

Sub-Fire Newsletter

Since 2003

May 1, 2004

MAY 2004 CALENDAR

May 5—Cinco de Mayo/Battle of Puebla;
Jim Johnston's Birthday

May 6—Robert Hitchcock's Birthday

May 9—Mother's Day

May 11—Ira Doran's Birthday

May 12—Board of Directors Mtg.; Tony Hendricks' Birthday

May 15—Armed Forces Day

May 18—ELECTION DAY

May 20—Budget Committee Mtg.

May 24—Officers Mtg.

May 25—Denise Brant's Birthday

May 27—Rick Kauffman's Birthday

May 31—Memorial Day; Rodney Banta's Birthday



Sublimity Hosts Town Hall Meeting

The Sublimity Fire District hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 to discuss Measure 24-119 on the May Primary ballot.

Measure 24-119, if passed, would create a serial levy at \$.98 per \$1000 of assessed tax value and would be in effect for a period of five years. The levy would be used to increase stipends and

reimbursements for volunteers. It would also be used to fill two new staff positions, an Emergency Medical Services Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator.

There were three staff members and six volunteers on hand to answer any questions or concerns about the levy. Fire District members were excited and eager to share their ideas with the community, and to have a chance to personally rebut any negative comments or false claims regarding the levy.

"We're still hopeful that we can reach the community before it's too

late," Sublimity Volunteer Micheal Patrick said. "It's important for them to understand that we wouldn't be recommending this if we didn't really feel it is necessary. People are quick to criticize, yet few of them want to volunteer their time here."

Patrick also pointed out that understaffing and slow response times in the Fire District can easily result in higher insurance premium rates for District residents. "By investing money in the District, they can potentially preserve or even lower fire insurance premiums," Patrick said.

"Some people have a hard time understanding why we have less volunteers while our community is growing so much, but just look at the numbers," Patrick said. According to the 2000 Census, only 11% of Sublimity's population are between the ages of 18-35 (the typical age for volunteers)—compared with Stayton at 22%. Of those people, 45% are

male (also typical for a volunteer).

That leaves less than a hundred people in Sublimity for the potential volunteer pool. Then, from that group, the District has to find people that actually have the desire to be volunteer firefighters and are willing to put in the time and effort it takes training and responding to calls. They can't be claustrophobic and they have to pass a physical, background check and a drug test.

"We've got a very dedicated group right now. It's small, but these firefighters have done so much!" Patrick said. "They've agreed to start sleeping at the station for 12-24 hour shifts with no extra reimbursement or stipends. They're responding to three times the call volume of ten years ago with less people. They do everything they can. The problem is, it's all volunteer. These folks also have paying jobs during the day—most of them out of town. When daytime hits, we've got no one to respond. It's frustrating and dangerous."

Protect your community.
Vote YES on 24-119.

What's Inside

Calendar, Town Hall Re-cap	1
Alarm Totals for 2004, Volunteers Begin Shift Program	2
Recipe of the Month: Easy Enchiladas	2
Bits & Pieces	2

Volunteer Shifts Begin on May 3rd

In a major effort to boost response times, the Sublimity Fire District will be implementing a volunteer shift program beginning Monday, May 3, 2004.

With this new system, volunteers will each pull one shift every nine days. On weekdays, this will be a 12-hour shift from 6pm-6am. On weekends, it is a 24-hour shift from 6am-6am.

Pulling a shift requires that the volunteer remain at the station ready to respond to calls during that period of time.

The shift schedule was implemented in part to combat slow response times. Currently,

the District has an average response time of just over eight minutes on any call requiring more than a two-person crew.

There are several motivations behind switching to shifts. One in particular is

the idea that, by eliminating the time it takes a volunteer to drive to the station after being alerted, response time will be improved.

Changing to shifts is also an attempt to make life easier for all volunteers. Instead of being alerted to every single alarm received by the District, only those volunteers pulling that night's shift will be alerted to calls—allowing everyone else to sleep through the night.

The District has tried to create a comfortable room upstairs where volunteers on shift can sleep. They've painted, decorated, and purchased two new beds & other furniture. T&J's Furniture of Stayton also donated a refrigerator/freezer to store extra food.

Chief McMahan & Captain Williams have also changed their work schedules to accommodate weekend training. Chief will be working Sunday-Thursday, and Capt. Williams will be working Tuesday-Saturday.

Recipe of the Month

Easy Enchiladas

- 1 cooked chicken
- 12 corn or flour tortillas
- 1 1/2 c. shredded cheese
- 1 can green chilies
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1/2 c. chopped onion

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix soup, sour cream, chilies, & onions. Divide chicken evenly btw. tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese. Add a spoonful of soup mixture and roll up in a casserole dish. Pour remaining soup mixture on top & sprinkle with cheese. Bake until bubbly.

2004 Alarms

(as of 04/28/04)

EMA	120
Fires	6
False Call	31
MVA	6
Service Call	11
Good Intent	6
Hazardous Cond.	3
Other	1

District News

Do you want to submit something to the newsletter? Please contact Amy at Station 51 { 503-769-3282, sta51adm@wvi.com } before the 22nd of each month. Information will be printed at the District's discretion.

Bits and Pieces

- ◆ Just a reminder that the annual Auxiliary Garage Sale is coming up on June 26th from 8am-4pm. If you have items to donate or would like information, contact Shannon Tallman (503) 873-7437
- ◆ Due to the unseasonably warm weather in April, be on the lookout for grass fires earlier this year.
- ◆ The District is still seeking qualified applicants to fill Resident Intern positions. Preference is

given to students already accepted into the Chemeketa Fire program.

- ◆ The Association was unable to find a publisher that could work with a limited budget, so it has decided to forego the calendars for the year 2005.
- ◆ The District has created a Delayed Entry Program (D.E.P.), in which someone interested in becoming a volunteer can go through the interview process and attend drills until the next Recruit Academy. Persons in the

D.E.P. are not allowed to respond to calls, but are still considered members of the District. They are issued an alphanumeric pager, invited to District functions and receive the newsletter. The District currently has one D.E.P. member—George Karakey III. George plans to attend the next Recruit Academy, beginning this coming September.

- ◆ Congratulations and welcome to new member Jim Johnston! Jim just passed the Entry Level Firefighter Recruit Academy with a very high score and will begin Firefighter I Academy this month.