

## **Hello Neighbors!**

To all of our friends and neighbors, we welcome you to our annual newsletter. Each year, we take pride in the opportunity to reach out to each of you to let you know how your local volunteer fire department has worked hard to serve you and the community. Included in this issue are some of the highlights of what we consider great successes in improving our effectiveness as a volunteer fire organization. We hope you enjoy.

## **Improving WPFD's Service Fleet**

WPFD is very excited about new and planned upgrades to our service fleet. Come see our newest additions!

- **New Tanker #1** -A new water truck has been placed in service to replace our oldest fire tanker truck. For areas that don't yet have fire hydrant access, this vehicle, built on a Kenworth chassis, carries about 3,000 gallons of water. This truck replaces our oldest water tanker truck that was converted from a former military 6x6 tanker vehicle. It is a new vehicle designed and built for WPFD to better serve our areas without municipal water service. This vehicle at Station #1 will serve all residents in our district and assists all station areas should the need for water be required.
- **New Rescue #1** – Our current rescue at Station #1 has been replaced with a new service vehicle designed for not only rescue and medical calls, but also as a fire support vehicle. This larger truck will carry more equipment, including more breathing air-bottles and refill supplies that we use for structure/vehicle fires. Refilling air-bottles can only be done at our main station. Running out of bottled air won't be a problem now that we can replenish remotely while we are on scene. Also called 'Squad-1' this vehicle is more versatile than ever so we can arrive even more prepared!
- **Coming Soon** – Our current water tanker truck at Station #2 (Kanis Rd.) will soon be replaced with a newer vehicle under construction. The Arkansas Forestry Commission has allocated a newer 1991 International 6x6 truck to replace the current Tanker 2. This truck has extremely low mileage and is in excellent shape to build our next tanker vehicle with great water hauling capabilities. This vehicle will be in-service later this year.

## **Firehouse Subs Awards Grant**

Firehouse Subs Restaurants in Central Arkansas (Owners Tim Cobb and Steve Armstrong) and the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation awarded West Pulaski Fire Department a grant to purchase 40 complete sets of Wild-land Protective Fire Clothing. Used for protection of our fire fighters when battling grass, brush, and forest fires, this gear will keep our folks protected from burns in wild-land fire conditions. The grant consisted of the purchase of pants, shirts, helmets, gloves, goggles and boots that are all fire resistant. The investment that the local Firehouse Subs restaurants and national Firehouse Subs Foundation shows the dedication to serve our local department and firefighters while helping ensure we all get back home safely! Thanks Firehouse Subs! We love our new gear as much as we love your sandwiches!



WPFD Firefighters (wearing our new protective clothing) and our friends from Firehouse Subs and the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation at the presentation ceremony held in April of this year.

## Do you have a private gate?

Contact WPFDF now for information to ensure a quick response during an emergency. We can advise you of options and contractors that will help you obtain a secure access solution to ensure emergency responders can access your residence in an emergency. If you are not home or not able to open your private fence/gate, this safety device could help ensure that responders get there fast when seconds count the most. Once you get a Fire-Box installed by your local gate contractor, we will install a WPFDF department padlock for a one-time charge of only \$5.00. Need more information? Contact us today at our business office (501-821-9320) or email [wdfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wdfd@sbcglobal.net) to request your lock or get more information.

## Training News

Firefighting is much more than waiting for an alarm, rushing to the scene of a fire, and aiming a high-pressure hose at a fire. State, Federal and WPFDF departmental regulations require that all firefighters learn and maintain their skills on a regular basis. While we train often to be Arkansas Certified Firefighters, we also have several folks that have taken such training to the next level with completion of complex courses requiring several months of classes and study. Here are just some of the certifications our volunteers obtain to be better prepared in an emergency situation.

Advanced Medical Courses (CPR, Certified-First Responder, and Emergency Medical Technician).

Fire Operations (Firefighter I and II multi-course modules)

Federal (FEMA) National Incident Management training (multi-agency local and national operations)

Specialty/Hazard Courses (Hazardous Material (Haz-Mat) Awareness/Operations, LP Gas, etc)

Certified Training Officers (Certified Training Officers to help operate more internal training opportunities for courses approved by the Arkansas Fire Academy)

New Course for WPFDF (Req. by FEMA)

We have several firefighters completing an 80-hour program for Driver Operator certification. An in-depth advance study over the many complexities associated with driving and operating large fire apparatus in normal and emergency conditions.

Thank you to all of our WPFDF volunteers who give substantial time and effort to train and respond to the needs of our community!

## Station #2 Expansion

After years of planning, our folks at Station #2 (Kanis Road) are nearing completion on a building renovation project that will include a 560 square foot building addition for a new office, restroom and meeting/training area. The projects construction started in January of this year and has been built over an eight-month process and nears completion very soon. Firefighters and some valuable friends/neighbors have invested all the labor and effort to build a high quality structure on to the existing building. Our folks at station #2 will now have a lot more room to work and train in the new area beginning later this month. Firefighters will also begin removal of the 'old office' space currently housed in the garage to allow more room for new workbenches and apparatus maintenance space. Assistant Chief Charlie Amato commented, "We have worked really hard at constructing this additional space since January. We all have worked non-stop for many months to make this desperately needed expansion a reality." He continued, "The new addition gives our station a great administrative space, our whole department a fantastic training location, and the opportunity for our individual station to reclaim about 180 square feet, or more, of our garage space back for our apparatus maintenance. It's just fantastic and beneficial for many years to come."

## Personnel News:

### Join our Venture Crew

The West Pulaski Fire Department Venture Crew is a youth organization (ages 16-18) that is sponsored by the West Pulaski Fire Department and chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, to train teens about the fire service. Venture members learn and serve their community with adult Fire Department supervision and learn the many skills used by the fire service. If you are interested in a future in firefighting, **contact Joseph Reeves at 821-9320 for more information.**

### William 'Bill' Grimmert

WPFDF mourns the loss this year of one of our founding members this past February. Bill Grimmert was a forty-year member of the WPFDF. Originally serving as a firefighter and dispatcher, Bill had a special talent since he also helped operate the Ferndale Post Office and mail route before retirement. He knew every road and most families that lived on them. Bill often navigated our crews to responses at unfamiliar addresses and then guided them by radio as if he was sitting next to you in the fire truck. Firefighter #424 (his number) has been retired in honor and memory of our friend and fellow firefighter, Bill Grimmert.

## Volunteers Needed

Would you like to help your local fire department but just haven't stopped by your local station? Would you like to help out but don't know how? If you bring the effort and a positive attitude, we will provide the equipment, the training, and know-how to become a volunteer member of the West Pulaski Fire Department. We always have a need for firefighters, but we also need help with building maintenance, office/administration, medical personnel, vehicle and grounds maintenance, etc. No prior experience needed. So, if you or someone you know might be a great fit for our volunteer fire department, just call (501-821-9320) or stop by any WPFD Station for more information.

## **Calendar of Events**

### Annual 'All You Can Eat'

#### Catfish and Chicken Dinner

PLACE: MARTINDALE BAPTIST CHURCH  
18900 COL. GLENN ROAD  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72210

TIME: SEPT 26, 2009 SERVING 5PM-7PM

Come for great food and fun. Call 501-821-3920 for advance tickets (don't wait in line!)

\$10 adults   \$6 5-12 years   4 years and under  
FREE

#### WPFD Annual Public Meeting

PLACE: FERNDAL COMMUNITY EXTENSION BUILDING  
27020 KANIS ROAD  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72223

TIME: OCTOBER 29, 2009 AT 7PM

## WPF Online Has A New Look!

If you haven't had a chance to visit us online lately, find us on the Internet at [www.wpfirerescue.org](http://www.wpfirerescue.org). We have many changes that give our site a new look, feel, and more info help you be prepared in an emergency.

Check out some of the new topics below that we have added:

### HOME PAGE

- News posts stories and photos of current events
- Announcements for things that impact you
- Links to other great new pages

### ABOUT WPF

- Contact Information
- WPF Response Capabilities
- ISO Classifications/Information/Links
- Dept. Mgmt/Board of Commissioners

### PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

- Link- Maps for Current Outdoor Burning Conditions
- Link- Maps for Active Burn Bans
- Fire Safety and Education
- Links to State, Federal and County Organizations
- Links- FEMA Preparedness
- Links- Consumer Product Safety
- Links-Fire Extinguisher
- FAQ- Frequently Asked Questions
- Safety and Pre-Planning (Info and Links)
- 911 Address Guidelines
- Fire Extinguisher Info
- More

### PHOTO GALLERIES

- Training Photos- Training and ready
- WPF On-Scene- Our folks in actions
- Apparatus – See our trucks and equipment

### WPF STATIONS (Find Your Local Station)

- Station #1 (Col. Glenn Area)
- Station #2 (Kanis Road- Ferndale Area)
- Station #3 (Hwy 10 Area)
- Station #4 (Little Italy Area)

### WPF EVENTS

- News and Photos of WPF events

## **WHO'S WHO:**

### **Board of Commissioners:**

Chairman: Greg Brewer  
Treasurer: Ronnie Wheeler (Fire Chief)  
Commissioner: Chris Smith  
Commissioner: Clay Gilliland  
Commissioner: Steve Brown

Dept. Secretary: Deb Crow

### **CONTACT INFO:**

Send Mail Correspondence to:  
**2810 Whispering Pines Rd**  
**Little Rock, AR. 72210**

**Non-Emergency Phone:**  
**(501) 821-9320**

**For Emergencies:**  
**Dial 911**

Email: [wpfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpfd@sbcglobal.net)  
Newsletter: [wpfdnewsletter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpfdnewsletter@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.wpfirerescue.org](http://www.wpfirerescue.org)

## **Fire Department Info**

West Pulaski Fire Protection District #23 volunteer fire department is subscription based and proudly protects 9000+ people living in an area of 160+ square miles. We operate out of 4 stations and protect primarily rural areas around/near non-incorporated areas of Pulaski, Saline and Perry Counties west of Little Rock, Arkansas. Our service is a public department whose members are volunteers with fire, rescue/extrication and medical training.

WPFD is classified as a public charity under section 501©3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Our fire department WPFD is also eligible to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the department are tax deductible.

## **PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU!**

WPFD would like to remind you that we can't help you quickly if we cannot find you quickly. Please check your mailbox to make sure your address numbers are **LARGE** and **CLEARLY VISIBLE** from the roadway. If we can find your address numbers quickly, we can help you faster in an emergency situation!

### **REMINDER:**

When an emergency vehicle (fire truck or firefighter in a personal vehicle) is approaching that is displaying emergency lights and/or sirens.... Please **PULL TO THE RIGHT AND STOP OR SLOW DOWN** at the nearest safe location\* that will allow the emergency vehicle to pass you. This will allow the emergency vehicle adequate room to get around you using visibly clear passing lanes to safely and quickly continue its response.

\*Please don't stop on a blind curve or hill where the fire vehicle cannot see oncoming traffic.  
Just proceed to the next safe place to stop and allow the vehicle to pass you.