

THE FIREHOUSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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MAY 2007

OPEN HOUSE AT THE FIREHOUSE

On Saturday May 19, 2007 the Geyserville Fire Protection District (GFPD) will host its 3rd Annual Open House. The open house will be at Station 1 in downtown Geyserville from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. This is your opportunity to tour the station, view the fire engines and rescue equipment, and meet some of the forty volunteer firefighters. There will be a



fire safety information booth for children and adults. The famous 6181 and Station 1 T-Shirts will be for sale. A firehouse

jump and slide will be available for kids to play in. There will be free hotdogs and hamburgers available to those who listen to the fire safety presentation. There will be information available about wildland fire safety. There will be information available to anyone interested in joining the GFPD, and the chance to talk to current volunteers. This should be the biggest and best open house we have had yet. The GFPD hopes to see you there.



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS STILL NEEDED!

Thank you, to those who answered the call for volunteers last time. The GFPD is still in need of volunteer firefighters, especially in Alexander Valley, where we are at a critically low level! No experience is necessary and all required

training is provided by the GFPD. Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a great opportunity to become involved with your community. People who are interested in the District are encouraged to contact Station #1 at 857-3535 or visit

our web site at geyserville-fire.com for more information about becoming a volunteer firefighter. Please help us prevent higher taxes and fire insurance premiums. **Become a Volunteer Firefighter today!**

FACTS ABOUT THE GFPD:

- Protects over 200 Square miles
- Responds to over 500 emergencies a year.
- 40 Volunteers
- 3 Stations
- 9 Emergency Vehicle
- 50 Mutual Aid Calls a year
- Thousands of hours of training a year.

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GEYSERVILLE FIREFIGHTER'S DINNER DANCE JULY 28TH

The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association (GVFA) will be hosting its annual Dinner Dance on July 28, 2007. The event will once again be held at the Geysier Peak Picnic grounds. The cost is the same great price of \$40 per person. Your ticket covers your dinner, beverages, dancing and fun. The times are the same as last year; the event begins at 6:00 P.M., dinner is served around 7:00 P.M., and the Shannon Rider Band starts playing around 8:00 P.M. The event ends at 11:00 P.M. This is one of the GVFA's major fundraisers. Minimal tickets will be avail-



able at the door so it is important to buy you tickets in advance. Tickets are now available at the GFPD Station #1 (Monday through Friday, 1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.) After June 15th tickets will be available at Bosworth and Sons in Geyserville, The Alexander Valley Store in Alexander Valley and The Bear Republic Brewing Company in Healdsburg. For additional information about the dinner dance please visit our website at www.geyservillefire.com. Must be at least 21 years old to attend. Please no children.

TWO GREAT MEN

The Geyserville Fire Department is set to honor two great former volunteers who have since passed away. The first is Fire Chief Dean Turbeville. Dean was a volunteer from 1978 until his untimely passing in 2003. Dean was Chief from 1992 until

2003. He was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the development of the new fire station. Dean's legacy and memory of always tackling a challenge and trudging forward will live on forever. The second honoree is Assistant Chief Gene Saini, or as most people called him, "Si". Si joined the Geyserville Fire Department in 1975 at 59 years young and served for over 20 years until he passed away in 2006 at the age of 80. His devotion to the Geyserville Fire Department, Sta-

tion 2, and water tender 6192 will always be a benchmark of dedication for volunteers to attain. These two great men will be honored at the Open House on May 19th. The ceremony will be held at approximately 12:00 P.M. on May 19th.



SAVE THESE DATES

May 19th 2007

Open House at the Fire House. Come see the station, equipment and meet the firefighters.

July 28th 2007

The GVFA's Dinner Dance. Dinner, Dancing, and Fun.

October 28th 2007

The annual fall colors and pancake breakfast at the Fire House.



SAFETY TIPS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

Change your Smoke Detector Batteries on Daylight Savings Time Days (Twice a year).

When Calling 9-1-1 Don't:

- Don't call 9-1-1 if you think you see smoke way off in the distance
- Don't call 9-1-1 to ask "Did we just have an earthquake?"
- Don't call 9-1-1 if your smoke detector battery is dead.

Check out our website for more tips about calling 9-1-1

When Calling 9-1-1 Do:

- Only call if it is a true emergency
- If you are on a cell phone in Sonoma County call 565-2121
- Do call 9-1-1 if you can see the source of the smoke
- Do call 9-1-1 if your smoke detector is indicating there is smoke in the house
- Do call 9-1-1 to report earthquake related injuries or life threatening building damage

Fireworks

- Fireworks are illegal in all parts of unincorporated Sonoma County
- Individuals can be held financially liable for any damages/fire suppression expenses related to fireworks

Defensible Space

- Mow early and often
- Mow early in the day
- "Why 100 feet?... Because defensible space is YOUR responsibility."

THE NEW VOLUNTEERS

The Geyserville Fire Department is proud to announce that in January 2007 seven probationary firefighters were promoted to firefighter. These new volunteers come from various parts of our district with different backgrounds and levels of experience. The Geyserville Fire Department would like to congratulate Tim Bernier, Dino Bugica, John Butterfield, Aurelio Martinez, Nick Migneron, Casey Reid and



*From Left to Right: John Butterfield, Aurelio Martinez, Nick Migneron, Casey Reid, and Sergio Vargas
Not pictured Dino Bugica and Tim Bernier*

Sergio Vargas for their new promotion. These new volunteers, along with the existing volunteers, are required to perform hundreds of hours of training to be prepared for all the aspects of being a volunteer firefighter.

The Geyserville Fire Department is still in need of new volunteers. We currently have four probationary firefighters finishing training, but we are still in need of more volunteer firefighters, especially in the Alexander Valley.

FIRE SEASON IS COMING

As summer approaches and the weather becomes warmer and drier, we are faced with our annual wildfire season. People always ask if it's going to be a bad fire season, based on rainfall. The answer: it will be a bad fire season if people let it.

The spread of a fire depends on three things: fuel, weather

and topography. Nothing can be done about the weather or topography, but we can do something about the fuel. Defensible space around a home can be just as good as having a fire engine at your house during a fire. The defensible space laws have recently changed to require up to 100 feet of clearance

around your home. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection now known as CAL FIRE has more information about defensible space and other wildland fire safety information.

On the Internet:

www.fire.ca.gov/

www.geyservillefire.com



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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
GEYSERVILLEFIRE.COM

WE ARE YOUR FIRE
DEPARTMENT!

This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in November and May. It is intended to provide information to the community about news and events as it relates to the Geyserville Fire Department. If you are receiving this newsletter then our records show one of the following: You live within the Fire District boundaries, you own property with the District boundaries or you have donated money to the GVFA. If you think that you have received this newsletter in error or would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact the Headquarters Station at 857-3535.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the Difference between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters Association?

A: The Geyserville Fire Protection District (GFPD) is a government body governed by a board of directors elected by the public. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Station 1 at 7 P.M. Meetings are open to

the public. The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association (GVFA) is a non-profit organization run by volunteers who raise money through fundraisers. That money is used to purchase additional rescue equipment.

Q: When I recently donated money to the Geyserville Fire Department, my check was returned and I was asked to write it out to the Geyserville Vol-

unteer Firefighters Association. Why was this so?

A: All money donations to the Department are handled by the Volunteer Association, who holds the 501©(3) Non-profit tax ID number. The Association will return checks made out to the Department or District to ensure your donations are tax deductible.

