

4-10-82 News

City faces insurance deadline

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insurance program, all federal help for housing and disaster damage will dry up, Maynock explained.

FEMA statistics estimate federal disaster aid in the millions of dollars "is a certainty" in a 100-year flood. A 100-year flood, which carries water at the rate of 270,000 cubic feet per second, has a 25

percent chance of occurring in a 30-year period — the term of most mortgages.

Piazza suggested Mount Vernon citizens band together and tell FEMA to "take a hike," pooling the money they normally pay to FEMA and, in essence, creating their own flood insurance program.

Maynock noted that if there were no

disastrous floods for 10 years, the amount collected in this pool would be substantial, especially considering interest.

Piazza said people around here would probably be willing to create such a self-help program. He pointed out that when the flood waters rise here there are "droves of people helping out."

Maynock agreed, saying people should stop depending on government for help.

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away all you've got," he said.

None of the FEMA officials who have visited Mount Vernon were available for comment. FEMA's regional director, Bill Mayer, told The Argus no comment will be made until Chuck Steele, FEMA director of natural and technological hazards, returns to the office. He said this should happen sometime next week.

"We want to talk with one voice," he said. "We're not anxious to create a furor."

Is FEMA deadline reasonable?

public meeting the city must give two week's notice to the public. By the time citizens have a chance to air their feelings, the time limit would be half over.

To add to this, FEMA officials are unavailable to offer comment on the solution. The Argus contacted FEMA officials in Bothell last week and every official connected with the Mount Vernon issue was said to be "out of the office for two weeks."

MOUNT VERNON — Can the City of Mount Vernon come up with an ordinance resolving the complex flood management issue in 30 days? The odds are against it.

"Thirty days is really unrealistic," Larry Moller, city attorney commented last week. He said writing an ordinance like that affects so many people it would take public input.

That is the crux of the problem. To hold a