

# THE FIREHOUSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

VOLUME V, ISSUE I APRIL 2010

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE FIRE HOUSE

The Geyserville Fire Department will be hosting its 4th annual Open House on May 8th. The Open House is open to the public, starts at 11am and runs until 3pm. You can view fire engines close-up and learn about fire safety and disaster preparedness. Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog will be at the station to meet the children. There will be free hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch, along with temporary tattoos, fire hats,

and other freebies, including playtime in the Jump-n-Slide for the children.

This is a great opportunity for members of the community to come to the firehouse, meet firefighters and

learn more about the Geyserville Fire Department, including what it does and how it still depends on volunteers to protect the community. We look forward to seeing you there!



A view of the Firehouse from the 2009 Open House

## GEYSERVILLE TO HOST BUS ACCIDENT TRAINING!

The Geyserville Fire Protection District has been awarded a grant sponsored by The Dry Creek Rancheria band of Pomo Indians through the state's Casino Mitigation Fund to host a multi-agency bus extrication drill on June 4th

through June 6th. The Department purchased two buses to practice rescuing victims in the event of a bus accident. With the large volume of buses touring wine country and shuttling passengers to River Rock Casino, the Department felt

that a bus extrication drill would provide valuable experience to its firefighters. Neighboring agencies will be invited to participate. Geyserville's firefighters are looking forward to this unique opportunity.



## FACTS ABOUT THE GFPD:

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

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## DINNER DANCE

Last year's dinner dance was an enormous success. After several years of gathering at the Geysler Peak Picnic Grounds, the event took place at Clos Du Bois Winery. The searing daytime temperatures gave way to evening breezes, perfect for a night on the rolling green lawns. The dancing was set under white lights strung above the dance floor, with The Old Boot Band performing in front of a backdrop of summer vineyards. Over thirty different wineries provided wine for attendees mingling in the outdoor wine country setting, dining on food cooked by the firefighters. This year's dinner dance will also take place at Clos Du Bois Winery, on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Please call us or check our website for details on this exciting annual event. One hundred percent of the proceeds stay with the fire department, going toward purchasing firefighting gear and equipment. Thanks to all who attend and help make the night special!

## TOY DRIVE.....BIG SUCCESS

Due to your support, the fire department was able to contribute a large number of toys to the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots Program. The fire department would like to extend special thanks to the employees of Jordan Winery, who dropped off four super-sized garbage bags and two boxes

of toys collected at their Christmas party. It was great fun to see the firehouse lobby overflowing with toys! The U.S. Marine

Corps was pleased to see so many toys in a year when donations were so low, and so many children in need. Thanks again for your generous contributions!



## DRAFTING TANK

Several years ago, the fire department received a generous grant from the Fireman's Fund. With this money, the department was able to install a 10,000 gallon underground tank behind the fire station for water storage and drafting training. This enables the firefighters to practice drafting large amounts of water without depleting the town's water supply in summer months. Drafting is an essential firefighting skill, especially in the rural areas of

Geyserville, where water supply is limited. When firefighters practice drafting, or "sucking up" water from this underground tank, it simulates using water from lakes, ponds, and pools to protect homes in areas with no hydrants. A key feature of this project is the funnel device, which catches the water and recycles it back into the tank. The project was completed last fall when a concrete pad was placed over the tank and a hydrant was installed nearby.

## SAVE THESE DATES

Open House At The  
Fire House  
May 8<sup>th</sup>  
11AM-3PM

Annual  
Dinner Dance  
July 24<sup>th</sup>  
6PM-11PM

Pancake Breakfast  
And Fall Colors  
October 24<sup>th</sup>  
7AM-11AM

## WHY BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

Thanks to those of you who answered the call for volunteers last time. The Geyserville Fire Protection District is still in need of volunteers, especially in Alexander Valley.

There are many reasons to join this fire department. There is no better way to feel part of a community than to serve it.

You need no training or experience to join. Once admitted to the department, you are required to complete an on-site training academy that introduces you to the basics of the job. The purpose of this academy is to teach and prepare you for the rigors of firefighting. Once you are on the depart-

ment, you will have opportunities to respond to fire and medical emergencies, as well as representing the department at public relations events. Last year a brand new firefighter, still on probation, guided children through the smoke trailer at the Open House in May. Before ever responding to a real fire, he was able to make a difference in peoples' lives as he patiently directed children on what to do in a house fire.

Many volunteers use the fire department as a tool for a firefighting career. There are many paid firefighters who have gained their first experience in this manner. Due to the difficulty of landing a career in firefighting, it is often neces-

sary to have training and experience before obtaining a job. Others use their volunteer status to supplement paid firefighting experience. Many of our volunteers work for other fire departments, including as Oakland, El Cerrito, and CAL FIRE.

If you are interested in joining, you can stop by the fire station any time and talk to a firefighter. If you want to support the fire department, but cannot join, feel free to call the fire department and find out how you can help.

For More Information:

[www.geyservillefire.com](http://www.geyservillefire.com)

or call 707.857.3535

## NEW THERMAL IMAGERS

In January Geyserville Fire purchased three additional thermal imagers. Thermal imagers are about the size of a video camera and are carried by firefighters. They are basically heat sensors; they pick up the heat of objects. The hotter an object is, the brighter it glows on the screen. Thermal imagers are used by the Department to help locate victims in the smoke of a fire and "hot spots" in a structure fire. They can also be helpful at night, when trying to locate victims of an automobile accident. Another time thermal imagers are used is after a structure fire when



firefighters are searching for fire trapped in walls or other hidden areas. The purchase of these thermal imagers, bringing the total to five, will enable the fire department to carry one on every fire apparatus responding to an incident. The purchase was made possible by The Dry Creek Rancheria band of Pomo Indians through the state's Casino Mitigation Fund

## GEYSERVILLE PROMOTES 10!

Geyserville Fire is proud to announce the latest promotions made in December of 2009. Christopher Colgan was promoted to Battalion Chief. Christopher Colgan has been with the department since 2003, and also works with Oakland Fire. Mack Montanye was promoted to Captain. Jose Carrillo, Jason Mallory, James Tovani and Carlos Mendez were promoted to Lieutenant. In addition, Geyserville Fire would like to welcome Dan Dana, Kevin Hansen, David Murray II and Terry Thompson to the rank of Firefighter.

In January, seven new employees were brought on as trainee firefighters. They are currently finishing up Geyserville Fire's thirteen week academy. Upon completion, they will begin field training by responding to incidents with the rest of the fire department. Also new to the Department are Interns Michael Hurst, Darren Stroud and Andrew Wallace.

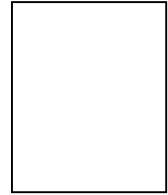
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
GEYSERVILLEFIRE.COM

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WE ARE YOUR FIRE  
DEPARTMENT!

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This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in May and November. 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 our records show one of the following: You live within the Fire District boundaries, you own property within 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.

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—THE NEW SQUAD

Q: We just installed an electric gate. What do we do to make sure that you can get through the gate, should we call you with the gate combination?

A: No, please do not provide your gate combination to the Fire Department. Your electric gate will need to have a Knox switch override installed on the gate controls. Contact your gate contractor or check out the Knox Box information on our website under the "Safety Info" Section.

### *We want To Hear From You!*

Please let us know how we are doing. We would like to hear from you about the newsletter and anything else you might think we would like to hear. Do you like our new shirts? Do you like our new color scheme on our new squad? Do we do a good enough job of letting you know what's going on with the Fire Department? Did you have fun at the Open House? Did you learn

anything at the Open House? Did you have fun at our Dinner Dance in July? Do you like the pancakes we make for the pancake breakfast? Did your kids like the Geyserville Fire temporary tattoos we gave away at the Open House?

Email us:

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