



The SPANNER

A Bi-Monthly Publication for the Friends and Firefighters of the Stayton Fire District

www.staytonfire.org

JULY—AUGUST 2017



From the Chief's Desk

~ Chief Jack Carriger

As you can see by several of the articles and information in this newsletter, Stayton Fire District has been incredibly fortunate over the years to have had great people, great volunteers; people who have dedicated their lives to volunteering to their community by making huge sacrifices for many years simply to serve when needed. These are very special people who recognize everyone can make a difference. They understand people in need don't care if you're wearing a uniform or what color a fire truck is; they just need trained, caring, professional responders to assist them during their time of need.

Stayton Fire District has been able to provide that service for decades because of the

people that have volunteered over the years and we continue to provide it today. However, it is gradually getting more difficult to do because there are fewer people who are willing to dedicate the time and make the sacrifices a volunteer firefighter has to make. This is not just an issue here in our community, this is a nationwide challenge that is crippling the fire service. With about 85% of the fire service being volunteer, it is easy to see why the lack of volunteers is critical to our ability to provide service.

Although Stayton Fire has been above the national average, recruiting and training volunteer firefighters, it is still a growing concern for our future and how we will provide service. If you know anyone who has a passion for their community and is willing to dedicate their time to serving people, please invite them to become a volunteer with Stayton Fire District; they are our future.

Thank You For Your Service

The Stayton Fire District would like to express our deep appreciation to Gene Coles for his 44 years of service; 20 as a volunteer firefighter at Mehama Station, and 24 years as a Board Director.

Gene stated that he became a volunteer FF in 1954 when a house in Mehama burnt down before firefighters from Stayton could arrive. There was a real need to protect his community. The firefighters met in a donated building until the Mehama station was built in 1980.

Gene was the initiator of the first district fundraiser, the Sweetheart Dance and Breakfast, which was held to help purchase needed equipment. It continues today as the Sweetheart Bingo and Breakfast.

Gene feels a couple of great changes he's seen over the

years is the City of Stayton and the Rural Fire District merging into one district and female firefighters.

One of many memorable moments Gene had as a firefighter was when he went into a fire at Freres; it was pitch black with smoke, and he was walking blind along a catwalk and fell into hot water up to his chest. When they finally got out of there, the alarms on their air packs were going off like crazy.

Gene recalls back in the day, volunteers were able to leave





DISTRICT ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

Eric Fery—31 yrs.
 Sherry Bensema—24 yrs.
 Kelly Oliver—16 yrs.
 Matt Riordan—16 yrs.
 Barbara Nelson—16 yrs.
 Byron Smith—12 yrs.
 Monica Johnson—10 yrs.
 Nick Lulay—5 yrs.
 Maria Sammons—5 yrs.
 Sheila Woodsmall—5 yrs.

NOVEMBER

Jack Carriger—15 yrs.
 Kurt Hueller—14 yrs.
 Alison Lindsay—9 yrs.
 Tanya McFadden—8 yrs.
 Brandon Wallet—2 yrs.
 Jason Wren—1 yr.
 Danial Koellmann—1 yr.

DECEMBER

Doug Kintz—27 yrs.
 Scott Vigil—16 yrs.
 Kristin Griffith—9 yrs.
 Theresa Smith—7 yrs.
 Michael Beaumont—1 yr.

**Congratulations
 For 250
 Years
 of Service!**

SAFETY
something we
can live with

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their jobs to respond on calls, often hanging off the sides or riding on the tailboards of the fire trucks.

He recalls the way they were alerted to emergencies. There were four phones in individual's homes that had a button on them that, when pushed, would set off the siren. The siren was an old WW II air raid siren. The old Mehama Tire Shop air compressor was used to set off the siren. When the volunteers heard the siren, they'd come running.

Gene was one of the volunteers able

to go back to Wisconsin to pick up and drive back one of the first NEW fire trucks (Ford cab overs) the district purchased.

Gene is proud to see many volunteer firefighters who started at Stayton Fire, move into full-time careers as Firefighters, EMTs and Fire Chiefs. He recalls many fun times spent with fellow volunteers and has enjoyed serving all these years.

We will surely miss you, Gene, and hope you come around often to check in on your Stayton Fire District family.

Thank You For Your Service

The District would like to thank Troy Gulstrom for his dedication and service to the district for the past 24 years.



Troy recalls going through Fire Academy in 1993 with FF Sherry Bensema. Jeff Deetz and Dennis Schlies were a couple of his instructors.



Troy experienced memorable times with Ron Bemrose who Troy says was fearless, patient, and willing to do what needed to be done. Troy also recalls working with Mark Ader on the "original day shift" crew and responding to calls with just the two of them.



One highlight of his volunteer career was being selected as Firefighter of the Year for the Stayton Fire District but also with Marion County and being runner up for the State of Oregon.

Troy was part of the committee that helped select Chief Carriger.

Troy has enjoyed the comradery and friendships established with former



and current members. He states it has been a privilege to serve alongside the men he helped recruit to Station 82, Kurt Hueller and Kevin Bakke. He has enjoyed working along side his Captain, Doug Hansen, and the entire Mehama Station team.

Troy helped establish the volunteer association (SVPC #1) and provide



early leadership to that organization.

Troy has been the Emcee at nearly all of our awards banquets and Christmas festivities since he has been a member.

Serving as a firefighter has given Troy the joy of knowing he has helped relieve someone's pain at least a little but also sadness for not being able to do more.

He has responded to MVAs, fires, injuries, hard calls, sad calls, and good calls, but overall, the time he has spent as a volunteer firefighter has been some of the best years of his life. Troy has many happy memories of serving the people in our communities and thanks Stayton Fire District for trusting him, teaching him, and helping him grow.

We will miss Troy in so many ways and we extend our appreciation and very best wishes and hope he continues to come by and check in on us as often as he can.

DISTRICT BIRTHDAYS

OCT

- 2—Laura Houston
- 12—Jason Wren
- 15—Kelly Oliver
- 19—Sherry Bensema

NOVEMBER

- 8—Adam Bailey
- 10—Sandy Johnson
- 17—Aletha Shine

DECEMBER

- 4—Dana Orr
- 8—Danial Koellmann
- 11—Russ Strohmeyer
- 28—Eric Peterson



Happy Birthday!



District Volunteers Teach Kids Fire Safety at Elam Farm Ag Safety Day

National Night Out Fun!





Upcoming Events...

- Aug 21 Solar eclipse
- Aug 25 thru Oregon State Fair
- Sept 4
- Sept 4 Labor Day, Business office closed
- Sept 5-6 School starts—drive safe and watch out for kids
- Sept ??? TBA—FF Reunion Picnic

Watch your email and regularly check the website calendar for activity and event notifications at www.staytonfire.org

Best Wishes to retiring Jefferson FD Fire Chief, Jon Zeilman! It has been a pleasure working with you. We wish you the very best in your retirement.

Solar Eclipse Safety

Being the first total solar eclipse visible in the US since 1979, this event is expected to draw upwards of one million visitors to the state. This influx of people has the potential to create a number of challenges.



Be prepared for possible shortages - stock up on food, water, and fuel your vehicles ahead of time. Charge your cell phones, have needed medications, limit your travel, and have appropriate solar eclipse glasses.



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TOTAL BURN BAN IN EFFECTIVE

Fire defense boards have issued a total burn ban for all of Marion County and Linn County. The total burn ban means that ALL fires are prohibited, including recreational fires in fire pits.

This burn ban will remain in effect until further notice.



Firefighters training for wild land fire fighting 



And responding to structure fires and MVA

Firefighters drilling on various skills: Forcible Entry, Ropes and Knots drill, Hose evolutions

