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Notes on Water Preparedness

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- If anyone needs an invoice to pay membership dues, mail it to the address on the invoice.
- Only a few memberships have come in so far.

Alec's News

- Benjamin is out with the flu.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Young Professionals First Friday Luncheon at Vinny's in Bealeton on the 7th from 12 to 1.
 - Heather Suthbin's Spicy Magnolia Boutique ribbon cutting on lower fifth from 5 to 7 that evening.
- Volunteers are needed for the fall festival.
 - They need 20-30 people, but usually get 10-12.
 - There are various shifts available.
 - It's a good opportunity for students needing service hours or groups with civic causes.
- Starting a fifth lead share, geographically based in Vent Hill.
 - It's for those doing or considering doing business in the Vent Hill area.
 - The schedule is tentatively the second and fourth Fridays, starting in April.

Judd Walls with Constant Water

- Constant Water battery powers emergency water systems.
- Water is essential for drinking, washing, cleaning, sanitation, and hygiene.
- Infrastructure, communications, and government systems are at risk from unsavory international actors.
- Without water for a long time, there's a risk of dehydration, especially for older people, and unsanitary conditions.
- Brock Long, former FEMA Administrator, said that relying on FEMA for commodities is a mistake, as they manage disasters after the fact.
 - He noted a lack of a true culture of preparedness among citizens.

- FEMA's response to Hurricane Helene was embarrassing and arguably politicized.
- The federal government recommends 1 gallon of water per day per person during a significant event for consumption only.
 - A minimum of 64 ounces of water a day for consumption is recommended.
 - Older folks may need more due to the risk of dehydration.
 - This doesn't include water for sanitation, hygiene, pets, or livestock.

Water Requirements and Sanitation

- People and animals need water, ideally clean water.
 - A person needs a gallon of water per day, or a family of four needs four gallons per day.
 - A 4-5 day water outage would require significant water storage (20 gallons for a family of four).
- Basic sanitation and hygiene are important, especially in rural settings.
 - Washing hands is necessary after working with animals.
 - Toilets need to be flushed to avoid health risks.
 - Most toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, with some newer models using around 1.2 gallons.

Constant Water Systems

- Constant water systems are battery-powered emergency water systems that provide potable backup water during water outages.
- The system includes a tank plumbed into the home's existing plumbing.
 - Water flows through the tank, keeping it full and the water fresh.
 - The system provides 40, 80, or 120 gallons of water under pressure when needed.
- The control unit contains a 12-volt battery and air compressor.
 - The compressor forces air into a bladder inside the tank, pressurizing the surrounding water.
 - This allows water to flow when a faucet is opened or a toilet is flushed.
- A 120-gallon system can provide:
 - 10 days of drinking water for a family of four.
 - 25 toilet flushes.
 - 20 minutes of hand washing.

System Specifications and Operation

- Available in 40, 80, and 120-gallon systems.
 - The 120-gallon tank is 6 feet tall and 25 inches in diameter.
 - It can be installed in a closet or basement and connects to 1-inch plumbing fittings.
- Operates at 30 to 50 psi, similar to most water wells.
- Requires a 120-volt power supply to keep the 12-volt battery charged.
 - The system automatically activates during a power outage and recharges when power is restored.
- Has a 5-year warranty.

Importance of a Plan

- Everyone needs a plan for emergencies, including water, food, communications, and electricity.
 - "Whether you have a constant water system or a generator or 50 gallon bottles of water in your basement, you need to have a plan."
- Check emergency supplies regularly (flashlights, radios, batteries, generator).
 - Test generators monthly to ensure they start and function properly.
 - Know how to start the generator manually if automatic start fails.
- Check flashlights and replace batteries as needed.
- Lithium batteries are preferable for flashlights because they don't leak.

Weekly Maintenance

- Set a weekly calendar reminder to perform maintenance tasks.
- Examples of weekly maintenance tasks:
 - Purge sand sediment filter.
 - Activate the constant water system to ensure it comes on, pressurizes, and shuts off.
 - Start the generator.
 - Turn phone off and on.

Emergency Planning & Water Needs

- Regardless of emergency plan (power outage, storm, etc.), know water needs and have adequate water supply.
- Know what emergency equipment is needed, have it in place, and ensure it works.
- Build a plan.

Tank Lifespan & Filtration

- Tank is plastic and largely unimpacted by scaling.
- Any filtration should take place before the system; filter changes/purging are independent of the system.

Refilling Water from External Source

- Recommend plumbing in a hose valve on either side of the bottom fitting for water input.
- Bulk water vehicle can hook up to the tank and refill through that valve.
- External hose bib can be used to backflow water through the house to refill.
- Small solar panel connected to the battery can recharge the system, extending its life.

Customer Experiences & System Capabilities

- Customers in western North Carolina were without water for almost two weeks and were happy with the system.
- System eliminates the need to fill a bathtub with water before storms.
- Systems are installed in new homes, remodels, and livestock dwellings (e.g., horse barns).

Multiple tanks can be connected and driven off a single controller.

Battery Capacity & Usage

- For 360 gallons of water, an additional external battery is recommended.
- Single battery is designed with 25% more capacity than needed for 120 gallons of water.
- For city water, the system can activate and recharge the battery if the water main breaks but power is maintained.
- In rural areas where power drives water, an external battery is needed for larger water volumes during power outages.

Problem Solving

- "Solving problems is fun. And making people more happy, happier, comfortable in their lives, it's pretty rewarding."

Countryside Title and Escrow (Erin)

- Developing relationships with real estate attorneys for larger deals.
- Works with agents/brokers with buyer clients and does seller-side only transactions.
- Refi market has been good this spring, with several refis/construction loans in progress.
- There has been a slight inventory increase in northern Virginia.

NJP Accounting (Noah Portugal)

- Virtual accountants specializing in bookkeeping and payroll services for businesses, nonprofits, and personal accounts.
- LLCs and corporations are completed, audits are pending for nonprofits, and personal accounts are being worked on.
- Received a text message from E-ZPass, which was a scam.
 - "To prevent your vehicle registration from being suspended and avoid extra fees. Please ensure your toll payment is made by March 1, 2025. Take a moment now to complete your payment. Click here to pay."

Scams and Warnings

- EZPass:
 - A member received a suspicious notification with different verbiage than usual.
 - They checked EZPass directly (without clicking the link in the notification) and found no issues.
 - Their wife read an article about EZPass scams.
 - The speaker warns, "Don't click on links" from area code 44 (or other unfamiliar area codes like Alaska).
- Netflix:
 - A member received a professional-looking email claiming their subscription had expired.
 - Upon closer inspection, the email was not from Netflix.
 - The speaker notes that Netflix typically just turns off subscriptions and requires reactivation.

Announcements and Events

- March 24: Chats event at 4:30 PM at the Path Foundation.
 - Chats is described as "connecting humans and telling stories... what every networking or icebreaking event ought to be."
- March 4: Marching Band Day.
- May 4: Star Wars Day ("May the 4th be with you").

Financial Advice

- Dennis Donovan from Bowman Gaskins financial group advises caution in the current investment climate.
- He suggests keeping funds needed within the next 6-12 months out of the stock market.
- He believes that long-term investments (3-5 years) will recover.

Lead Box and Business Activity

- Members are reminded to fill out lead slips and include their business cards.
- There will be a four-way split of the \$25 pot due to a tie.

Personal Updates

- Dennis Reitz announced the birth of his fourth granddaughter, Zariah, who weighed nine pounds.

International Builder Show

- Dennis Reitz attended the International Builder Show, which features over a million square feet of display space and seminars.
- He emphasizes the importance of educating oneself about one's industry to improve as a person and a company.
- The show is typically held in Las Vegas or Atlanta due to the size of their convention centers.

Health and Wellness

- Stephanie Teague from Beamer attended a Beamer meeting in Texas.
- A medical consultant spoke about the dangers of prolonged sitting, stating it can "cut off your lifespan... by decades."
- She recommends getting up and moving every two hours, even for a few minutes.
- Standing desks are better than sitting, but movement is key.
- She also highlights the importance of sleep and offers Beamer as a solution for those who are tired or can't sleep well.

UVA Community Credit Union

- The team at UVA Community Credit Union focuses on both personal and business financial needs.

- They offer services like equipment loans, payroll assistance, lines of credit, and credit cards for small businesses.

Space is Organized and Styled

- Kelsey May with Space is Organized and Styled assists clients with organizational needs in their homes.
- They also help clients build healthy and sustainable organizational habits.

Piedmont Fine Properties

- Becky Miller is with Piedmont Fine Properties.

Real Estate Market & Personal Experience

- Speaker has been in real estate for 23 years and is confident in handling market challenges.
- Speaker assists clients with life transitions, not just property transactions.
 - Example: Helping a client in Canada manage a deceased relative's estate, including legal matters, lender navigation, and estate disposal.
 - This saved the client time and money compared to hiring an attorney hourly.
- Speaker is with Piedmont Fine Properties and is willing to help people in difficult situations.

Lead Share Schedule & Chamber Support

- Next week is Russ, followed by Fatima on the 18th (who needs to switch), and Noah on the 25th.
- The Chamber can fill in gaps in the lead share schedule due to absences.
- Consider cycling back through the list to see who hasn't presented lately.
- There's a running list of non-lead share folks with topics of interest.

Future Lead Share Topics & Ideas

- April 1st is the Alzheimer's training.
- Consider mindset work or business planning sessions to keep lead shares fresh and productive.

Scott Bricker Arcadia Media Group: Apple Business Solutions

- Apple offers verified email accounts through iCloud for businesses, which can improve email campaign deliverability and prevent spoofing issues.
- Apple has corporate plans with leasing agreements for products, including some not available to everyday consumers.
- Verified iCloud accounts can integrate with Siri for business promotion.
- This service is free, unlike other services charging up to \$20/month.

Judd Walls: iCloud Email Sub-Accounts

- Speaker is considering moving personal email to iCloud for unlimited sub-accounts.
 - Example: Creating unique email addresses for different services (e.g., J.Walls Verizon) to track data breaches or sales of email addresses.
- This is about branding and protection, as "your brand is probably your most valuable asset."
- Tap to pay will show legitimate information with a business account.

Beneficial Owner Information Reporting

- Dennis brought up the beneficial owner information reporting required by Treasury a month ago.
- Alex sent out an email about it last week.

Reducing Burdens on Small Businesses

- Speaker said, "if this administration is serious about reducing the burdens on small businesses, make this go away immediately."
- Trump terminated the program.
- One person did theirs last year in December, but it has been delayed.
- Someone thinks they had to do it, and they did it.

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