

# PEACEFUL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

**DECEMBER 2019**

Peaceful Valley relies on the dedication of our contracted workers to keep our roads clear and our shared spaces clean. We ask that you respect them as well as their time and effort by bringing any complaints or suggestions regarding their work, to the office.



## **Sewing Classes are happening here!**

Newly appointed board member, Kelly H., is hosting a weekly sewing group for people of all experience levels and interests! If you own a sewing machine please bring it, but they are not required. The group currently meets Saturdays at 12pm in the Peaceful Valley Clubhouse.

**Matt Provencher, a forester with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, board members and volunteers will be walking the Peaceful Valley green belts on December 18th to formulate a forestry management plan to maximize fire safety in our community. Want to be involved or have questions? Contact the office!**



**You can now join the Peaceful Valley Facebook group for updates and news of the goings on of your community, like: meeting reminders, upcoming events, clean-ups, volunteer opportunities and more!**

**[www.facebook.com/groups/PeacefulValleyCC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PeacefulValleyCC)**

## **Peaceful Valley Office Holiday Hours**

**Open: Saturday Dec. 21st & Sunday Dec. 22nd 8am-4pm**

**Half-day: Tuesday Dec. 24th 8am-12pm**

**Closed: Friday Dec. 27th & Monday Dec. 30th**

# How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

Winter storms can cause power outages that last for days. They can make roads and walkways extremely dangerous and also negatively affect critical community services including public transportation, childcare, and health programs. Injuries and deaths may occur from exposure, dangerous road conditions, carbon monoxide poisoning, and other winter storm conditions. Be better prepared this winter, and learn more at [ready.gov/prepare](https://ready.gov/prepare).

## Now/Prepare

- **Sign up** for local alerts and warnings.
- **Create** and test emergency communication plan(s).
- **Stock emergency supplies**, and install battery-powered or battery backed-up carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors.
- **Winterize your home**. Visit this page to help you prepare.
- **Review** your property insurance, and safeguard critical documents.
- **Get trained** on specific needs your family may have. Also, consider joining your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- **Identify** a place nearby where you can safely warm up should you lose heat in your home.

## During/Survive

- **Stay indoors** and off the roads. If you must drive, keep emergency supplies in your car.
- **Close off** rooms to consolidate and retain heat.
- **Dress in layers**, and use blankets to stay warm.
- **Bring pets into a warm place** and out of the storm or severe cold.
- **Never use a generator**, camp stove, charcoal grill, or gasoline or propane heater indoors, as these items can start accidental fires, cause electric shock, and/or cause deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Never heat** a home with a cook-top or oven.
- **Limit** your time outdoors, and stay dry.

## After/Be Safe

- **Only drive if necessary**. Remove snow and ice from your tailpipe before starting your car, and check regularly if idling. Clean all snow and ice from your car before driving.
- **Dress in warm clothing**, stay dry, prevent prolonged exposure to cold and wind, and avoid overexertion clearing/shoveling snow. Overexertion can lead to a medical emergency.
- **Monitor local news** and alerts for emergency information and instructions.

**\*This information is from a FEMA pamphlet on Winter Storm Preparedness, the full document can be found at [ready.gov/prepare](https://ready.gov/prepare)**

## More Information

- *If you must drive, **drive slow***. The speed limit in Peaceful Valley is 20 mph, but **slower is safer** in winter months.
- We recommend a **snow shovel, sand and/or salt** for your driveway. If you are not *physically* able to clear your driveway, let us know by calling or emailing the office and we will arrange someone to do it for you.
- If you rely on a solid fuel burning device (wood stoves, pellet stoves or fireplace inserts) to heat your home, be sure to apply for a **Wood Heating Exemption** through the Northwest Clean Air Agency to avoid fines should a burn ban be put in place. You can do this at the EWRRRC or online at: <https://nwcleanairwa.gov/wood-heating-exemption-forms/>
- The East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRRC), located at 8251 Kendall Rd., has a generator, phones and computers free for use during business hours (M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm) and *may* serve as an emergency winter weather shelter at the discretion of the local Incident Commander. For more information call **(360) 599-3944**.