



Winter 2009

MANZANITA REPORTER

REGIONAL FIRE DISTRICT FORMED

Fire protection services in Manzanita are going regional! The formation of the Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue District was approved during the November General Election by a vote of 1,214 to 741. The new district includes the combined areas of five Nehalem Bay area jurisdictions – the Cities of Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler, the Neahkahnie Water District and the Nehalem Rural Fire Protection District. The Board of Directors for the new District was also elected and includes John Steele, Bob Forster, Jim Goble, Jack Allen and Paul Russo.

The new Fire and Rescue District has already been formed officially, but will not take charge of fire protection services until July 1, 2009. Until then, the Fire Departments in the City of Manzanita and City of Nehalem will continue to provide fire protection services to the area as they always have. On July 1, 2009, both Manzanita and Nehalem will turn over all fire trucks and equipment to the new District. Both Cities have also agreed to five-year leases at \$1.00 per year for use of the City fire stations. At that point, the Manzanita Public Safety Department will become a police agency rather than a combined police-fire agency.

The formation election also established a permanent tax rate of no more than \$1.15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the new District. The two Cities will be turning over to the new District the dollar amounts they are holding in reserve funds for fire engine replacement.

Over the next few months, the new District Board will be busy setting up the District organization including hiring a fire chief, determining where District offices will be, and developing policies and procedures for the new combined Fire Department. Although it is expected that there will be a few paid staff members, the new District Fire Department will be primarily a volunteer fire department as the current City departments have been.

IT'S SMART TO BE PREPARED

By the time this edition of the Manzanita Reporter hits your mailbox, we will have learned how accurate the weather folks were at predicting our mid-December storm.

Whether it turns out to be as bad as the early December storm of last year -- with extremely high winds and power outages lasting days, or the promised lion passed by as a lamb – it's a good time to remind all homeowners to plan for the winter.

Is your home battened down for high winds? Do you have a supply of non-perishable food on hand in case the electricity goes out and stays out for a while? If you have a generator, is it tested and ready to go? If the generator is hooked up to your breaker box, did a licensed electrician install it? Are there any trees near your house leaning toward it?

As you can imagine, the list could go on and on.

For all our second homeowners, do you have a neighbor here in town who can check on your house and report back to you after a storm passes through?

This would be a good time to mention Manzanita's famed NEP (Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness) program. Well over 30 different areas of town have neighborhood captains who have volunteered to watch over the homes in their area and keep out-of-town owners up to date on conditions.

If you already belong to a neighborhood group, check in with your captain. If you don't belong to one, contact Paula Peek, our NEP coordinator. She can guide you to an appropriate local captain. Paula can be reached at 503-368-4866 or ppeek@nehalem.tel.net.

If your particular neighborhood doesn't yet have an NEP organization, Paula and the other local volunteers can help you set one up.

Remember Manzanita's preparedness motto: "When I'm prepared, we're all prepared."

YOUR COMMENTS ARE TRULY APPRECIATED

All of the comments the City receives on the enclosed "What Do You Think" form are copied for each City Councilor and each City department. We are not able to respond back to some of the people sending in their comments, but that doesn't mean that your comments are not read with interest. We hope that many of you will continue to send the City your thoughts on whatever is on your mind. The City Council and staff find these comments to be invaluable in determining what the community is interested in.

"THERE'S WATER FLOWING OUT OF YOUR HOUSE!!"

This is a phone call no one wants to get, but sometimes the City Water Department must make it. With the recent snow and wind storms the City of Manzanita experienced, there were several homes that had downed trees, downed power lines and severe water line breaks. On each reported incident, the City attempts to contact the homeowner, who probably is not a full time resident. It is critical that as a second homeowner, you contact the City at 503-368-5343 or email us at manzbch@nehalem.tel.net with an emergency telephone number--cell phone or work phone--so we may contact you if your home has been damaged.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Garry R. Bullard, Mayor
Leila Salmon, City Council President
Councilors:
Linda Kozlowski, Ray Scales, and Mike Scott

HOLIDAYS:

December 25, 2008	Christmas Day
January 1, 2009	New Year's Day
January 19, 2009	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 16, 2009	Presidents' Day

(City offices will be closed.)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THE CITY WEBSITE AT
CI.MANZANITA.OR.US

The City of Manzanita is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.