



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

SOUTH BAY NEWS

3506 Shineke Rd NE Olympia WA 98506 360/491-5320

Volume 5, Issue 11

December 2009/ January 2010

Upcoming Events



- ◆ December 7
Bus/Assc Mtg
- ◆ December 11
BoFC Mtg 12:00 noon
- ◆ December 14
Christmas Party 6 pm
- ◆ December 21
Graduation 6:30 pm
- ◆ December 25
Merry Christmas!

Nothing is so contagious as example; and we never do any great good or evil which does not produce its like. ~ Francois de La Rochefoucauld



IMPORTANT MEETING

The Association will hold an important meeting on Monday, December 7th, beginning at 7:00 pm. Officers for 2010 will be nominated & fundraising and expenditures will be discussed. Don't miss this important meeting!

STRATEGIC PLAN ADVISORY TASK FORCE

We are looking forward to organizing a "Strategic Plan Advisory Task Force" group made up of local community members. The purpose of the group will be "to educate the public about the District's strategic direction and programs, to solicit input and gain consensus on future organizational goals and to successfully achieve the forum's desired outcomes." The group will begin meeting in January and is scheduled to meet for four productive sessions.

Participants will have a good understanding of the business options available to the District and the financial and service impacts on the community. Using the consensus process, participants will provide meaningful input into the *District Strategic Plan* and the fiscal direction of the Department. The consensus process will build community confidence and trust in policy development and operational functions of the District.

In order to have a broadly represented cross-section of the community, group participants will be made up of business owners, representatives from neighborhood associations and the South Bay Elementary School, homeowners in other areas, District volunteers and staff and District Fire Commissioners.

Meetings have tentatively been scheduled for January 7, 14, 21 and 28 in 2010. The agendas for meetings will include an information and education session; group exercises including recommendations; and approval of the final report. The Task Force concludes with final recommendations that will be published and available to anyone within the District who requests a copy. These final recommendations will be given strong consideration by the District Board of Fire Commissioners in their final approval of further *District Strategic Plan* and fiscal initiatives.

CHRISTMAS PARTY COMING UP!

Don't forget our annual Christmas party on Monday, December 14th, beginning at 6 pm.

This fun-filled holiday celebration is for all members and their families. We will enjoy a delicious holiday meal with turkey, ham and all the trimmings catered by Pellegrino's. This year we will have a dessert potluck and are asking families to bring their favorite dessert to share. Beverages will be provided by the Association.

There will be a sign up sheet in the dayroom so we can estimate how much food to prepare. Party invitations have been mailed to your homes. We hope to see you there!



December 14th



WASTE FREE GIFT-GIVING

In the past, county agencies hosted Waste Free Holidays programs. Due to budget cuts, there are no Waste Free Holidays programs for 2009; however, waste free gift-giving is still encouraged. It's the thought that counts, so try some of these great ideas for waste free gifts.

Gifts from the heart

- ♥ Home-cooked meal
- ♥ Home or car repair
- ♥ Monthly lunch date
- ♥ Night of babysitting
- ♥ Dessert of the month
- ♥ Donate to a charity in recipient's name
- ♥ Sponsor/adopt a zoo animal in recipient's name
- ♥ Month's worth of community supported agriculture

Create memories, not waste

Tickets/gift cards to:

- ♥ Sporting events
- ♥ Restaurants
- ♥ Spas
- ♥ Museums
- ♥ Movies/theater
- ♥ Cooking/dancing/golf lessons
- ♥ Membership to zoo/aquarium, fitness club, arts organization

If you're determined to give "stuff," wrap wisely...

Wrap a gift in a gift

- ♥ Use a bath towel to wrap oils, lotions, bubble bath
- ♥ Wrap barbecue utensils or picnic supplies in a tablecloth
- ♥ Wrap kitchen gifts in dishtowels or oven mitts
- ♥ Fill a flower pot with seed packets, bulbs, gloves, nursery gift card

Homemade wrap, ribbon and bows

- ♥ Use reusable cloth, bags and boxes
- ♥ Tie packages with old holiday lights for a funky, found-art look
- ♥ Reuse old bells, fake holly, dried plant/herb trimmings or Pez dispensers in place of a bow
- ♥ Wrap gifts with old maps, comics or paper bags

GIVE MEANINGFUL GIFTS

This holiday, the American Red Cross just made life a bit simpler with a catalog full of gifts that are sure to be meaningful. They're gifts that will make a difference not only in our loved ones' lives, but also in the lives of people in need.

Take a look at the 2009 Red Cross Holiday Giving Catalog by visiting: <http://www.redcross.org/gifts>



TURN OLD ELECTRONICS INTO CASH CARDS

Old cellphones? A no-longer-used video game? Upgraded your GPS? How about that old laptop gathering dust? Costco and Gazelle (the industry leader in electronics trade-ins) have teamed up to allow you to responsibly recycle your old electronics and get Costco Cash cards, good for anything in the warehouse or on line. Gazelle will even pay Costco members about 2.5% more for their old electronics than it does through its normal service.

Go to costco.com and click on the "electronics trade-in and recycle program" box on the right side of the page and find out how to turn your "junk" into cash!

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