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From: Ann Beck <abeck@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 08:38:16 AM PST

Subject: RE: Winter Emergency Shelter Options

Hi Dena,

I really appreciate your feedback. It reminds me of why I love this community whenever I see my fellow community member looking out for the well-being of their neighbors.

I apologize to the large group as a whole for writing back in a reply all style, I just wanted you to know I responded.

I wanted to share with you Dena the reasoning behind announcing just one night of shelter during this first opening. I helped craft the message announcing it and knew that we would be open for longer than one night. I chose to only announce one night to make sure the messaging got out in the right way and was clear and informative. I also knew that we had the volunteers needed for that first night to open shelter, whereas some of the upcoming holiday nights, when we are expected to open, we didn't have all of the volunteers spots filled. I don't want to send folks to a place that is not equipped to open.

We will announce today what the plan is for the next couple of nights as well as messaging for the transition to the opening of the Women's Civic Field Shelter on Friday. Having that shelter open will provide that stability you mentioned in your email. The nightly consistency will lessen anxiety for some.

Opening severe weather shelters with a higher temperature would be ideal, but it takes significant human power and resources to run them nightly. We have great community members who have stepped up to help staff the shelters, but the volunteers that have been screened and trained are more limited this week as many are unavailable due to the holiday weekend.

Again, I appreciate all of your suggestions and will carry them going forward as we continue to develop our procedures and plans for this type of weather.

I do have a favor to ask of you! If you are able to share the opportunities below with your circles, that would be wonderful.

We still need volunteers for both the Women's Civic Field Shelter and the Severe Weather Shelter. If you train for one, you can be used for either volunteer opportunity. Here are the links for that.

[Severe Weather Shelter Volunteering](#)
[Women's Civic Field Nightly Shelter](#)

Again, thanks for your feedback, and if you have any follow up questions or concerns, feel free to send them to me. I am happy to talk more about it.

Thanks,
Ann

Ann Beck, MSW, LICSW
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Pronouns: she/her/hers



