

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### ... September is National Preparedness Month!!!

*"Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recover more quickly." - Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary*

**ARE YOU READY FOR AN EMERGENCY???** The focus of this year's National Preparedness Month is to encourage citizens to take important preparedness steps, which are:

#### **GET A KIT; MAKE A PLAN; BE INFORMED; AND GET INVOLVED!**

**WHY PREPARE?** Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Every disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property. Every citizen in our country is part of the national emergency management system which is all about protection – protecting people and property from all types of hazards. You can think of the national emergency management system as a pyramid, with you, the citizen, forming the base of the structure. **At this level, you have the responsibility to protect yourself and your family by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event!** We have shared in prior issues thoughts and ideas on how to prepare and maintain an emergency kit, the creation of a Family Emergency Plan, and how to become informed about different types of disasters. Now we would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on steps you can take to prepare your pets for a disaster.

**Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of State health & safety regulations. The only exceptions to this policy are service animals who assist people with disabilities.**

It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead!

#### **BEFORE A DISASTER:**

- ◆ Ask friends, relatives, or others outside your immediate area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- ◆ Contact hotels/motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on the number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers with your disaster kit. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- ◆ Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency. Include 24-hour phone numbers.
- ◆ Include pet supplies as part of your emergency kit.
- ◆ Consider a permanent microchip for your dog/cat for I.D. purposes.

**DURING A DISASTER:** Bring your pets inside immediately. Bringing them inside early can keep them from running away. **NEVER** leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm! If you evacuate, take your pets! If it's not safe for you to stay in the emergency area, it's not safe for your pets. Animals left behind can easily be injured, lost, or killed. Avoid these outcomes by planning now how you will safely evacuate your pets and where you will temporarily keep them.

**AFTER A DISASTER:** In the first few days following a disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost.

**Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility!** For more information on EMERGENCY PLANNING, call 503.982.9429, or visit our website at [www.cityofhubbard.org](http://www.cityofhubbard.org).



### **SIDEWALK REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:**

Did you know that per the City's Municipal Code, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance and repair of any sidewalks abutting your property? The property owner is also liable to any person injured because of failure of the owner to maintain the sidewalk in good condition. **However**, did you also know that the City has a **Sidewalk Reimbursement Program** in place to help property owners with the cost of maintaining these sidewalks? If the sidewalk abutting your property is in need of repair – and you are interested in taking advantage of this program, please give us a call at 503.982.9429! Briefly, this program is designed to cover approximately 25% of the project, not to exceed \$300.00 per project. Circumstances where this Program is not applicable include: 1) Where sidewalks are a condition of approval of a land use application; 2) Where sidewalks are a requirement of building permit issuance; **OR** 3) Where the City has initiated enforcement procedures. **The City can only approve a limited number of projects each fiscal year – so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a project in mind!**

**HOW ARE WE DOING??** One of our foremost goals is to provide the best service to you that we can! Although this does not mean we can always accommodate everyone in every request—we work diligently to communicate with you to ensure all requests & questions are resolved in the shortest timeframe possible. **If you have thoughts on how Public Works can better serve you, please give us a call at 503.982.9429!**

***"VOLUNTEERS do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!" ~ Elizabeth Andrew***

Thanks to the dedication and determination of a very special lady who would not give up – and her team of enthusiastic and committed cohorts – the long-time, dreamed about, Kari Park Improvements are complete! If you haven't already had the opportunity to do so, we invite you to take a drive by **2335 Kari Lane** to see the wonderful results of the work of Linda Kleczynski and the Park Improvements Committee! **We thank them!!**

— **Hubbard Public Works**