



## 2010 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1      SEPTEMBER 2010

### MESSAGE FROM CHIEF RONNIE WHEELER

Another active year has passed since our last fire department newsletter. I want to share the news your volunteer fire department is making great strides in continually upgrading the equipment used to protect you and your homes. Two new quick fire attack/rescue vehicles with high pressure foam systems are now in service at our Hwy. 10 and Wye Mtn. (Little Italy) fire stations. Our Ferndale station now has a newer model water tanker to haul water to areas without fire hydrants.

Through generous donations and funds raised at our fish fry dinner last year, we have purchased two new sets of rescue tools (Jaws of Life) that will be based at our Hwy. 10 and Colonel Glenn stations. These extrication tools are used to remove persons trapped in crashed vehicles. Newer automotive technology and government safety standards have created stronger modern vehicles that are manufactured with higher density metal materials and construction. This makes our jobs much more difficult and time consuming to extricate persons pinned inside of a vehicle after a crash. Our new extrication equipment will help ensure the department can handle those tough situations and are proud to have the right tools available to get the job done.



We are also working diligently to upgrade our fire station facilities to provide more training and storage capabilities for your volunteer firefighters. Soon, we hope to acquire a computer lab area that will enable firefighters to take required and optional online training courses offered by FEMA and the National Fire Academy. Having the opportunity to replace older vehicles with newer fire trucks has created new issues for our stations as the newer style fire trucks are quite larger than those we had in the past. Our fire truck bays in our stations that were once large are now small. Our strategy is to begin some facility expansion, where possible, for easier maintenance, general safety, productive training and housing the large amount of equipment needed for us to be a prepared fire department.

Because of the acquisition of new equipment, vehicles, and new water lines/hydrants being installed over the past few years, our Board of Commissioners are now submitting paperwork to the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) to help us acquire better fire ratings in our district. The ISO organization will review our submission, evaluate our capabilities, which will determine our appropriate rating. This rating is used by many insurance companies in setting homeowners policy prices. We hope this leads to reductions in homeowners insurance premiums. We hope to bring you good news in the future, once this is completed.

Finally, I want to mention that we are in need of volunteers, not only as firefighters and medical responders, but for general duty tasks that are needed for us to operate as a large and active volunteer organization. We can always use help in maintaining our facilities, mowing, painting, and more. If you would like to help us in any way, please call us at 501-821-9320. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a firefighter or medical responder please call. We would love to have you join our

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Annual "All You Can Eat" Chicken and Catfish Dinner—Oct 2, 2010

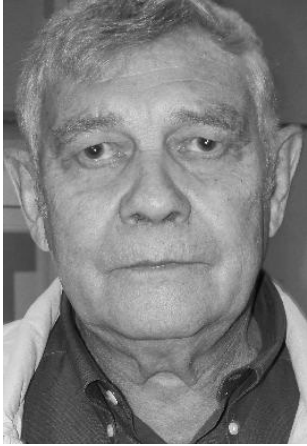
Join us for our annual fundraiser dinner at the Martindale Baptist Church gymnasium.

Great food and fun begins at 5 p.m. with the food serving line open until 7 p.m.

Bring the whole family and your appetites. Adults \$10/Children 5-12 \$6/ Kids 4 and under eat free!

## MEET SOME OF WEST PULASKI FIRE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEERS

### FIREFIGHTER PROFILE—BUD MORRIS



**Name and Rank -** Bud Morris— Certified Firefighter

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** About 32 years. I joined the fire department in 1978, a couple months after it was organized. It was called Pilgrim Rest Fire Department, at first, until it grew to serve a much larger area that needed our help. The name was changed to West Pulaski Fire Dept. a few years later.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?** We had to help ourselves to protect our own houses and our neighbors houses. I really enjoy helping others.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer fire fighter?** I became a certified firefighter. In the early days, we didn't have much technology or newer trucks like we have now. We were just glad to have a few trucks and tools to do the job when we had a fire to fight.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?** I have been here since almost the beginning of this department. I still enjoy helping when I can and spending time with our great the folks in our organization.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer firefighter?**  
– Retired— Former owner of a starter and alternator repair business.

**How do you spend your free time when not working/volunteering with WPFD?**  
– I enjoy spending time with my wife, children, grand-children, and great-grand-children.

### FIREFIGHTER PROFILE—JEFF MCALLISTER



**Name and Rank -** Jeff McCallister —Certified Firefighter & First Responder

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** 4 years. I joined the WPFDD Venture Crew when I was 16. When I turned 18, I joined the department and became a certified firefighter.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?** I joined the department mostly because I've always thought firefighting was an interesting and challenging job. That and the equipment and big red trucks are very cool to work with.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer fire fighter?** I really enjoy fire-ground operations (all firefighting functions during a fire) and auto extrication where we can use the Jaws-Of-Life.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?** My favorite thing is fighting any type of fire (structure, woods, etc.) and helping others in my community.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer firefighter?**  
– Currently I am working part time as a cashier at a Little Rock business while preparing to go back to school next semester to work on a degree in Criminal Justice that specializes in Fire Investigations.

**How do you spend your free time when not working/volunteering with WPFDD?**  
– When I'm not working with WPFDD, I also work with our neighbor fire departments, Crystal Fire. I also enjoy spending time outdoors and riding 4-wheelers.

## MEET SOME OF WEST PULASKI FIRE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEERS

### FIREFIGHTER PROFILE—STEVEN CRAIG

**Name and Rank** - Steven Craig- WPFD Training Officer

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** About 8 years. I started in 2002 at the age of 17. I began as a junior firefighter until I turned 18 to become fully certified.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?** - I joined the fire department because I had friends from school that were members that enjoyed the fire service and I just grew to love it as well. I enjoy it so much that I made it my career. Even though I am a paid firefighter, I still volunteer with WPFD when I can.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer fire fighter?** - I love to instruct and teach others how to use the skills and techniques that I have learned as a professional firefighter. A few years ago I went through the training to become a certified instructor and can help share my professional experience to our volunteer organization.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?** - I respect all volunteer firefighters because no one would work so hard at a job, without pay, if they didn't love helping other people, protecting lives and property.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer firefighter?** I am a full time firefighter and emergency medical technician for the city of Conway Fire Department.

**How do you spend your free time when not working as a professional fire fighter or volunteering with WPFD?** - Whatever free time I have, when not working or volunteering, is spent with my wife, Katie, and 9 month old baby girl,



### FIREFIGHTER PROFILE—LESLEY ROGERS

**Name and Rank** - Lesley Rogers - Certified Firefighter & First Responder

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** 3 1/2 years

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?** I wanted to get involved in my community. The fire department is not just about burning houses and car wrecks. It is bigger than that. It is about neighbors helping neighbors and an excellent way to be actively involved with a group that makes a difference where I live.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer fire fighter?** Firefighting and various types of emergency responses. I became a Certified First Responder to learn how to approach any emergency situation, enhance my first-aid training and CPR skills, and handle stressful situations with a level head.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?** - We get to help people when they need help the most. Our payback is the relief we see on someone's face when we arrive on scene to help them at a difficult time.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer firefighter?** - I am an attorney currently working for the State of Arkansas.

**How do you spend your free time when not working/volunteering with WPFD?** - I love to spend time with my husband and family. I enjoy working around my home, gardening and landscaping. I thoroughly enjoy the outdoors.



## **CAN FIRE VEHICLES ACCESS YOUR HOME?**

Planning for an emergency doesn't take much time, but making some simple changes around your home can really help ensure that large emergency vehicles can access your property in a fire situation. Please consider that large vehicles and a small army of firefighters need a lot of room to park and operate the tools of the trade when trying to quickly extinguish a grass, brush, or structure fire.

- Make sure any gates or bridges are wide enough to support commercial sized vehicles and are strong enough to support the weight of loaded water trucks
- Consider removing any obstructing trees and limbs that would prevent large vehicles from accessing your driveway and around your home
- Remove vehicles, debris, building materials or obstructions located directly around the house or structure that would prevent one or more fire vehicles and firefighters from easily accessing the home for fire suppression activities

## **DO YOU HAVE A PRIVATE GATE?**

Contact WPFD now for information to ensure a quick response during an emergency. We will be happy to advise you of gate options and local contractors that will help you obtain a secure access solution to ensure emergency responders can access your home or business in an emergency. If you are not at home or are unable to open your private gate, this safety device could help ensure we get there fast when seconds count the most.

A qualified technician should first install an electronic gate fire-box. Then, contact us at 501-821-9320 to have your WPFD fire-box padlock installed. Cost for the lock is a one time fee of \$5.00. We will bring the lock to your location to ensure proper operation.

Don't wait!  
Call us Today!



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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED— LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP**

Would you like to help your local fire department but you don't know where to begin? 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/grounds maintenance, office/administration, medical personnel and more. No prior experience needed. If you or someone you know might be a great fit for our volunteer fire department, just call (501-821-9320), email us at [wpfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpfd@sbcglobal.net), or stop by any WPFD Station for more information.



## 2009 FISH FRY FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

Last years WPFD fundraiser dinner was a big success. So many folks from the community were able to come out and enjoy our annual chicken and fish dinner that we hold at the end of each summer. This dinner is a great way to spend time with our neighbors in a “non-emergency” capacity while serving great food. We also get to use the proceeds of the dinner to acquire tools and technology to help us serve our community better. For those of you that came out to eat with us or helped by sponsoring our event, we want you to know that you helped us make some great strides in acquiring new equipment that directly affects our fire and rescue capabilities in the community.

We are proud to announce we have used funds from last years event to help purchase a new, stronger (we mean super strong) and more powerful set of auto-extrication equipment, also known as the Jaws-Of-Life, for the entire district to utilize. Made by TNT extrication, this extreme set of tools compliments our smaller extrication tools used on our other rescue vehicles. With newer vehicles meeting greater government strength and safety guidelines, we needed to upgrade to have the at least one set of equipment that can help manage the stronger steel reinforcements in modern vehicles that can trap persons in a major collision. We are thrilled to have one of the strongest tools on the market that can get those tough jobs done.

WPFD also acquired an second compressed air “CASCADE” system to help refill our compressed air supply bottles used on breathing equipment when fighting fires. This system, placed at our Hwy 10 station, helps centrally locate an auxiliary air bottle refill station for quick replenishment on major structure fire incidents and reduce breathing air shortages. We carry extra air bottles, but these bottles are very expensive to acquire. With these additional remote refill capabilities, we can make faster trips to replenish air when needed and keep fighting those

## IMPROVING WPFD’S SERVICE FLEET

### **New Rescues # 3 & # 4 Now In Service:**

Our rescue response vehicles at our Hwy 10 and Little Italy stations have been replaced with new heavy-duty vehicles. They are designed for our growing need to support increasing rescue/collision and medical incidents. These trucks carry a large array of tools, medical gear, and rescue/extrication equipment for non-fire/small fire rescue calls. They also now bring firefighting capabilities with high-pressure compressed water foam system to quickly extinguish fires with suppressant foam!



### **New Tanker # 2 Now In Service:**

Station # 2 in Ferndale is proud to place in-service a donated military construction materials truck that has been repurposed to serve as Tanker #2. This vehicle carries 2,000 gallons of water on an all-wheel drive chassis to any structure or wild-land fire in areas without fire hydrants and hard to reach areas that need a truck that goes anywhere.



**Coming Soon—New Tanker #3** – Our current water tanker truck at Station #3 (Hwy 10.) will soon be replaced with a newer vehicle under construction. The Arkansas Forestry Commission has allocated a newer commercial chassis semi-tractor that will be used to replace the current Tanker #3. This truck, currently a dump truck from the military, has low mileage and is in great shape to build our next water tanker vehicle with great water hauling capabilities. We will begin modifying the truck and painting soon. Look for this new retrofitted truck as fire vehicle later this year.

## **PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU! UPDATE YOUR MAILBOX ADDRESS NUMBERS TODAY!**

Please check your mailbox to make sure your address numbers are LARGE and CLEARLY VISIBLE from any direction on the roadway. If we can view your address numbers quickly, we can help you faster in an emergency situation!



- Address numbers should be 3-4 inches in size and reflective or highly contrasting
- Place numbers on both sides of your mailbox so responders can find you fast from any approaching street direction
- If you share a mailbox post, make sure the front of your mailbox also has large easy-to-read address numbers.
- If you share a driveway, install address signs or address posts leading to your house to show us the way.
- Make sure your address and home can be spotted quickly at any time of day or night and in any type of weather.

**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU QUICKLY, WE CAN'T HELP YOU QUICKLY.**

## **REMINDER: SLOW DOWN AND PULL OVER FOR ANY EMERGENCY VEHICLE**

When an emergency vehicle (fire truck or firefighter in a personal vehicle) is approaching with emergency lights and/or sirens.... Please SLOW DOWN, PULL TO THE RIGHT AND STOP IN A SAFE LOCATION\* FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO PASS YOU. This will allow the emergency vehicle adequate room to safely get around you using visibly clear passing lanes to continue its emergency 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 when it is safe to do so.**

## **CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!**

Smoke Alarms need fresh batteries to work effectively. Never take chances when the safety of you and your family are at risk. WPFD recommends you change your smoke alarm batteries about every 6 months to ensure they work properly in case of a fire. Daylight Savings Time is a good time to replace batteries.

Test your smoke alarms weekly so you and your family can get out quickly should a fire begin in your home. This is also a good time to create or review your fire evacuation plan with your entire family. Online information and education is available right now at [www.firesafety.gov](http://www.firesafety.gov)





## **CHECK OUT WPFD ONLINE, ANYTIME:**

West Pulaski Fire Department's online web sight has tons of information, news and events you can use at [www.wpfirerescue.org](http://www.wpfirerescue.org) to keep you up-to-date on YOUR local volunteer fire department

- o Fire Department News And Information
- o Find Out About Annual Fire Dues
- o Safety Tips- Be Prepared!
- o Links to Weather And Outdoor Burning / Wildfire Risks
- o Helpful Links To Local, State And Federal Organizations
- o Frequently Asked Questions On Fire Department Topics.....With Answers!
- o Incident Stories And Photos of WPFD In Action
- o Don't Forget To Check Back Often For Updates

## **Personnel News:**

### **Be a part of our WPFD Venture Junior Firefighter 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 educate 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, **contact Joseph Reeves at 821-9320 for more information.**

### **REMEMBERING RETIRED CHIEF TOM CATON**

Since our last newsletter, WPFd lost one of our most dedicated members and leaders. Late last year, Retired Chief Tom Caton, 78, passed away after serving our community as a member of the West Pulaski Fire Department for 33 years. He served as Fire Chief for 17 of those years. We want to say Thank You , again, to his family for their tireless support that allowed him to serve with us in the fire service. His passion for our community left a strong legacy with our fire department and he is greatly missed .





West Pulaski Fire Department is a public department whose members are dedicated volunteers (unpaid) with fire, rescue and medical response training.

**Board of Commissioners:**

**Chairman: Greg Brewer**

**Commissioner: Ronnie Wheeler  
(Fire Chief)**

**Commissioner: Chris Smith**

**Comm/Treasurer: Clay Gilliland**

**Commissioner: Steve Brown**

**Sec/Dist. Assessor: Deb Crow**

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**CONTACT INFO:**

**Send Mail Correspondence to:**

**West Pulaski Fire Department**

**2810 Whispering Pines Rd**

**Little Rock, AR. 72210**

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

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**Email us anytime at:  
[wpfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpfd@sbcglobal.net)**

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**VIST US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.WPFIRERESCUE.ORG](http://WWW.WPFIRERESCUE.ORG)**

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**IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911  
IMMEDIATELY TO GET US STARTED  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DON'T WASTE  
VALUABLE TIME WHEN SECONDS  
COUNT THE MOST!**

WPFD is classified as a public charity under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Our fire department, WPFD, is also eligible to receive tax-deductible donations, bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the department are tax deductible.

**Do You Know Where Your Local Fire Station Is Located?**

**Station 1** – 2810 Whispering Pines Road (Near Col. Glenn)

**Station 2** – 25911 Kanis Road in the Ferndale area

**Station 3** – 22624 Hwy 10 and Ferndale Cut-off.

**Station 4**— 35921 Hwy 300 in Little Italy.

Feel free to come by any of our stations to meet our volunteers, tour our station, look at our fire equipment (bring the kids!) or find out how you can join our department.

Our stations are not staffed at all times, however, we conduct weekly maintenance on most Tuesday nights between 7 –9 p.m. We look forward to you dropping by!