



West Valley Firefighters

"Protecting And Serving Our Community"

Issue II/ 2016



"We are an equal opportunity employer/provider."

West Valley Fire Chief Dave Leitch Due to Retire

After 39 years as a member of the West Valley Fire Department I will be retiring September 30, 2016. I have had an incredible career here at WVFD. I started out as a volunteer firefighter in 1977, thirteen years later the Department hired me as its first fulltime Training Officer. I served in that position for six years before being appointed the Department's Deputy Chief. In 2002 I was selected from a pool of five other candidates to be the Fire Chief. I have had the opportunity to proudly serve you and the outstanding employees here at WVFD, it has truly been a great privilege to do so.

I have always held a strong commitment to the safety and training of our firefighters. Over the years your support of our firefighters and our mission is very much appreciated. I may have not made all the right decision in the past fourteen years as Fire Chief, but I do know I have a feeling of satisfaction for all that we have accomplished during my tenure. I leave knowing that WVFD is well prepared for the future. I look forward to watching the Department and its members continued growth, while providing professionalism, duty and respect in all that it does.

It is also my privilege to announce that the Yakima County Fire District 12 Board of Commissioners have selected my current Deputy Chief Nathan Craig as your new Fire Chief effective October 1, 2016. Chief Craig has been with WVFD for the past 22 years. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Nathan is a lifelong community member, graduating from West Valley High School and Yakima Valley Community College with a degree in Fire Science. In our next edition we will provide a complete profile of Chief Craig along with his future goals. Thank you for allowing me to serve our community.

Chief Dave Leitch



To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

If you live in the West Valley Fire District and are in need of smoke detectors, stop by our Admin office at 10000 Zier Road or call to have us come to you. 509-966-3111

Volunteers Needed-Apply Now!!

Did you know that the United States Fire Service is comprised of approximately 80% volunteers? West Valley Fire Rescue currently consists of 85 volunteers (paid on call) and 9 fulltime staff which equates to 88% volunteers. Have you ever wanted to be part of the fire service? If that answer is "Yes" and you have the time to commit to the initial 6 months of training, we would like to see you.

The first 6 months of training consists of classroom and practical training on Structural and Wildland Firefighting. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings(6-8pm) and every other Saturday(9am-2pm). If you feel adventurous and would like to Serve and Protect the great community of West Valley apply now!

Informational packets and applications are available at our Administrative Office or by visiting our website at www.westvalleyfire.com and are due **October 31, 2016**. New members are hired in January of each year after passing agility testing, drug screen, interviews, and medical physicals.

District Receives Grant's

On May 20th the Fire District received a fiscal year 2015 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$411,048 of which the District will match \$20,552 for a total program cost of \$431,600. With this grant money the District is purchasing a Mobile Live Fire Training Prop which will enable us to meet the state laws requiring live fire training. Delivery is expected February 2017.

On August 16th the Fire District received notification of approval for a USDA Rural Development Grant totaling \$41,600 to pave the parking lot and upgrade the Community Center for ADA accessibility at Station 54 in Tampico. USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to develop essential community facilities in unincorporated rural areas, towns and cities with populations up to 20,000 per the 2010 Census. Loans and grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

FALL CALENDAR

October	November	December
9-15th Fire Prevention Week	6th Daylight Savings Ends	13th Commissioners Meeting 7pm*
11th Commissioners Meeting 7pm*	8th Commissioners Meeting 7pm*	25th Christmas Day (office closed)
25th Commissioners Meeting 4pm*	11th Veterans Day (office closed)	*Meetings are held at
28th Haunted Firehouse 6:30pm	22nd Commissioners Meeting 4pm*	10000 Zier Road, for more
31st Volunteer Application Due	24th Thanksgiving (office closed)	information call 966-3111

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12
WEST VALLEY FIRE-RESCUE
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YAKIMA, WA 98908

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Thank You 2016 Golf Sponsors!!

The following businesses helped make our 8th annual West Valley Firefighters Association Golf Tournament a great success. Please show them your support throughout the year.

- Craig Family
- Stein's Ace Hardware
- McCown Crafted
- Lawrence Cacchiotti
- Helliesen Lumber
- Valley Cycling & Fitness
- West Valley Tavern
- Excel Fruit Brokerage
- West Valley Fair
- Columbia Valley Fruit
- Design Service Corporation
- WVFD Rehab Ladies
- Razor Park
- Elite Pools of Yakima
- Cascade Fire & Equipment
- Outback Espresso (Ahtanum)
- Elite Computer Solutions
- Connect Hearing
- Insanity Fab
- Miller & Associates
- Rush Coffee
- Club 2103

Team Sponsors

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Elite Pools of Yakima
Shanks
Auto Care Experts
Kart Ramrod
Miller & Associates
Dude Where's My Par



Congratulations to **Chris Phillips**, our West Valley Firefighters Association Scholarship recipient. Chris was one of our 2015/16 WVHS Fire Science students and will continue his education in the Aviation program next year at Central Washington University. Good luck Chris!

West Valley Firefighters Association Potato Feed

Friday, October 14, 2016

5:00-8:00pm

10000 Zier Road

Please join us for this annual fundraiser and help support the WVFD Association. Price is \$6.00 and includes Potato, Salad & Drink. Desserts will be available for \$1.00



West Valley Firefighters Association Haunted Firehouse

Please join us for a Spooktacular and Frightfully Fun Evening!!!

Friday, October 28th 6:30-9pm

10000 Zier Road

This is a Free event for our Community & is recommended for ages 5-12 years old.

(Canned Food &/or Cash Donations Appreciated)

Call 509-966-3111 for information

New Fire-Science Students Join the Department!

In June we had 1 of our Fire-Science students from West Valley High School join our Department and 3 High School Cadets.

Congratulations and welcome to the following:

- **Chase Tucker**, Station 53
- **Emily Falon**, Station 53
- **Tyler Peters**, Station 52
- **Eric Towsley**, Station 53



West Valley Fire Rescue Day Crew



In 2010, YCFD12 enhanced their ability to timely respond to emergency medical and fire call incidents. A day crew program consisting solely of volunteers was started. As a pilot program, the day crew grew into a successful platform, providing volunteers the opportunity to work additional hours, make some extra money and serve the citizens. In 2013 the District received a two year grant for three fulltime firefighters. This was a huge success, with overall workday response times decreasing significantly. Additionally in 2015 the District received a two year re-hire grant for two firefighters, giving the District three full time firefighters with one or two volunteers assisting per Monday through Friday, 0600 to 1800 shift. With this amount of manpower during the workday we have nearly cut our daytime response in half. Day crew numbers for 2016 are currently 210 of the 477 calls in the District, with an average response time of 10 minutes and 44 seconds. Keep up the good work!