

POUDRE CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2018



IMPROVING THE DISTRICT

Since 2014, the board has been advised by our treasurers that the yearly cost of our lease-purchase agreement for Station 1 and Station 2/Community Center with Wells Fargo would be increasing each year, to the point that the 10-year forecast indicated that in 2018 the district would be facing a deficit in the budget if property tax revenues did not increase. Something needed to be done, raise taxes or refinance. In March of 2016, board members started looking at refinancing options for our remaining \$850,000 loan @ 4.78%. Banks were not interested in a lease-purchase agreement which is required by the State of Colorado for Special Districts. In September of 2016, the board came upon a USDA Rural Development Loan with a 2.2% interest rate. They were interested. The only caveat was that with this refinancing option, we are required to spend an equal amount in construction. That was when the board looked at the possibility of building a new Station 4, which happened to already be on our 10-year strategic plan for the department. It took over a year of paperwork, and in November 2017, USDA Rural Development made available to Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District (via CLPFEG), up to \$1.8 million to use, at a 3.5% maximum interest rate. Additional grant money to reduce the loan amount needed is being pursued.

The good news is that:

1. Your taxes will not go up as a result of this action,
2. The USDA loan will have a lower interest rate (3.5% vs 4.7%) and no annual fees,
3. We have already received a \$200,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for construction.
4. We will have a new Station 4 complete with water, bathrooms, meeting room and space to walk around the trucks.

Extra money we save from the lower interest rate, (around \$24,000 per year) can be added to the lease payment to enable us to pay off the USDA loan early without a prepayment penalty. PLUS, we will have a cushion now in case the economy goes sour or there is another disaster like the High Park Fire. Questions? Call a fire board member for answers.

FROM THE CHIEF

Our Department responded to 94 calls last year, including several small grass fires that we caught before they could become big. Of those calls, 59 required EMTs, including 17 that were the result of motor vehicle accidents. Of these 59 medical calls, 7 were serious enough to require transport by helicopter. Our criteria for calling a helicopter is a life threatening injury or illness that requires rapid transport to advanced medical care. The last time I checked, it cost \$44,000 for a helicopter ride from Rustic. If you don't already have a membership in the AirMedCare network, it is an investment that I highly recommend. A one-year membership is \$65 for your entire family. You can pick up a form at either community center, or contact Amy Scott at amy.scott@airmedcarenetwork.com. If you tell her you are from Poudre Canyon, the department will receive \$10 of your membership fee.

CHILI COOK-OFF & FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Chili Cook-off and Fundraiser on Saturday, April 7th at 6:00 PM at Station 2 (33689 Hwy 14). There will be live and silent auctions, door prizes and chili to judge. If you want to enter a chili in the competition, have it there by 5:30.

AMAZON

Do you shop at Amazon? If you do, you can help the fire department by switching to shopping at Amazon Smile. At this site Amazon give a percentage of your bill back to a not-for-profit of your choice. If you choose Cache la Poudre Fire and Emergency Group, then you will be helping the fire department.

FIRE BOARD

Two positions on the Fire Board are open for the May 8th election this year. See the "Call for Nominations" notices posted at Stations 1, 2, and 4, or under the "News" tab on our department website: www.poudrecanyonfiredistrict.org, if you are interested in serving.

CACHE LA POUFRE FIRE AND EMERGENCY GROUP, INC. also known as CLPFEG is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that was formed to raise and provide resources on behalf of the Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District. This organization was established in 2005 by a group of canyon residents who were deeply concerned by the ongoing struggle the fire district faced for funding; so therefore, it focuses on fund-raising, supporting fire and emergency services in the district. As a non-profit corporation CLPFEG is able to offer the benefits of tax-exempt donations to its contributors.

Our Who are these masked men? Mike Everett and Brady Warner are training on how to use SCBA equipment. This equipment allows fire fighters to work in smoky areas without having to breathe harmful smoke.



KINGS SOOPER REWARD CARDS

Our King Soopers reward cards program brought in \$2,624 in 2017. It's easy, if you want to get a card, call Elaine Danhoff at 881-2202.



BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Find out more about the fire district by attending one of the board meetings
 March 14 - Lower Community Center
 April 11 - Upper Community Center
 May 9 - Lower Community Center



The temperature read 23 degrees and with the wind chill it was 13 degrees. What are your fire fighting volunteers doing? They

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Brett Ridges 970 881-2236
- Gene Mericle 970 219-4700
- Bette Blinde 970 881-2902
- Paula Collins 970 881-2472
- Greg Danhoff 970 881-2202

are out training with neighboring departments on how to do ice rescues. If playing in icy water on a cold winter day sounds like fun to you, then you should consider joining the fire department. If it doesn't, there are still plenty of jobs where you can be part of the department and give back to your community and neighbors.



FM Global provided funds for a computer and projector for volunteer training.



Fire fighter appreciation dinner sponsored by CLPFEG.