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Linnton Neighborhood Association Newsletter

March - April 2013

www.linnton.com

Volunteer for Neighborhood Emergency Team City rep to speak at March 6 mtg. about starting a team

By Ed Jones

In the event of a citywide or regional emergency such as a severe winter storm, flood or major earthquake, households need to be prepared to be on their own for at least a week. Neighborhoods need to be prepared for self-sufficiency, too. Volunteer neighborhood rescuers will likely become first responders when firefighters and police are slowed by impassable streets or overwhelmed by calls for help.

Jeremy Van Keuren, a NET Program Specialist with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management will discuss steps for setting up a Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) and answer questions about the program at our next Linnton neighborhood meeting, Wednesday, March 6 at 7 PM.

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are Portland

residents trained by PBEM and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to help others without putting themselves in

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prepare you to help in disaster,
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Meeting agenda Wed. March 6

- Neighborhood Emergency Team
- Cascadia earthquake
- Westside Bypass free-way thru Linnton?
- Planters and trash cans in business district
- Proposal for ivy removal committee
- Nominations for May board elections

7 - 9 PM at LCC
10614 NW St. Helens Rd.

NET trainings prepare you to help in disaster

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harm's way. NET members are:

- Prepared to be self-sufficient for one week during any emergency.
- Able to provide emergency assistance to their family and immediate neighbors.
- Able to work within an emergency response team to save lives and property in their neighborhood.
- Able to guide untrained volunteers who want to help others during a disaster.

“While Linnton is among Portland’s neighborhoods most vulnerable to a major earthquake (or other disaster, considering the industrial activity near the area), it is grievously underserved by NET,” says Van Keuren. “I’d like to change that, but I would need the help of the Linnton Neighborhood Association to accomplish that.”

If enough residents express interest there would likely be training this summer. Training would include general prep for everyone (what to have, where to go) as well as special training for a response team. The goal is to find several people on each of Linnton’s residential clusters.

Linnton resident Nancy Hamer, who took the training before and has stayed in touch with NET teams in St. Johns and Skyline, has already expressed interest in seeing a team come together in Linnton. “It is an excellent training program and would certainly be a benefit for our community.”

“The next great Cascadia subduction-zone earthquake will kill thousands in Oregon and cause at least \$32 billion



in economic losses unless preparations are radically overhauled,” according to a State panel preparing to present their findings to this year’s legislature.

“Aging tanks holding the state’s main fuel supply along the lower Willamette River will probably rupture as soil undergoes liquefaction,” from a February 4th article in the *Oregonian*. “Responding to the disaster will be difficult, experts found, because of a sort of emergency gridlock. Oregon, or even the entire nation, has never witnessed a disaster of this magnitude in modern history.”

More information about NET is at: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/31667> or contact Jeremy Van Keuren at Jeremy.VanKeuren@portlandoregon.gov, (503) 823-4421. If you want to ask Nancy about her experience with NET teams contact her at oomoo@spiritone.com.