

WEST LINN Ready

West Linn, let's get ready!

September is National Preparedness Month and you will be seeing a lot of messaging from the city this month on the importance of getting organized, having a plan and being prepared for a major emergency or disaster. This special edition of the city newsletter is dedicated to emergency preparedness. I hope you find this information not only useful, but that it also inspires you to take action.

With the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this month, there has been a lot of coverage of the real and significant impacts of disasters on our communities. Ten years later, these impacts continue for so many, and in some cases, life will simply never be the same.

For us in the Northwest, we may have damaging storms or significant fires, but the really big looming disaster for our region is the impending large earthquake – or what we geologists sometimes refer to as the mega-quake (approximately magnitude 9 earthquake or larger).

When the big quake strikes our region, 911 services as we know it will not be available. It's quite possible that you will need to take care of yourself and your family for several weeks or possibly even longer. Because of this, it's important that we as individuals (and families) learn how to prepare to take care of ourselves and to work together with our immediate neighbors to take care of each other.

Fortunately, we have some great programs and opportunities to help each of us get prepared with our neighbors – have you heard of the “Map Your Neighborhood” program – see our website at WestLinnOregon.gov/MapYourNeighborhood.

My wife and I recently took advantage of our annual neighborhood block party to kick off the Map Your Neighborhood program on our street. You can find more information on the program in Councilor Thomas Frank's column inside. This program offers one easy step to getting started and being prepared. I hope each and every one of you will do the same.

Please take the time to learn about our risks and then take the time to get prepared. It could save your life or your neighbor's.

— Mayor Russell Axelrod



WEST LINN, READY: Emergency Preparedness Fair

Learn:

- Hands-free CPR
- What's in Your Bucket?
- Water filtration
- Self-defense
- Map Your Neighborhood
- Business continuity



Speakers:

- Amy Wheeler - West Linn mom on how to prepare your house, yourself and your kids
- Gregg Swanson- 10 Myths About Disaster Preparedness

See:

- Big rigs from WLPD, TVF&R, Public Works

Make a plan. Build a kit.

Emergencies come in all sizes

As a former California emergency room nurse, I have firsthand experience with disasters that led to injuries and disruption in services. The one common factor they have is that they are all unexpected. We hear about predictions of a possible earthquake in the Oregon's future, but is this the only potential danger? We could face significant impacts from a downed tree taking out power lines, a disease outbreak, contamination of our water supply, or a wildfire. We never know what could happen and when. By definition, a disaster is a situation that overwhelms our emergency responders to the point where they cannot keep up with the demand. So, when a disaster strikes, we will need to rely on ourselves and our neighbors.

Though it may seem like doom and gloom, think of emergency preparedness as like buying fire insurance for your home. Hopefully your house will never burn down, but if it happens, you'll be thankful for the insurance. And, though I hope a disaster might never happen, being prepared will make all the difference if it does.

If we are organized, we can better take care of ourselves and each



other. Today, on behalf of the City of West Linn, I encourage you to make a plan and prepare for the unexpected.

This topic is so important to the city council, that this year we made emergency preparedness one of our goals – including expanding our Map Your Neighborhood to a citywide program and hosting an emergency preparedness fair. September

is National Preparedness Month so you will be seeing frequent messages from the city urging residents to make a plan, get organized, get prepared and practice.

—Councilor Brenda Perry

Why I promised to prepare

During this year's Old Time Fair, I stopped by the police department's booth and made the promise to prepare. According to FEMA, it takes up to three days on average for authorities to reach the general public after a natural disaster, leaving you and your family on your own to survive those 72 hours. If an earthquake struck right now – leaving us without gas, electricity or running water – could your family make it three days?



It may seem daunting to create an emergency plan and an emergency kit, but you can start small and go from there. You can start with a simple 5-gallon bucket. Filling it with the necessary supplies can cost less than \$30.

Here is where you can start:

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- Wrench and/or pliers to turn off utilities
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Dust mask
- Can opener
- Local maps
- Water

Place all these items in your bucket and then place your bucket somewhere safe and accessible, like your garage.

Other items you may want to add to your emergency kit as time goes on include: prescription medications, copies of important family documents, cash, sleeping bags or warm blankets, a change of clothing, bleach and a medicine dropper, fire extinguisher and matches.

Once you have your kit in place, all you need to do is periodically check expiration dates on your food and replace your water every six months.

—Councilor Jenni Tan

Map Your Neighborhood.

Protect your home and your family

Map Your Neighborhood is a volunteer-run program that helps neighborhoods prepare to care for each other when disaster strikes. The program helps us organize a timely response to disasters neighborhood by neighborhood.

The Map Your Neighborhood program outlines a nine-step Neighborhood Response Plan that immediately helps you to know what to do both at your home and in the neighborhood. You will learn how to respond to injuries, leaking natural gas and assisting people such as the elderly, those with disabilities or children who may be home alone.



Prepared neighborhoods can:

- Save lives
- Reduce the severity of injuries and trauma
- Minimize property damage

In addition, you will identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that might be useful during a disaster response. You will create a detailed contact list and an actual map of your neighborhood that shows the locations of natural gas meters and other potential problem areas. With the list and map, you can quickly respond to leaking gas or other threats.

The program puts you and 15 to 20 of your neighbors on the same page. You share skills so you get to do what you do best. You share resources so you don't have to have everything.

The program is simple to use. You and your neighbors get together for a couple of hours and you have a plan in place. You go home knowing what to do and how to do it. For more information, email ima_publicsafetyadvisoryboard@westlinnoregon.gov or visit WestLinnOregon.gov/MapYourNeighborhood. This program is sponsored by the West Linn Public Safety Advisory Board.

Is your neighborhood ready for a disaster?

You may think you know the people living in the houses next to you, but do you really know your neighbors?

Does one of your neighbors have a generator? Who has a water purification system? Is there anyone elderly or disabled? Are there kids routinely home alone?

This is all important information you should know if a disaster or emergency struck your home, your neighborhood, your city, your state or your country.

When disaster strikes, neighbors will need to rely on each other as emergency responders may not be able to reach you. That is why my neighborhood signed up and joined the Map Your Neighborhood program back in 2013.

Map Your Neighborhood is a volunteer-run program that gets neighbors together to organize how to respond to a disaster.



The program is really simple, short and can even be fun. It just takes one person to invite neighbors to his or her home for a 90-minute meeting. There is a DVD to walk you through the program and materials are provided.

Participants will learn the nine steps to take immediately after a disaster.

You will create a skills and equipment inventory list, as well as a neighborhood map marking natural gas/propane shut-off valves and water shut-off locations. You will also walk away with a neighborhood contact list, identifying those who may need extra or more immediate help.

Luckily, we haven't needed to implement our action plan in my neighborhood, but this program has a proven track record of success. In 2001, after the Washington state Nisqually earthquake, 92 percent of the 460 organized neighborhoods in Seattle reported that they were able to respond in a timely and organized manner to their neighbors.

Though Map Your Neighborhood may be new to you, the program is running in 37 states and in Canada, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Visit WestLinnOregon.gov/MapYourNeighborhood to learn more about the program.

—Council President Thomas Frank

Neighborhood Association News

Robinwood NA

The Robinwood NA hosted its annual picnic Aug. 22 and approximately 100 people attended! The food was good, and the conversations were great. We met our goals for near zero waste and increased participation. There were many new faces I had never met before.

Special thanks to volunteers from the Robinwood Garden led by Lisa Clifton, Sue Berger, Christy Sullivan, Brent Carlson and Donna Fox for all the help during the picnic and garden tours. Even more special thanks to Barbara Shepperson and Robb Angelozzi, who recently moved here from PA and volunteered during the setup process. A special thank you to Councilor Brenda Perry for providing games and Linn City Pub for dish-cleaning services.

Also special thanks to FORS President Randall Fastabend for making the Station available for the picnic and the members of the RNA Board - Jim O'tool, Kevin Bryck, Tony Bracco and Curt Sommers. A big round of applause to the musician, Tristen, who tirelessly played violin throughout the picnic and RNA Members Jenni Henderson and Val Sabo for generous volunteerism.

To those of you who attended, thank you for coming and making the picnic a great success. The generous side dishes you brought were excellent. Let us look forward to an even bigger and better picnic next year.

The Robinwood NA meets the 2nd Tuesdays of the month at Robinwood Community Center, 3706 Cedaroak Drive.

Marylhurst NA

You are invited to come to our annual Ice Cream Social on Sept. 19, 2-4 pm, and meet your neighbors. Build your own sundae from a wide selection of toppings! New this year is the location, Robinwood Station at 3706 Cedar Oak Dr., and the Arts and Crafts Faire. Kids can have fun playing with clay and painting their faces while you browse the wares of neighbors.

Another fun way to meet neighbors is to join our gardening work party to maintain the Labyrinth at Marylhurst Heights Park. This idea was brought to us by a neighbor and she organized about 20 people twice this summer. Thank you all! Enjoy the labyrinth and as you do, think about other ways we can give back to our community and bring your ideas to our neighborhood meeting.

Being active in your neighborhood association is a good way to learn about what is happening in our neighborhood and the city. We regularly communicate our interests to the City Council and Planning Commission so our city remains a great place to live. Our meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday. Sign up to receive our monthly email at westlinnoregon.gov/Marylhurst.

You can also communicate with Marylhurst Neighborhood Association by sending an email to me at MarylhurstNa@westlinnoregon.gov. We will be a more effective neighborhood association with your participation. Please join us!

Savanna Oaks NA

Savanna Oaks NA has been busy hosting applicants for proposed developments in our neighborhood. In all, there is the possibility of over 250 new dwelling units that will be built in, or adjacent to, our neighborhood. How will these developments affect our already busy streets? One development may change the traffic flow on Tannler Drive so it will no longer be legal to turn left from Tannler onto Blankenship?

Meeting with applicants is an important part of the development process. It allows us an early opportunity to provide input on their developments. Please attend our meetings and provide your input. Note that this is an ongoing process and we hope that you remain involved as the applications move to the Planning Commission for public hearings.

Thankfully it is not all work in our neighborhood. In July we hosted our annual ice cream social. There were cones and sundaes for young and not-so-young alike. We also had lots of games and three piñatas for the kids. It was well attended and we hope to see you there next year.

Our meetings are held at 7 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at TVF&R Fire Station, 1860 Willamette Falls Drive. Please join us and participate in your neighborhood and city. Email us at SavannaOaksNA@westlinnoregon.gov to be placed on our email list.

Barrington Heights, Hidden Springs, Tanner Woods NA

In an all-out effort to increase the flow of information to and from our residents, the BHTNA is seeking block captains. These volunteers will help get important communications to the 20 or so nearest homes to them via personal contact and or emails. In addition, the captains may attend one or two city meetings annually on behalf of our neighborhood association.

The BHTNA considers keeping our residents informed our prime directive. Please consider becoming a block captain or recommending one of your neighbors for this simple community service. Areas still without captains include Barrington Drive, Tannler Creek, Upper Riverknoll, Wellington and others. Captains can represent as few or many homes as they feel comfortable handling. Be a part of West Linn's future! Please contact us at BHTNA@westlinnoregon.gov.

As your FireWise Neighborhood Association, the BHTNA encourages all of West Linn to be diligent in maintaining the trees and shrubs around your homes, especially during this high fire season. Tragedies happen from ordinary things like sparks flying from lawn equipment, so stay on top of your yard chores this year!

Hidden Springs NA

The HSNA will meet Sept. 22, 7pm, to discuss creating an ice cream social and the idea of splitting the secretary and treasurer roles. We had excellent participation at our last meetings and hope you will join us for our upcoming!

The HSNA is dedicated to making lives better for our residents. We seek to enable better communication between residents and the city, and to support feelings of community within our neighborhood and within West Linn.

