



## 2011 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1      SEPTEMBER 2011

### MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

West Pulaski Fire Department has had an incredibly busy year. Since our last update, we have accomplished a lot and set the wheels in motion to accomplish even more this year. Like last year, we have made great strides that makes our volunteer fire department stronger and more capable in protecting you and your homes.

This year we completed a major upgrade to the water tanker based at our Hwy. 10 fire station. By refurbishing the existing tank body and replacing the heavy-duty truck chassis with a newer lower-mileage model, we built a much stronger vehicle that will increase its reliability with lower maintenance. These high-volume water trucks are critical for water delivery to areas in our district that don't have water hydrants.

Our department has also begun replacing all of our "Brush Trucks", heavy-duty pickups that are used for on-road/off-road firefighting in wooded, grassy, and forested areas. Since our beginning, our crews have headed into the off-road areas to battle woods and grass fires with trucks that were usually worn-out before we got them. Investing in good, modern vehicles like these is necessary as these trucks are safer and more reliable to deliver our crews to remote fire areas. Not only will the vehicles get us to the fires, but they are now more likely to get us home when the fire is out. Look for these newer trucks in your area as we complete their in-house transformation from work-truck to fire truck in all of our station areas.

Additionally, due to the continued acquisition of better equipment, newer vehicles, and more water hydrants in the past couple years, we are also completing the evaluation process of our districts fire rating that is assigned by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). We have been working several years to upgrade all levels of our service and capabilities so we can obtain better fire ratings in our district. The ISO organization is driving through our district as I write this and preparing for our on-site testing exercises that will determine our appropriate rating. This rating is used by many insurance companies in setting homeowners policy prices. We fully intend to improve our classification by lowering our fire rating (lower is better) and reduce homeowner insurance premiums. We hope to bring you good news later this year, once the full evaluation is completed.

Finally, I want to mention that we continue to need volunteers, not only as firefighters and medical responders, but for general duty tasks that can help our large volunteer organization. We can always use help in maintaining our facilities, mowing, painting, and more. If you would like to help us in any capacity, 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 organization. Thank you for your continued support. Have a safe and healthy year.

**Fire Chief Ronnie Wheeler, EMT**



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Annual "All You Can Eat" Chicken and Catfish Dinner—Sept 24, 2011

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 \$12/Children 5-12 \$6/ Kids 4 and under eat free!

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



Firefighter  
M. Felton  
(Station #1)

### **FIREFIGHTER—MIKE FELTON, CFF**

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** 4 years with Springhill Fire Dept. and almost 2 years with WPF. Firefighter of the Year - 2010.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?**

I always enjoy helping people. In 2009, my daughter passed away from injuries sustained in a car accident. In her memory, I strive to find positive ways to invest my time and energy. I find saving lives very rewarding.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer firefighter?**

I especially enjoy helping our elderly neighbors. They appreciate how much we care when we arrive to assist them with a medical need.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?**

I enjoy the friendships with fellow firefighters. We each have one another's backs and all share a common goal to get the work done.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer**

I have operated Felton Fence since the early 90's. Any kind of fence, standard or custom, anywhere you want it. [www.feltonfence.com](http://www.feltonfence.com)

**How do you spend your free time when not working/volunteering**

**with WPF?** I love spending time with my kids, family and friends. I work hard to be an example and role model for my kids. I also enjoy fishing and hunting.



Firefighter  
D. Brzozowski  
(Station #2)

### **FIREFIGHTER—DREW BRZOWSKI, CFF/EMT**

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** One year.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?**

I've always wanted to get into public service, but never really thought about the volunteer fire department until a friend mentioned it. I soon after decided to join WPF and it is one of the best decisions I've ever made.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer firefighter?**

I have recently earned my state and national Emergency Medical Technician certification. I've found that I really enjoy the "Emergency Medical Service" part of being a firefighter and helping people during medical and trauma related responses.

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?**

I love being able to help the people in my community.

**What is your current profession/job when you are not a volunteer**

I am a full-time student at UALR studying criminal justice.

**How do you spend your free time when not working/volunteering**

**with WPF?** I like to spend time with friends and family, I also enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and pretty much anything outdoors.

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

### **FIREFIGHTER—NATHAN WOODRUFF, CFF/FR-EMR**

**How long have you been a volunteer firefighter?** 3 years.

**What motivated you to join the volunteer fire department?**

I wanted to gain experience and knowledge before pursuing a professional position with a municipal fire department.

**What type of training or specialties do you enjoy that you have acquired as a volunteer fire fighter?**

Numerous certifications. The most interesting and ones I enjoyed the most are firefighting strategies and tactics, vehicle extrication and search & rescue (SAR).

**What do you like most about being a volunteer firefighter?**

We run on every type of emergency incident. We have all the equipment to respond to any type of call and get it done the right way.

**What is your current profession/job when not a volunteer?**

I work as an Ophthalmic Technician for a retina specialist.

**How do you spend your free time when not working/**

**volunteering with WPFD?** I enjoy fishing, hunting, working out, and spending time with my family.



**Firefighter  
N. Woodruff  
(Station #3)**

### Safety Notice— Have Your Chimney Cleaned And Inspected Each Year

It may still be summer, but colder weather is just around the corner. As lower night-time temperatures begin to arrive in the fall, many of you may be eager to begin using wood burning heaters to heat your home. WPFD wants to remind you we respond to many home emergencies each year that involve fireplaces, wood stoves and chimney fires. Many of the incidents we have seen might have been prevented with regular maintenance by a skilled technician. Before you light your first fire, please ensure your wood burning appliance is ready for a full season of heating. We encourage you to have a qualified professional clean and inspect your fireplace, stove and chimney for proper installation and operation.



# BE READY. BE PREPARED.

An old adage in Arkansas has said “if you don’t like the weather in Arkansas just wait a minute, it will change”. It can happen that fast around here. Even if it doesn’t always change quickly, Arkansans often get to experience the wide weather swings ranging from one extreme to the other. For those of you that have been in our area since January of this year, you will probably notice that we have had some wild weather. We’ve seen record rainfall, extended drought conditions and even some really close-calls for the thunderous twisting clouds that tore deadly paths in our state. Knock on wood, we haven’t seen ice storms, but the year isn’t over yet.

Your volunteer fire department spends a lot of time and effort to be prepared for ANY emergency that might arise. We know that most of our calls will be medical and fire related incidents that are localized to a single address; however, we also realize that if a major event like a tornado, earthquake, wildfire or flood were to occur, our own resources could initially be stretched thin should we experience a natural disaster in a large geographic area.

Because major weather events occur many times each year in Arkansas, we want our neighbors to be prepared. Should a major weather or other natural disaster occur, West Pulaski Fire Department will respond quickly to the affected areas, that we can assure. Please be aware that downed trees, debris, power-lines, and other hazardous conditions may be blocking our path to respond to some areas. As emergency calls are dispatched to us, WPFD will strive to quickly access and assess the impacted areas. We will also begin the coordination of additional help from neighboring fire/rescue departments, county sheriffs departments, county/state emergency management and anyone else needed to protect lives, property and manage the larger response (in that order).

If a major event does occur in our area, we ask you to be sure that you have an emergency preparedness plan and readiness kit to ensure the immediate needs of you and your family are taken care of until appropriate emergency responders can work their way to your location. We encourage you to visit a new website called [www.ready.arkansas.gov](http://www.ready.arkansas.gov) or call **1-800-BE-READY (Toll Free)** to learn vital information that you can use to be prepared like assembling an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan and being ready to help your neighbors in need.

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

Would you like to help your local volunteer 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.

If you would like to help out but don’t want to be a firefighter, we can always use help with building/grounds maintenance, office/administration, medical personnel and more. No prior experience needed. Please give us a call at (501)821-9320, send an email to [wdfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wdfd@sbcglobal.net) or just stop by any of our WPFD Stations.



## 2010 FISH FRY FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

Last years fundraiser dinner was a great success made possible by our business sponsors and a fantastic turnout of hungry attendees. Like the many years before, our WPFDF crew braved the many gallons of hot boiling oil on our custom-built fryers to serve hundreds of pounds of catfish, chicken, fries, hushpuppies, beans, coleslaw and more to the hungry masses.

Even though this night was about feeding any sized appetite that presented itself, the greater goal of the evening was to find ways to support the WPFDF Firefighters Fund. This fund is used to acquire the tools that would mean the most to our volunteers that work so hard to protect our community. These are things that normally would not be in a budget or could be difficult to acquire with so many demands for a volunteer organization. With almost 600 hungry folks fed, the net proceeds of the event made a sizeable contribution to the fund.

Earlier this summer, WPFDF made a strategic decision to upgrade all of our brush fire trucks (all of which were at least 25 years old). These trucks are used to fight forest, grass, brush, field fires and serve in support capacity for other types of fires. Acquiring modern trucks for each station area was a hefty cost in itself; however, modifying a commercial truck into a modern style brush and wild-land fire truck introduced a second expense we had to address. Our firefighters recognized the need to get the newer trucks in service with appropriate equipment upgrades and to get them operational soon.

Where possible, usable equipment like water pumps, hose reels, and radios are being moved over from the old trucks to the new trucks. Additional equipment like modern heavy-grade polymer (plastic) water tanks are being used to replace heavier steel tanks. This was worth it just for the weight savings of the plastic tanks when compared to metal. Other improvements include better warning and work lights, stronger plumbing and pumping connections, improved storage and appropriate safety striping.

Upgrades like these can cost thousands of dollars per truck. The continued support of sponsors and attendees to our dinner made a tremendous impact that was used to better equip these vehicles that will serve our community very well in the future. Look for some of these newer brush trucks to be on display at this years annual dinner.

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### **SAFETY NOTICE**

#### **PLEASE SLOW DOWN & 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, STOP IN A SAFE LOCATION\* AND ALLOW THEM 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 to pass you.

Just proceed to the next safe place to stop and allow the vehicle to pass you when it is safe to do so.



# YOU KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE BUT WE MAY NOT. HELP US FIND YOU WHEN SECONDS COUNT.

- Emergency responders need to be able to find your address from ANY approaching direction, at ANY time of day or night and in ANY type of weather.
- Check your mailbox today to ensure that LARGE ADDRESS NUMBERS are located on BOTH sides and on the FRONT.
- Address numbers should be 3-4 inches tall, reflective and/or highly contrasting.
- Be sure to make sure your mail flag or surrounding vegetation (weeds) do not block your address numbers from being seen!



- Do you share a mailbox post with neighbors? Make sure your driveway is marked with LARGE, reflective and/or contrasting numbers! Address posts work great!
- Do you share a driveway? Install an address sign or post that leads to your house to show us the way!
- Have you installed LARGE address numbers on your home? Install LARGE address numbers that are CLEARLY VISIBLE from your driveway.

## FINDING YOU QUICKLY IS THE BEST WAY TO HELP YOU QUICKLY.

### FIND WPFD ON THE INTERNET AND FACEBOOK, ANYTIME:

West Pulaski Fire Department's website has tons of information, news and events you can view at [www.wpfirerescue.org](http://www.wpfirerescue.org). This is a great way to stay informed about your volunteer fire department.

- Fire department news and information
- Get fire and safety preparedness tips
- Find links to weather, maps, state agencies and more
- Learn from our FAQ section on fire dept. related topics

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in its characteristic lowercase, rounded font.

- West Pulaski Fire Dept. is now on Facebook!
- Visit us on FACEBOOK and become a FAN today!
- Search: West Pulaski Fire Department (Little Rock, Arkansas)

# IMPROVING WPFD'S SERVICE FLEET

## **Newer Tanker #3 in-service at our Hwy 10 Station:**

Our Hwy 10 fire station now has a refurbished water tanker in-service. The Arkansas Forestry Commission has allocated a 1991 Ford F900 that has low-mileage and is in great shape. Formerly a dump truck for the military, this truck went to the fabrication shop for refurbishing. Minor chassis work, water tank updates, equipment box installation and a full paint job has allowed this truck to be reborn as a fire vehicle. We recently finished emergency lighting, radios, lettering and have placed this truck on our service line for active duty.



## **Newer Brush Truck #1:**



Our Col. Glenn fire station (Station #1) has recently completed its retrofit of its brush fire truck to a new chassis. The 2008 Ford F450 4x4 crew-cab chassis has been outfitted with a poly water tank, 18 h.p. Honda powered water pump (fire-rated), hose reel, custom plumbing, radios and LED emergency lighting. New storage boxes were constructed on the flatbed and lots of customizations were made to carry all the gear our personnel need for a fire response.

## **Newer Brush Truck #2:**

Our Ferndale fire station (Station #2) has recently completed its retrofit of its brush fire truck to a new chassis. The 2008 Ford F450 4x4 crew-cab chassis has been outfitted with a poly water tank, 18 h.p. Vanguard powered water pump (fire-rated), hose reel, custom plumbing, radios and LED emergency lighting. New storage boxes were constructed on the flatbed and lots of customizations were made to carry all the gear our personnel need for a fire response.



## **Newer Brush Truck #3 (Under Construction):**



Our Hwy 10 fire station (Station #3) has begun their retrofit of a newer brush truck chassis. The 2008 Ford 350 4x4 crew-cab chassis has had a rear steel cage cut down on the flatbed and has begun installing the poly water tank, 18 h.p. Vanguard powered water pump (fire-rated), hose reel, custom plumbing, radios and LED lighting. Look for this truck to be in-service very soon.

## **Newer Brush Truck #4 (Under Construction):**

Our Little Italy fire station (Station #4) is beginning their retrofit of a newer brush truck chassis. The 2008 Ford 350 4x4 crew-cab chassis has had a rear steel cage cut down on the flatbed. Assembly of the water tank, pump and emergency lighting begins soon. Look for this truck to be in-service later this year.





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**

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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:**

**[wdfd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wdfd@sbcglobal.net)**

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**VISIT 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!**

WPDFD is classified as a public charity under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Our fire department, WPDFD, 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 p.m. to 9 p.m. We look forward to you dropping by!