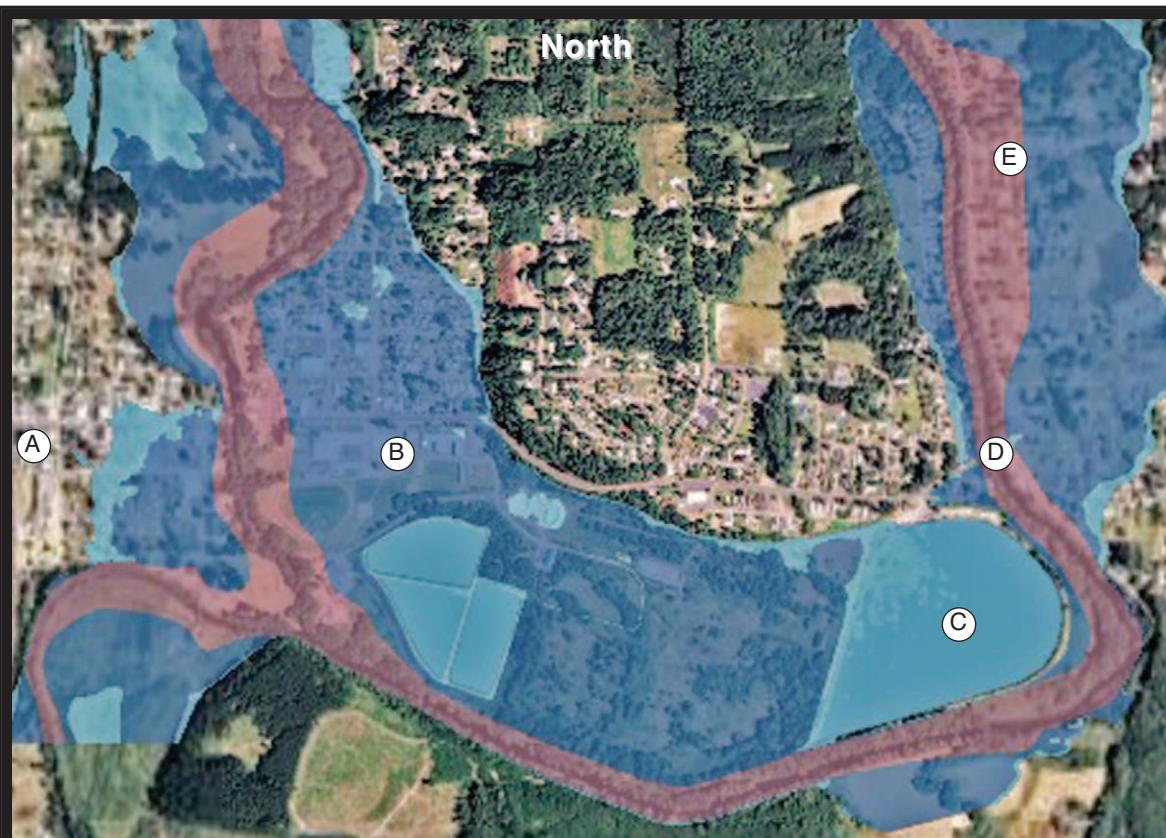


# The INDEPENDENT

Vol. 23, No. 4

"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

February 21, 2008



A City Hall, B Middle School, C Mill Pond, D Green Bridge, E Heather Lane  
Pink = 100 yr. flood way. Dark Blue shade = 100 yr. flood zone. Blue shade = 500 yr. flood zone.

Above is a draft of the new flood zone map that will take effect after it is officially adopted. The final map may differ somewhat from this draft.

## Council approves ordinance changes

The February 19 Vernonia City Council meeting started with a public hearing on a 64-page ordinance regarding development standards. The Planning Commission met prior to the Council and voted to recommend that council approve the new ordinance.

According to Planning Commissioner Heather Lewis (who gave the staff report to council), the ordinance contains only two new items, and is mostly a consolidation of existing ordinances so that all pertinent information is in one document for both stick-built and manufactured homes. The two changes, said Lewis, were a change to the required roof pitch (to 4:12), and the inclusion of a requirement that the main entrance must face the

street and open onto a porch, or have at least a 5x10' covered entryway.

Three people spoke in favor of the ordinance, though two of the three were Planning Commissioners who wrote the ordinance. No one spoke in opposition and there were no neutral comments.

Councilor Randy Parrow had obviously slogged through the 64-page document and had valid questions, though most were on the parts of the ordinance that were already in place, such as the part saying that the impermeable 'footprint' of a property cannot exceed 50 percent, including paved driveway, house and outbuildings. After the hearing process was completed, council voted to adopt the new ordinance with

only Parrow voting nay.

During Topics from the Floor, citizen Kim Perry spoke on the Knott St. petition which does not seek to stop temporary housing from being placed on Knott St., but does ask the City to address drainage concerns before allowing such siting. She stated that the drainage in the area has been getting worse in

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## SOLV cleanup for Nehalem River

There will be a SOLV Cleanup in Vernonia on Saturday, March 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to clean-up flood debris along stream banks of the upper Nehalem River, both above and below Vernonia.

Local volunteers and team leaders are needed to help with this project that is being spon-

## Deadline extended for proof of loss flood policy claims

The deadline has been extended for submitting a signed Proof of Loss statement to substantiate flood insurance claims. The statement includes a detailed estimate to replace or repair the damaged property. The Proof of Loss must be signed before the flood insurance company can make payment.

Previously, flood insurance policy holders in Oregon had 60 days from the date of the incident to sign and return the Proof of Loss document. For

example, if flooding occurred December 3, 2007, Oregon policy owners originally had until February 1, 2008, to sign the document. The new deadline for the December 3 flood has been extended to April 2, 2008.

This extension applies to all claims for flood-insured Washington and Oregon properties damaged by flooding between November 30, 2007, and December 8, 2007, whether the policy was issued directly by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or through one of the private insurance companies.

Some policy holders were concerned that by signing the Proof of Loss, their payment would be limited to the amount listed on the statement. That is not the case. If a policy holder believes they have additional damage or the identified amount is insufficient, they should sign the statement and include:

- A separate letter detailing the additional damages or costs; and/or

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## Door-to-Door survey set to assess needs

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) will be conducting door to door needs assessment surveys of flood affected residents for the purpose of continuing relief and rebuilding efforts. CRWRC's services were requested by Columbia County Flood Relief (CCFR). CRWRC members will have proper identification and will be wearing green shirts with their logo when they are surveying on Monday, March 3. CCFR appreciates the community's cooperation in this effort to determine continuing needs.

### Public meeting on floods, forecasting

United States Geological Service and the National Weather Service will hold a public meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Grade School to present information on floods and forecasting.

### Blood drive set for Monday in Vernonia

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Vernonia on Monday, February 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the schools.

To schedule an appointment, e-mail high school Activities Director James Brookins at jbrookins@vernonia.k12.or.us.