



# Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

## South Bay Fire Department News

3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506

(360) 491-5320 fax (360) 438-0523

Volume 3, Issue 1

FALL 2010



Commissioner Dick Small  
Commissioner Ken Parsons, Sr.  
Commissioner Art Getchman  
Chief Brian VanCamp  
Assistant Chief Greg Kessel  
Assistant Chief Brent McBride  
Secretary Heidi Prince

### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

BY CHIEF BRIAN VANCAMP

The past several months have been both a poignant time for our members and one of ground-breaking success in many areas. This *Newsletter* will enlighten you on most of these events. As in my past articles for the "Chief's Corner," I would like to remind you that we are a volunteer fire department and are always searching for new willing and able members. I would invite you to take a look at our website at [SouthBayFire.com](http://SouthBayFire.com) to learn more about our programs and members.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET IN THE TIGHT ECONOMY

I'm sure I don't need to explain the concern we all have about the current state of affairs in the local, state, national and world economies. There are no sectors in our society that have been insulated from its effects. As a government agency dependent upon property tax for its revenue, the District is fully aware of current and future impacts on revenues and expenses.

For 2010, the District reduced its operating budget by 2.6%, and is planning further cuts for 2011. There appears to be adequate funding to continue the *District Strategic Plan* operational initiatives (internship program, additional staffing for the northern part of the District and improved volunteer shift-based training) into the foreseeable future; however, less than previously projected revenues will affect operating budget funding for large projects like the new north-end fire station and the District training center (at the old fire station site on South Bay Road NE). As in the past, we will continue to be prudent managers of your fire district tax dollars.



#### Outstanding Volunteer Members



Max Konrad



Bill Halbert



Damian Longmire

#### MEMBER RECOGNITION

Each year our Department recognizes volunteer responders for their accomplishments in their respective departments. For 2009, Max Konrad was selected as *Firefighter of the Year*, Bill Halbert was selected as *Officer of the Year* and Damian Longmire was awarded the *Inspirational Award*. There were two 10 year service awards to Walker Armstrong and Richard Small; a 15 year service award to Bill Halbert; a 20 year service award to Mike Rendon; and three 30 year service awards to Ron Wertz, Alex Wright and Fire Commissioner Art Getchman.

Congratulations to our dedicated members!

#### GRANT FUNDING TO REPLACE EQUIPMENT

In January, we were pleased to be notified by the US Department of Homeland Security that our application for grant funding to replace self-contained breathing apparatus had been approved. The grant provides 95% of the funding to completely replace the current old and obsolete equipment with new, updated equipment. The value of the grant is up to \$132 thousand, with a matching amount of \$7 thousand from the District. This grant is one of several local, state and federal grants the District has successfully applied for and received in the past ten years, and that has helped immeasurably in ensuring that members have safe and reliable equipment to do their job.

*Continued on page 2*

Visit us  
on the Web!

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

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT	1 & 2
VOLUNTEERS WANTED	3
MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS	3
FAMILIES NEED AN ESCAPE PLAN	4
FOR OUR COMMUNITY	4
PREVENTING FALLS FOR OLDER ADULTS	5
COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	5
IN MEMORY OF GREG THOMPSON	6

Continued from page 1

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

### DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY TASK FORCE

At their October 2009 planning workshop, the Board of Fire Commissioners and Staff agreed that the District had reached a critical point in implementing the goals & objectives of our Strategic Plan. The Board wanted citizens to help provide input and guidance on the District's next steps. It was decided to convene the District's first-ever comprehensive public forum with four primary issues:

- ✓ Are there general recommendations/advisories for the *District Strategic Plan*?
- ✓ Do the current *Target Levels of Service* meet the community's expectations for service delivery?
- ✓ Is the current strategy of funding capital projects and replacements from operating funds rather than general obligation debt fiscally responsible?
- ✓ Does the proposed implementation plan for the construction of a new north-end fire station meet the community's current service needs in a cost effective manner?

It was agreed early on in the planning process for the workshop to seek a cross-section of the population of the District, both by demographics and geographical areas. Notices and information were broadcast over the District web-site and its reader-board at Station 8-1 on South Bay Road. The District's Board of Fire Commissioners and Staff also made numerous contacts soliciting interest in the workshop. Home-owner associations were contacted for

representation; those associations selected and provided representatives. In areas with no existing home-owner associations, various individual home-owners were randomly contacted.

In the process, over 60 local citizens were contacted and 29 eventually participated in the process. Two members representing the South Bay Volunteer Firefighters' Association also volunteered: Damian Longmire and Sean Murphy. Names of the citizen participants include:

Thom Abbot, Norm Arnold, Craig Baldwin, Rod Baldwin, Larry Beagley, Raneea Berndt, Lee Blankenship, Gerald Bogar, Leonard Booth, Liz Booth, Dr. John Brown, Dwight Caron, Todd Eckstein, Ian Edlund, Dennis Fenton, Verne Gibbs, Bob Green, John Gylys, Kim Gylys, Al Lewis, Nick Libby, Mark Lovrien, Kit Metlin, Frank Seiersen, Keith Solveson, Janine Stephens, Beryl Sullivan, Pam Youngblood and Mike Zittel.

The members of the Task Force agreed to meet every Thursday evening in the month of January for four consecutive meetings. The first meeting was primarily for the purpose of orienting the citizens on fire districts, finances, staffing, demographics and statistical information. The second and third meetings consisted of groups of Task Force members working on various questions on key Strategic Plan issues. The fourth meeting focused on wrapping up the final recommendations statements to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Using group consensus and majority voting processes, participants provided recommendations to the four primary issues:

- ✓ *Are there general recommendations/advisories for the District Strategic Plan?*  
No specific issues or recommendations.
- ✓ *Do the current Target Levels of Service meet the community's expectations for service delivery?*

The current targets are reasonable goals and should continue to be used to measure District operational performance.

- ✓ *Is the current strategy of funding capital projects and replacements from operating funds rather than general obligation debt fiscally responsible?*

The current capital repairs & replacement program is valid and should continue to fund replacement of District asset items. Major new capital assets should be funded through general obligation debt approved by District voters.

- ✓ *Does the proposed implementation plan for the construction of a new north-end fire station meet the community's current service needs in a cost effective manner?*

Based on a majority opinion of Advisory Task Force participants, the District should construct a new north-end fire station of the scope 5,662 square-feet and initial estimated project costs of \$2.5 million, with \$1.1 million funded from voter approved, general obligation bonds and the rest paid for by District funds. This recommendation is based upon provision for 24 x 7 staffing at both the current Station 8-1 and a new north-end fire station.

The Board of Fire Commissioners wishes to express their gratitude to all the participants for their commitment and help in this process.

### Residential outdoor burning



**is not permitted  
from July 15  
through October 15**

### OPEN BURNING PERMITS

Residential outdoor burning permits expire each year on July 14 and a new permit is required for the next burning season beginning October 16.

You can obtain a residential outdoor burning permit at our main fire station at 3506 Shincke Road NE or download one at home from our web site [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com)

Safe burning practices and regulations can be found on the back of the burning permit as well as a list of prohibited burning materials.

For alternatives to burning contact Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (orca) (360) 586-1044 or visit [www.ORCAA.org](http://www.ORCAA.org) Other alternatives to burning can also be found at the Thurston County Water & Waste Management site [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm)

# VOLUNTEERS

"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## BENEFITS

- ◆ **STIPENDS**
- ◆ **TRAINING**
- ◆ **COMPLETE UNIFORMS & BUNKER GEAR**
- ◆ **HEALTH & WELLNESS**
- ◆ **PENSION PLAN**
- ◆ **ACCIDENT INSURANCES**
- ◆ **LIFE INSURANCE**
- ◆ **TUITION ASSISTANCE**
- ◆ **CHAPLAIN SERVICES**
- ◆ **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
- ◆ **FIRE FIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**
- ◆ **SOCIAL & RECOGNITION EVENTS**

The South Bay Fire Department is always looking for dedicated, responsible and ambitious volunteers to help support our community. Our volunteers provide response and public service to the South Bay area responding from three fire stations in the District.



As an emergency responder we will train you to safely respond and engage in firefighting operations, provide emergency medical assistance and serve the community in a way no other volunteer organization can offer.

Volunteers are rewarded with the personal satisfaction of serving their community, saving a life or dwelling and serving a necessary purpose to the well-being of their fellow man.

Your dedication efforts don't go unnoticed. In addition to being respected and appreciated by the community, volunteers are also rewarded by our Department.

We offer our volunteers a competitive array of financial incentives, educational and training opportunities, as well as insurance, retirement benefits and much more!

In addition, we have dedicated Volunteer Receptionists who help in the office.

To find out more about volunteering with the South Bay Fire Department, you can call us at (360) 491-5320 or visit us on the web: [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com) or stop by and pick up an application at 3506 Shincke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506

## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

We are proud to introduce the following members who have joined us in 2009/2010:



Peik Anderson



Johannes Barksdale



Jamison Boutwell



Jacob Damian



Robert Gormley



Morgan Keen



Chris LaDue



Samuel Liening



James Marshall



Dustin McCann



Daniel Moore



Ashley Raben



Joshua Reidel



Joseph Rood



Calder Russell



Justin Russell



Paul Tanghe



Eric Weishaar



Curt Wilson

## FAMILIES NEED A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

More than 5,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 21,000 are injured. An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. Fire safety and survival begin with everyone in your household being prepared. Follow these safety measures to reduce the chance of fire in your home:

**Develop a fire escape plan** for your family that identifies two exits out of every room and an established meeting place outside.

- Draw a floor plan of your home creating a map showing every room, every door and every window.
- Sit down with the entire family and talk about the two best ways to get out of each room.
- Pick a meeting place outside your home and tell everyone to go there as soon as they've escaped a fire.

Practice makes perfect ~ hold a family fire drill at least twice each year.

- Everyone goes to the room where he or she sleeps
- A grownup sounds the smoke alarm
- Everyone follows the escape plan and gets out of the building.
- Everyone goes directly to the meeting place.

### Escape Tips

- Make sure everyone can clearly hear and recognize the sound of all smoke alarms at all times.
- If you hear a smoke alarm, get out and stay out!
- When you escape, move quickly and be careful, but don't run.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never open doors that are hot! If the door is cool, open it slowly and close it quickly if smoke pours through.

- Teach everyone in your household how to unlock and open all windows and doors. If windows have security bars, equip them with quick-release devices.
- Close doors behind you as you escape to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are.
- Teach every family member to "Stop, Drop and Roll" if clothes catch fire.
- Once you are out, stay out! Do not re-enter the home. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window. Make sure all windows open and are not painted shut.



**Install smoke alarms** on every level of your home and in bedrooms, especially if doors are closed for sleeping, then test them monthly. Working smoke alarms can double your chances of survival. Test them monthly; vacuum to keep them free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after ten years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

**Talk to your children about fire.** Children under five are naturally curious about fire. Many play with matches and lighters. Tragically, children set over 20,000 house fires every year. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.



### CPR TRAINING

In a medical emergency when someone stops breathing, giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until emergency medical help arrives can mean the difference between life and death. If you or someone you know would like to take a CPR course, free CPR classes are available through the South Bay Fire Department usually on Wednesday evenings. Classes are held 7 - 10 pm.

For specific dates, give us a call or visit our web site.  
To register for a class, please call Medic One at  
(360) 704-2780.

## FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mark your calendars for the annual South Bay Firefighters' Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 6, 2010, from 9 am - 4 pm.

Each year our Association host a fun-filled Holiday Bazaar for community members, complete with a snack bar. Our main Station 81 has its bay packed with vendors selling everything from jewelry, holiday gift items, ornaments to crafts and much more!

Vendors who would like to participate can reserve their spot with a registration form. Forms and detailed information are on our web site [www.southbayfire.com](http://www.southbayfire.com) or you can call us at (360) 491-5320 and we'll mail you one. We hope to see you there!



If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know by giving us your name and email address at [info@southbayfire.com](mailto:info@southbayfire.com)

VISIT US ON THE WEB: [WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHBAYFIRE.COM)

## PREVENTING FALLS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations for older adults in Washington State. Many falls are caused by health changes, medication use and changes in muscle strength, balance, vision and walking abilities. Learning to manage these health factors can help you stay active and independent.

Preventative steps you can take:



1. Begin a regular exercise program. Exercise is encouraged at least three times a week to build strength, balance and flexibility. Check with your doctor to make sure your fitness plan works best for you.
2. Make your home safer. Have furniture placed so your walking path is clear. Use double-sided tape or non-slip backings so rugs won't slip. Coil or tape cords and wires next to the wall so they can't be tripped over. If needed, hire an electrician to add additional outlets. Have adequate lighting throughout your home. Paint a contrasting color on the top edge of all steps to improve the vision of stairs.
3. Have your medications reviewed by your health care provider. Many adults take more than one medication and can experience side effects when used in conjunction with other medications and/or alcohol. It is good to check with your doctor to make sure your medications are managed safely.
4. Have your vision checked. Keep eye glasses handy and if needed, have several pairs available throughout the house.
5. Take care of your feet and choose safe, comfortable and functioning footwear. Wear shoes inside and outside the house. Avoid going barefoot or wearing loose-fitting slippers.
6. Consider assistive devices such as canes and walkers to help remain independent but still active. Pride comes before a fall ~ if you're having difficulty walking easily and safely, it's better to start using a walker or cane to prevent injuries or a fall.
7. More tips: Keep emergency numbers in large print near each phone. Put a phone near the floor in case you fall and can't get up. Consider wearing an alarm device that will bring help if you fall and can't get up.
8. For more information and resources visit <http://cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/index.html>

## COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our Department is committed to involvement in our community and especially working with our local South Bay Elementary School.

This spring, the South Bay Fire Department staff and volunteers began providing literacy and mentorship programs to students at the South Bay Elementary School. The Department also participated in the Fun Run, Field day, and provided Fire Safety Education by the firefighter recruits.

To promote reading, our "Blazing a Trail for Literacy" reading program began in March, *National Reading Month*. Members visited the South Bay Elementary Library



Fire fighter Intern John Phillips and South Bay Elementary students at recess.

impacts their lives. Students were also given bookmarks and pencils.

As part of the program, students also participated in a two-week "Blazing a Trail for

Literacy Reading Contest" hosted by the Department and Dominos Pizza. The top class, who read the most minutes per student in the prescribed time period, won a pizza party hosted by South Bay Fire Department with pizzas

staff and volunteers visiting students on Friday afternoons during lunch recess. Teachers recommended students who could benefit most from interaction with a caring role model. A firefighter was then assigned to one-on-one contact during the designated time to help students with reading, math and other needed subjects. Those firefighters who were not asked to mentor spent their time out at recess with all of the students playing kickball, freeze tag, wall ball, baseball and other games.

We are proud that these programs have created positive relationships among students, teachers and firefighters within our department. "This programming has made a huge difference in culture and climate," says Principal, Kathi Weight.



Fire Fighter Intern Michael Fernstrom enjoys mentor time with students.

weekly to read to students in grades one through three. Volunteers discussed the importance of reading; how reading has helped them get

where they are now and how reading donated by Dominos Pizza of Lacey. The winning class had an exciting time and a lot of fun using our fire engine and hoses to put out live fire. This pilot program was a huge success! A total of 41,942 minutes were read throughout the program. All 98 students that participated received a certificate of recognition from the Fire Chief and firefighters.

The Mentorship Program involved



Chief VanCamp helps a student learn to use a fire hose.

where they are now

### Our Mission:

We are committed to serve our community with prompt, consistent and professional fire suppression, basic life support and rescue services.

**SOUTH BAY FIRE DEPT.  
 THURSTON COUNTY FIRE  
 PROTECTION DISTRICT 8  
 3506 SHINCKE RD NE  
 OLYMPIA, WA 98506**



PRST STD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 OLYMPIA, WA  
 PERMIT # 78

The South Bay News is an informational update for residents and taxpayers in the Thurston County Fire District 8. *Disclaimer:* This publication contains opinions and interpretations of various authors. South Bay Fire District 8 and its management do not make warranties with respect to accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information in this publication. Comments and concerns should be directed to:

Chief Brian VanCamp  
 vancamp@southbayfire.com  
 3506 Shincke Rd NE  
 Olympia, WA 98506  
 (360) 491-5320



ECRWSS  
 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

**PREVENT FIRES  
 IT'S YOUR JOB!**

**IN MEMORY OF GREG THOMPSON  
 MAY 4, 1976~DECEMBER 12, 2009**

"I will act as if what I do makes a difference." ~ William James

Members of the South Bay Fire Department District 8 want to pay tribute to the life and career of Assistant Chief Greg Thompson and to acknowledge his significant contributions to fire service in general, and more specifically, the South Bay Fire Department.



Gregory Paul Thompson Jr., age 33 years, of Olympia, passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Gregory was born on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1976 to Gregory Sr. and Cynthia Thompson. He was a long time member of the South Bay Volunteer Fire Department. Greg began his service as a volunteer in 1992 at the age of 16. He showed great initiative and tremendous work ethic. He quickly progressed through the ranks of the department to earn the position of Assistant Chief.



Greg Thompson was truly a good man. He was a friend to everyone as well as a valued leader at the South Bay Fire Department. He lived life to its fullest; working hard and playing hard, but only after he made

sure that everyone around him was well taken care of. He was valued, respected and liked by all. To the members of the South Bay Fire Department, he was a strong leader, helpful mentor, observant teacher, compassionate brother, and fun-loving friend. His overwhelming caring attitude was felt by anyone he met; he never stopped caring for others. His home was always open to anyone in need as a place of refuge. He would spend his days off volunteering to help others with projects and tasks, including elderly community members.



His influence within our organization and beyond was remarkable for such a young man. Greg embraced training with a unique passion, influencing fire service trainers and educators, locally, statewide, and nationally. His tireless and patient efforts shaped the Thurston County Medic One EMS education and training, into a program second to none in our state. Greg also left a legacy for us with a large team of well trained emergency responders. Many serve in both our department as well as other agencies and communities.

The members of the Department would like to express sincere thanks to our neighboring fire departments in all of Thurston County for their help and support given to us during the difficult time following his passing.