those considering donating their home for the fund-raising effort or volunteering during a sale should call 732-974-2422 or email demosales@coastalhabitat.org.