

Fall Meeting:  
Thursday, Oct 27  
7-8:30 pm  
Franklin School

# Northwest Neighborhood

Fall 2005



## Home Heating Bills Expected to Soar

by John Rohe

According to the federal Energy Information Administration, the cost of heating your home is about to go through the roof, so to speak. Rates this winter may rise 34% over last year for fuel oil, 11% for electricity, and a whopping 52% for natural gas, which is the most commonly used fuel here in the northwest.

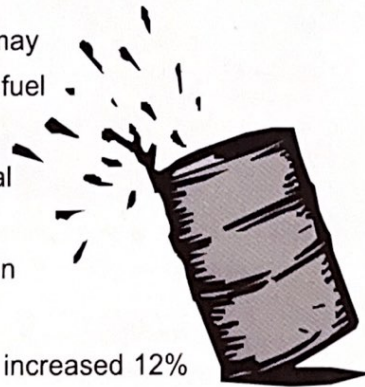
**Northwest Natural's** rate increased 12% starting October 1 for residential customers. The northwest region is in better shape than many parts of the country, not only because of our relatively mild winters, but also due to acquiring supplies from prolific gas fields in western Canada and the U.S. Rocky Mountain states.

Because there's not much any of us can do about rates, we thought we'd include some tips on conserving energy to help ease the pinch a bit. Many of these you've heard before, but it's a good time to review them and consider a few new ones. (con pg 3)

## Emergency Preparedness at Home and in the Neighborhood

Images from the hurricanes and earthquakes have us reaffirming our gratitude for the moderate climate we know and love, well, much of the time. But questions about emergency preparedness have also bubbled to the surface of our nation's consciousness regardless of proximity to the devastation.

**Questions about our own** preparedness can and should be addressed at many levels, beginning with ourselves, our households and neighborhoods. This newsletter and the meeting coming up on Thursday provide information to help us prepare for major disruption to normal services and utilities, as well as a better understanding of what to expect from the Red Cross and Homeland Security. (See article on page 4.)



### NW Neighborhood Association Vancouver, Washington

- Jennifer Vail, President (904-0761)
- Leonard Bauhs, Vice President
- Marguerite Matusak, Secretary/Treasurer
- Leonard Bauhs and John Rowe, Newsletter
- Terry Eccles-Pettet, Newsletter Distribution
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