

Reprinted from The Valley View, Edition Date: January 8, 2007

Thankful for those who helped during the power outage

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Duvall

Much of the beauty of the Seattle area comes from its forested rural regions and the protected greenbelts of our suburban and urban areas. Severe wind, trees and overhead power-lines are not a compatible mix and none of us are immune from or totally prepared for a power outage of any duration.

The recent windstorm that ravaged so many of our counties, left our home and family without power for seven long days, we consider ourselves to be among the more fortunate. Damage to our forest surrounded home was minor. Our family was better prepared than most to manage the after affects of the storm.

Owning and maintaining a generator has been a routine practice for us as we live in Duvall. We can expect to lose power a few times each year without much inconvenience. This storm was quite different.

We learned to have a larger gas supply on hand as accessing fuel became everyone's challenge. We are fortunate to have wonderful neighbors who shared in making the necessary gas runs. The pressure imposed on us by Mother Nature brought a cooperative and supportive spirit to our neighborhood and those better prepared were quick to open their doors or lend support for those less fortunate.

This past year, my wife and I took a CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) Class, to educate ourselves about the preparedness required to help our family get through the first 72 hours "on our own," following a high magnitude man-made or natural disaster. Preparing us to be part of the post-disaster solution, helping our neighbors and community, before the professionals can get to our neighborhood, was part of our training. We highly recommend CERT training to everyone.

We were impressed by Puget Sound Energy and the local tree cutting services The tree services and utility crews working all hours of the day in adverse weather conditions was impressive and so was the coordination effort that made it all possible.