Communities that Care and Mercer Island Emergency Services present...

Community Preparedness Week
April 22 - April 29, 2007

Are you ready for the next natural disaster? Is your family prepared to address problems associated with underage drinking? Is your home safe? Join your neighbors April 22-29 in a community-wide effort to learn more and get prepared. Communities that Care has partnered with Mercer Island Emergency Services to bring unique educational opportunities to Mercer Island, including:

- Monday, April 23 - 7 pm - Mercer Island High School
  Columbia University Professor Dr. Suniya Luthar presents her findings from the Mercer Island Middle School and High School Youth surveys

- Wednesday, April 25 - 7 pm - Community Center at Mercer View
  Critically acclaimed filmmaker Michael Lienau and emergency preparedness advocate Pat Hamman present simple and effective ways to prepare NOW for the next emergency

Watch for more information about other events leading up to and during Community Preparedness Week. You’ll also have the opportunity to learn more right from your home through Mercer Island’s very own cable broadcast channel, Channel 21. Stay tuned for a full schedule!

- Prepare yourself and your neighborhood for natural disasters,
- Prepare your kids to handle social pressures,
- Prepare your home against fire and theft.

Communities that Care and Mercer Island Emergency Services want you, your family, and our community to be safe and healthy. Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of Community Preparedness Week.

For questions regarding this event, please contact Joy Bueling, Communications Coordinator at 206.236.7238 or joy.bueling@mercergov.org.

2006 Citizens of the Year Honored for Contribution of Open Space

On February 5, 2007 City Council commended longtime Mercer Island residents, Margaret and Kenneth Quarles for their generous and selfless contribution to the City’s park and open space system. The Quarles’ were the owners of pristine open space located west of East Mercer Way and adjacent to Pioneer Park. In 2006, the Quarles agreed to transfer this rare open space property consisting of nearly 7 acres to the City of Mercer Island in order to preserve this property for park and recreation purposes.

The Quarles’ have been approached over the years by developers and real estate agents seeking to develop this property. Realtors estimate the fair market value for vacant land in Mercer Island at up to $2 million per acre. The Quarles transferred the 7 acres to the City of Mercer Island for a price falling far below fair market value. Council unanimously voted to name the property the Engstrom Open Space in honor of Margaret’s father, the original owner of the property, Oscar Engstrom, who originally purchased the property for the family’s summer country home.

This significant gift to the City will serve as a lasting legacy to the family’s strong ties to the community.
Park and Ride Update
Design changes currently under review could delay project completion up to 6–8 months. The first problems surfaced in September 2006 after the construction contractor informed Sound Transit of severe cracking in one of the beams supporting the upper deck of the garage. Sound Transit immediately began working with the contractor and design firm to address the problem. It became apparent that the cracking was the result of design errors. After an initial evaluation of the beam cracking, the consultant advised Sound Transit of additional design concerns with the structure and has now proposed substantial work to assure the long-term structural safety, seismic stability and service life of the parking garage. Construction began March of 2006 and the revised completion target is Oct/Nov of 2007.

The new two-level Mercer Island Park-and-Ride structure that is now under construction will expand the site’s total parking capacity to approximately 447 stalls. The garage is designed to blend into the surrounding community. Information about interim Park and Ride sites is available on the City’s website.

35th Annual Mercer Island Rotary Run Day
Sunday, March 25, 2007
Traffic Advisory

The 35th Annual Mercer Island Rotary Run Day hits the streets and trails of Mercer Island on Sunday, March 25 resulting in temporary road closures and some traffic delays. Six events benefiting colon cancer awareness will take place throughout the morning on the streets of the Town Center, Lid Park, North Mercer neighborhood, Luther Burbank Park, North Mercer Way, East Mercer Way and West Mercer Way, as well as the I-90 Trail.

Bicyclists are cautioned as the I-90 Trail will be used between 9 am and 12 noon by walkers and runners between SE 36th Street and 77th Ave SE. Cyclists wishing to circle the Island are asked to travel in a counter clockwise direction by going southbound on West Mercer Way and then northbound on East Mercer Way to avoid conflicts with race participants.

Mercer Island Police, Rotary course marshals and volunteers will provide traffic control throughout the day. Signs will clearly denote detours and areas of temporary traffic delays. Bicyclists and drivers are asked to comply with requests made by race officials.

For a complete schedule and traffic advisory, please visit the www.mercergov.org/rotaryrun. For more information about the Rotary Run or to register online, visit www.mercerislandhalf.com.

Renton Airport Planning Update

Over 300 Mercer Island citizens attended the community meeting on Monday, January 29 at the Community Center at Mercer View to learn about the Renton Airport planning process. The meeting was later broadcast on Mercer Island’s local cable access station, Channel 21. DVD copies are available for purchase for $5 at City Hall. After the meeting, further comments and questions were collected. All comments and questions from Mercer Island citizens (received before, during and after the meeting) were compiled and submitted to the City of Renton. A response to the questions is expected later in March.

Following the meeting and further discussion, Mercer Island City Council issued the following statement on February 23, 2007:
As a result of several community meetings, it is now clear that more information is needed about the impacts of various alternative plans for development at the Renton Airport. The City of Mercer Island will be working with the City of Renton to collect that additional information so that a more thoroughly researched decision can be made about the best development proposal.

The Renton City Council is not expected to make any decision on a preferred alternative until all parties have had an opportunity to review and evaluate additional information. The City of Mercer Island will keep Mercer Island residents informed. An update will be distributed to the public as soon as a timetable and an outline of what additional information will be collected are available.

Updates will be posted to the City of Mercer Island’s website www.mercergov.org. For further information about the Renton Airport, please visit www.rentonwa.gov.

Seeking Citizens to Serve On Boards

The Mercer Island City Council is seeking a diverse range of citizens to voluntarily serve on several advisory boards. Appointments to boards and commissions are made by the Mayor and affirmed by the City Council. Generally, terms run June 1 through May 31, for a four-year period. Upon appointment, board members can expect to spend approximately ten hours a month serving on the board, although the level of commitment may vary.

The boards and commissions with positions available are:
- Arts Council (3 positions)
- Design Commission (2 positions)
- Planning Commission (2 positions)
- Senior Commission (1-year trial) (7 positions)
- Youth & Family Services Advisory Board (5 adult positions for three-year terms, 3 positions for current 10th graders and 3 positions for current 8th graders for two-year terms)

For more information on each of these boards or commissions or to apply for a position, go to www.mercergov.org/boards, call Ali Spiezt, City Clerk at 206-236-3572 or email ali.spiezt@mercergov.org. Applications are available online or at City Hall. The application deadline is Friday, May 4, 2007.
City Recognized by State Auditor

Recently the Mayor and Council were presented a letter of recognition for the City’s tenth consecutive audit without a finding. State Auditor Brian Sonntag wrote, “This accomplishment reflects the dedication of the City Council and City staff to strong oversight of operations, good internal controls and accurate financial reporting.” Further, “A critical factor to the City’s success is your management and staff. We appreciate and applaud the spirit of cooperation and the courtesies extended to us throughout the audit process by Rich Conrad, City Manager; Chip Corder, Finance Director; Francie Lake, Financial Operations Manager; LaJuan Tuttle, Accounting Supervisor; and the other talented and dedicated people on staff at the City of Mercer Island.”

The Mercer Island Finance Department is committed to monitoring the City’s fiscal health and to ensuring that all resources are properly accounted for and spent for the purposes intended. For more information about the City’s Finance Department and the services they provide, please visit the City’s website.

Grant Awarded for Improvements to the SE 40th Corridor

The Washington State Department of Transportation Improvement Board awarded the City of Mercer Island a grant toward traffic flow improvements within the SE 40th corridor. When the SE 40th Corridor was analyzed in 2006, the traffic study showed that the existing traffic volumes exceeded the acceptable standard established by the City in the City’s Comprehensive plan. As part of the City’s effort to improve traffic flow in the SE 40th corridor, the grant funds may go toward a new traffic signal at SE 40th & 86th, roadway widening between 86th SE and Island Crest Way, and replacement of the exiting traffic signal at SE 40th and Island Crest Way. The project is scheduled for construction in 2008 and there will be opportunities for public comment. The grant would pay for up to 60 percent of construction costs and represents the second largest grant the City has received for a transportation project.

For more information about the City’s Transportation Improvement Plan, please visit www.mercergov.org/TIP.

City Hall Goes Wireless!

The City has installed wireless access for public use at City Hall. The next time you have a meeting or need to conduct business at City Hall, feel free to use your wireless enabled laptop or other wireless device. Look for instructions at City Hall.

Mercer Island City Council Establishes Top 2007 Goals

At the January 19-21 Council Retreat, Mercer Island City Council determined its top project goals for 2007 and developed a funding strategy to accomplish the goals. Council is committed to the following major project goals:

- Replace the deteriorating portion of the sewer lake line.
- Continue cost-effective, efficient emergency dispatch by joining with other regional jurisdictions in a cooperative dispatch effort (NORCOM).
- Replace aging fire trucks.
- Develop a “grand parks plan” which would be a holistic approach to capital and operations funding as well as an implementation plan for all Mercer Island parks.
- Seek and preserve additional open space.

Council confirmed that the “Priorities of Government” continue to remain as established in 2004, with community safety as the highest priority. Council also identified two regional issues as the top priorities for Mercer Island City Council: the Renton Airport and I-90. Regarding the Renton Airport, Council affirmed its commitment to minimize any increase in noise over Mercer Island and maximize safety to Mercer Island citizens. Regarding I-90, Mercer Island’s single occupant vehicle (SOV) access to the I-90 center roadway or HOV lanes is of paramount importance to the Mercer Island City Council. A letter recently sent by Doug MacDonald, Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation, confirmed that when the center roadway is converted to high capacity transit, Mercer Island residents would be permitted to use the HOV lanes until the HOV lanes are converted to toll lanes.

“Mercer Island Council Members were thoughtful in their advance preparation for this year’s annual retreat,” explained Mayor Bryan Cairns. “We were successful in engaging in fruitful discussion and defining priorities for this year. The Council recognizes that there are issues and concerns that affect our community. Project prioritization is a helpful tool in getting everyone to row the same direction in order to move forward.”

To read the minutes of the January 19-21 Council retreat, please visit http://www.mercergov.org/Agendas.asp

Subscribe to MI Weekly!

Do you want to know more about your city government? The City’s weekly newsletter, MI Weekly, is now available by email subscription. To request a weekly email of the most current City news, please contact joy.bueling@mercergov.org or visit www.mercergov.org/miweekly.

Copies are also available at City Hall, the Community Center, the Luther Burbank Park Admin Building, the library, and the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please contact Joy Bueling, Communications Coordinator at 206.236.7238.
Community Yoga Benefit  
Saturday May 19  
10 am to 2 pm  
Community Center at Mercer View,  
Mercer Room  
Are you interested in sampling yoga styles in a casual, community setting?  
Join us for the Mercer Island Yoga Community Yogathon Benefit!  
This four (4) hour event will include a variety of class styles taught by local instructors.  
All levels of experience are welcome, but classes will be taught with the beginner in mind.  
Please wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat or beach towel, water, and a light lunch.  
Open to teens and adults.  
A minimum donation of $20 is requested, please pay on the day of event.  
Fees will be donated to Mercer Island Youth and Family Services.  
For questions, call 206.236.3525.  
Mercer Island Youth and Family Services provides individual and family counseling; senior adult outreach; elementary, middle school and high school counseling; alcohol and drug prevention and intervention services for youth; juvenile court diversion services; family assistance and support; employment services; volunteering and leadership development; and advocacy and community planning.

Spring Egg Hunts at Mercerdale Park!  
Saturday, April 7  
Hop on over to Mercerdale Park for the annual Egg Hunt!  
Plenty of eggs, candy and prizes for everyone.  
Bring a basket and your sweet tooth and get ready to search for all sorts of goodies.  
The Lil’ Hunt is geared for children 1-6 years old, with a special section reserved for the 1-3 year old hunters.  
It starts at 3 pm SHARP and there is a requested donation of $1.00 per child.  
Please, no children over the age of 6.  
For an extra challenge, kids 7-10 years old can search for candy in the dark at the Flashlight Hunt!  
Bring your flashlight and a basket to haul off your loot!  
Lots of eggs, candy and prizes for everyone!  
The Flashlight Hunts starts at 8:30 pm SHARP, requested donation of $1.00 per child.  
Egg Hunts co-sponsored by the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department and Countrywide Home Loans.

Off-Leash Area (OLA) Improvements Coming to Luther Burbank Park  
Last fall, as a part of the Capital Improvements Program, Mercer Island City Council budgeted to implement a portion of the improvements outlined in the Luther Burbank Master Planning Process.  
Included was an allotment of $215,000 to make improvements to the off-leash area in Luther Burbank Park.  
The Parks and Recreation Department will be soliciting input from off-leash area users in the coming weeks.  
Planning will occur late in the spring of 2007 with construction likely in late summer or early fall.  
Please watch for more information.  
Contact: Curt Brees 206.236.3547, information: www.mercergov.org/OLA.

Spring Recycling Collection Event  
Saturday, May 19 ~ 9 am to 3 pm  
At Mercer Island City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street  
Just in time for spring cleaning! Safely dispose of old equipment and household items that have been cluttering your basement or garage!  
You Can Bring:  
• Tires  
• Motor Oil & Filters  
• Antifreeze  
• Lead Acid Batteries  
• Household Batteries  
• Cardboard  
• Household Goods & Clothing  
• Confidential Document Shredding  
• Porcelain Toilets & Sinks  
• Propane Tanks  
• Appliances/Scrap Metal  
• Electronic Equipment  
• TV Sets  
• #6 Plastics/Plant Containers  
Please Don’t Bring:  
These household wastes:  
No construction/demolition debris  
No garbage  
No mattresses/furniture  
No plastic toys, hoses, etc.  
No window glass  
These hazardous wastes:  
No paint  
No pesticides/herbicides  
No solvents and thinners  
No household chemicals  
No cleaning products  
No fluorescent lights  
This above list is subject to change closer to the event.  
Mercer Island recycling events happen twice per year and are provided for the convenience of Mercer Island citizens as a service of the City of Mercer Island.  
There may be a charge for some recycling some items.  
For a current, detailed list and further instructions, please visit the City’s website or call 206.236.3613 for a brochure.  
The City of Mercer Island is committed to waste reduction and other sustainable practices.  
Please visit the “Conservation and Recycling” pages on the City’s website for links and helpful information.
Birthday Celebrations at the Community Center
Leave the party planning to us! Just bring your guests and cake! The Community Center staff will take care of the rest. Choose from the following party plans:

**Super Party**
This package includes a balloon bouquet, paper plates and napkins, plastic utensils, table cloth, and a banner.
Two hour room rental (includes gym or dance room), set up and clean up. Regular room rental hourly fees will be applied for any additional time above the two hours booked by customer.
1-10 children $120, 11-20 children $140
(In addition, a $50 refundable damage deposit will be collected.)

**Super Duper Party**
This package includes everything the Super Party provides PLUS one hour of activities run by the center staff. Regular room rental hourly fees will be applied for any additional time above the two hours booked by customer.
1-10 children $150, 11-20 children $170
(In addition, a $50 refundable damage deposit will be collected.)

Please call 206.236.3545 for details or to make reservations.

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New at the Community Center!
FEMME Safety Mother and Daughter Safety Training
This 3 hour class addresses the safety issues that women may face in their daily lives. This training is built on increasing awareness of our surroundings, obeying instincts and employing proactive safety strategies on a daily basis.
Topics include: Alcohol and common “predatory drugs;” early recognition of inappropriate acquaintance or date behavior; safety in elevators, parking lots and “fringe” areas; the importance of the buddy system and team work; and what to do when approached by a stranger.
The class is designed for women and girls 14 years and older and will be held on two separate dates: Saturday, April 14 and Saturday June 9. Classes are held 9 am to 12 pm in the Calkins Room at the Community Center at Mercer View. Fee: $46.00. Sign up for either class through www.myparksandrecreation.com or by calling 206.236.3545.

Gamemaker Video Game Creation for 5th-8th Graders
The Senior Gamemaker video game creation program is the second of four programs that teach students the fundamentals of computer programming and video game design. Students will be provided with their own laptops (for the duration of class anyway!) and will create an intermediate, age-appropriate computer game using the Children’s Technology Workshop Gamemaker program. They will learn how to make characters, move them throughout the game, interact with other game objects, and execute more complex commands. At the end of the course, students will take home a CD-ROM containing their game files so that they can play their games at home.
The class will be held on Thursdays April 19 – June 7 from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm in the Calkins Room at the Community Center at Mercer View. Sign up through www.myparksandrecreation.com or by calling 206.236.3545.

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3rd Thursday
Community Art Walk – Join the Fun!
The 3rd Thursday Art Walk in Mercer Island’s Town Center is back in full swing. Look for orange balloons at various businesses. Join your neighbors for fabulous art, wine tasting, snacks, entertainment, and a chance to get to know your Town Center better.
Upcoming dates:
April 19, May 17, June 21.

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Looking for Summer Employment?
The City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department has openings for:
• Beach Manager
• Head Beach Lifeguards
• Lifeguards (12)
• Parks & Rec Student Intern
• Little Champ Sport Camp Director
• Little Champ Sport Camp Counselors
• Day Camp Counselors
• Day Camp Director
• Recreation Leaders
• Tennis Instructor/Coach & Asst Coach
Applications and further information can be found at www.mercergov.org or contact the Parks & Recreation Department 206.236.3545.

See also: information about the Job Fair on March 31, article on page 6.

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QUARLES from p. 1
Mercer Island community and represents their strong desire to preserve the property from potential future development while providing recreational trail opportunities for future generations.
The Mercer Island City Council began recognizing outstanding efforts of citizens in 1990. The Council has consistently agreed that the honorees should be citizens who are unrecognized for their contributions to the Mercer Island community. Based on this criterion, the Quarles’ were an obvious and unanimous choice for this award.
Please visit the City’s website to view a map of the Engstrom Open Space:
www.mercergov.org/engstrom
Summer Volunteering Registration: Right Around the Corner!

This summer, the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services is offering two youth volunteer programs: Volunteer Outreach in Communities Everywhere (VOICE) for high school youth, and Summer Volunteer Program (SVP) for middle school youth. These programs raise the social awareness of Mercer Island youth by providing structured group community service opportunities. The programs provide the opportunity to work with diverse populations such as children, immigrants and refugees, people living with terminal illnesses and disabilities, and the homeless. Volunteers also participate in environmental projects and community events. Through a combination of hands-on community service, art, and media the program promotes awareness about social justice issues confronting diverse populations both locally and globally. VOICE volunteers commit to serving at least 30 hours throughout the 7 week program. SVP volunteers commit to serving on eight projects throughout the 7 week program.

Registration for these programs differs from last year:

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**
(youth currently in 6th and 7th grade):
**Please Note: This is first-come, first-serve**
Sunday, April 1st (noon): Registration opens online. Link can be found at www.mercergov.org/svp.
Sunday, April 15th (noon): Registration closes.

**VOLUNTEER OUTREACH IN COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE (VOICE)**
(youth currently in 8th-11th grade):
**Please Note: This is NOT first-come, first-serve**
Sunday, April 1st (noon): Registration opens online. Link can be found at www.mercergov.org/voice. Once registered online, participants will be entered into a lottery.
Sunday, April 15th (noon): Registration closes.
Monday, April 16th: Names are drawn from the lottery. Accepted volunteers are notified and sent application forms.

Questions? Please contact Michelle Morse at 206.236.7293, or michelle.morse@mercergov.org.

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Mercer Island Youth

**SUMMER JOB FAIR**
Saturday, March 31
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4400 SE 86th St, Mercer Island

Do You:
- Want to earn money this summer?
- Want to create an employment resume?
- Want to get some volunteer experience?

This is the Job Fair for You!!

Questions?
Call Cheryl at (206) 236-3524
www.mijoblink.org

Sponsored by Mercer Island Youth and Family Services and Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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Mercer Island Thrift Shop: Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers of all ages. Join a creative team in a fun environment! Schedules are flexible and volunteers who work 12 hours or more each month have the opportunity to purchase items before they are available for sale to the general public. M.I.T.S. is located on the corner of SE 34th and 78th Ave SE, just south of Mercerdale Park. Call 206.236.3625 for volunteer or donation information.

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Communities That Care Update

Communities that Care (CTC) is a Youth and Family Services project aimed at promoting healthy behaviors and reducing underage drinking and drug use among Island youth. Now in the implementation stage of its two-year grant, CTC is employing a multi-pronged approach by addressing schools, parents and the overall Mercer Island community.

In January, St. Monica’s School began piloting “Positive Action,” a “best practice” prevention curriculum, in its fourth grade class. We have presented the CTC film, “Under the Influence: Mercer Island Youth Speak Out About Drinking and Drug Use” to the Sixth Grade Parent Peer Group, the Eighth Grade Parent Peer Group and the MIHS PTA and are offering “Family Matters,” an interactive parent/child curriculum, to sixth grade families. We’ve also co-sponsored From Binge to Blackout, the March 1 & 2 Community Forum facilitated by mother/son authors Chris and Toren Volkmann.

During the week of April 22-29th, Communities that Care is partnering with Mercer Island Emergency Services to present Community Preparedness Week (see article p. 1) Watch for more details about this exciting and educational week.

For more information or to get involved, please contact project coordinator Suzanne Tedesko at 206.236.3533 or Suzanne.Tedesko@mercergov.org. Communities That Care is supported through grants from King County’s Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program, Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Foundation and the Mercer Island Community Fund.
Message from Rebecca Clark  
*Mercer Island Emergency Preparedness Coordinator*

I hope everyone fared well this winter weather season. As a region, we have seen massive flooding, heavy snowfall, freezing temperatures and major windstorms causing record breaking power outages. Many of these events of nature affected Mercer Islanders directly.

Were you prepared? While not having power for days on end was very inconvenient, it did give us a glimpse of what we could be facing when an earthquake hits. I will admit to you that even I had to shop by flashlight at the local grocery store and also look for wood because my supply was depleted. Fortunately, we did have water, food, emergency lighting, lots of blankets, a way to stay current on the news and weather and I used an out of state contact to check up on my mother, siblings and grandmother. The point is we had a plan.

Emergency preparedness information and supply lists can sometimes be overwhelming and it’s easy to put off getting prepared. Yet there are many simple steps you and your family can take today that will help you weather future disasters.

By being prepared, many residents of Mercer Island were able to get through the power outage with relatively few problems. (I even heard about a wedding that took place by candlelight!) If we are ready for 7 to 10 days of the worst conditions, then we are prepared for whatever hits us. Take it a step at a time, something is better than nothing. Purchase water today and then the next time you are out, pick up extra food or batteries or a weather radio.

Mercer Island also has a Neighborhood Preparedness Program. This program segments the Island into neighborhood sections and helps the neighborhoods put a plan together to enable the neighborhood to self sustain in the event of a major disaster. Only 91 neighborhoods out of over 228 have taken advantage of this program and of the 91, several have allowed their information to become outdated. Please consider organizing your neighborhood as part of your preparedness plan. (Please see the article on the next page).

A few items to consider for your personal preparedness kit:

- Out of state contact phone number
- 1 gallon of water per person per day for 7 to 10 days
- Non perishable food 7 to 10 day supply per person
- First aid supplies
- Extra prescription medication
- Large garbage bags
- Diapers or feminine supplies and TP
- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries
- Duct tape
- Plastic dishes and hand operated can opener
- Liquid soap
- Bedding and clothing for each person
- Cash, account numbers, insurance info
- Sturdy comfortable shoes
- Tools
- Books, games, cards (something entertaining that doesn’t require electricity)
- Fire extinguisher

Remember, you don’t need to build your kit all at once. Do a little every week until you are ready to take care of yourself for 7-10 days following a major disaster.

Be well and be safe,

*Rebecca Clark*

206.236.3576  
rebecca.clark@mercergov.org

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**First Aid and CPR Classes**

Safe a life! The Mercer Island Fire Department offers First Aid and CPR classes on an ongoing basis. Following is the schedule for Spring of 2007:

**First Aid and Adult CPR – 9 am to 3 pm**

($30.00 per person by check or cash the day of the event)

March 3 · April 28 · May 12 · June 2

**Adult, Child and Infant CPR – 7 pm to 9 pm**

($15 per person by check or cash the day of the event)

March 21 · April 18 · May 23 · June 6 · June 20

All classes are held at the main station (3030 78th Ave SE) and reservations should be made by calling 206.236.3600. Classes are limited to 12.

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**Chief Mauldin Sworn in as President of King County Fire Chiefs Association**

On January 17, Mercer Island Fire Chief Walt Mauldin was sworn in as the new President of the King County Fire Chiefs Association by the Honorable Judge Ellington. Nominated and elected by his peers, Chief Mauldin will serve for a two year term.

The King County Fire Chiefs Association encompasses both municipal and fire districts in King County, within its organization. Their mission is to preserve life and protect property through cooperative efforts involving education, fire prevention and emergency services.
Join the Neighborhood Preparedness Program!

The Dec. 14 storm heightened awareness about the importance of community cooperation following an emergency. You and your neighbors can be more prepared to weather future disasters by joining the Neighborhood Preparedness Program. The Neighborhood Preparedness Plan (NPP), in effect since 1993, trains citizens to be part of emergency preparedness and response and is part of the City’s Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

How it works: There are 9 zones throughout the island. Each zone has a captain and is divided into individual neighborhoods. Of those individual neighborhoods, roughly 91 out of 228 have opted to officially organize. Organization means that the neighborhood has determined how it can take care of itself for 7 to 10 days. They have in most cases exchanged numbers and lists of occupants at each residence, determined and stocked a first aid location, determined a sheltering site and a search and rescue team, trained everyone on how to turn off the gas to a home, and developed a communication plan, pet plan and a mental comfort plan. Each family has prepared a disaster kit.

The Mercer Island Emergency Management Office provides free NPP presentations to groups of about 25-35 neighborhood households at a time. NPP topics cover specific things that people can do to be prepared such as storing essential supplies like water, food, medications, sanitation and first aid supplies, tools, personal items, and more. In addition to personal preparedness, the presentation explains how neighbors can organize themselves to help each other before, during, and after a disaster.

Citizens can help themselves and their neighbors be prepared for potential emergencies and disasters like windstorms, snow storms, earthquakes by volunteering to host a NPP meeting in their neighborhood. Please call and request a host packet today.

For more information about Emergency Preparedness and the Neighborhood Preparedness Program, contact Rebecca Clark, EP Coordinator 206.236.3576, rebecca.clark@mercergov.org. Please also visit www.mercergov.org/npp.