



FIREWIRE

Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2011

NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Serving the Communities of Bryant - Warm Beach - Freeborn

Message from the Chief

In the last edition of *FireWire*, we explained that we were reducing the number of newsletters from four editions to two per year to save money. We are making significant budget cuts in every area of the fire service to account for revenue losses as property values continue to decline.

For 2011, we cut 9% of our budget, and the forecast for 2012 looks equally grim. At this point we are looking at cutting another 10% or \$300,000-\$350,000 to compensate for lost

property tax revenue. This is a significant loss for our fire authority, and a concern for all of us. We will do everything possible to maintain service levels, but it is going to be close.

On a more positive note, I am very proud of the men and women who work and volunteer for our fire authority. They are an amazing, talented group of people who understand the meaning of personal sacrifice in the work that they do. It's a pleasure to serve with them on a daily basis.

We are holding our Open Houses in June, and I hope you will attend. This is an opportunity for us to thank our taxpayers for their support in person, while communicating important safety information and enjoying good food! You will find the dates, time and locations in this newsletter. It's a fun event for the whole family, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Warm Regards,

Dale Fulps
FIRE CHIEF



Announcements

North County Fire/EMS is collecting old photographs and information about Fire Districts 14 and 18, which merged several years ago to form our new fire authority. If you have some memorabilia you are willing to share, please mail it to the fire authority at 19727 Marine View Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292 or drop it off at any fire station. Thank you!

Join us for our Open House – Please join the men and women of North County Fire/EMS for our Annual Open House celebration. This is a great family event with hot dogs and hamburgers, safety information for families, and our ever-popular Bouncy House for the kids. These Saturday events last from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm:

June 11 – Kackman (Station 90)
3002 252nd St NE
Arlington (98223)

June 18 – Warm Beach (Station 97)
19727 Marine Drive
Stanwood (98292)

June 25 – Freeborn (Station 96)
3231 300th St NW
Stanwood (98292)



NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

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Awards Banquet Honors

North County Fire/EMS honored its firefighters and community volunteers at a special awards banquet in March. **Jay Bonnifield** won the Firefighter of the Year. Officer of the Year went to **Patrick Fournier**. A new award this year, the Community Service Award, was given to **Elizabeth Earey** of Warm Beach for donating the most hours for the Relay for Life among other service activities.

Giving back to the Community



North County Fire/EMS firefighters and paramedics believe they can make a difference in the community both on and off duty. Thirteen employees participated in two service projects as a way to say "thank you" to the community for the support they receive.

With less than a week's notice, firefighters turned up to help an elderly couple, one of whom is disabled, move into a new residence to accommodate their special needs. The couple was known to the fire authority because of previous medical calls. "Words cannot describe the appreciation and thanks I have deep in my heart," said the recipient, who has no immediate family in the area to help her.

A few weeks later, firefighters built a wheelchair ramp for a retired volunteer firefighter in Bryant after hearing of his need. Cascade Lumber donated the materials and the wheelchair ramp was constructed in a few hours with the team work.

"This is one small way we can try to pay back the community for all the support they give us," said Captain Eric Ensign.