



West Valley Fire Department

"Protecting And Serving Our Community"



Issue 3- Fall 2020



WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

WVFD is celebrating our 60th anniversary. We had planned to hold an Open House at all four fire stations this spring. However, Covid-19 showed up in 2020 and we decided to delay the Open House until September. Now, with Covid-19 still a health threat in Yakima County we have decided to cancel our in-person Open House and will celebrate our 60th anniversary with you instead via a virtual Open House. A video tour of our stations will be available during Fire Prevention Week beginning October 5th on our website www.westvalleyfire.com, YouTube, and posted on Facebook. While we can't meet in person, we hope you will login to see our 60 years of progress. In the meantime on our website we have a link to the 60th anniversary video we developed for our Awards banquet earlier this year. This video provides a historical timeline of major events in the District's history. We would be honored if you viewed this video and took part in our virtual Open House starting October 5th.

Over 60 years the names and faces of our members have changed, but one thing that remains a constant is the PRIDE and volunteer spirit of our members. We have been fortunate to have some of the very best citizens serve in our District as neighbors helping neighbors. To all our past and present members THANK YOU for your service to our Community.

2020 New Recruits

West Valley Fire Department is excited to announce the addition of several combat firefighters and Support Services Members to our team. The Department hired 19 new members in June, 12 firefighters and 7 support members (Rehab). They will attend 150 hours of Recruit School which includes Wildland Firefighter training and Advanced First Aid. After a one year probationary period these new firefighters will have an opportunity to attend an 160 hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course. Members taking on this challenge this year are:

Station 51	Station 52	Station 53	Station 54	Support Services
Preston Conrad	Zach Dodge	Drew Butler	Amanda Graham	June Duffy
Kaitlyn Cooper	Derae Elmo	Jeremy Catron	Hannah Jorgensen	Catherine Finnell
Lane Fate	Ben Hartmann			Kayleigh Finnell
Ross Wilson	Jordan Koffler			Amy Gohl
				Gregory Melroy
				Michael Rhine
				Ashley Jaeger

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC THE HAUNTED FIRE HOUSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED



Calendar	September
	7th Labor Day-Office Closed
	8th Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00 pm
	22nd Commissioners Meeting @ 4:00 pm
	October
	13th Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00 pm
	27th Commissioners Meeting @ 4:00 pm
	November
	10th Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00 pm
	11th Veteran's Day-Office Closed
	24th Commissioners Meeting @ 4:00 pm
	26th Thanksgiving-Office Closed



Thank You!

As a Thank You for the service we provide to the community, Wray's IGA, owner Chris Brown and Fox41 donated Wray's gift cards for every member of our Department. A big thank you to them!



Thank you to everyone who donated masks and cleaning supplies to the Fire Dept. This allowed us to safely serve our Community.

Thank You!



Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!

This years FPW campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen.

Did you know? Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

Here is the recipe for safety before you serve a meal, it's essential to serve up fire safety in the kitchen. There's nothing like spending time in the kitchen cooking a delicious meal for the family and friends or an appetizing treat for yourself. But do you know the important steps to take before anyone takes the first bite?

- **Be on alert!** If you are sleepy or consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- **Stay** in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- **Keep anything that can catch fire** such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from your stovetop.

For more information visit firepreventionweek.org or call us at 509-966-3111.

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12
WEST VALLEY FIRE-RESCUE
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Construction of Station 51/Phase II

Twenty years ago, the District set out to build a new Station 51 on Zier Rd. The station was to include administrative offices, a training center, and new station quarters for our members. The project was put on hold several times which led to price increases on the whole project. From the concept in 1999 to actual construction in 2005 the project cost rose to the point we could no longer afford the entire project. Fast forward fifteen years and our Admin/Training Center has now become home to 30 on-call members at Station 51 with very limited space due to never building the actual fire station part of the project. Through strategic planning we identified Phase II, the fire station part of the project as a priority for recruitment and retention of members. Upon completion of paying off the original bond in 2019 we hired KDA Architects of Yakima to design Phase II. The design and bid process is complete and the project has been awarded to TW Clark Construction out of Spokane. They quickly mobilized and have begun construction with plans to complete the project by mid-January. In an effort to build a fire station for 20-30 years into the future, Phase II includes a day room, four apparatus bays, four individual restrooms with showers, four offices that can be converted to dorms if needed and a workout center to serve all members of the District. The health and safety of our members is an important factor in the design of the new station. We are constructing the station following the latest guidelines to reduce health hazards and carcinogen exposure. This project is being funded by a fifteen-year bond from Kitsap Bank that will be paid back from our general fund the same way we paid for Phase I without requesting additional tax dollars. Look forward to completion of the Station and are hoping to hold an Open House in Spring of 2021 if recommended health guidelines can be met.



DID YOU KNOW??

Did you know that the West Valley Fire Department is predominately funded by property tax dollars? In 2020 your property tax valuation included \$1.27 per thousand dollars assessed for the Fire District. The rate per thousand changes annually based on the valuation of all properties within our District. A voter approved EMS levy that equate to \$.21 per thousand in 2020 also contributes to our annual budget. The EMS levy funds can only be used for emergency medical services, such as supplies and manpower to deliver such services. Property taxes make up approximately 95% of our annual budget, the remainder comes from grants, fire protection services (such as wildland project fires), and donations. If you have any questions or need further information on our funding, please contact us at 509-966-3111.



LET'S KEEP THEM SAFE!!

New car seats laws in Washington State went into effect on January 2020.

- Children up to age 2 **must** ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- Children ages 2 to 4 years **must** ride in a car seat with a harness (rear or forwarding facing).
- Children 4 years and older **must** ride in a car or booster seat until they are 4'9" tall.
- Children up to age 13 **must** ride in the back seat when practical.

Remember a child restraint system must be used according to the instructions of the vehicle and child restraint manufacturer. The manuals are great resources for installation information.

Unfortunately, in the wake of the Corona Pandemic, all face to face car seat installations have been suspended at West Valley Fire Department. We are happy to help however we can by phone. For questions or more information visit wacarseats.com or call us at 509-966-3111.

