

SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT

Volunteer Interest Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: () - _____ Alternate/message phone: () - _____

E-mail address: _____

Are you over the age of 18? ___ yes ___ no

Best time to contact: _____

Please indicate your interest: ___ Volunteer Firefighter ___ Fire Corps (area of interest: _____)

* If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like more information, please fill out this form and return it to the Sublimity Fire District, 115 NW Parker St., or mail it to P.O. Box 911, Sublimity, OR 97385.

We're on the Web!
www.sublimityfire.com

Turkey Cooker Safety—Have a safe and happy holiday season!

It's that time of year when the holiday chef wants to try a new method for preparing the normal holiday feast. Cooking a turkey in a hot oil cooker is a tasty way to prepare the holiday bird, but make sure to follow the recommended safety tips:

- Cookers are for **outdoor use only**. Never use inside an enclosed area (garage, patio, etc.) or under the overhang of a house or building.
- Only use the cooker on a level, stable surface and away from any combustible materials (wood rails, wood decks, dry grass, leaves, shrubs, etc.).
- NEVER use near gasoline or other flammable vapors or liquids.
- To determine the maximum oil fill level on a pot without a maximum fill line: place the food item in the pot and fill the pot with water until the food is completely covered. Do

not fill to the top—stop no less than 4 inches from the top. Remove the food from the pot and note the level of the water. This is your maximum oil fill line.

- Never leave cooker unattended. Constant supervision is necessary when in use and until cooker has cooled.
- Always keep children and pets away from cooker when in use and until unit has cooled completely.
- Never move cooker when in use.
- Thoroughly thaw and towel-dry food such as turkey or chicken before placing it in the pot.
- Lower items into the hot oil VERY SLOWLY.
- Cook turkeys only in pots designed specifically for cooking turkeys.
- To avoid the possibility of severe

burns, always allow hot water or oil to cool completely before moving cooker.

- Never allow gas hose to touch any hot surface.
- Always use a thermometer to keep a constant temperature check.
- Never allow oil or grease to exceed 250 degrees Fahrenheit.
- IMPORTANT: oil will ignite at 550-700 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Always keep tank at least 18 inches away from cooker while in use.
- Always keep an operable type BC fire extinguisher within easy reach.
- Indoor storage of the cooker is permissible only if tank is disconnected and stored outdoors in a well-ventilated area away from children and animals. Never bring a propane tank indoors.

VOLUNTEER

Are You Ready for the Challenge?

SMOKE SIGNALS: Our Community Newsletter

November 2006 Issue

1st Edition

Message to the Community

From Fire Board President Gary Rychar

The Sublimity Rural Fire Protection District (SRFPD) has a proud history of volunteer service to its community.

As the community continues to grow and more demand is placed on our volunteers' time, fewer and fewer people have stepped forward to take on the challenge of community service.

This reduced commitment places increased demand on our ability to continue service as usual. SRFPD struggles to provide adequate personnel for manning our much-needed responses; however, replacing these dedicated volunteers

with full-time firefighters would cost Sublimity taxpayers more than \$1 million per year.

SRFPD is not alone in its struggle, as many organizations that count on volunteers are seeing a similar trend.

SRFPD is looking for community members who have the time, physical stamina, desire and commitment to serve our community. The demands of emergency response are physically draining and time consuming, but the rewards are priceless. Being able to help a fellow citizen in their time of need gives you a sense of pride and

accomplishment.

It's also a great way to meet other people who are committed to serving our community.

If you think you have what it takes or would like to learn more about possible service, come by and see us at the fire station, 115 NW Parker St., or call 503-769-3282 for additional info.



GARY RYCHAR

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Message from Volunteer Association President Brandon Hamilton



BRANDON HAMILTON

Some people don't realize that, aside from the chief, all of Sublimity's firefighters are VOLUNTEERS.

Our department is facing the same problem as every other volunteer department across the nation: LACK of members.

I personally have been a volunteer with Sublimity for 15 years and am keenly aware of the demands required of a volunteer. The pride and satisfaction of helping my neighbors and fellow citizens far outweigh

the requirements in training and certifications placed on us by the state.

I want to personally challenge each and every one of you to take a minute and think about the times you have relied on a volunteer for one of your needs. Volunteers are used by every organization for activities from fund raising to emergency assistance. Think of

the sense of accomplishment you could have, knowing that you could be helping another person in their time of need.

Do you have a few extra hours a week you could spend learning how to help your community? I guarantee the rewarding feelings you'll have will far outweigh the time you'll spend learning how to help.

In Small Towns, Fewer Citizens Able or Willing to Fight Blazes for Free

(Excerpt from article by Dahleen Glanton, Chicago Tribune, posted on www.redorbit.com)

After more than two centuries as one of America's favorite community service endeavors, the glory days of the volunteer firefighter are fading. Most people, particularly young ones, now don't have the time or the inclination to put out fires for free anymore.

As a result, some volunteer fire departments that provide emergency and rescue services, respond to natural disasters and make public service calls, in addition to fighting fires, are dangling on the edge of extinction. And people in small communities that rely solely on volunteers, such as McLaurin, a town of about 900 families, increasingly risk calling 911 and not getting help.

About 73% of the more than one million firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers, as opposed to paid career firefighters, and about two-thirds of all fire departments are primarily volunteer, according to the National Volunteer Fire Council, a Washington-based lobbying group. But in two decades, the number of volunteers has declined by more than 10 percent, from 897,750 in 1984 to 800,050 in 2003. The council has begun a national recruitment campaign to rebuild the ranks.

Some say the decline is a sign of the times—busy schedules, households with two working parents and long work commutes. Some blame bureaucracy—too many government requirements on train-

ing, safety and funding. Others say this is simply another casualty in the decline of volunteerism in general.

"People do this because of their sense of community, a sense of wanting to give back," said Heather Schafer, executive director of the National Volunteer Fire Council. "This is a huge time commitment, and that is our number one problem—recruiting and retaining people who have jobs and children."

Since Benjamin Franklin organized a volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736, groups that began as "fire clubs" have attracted the likes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Paul Revere. They thrived over the years by drawing families into their ranks and providing a social outlet in towns that had little else to offer.

"If you volunteer, it becomes your life," said Sharron Trawick, 45, a florist and single mother who is the elected captain of the McLaurin Fire Department. "Most of the young people don't stay around here long, and if they do, they would rather be out having fun than fighting fires."

"It basically takes a year and a half to teach a firefighter to become a firefighter, and that's just the baseline firefighting techniques," said Robert Reason, president of the Spring Bay Fire Protection District. "For some communities it is a big challenge to come up with the money

to educate their people and to keep them on duty."

In recent years, volunteer fire departments have relied heavily on grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to replace outdated fire pumps, ladder trucks and ambulances that can cost up to \$750,000 each. In order to apply for grants, departments must complete federally-mandated training.

While the competition for money has grown, federal funding has shrunk. More than \$2.6 billion was sought from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, but Congress reduced the program's 2006 fiscal year budget to \$545 million, compared to \$650 million in 2005 and \$750 million in 2004.

The hardships have not deterred one young volunteer firefighter; twenty-four-year-old Matt Barnhizer of Liberty, Indiana, volunteers at his hometown station at night and at nearby College Corner during the day. He also holds down a job as an agriculture field technician.

"My hours are flexible, so if there is a fire run, I can leave work and go," said Barnhizer, who followed in his father's footsteps as a volunteer firefighter. "Sometimes it is tough, and when you are in the middle of something, you can't get it done. But if something happened to my place or my family's place, I would want someone there to help. That's why I do it."

There will also be a collection bin to donate new unopened toys to Stayton Fire's Toys for Joy program. The Toys for Joy program covers children in Stayton and Sublimity fire districts.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

This year's tree lighting will take place on Saturday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m., in the park across from the fire station. Santa will be lighting the tree and will be available for photos afterward. Refreshments will be provided.

Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Firefighters

Do you have skills in non-operational functions of a fire department and want to help? You don't have to be a firefighter to be a member of the Sublimity Fire District.

We have a need for community members who want to help but may not have the physical strength to combat fires or move patients. You can become a member of the FIRE CORPS, established to help fire organizations in non-combat positions.

- Promote fire safety and community education
- Help write grant applications
- Develop Web sites and computer programs
- Provide backup support during major events

- Assist with incident reporting and data entry
- Assist with public relations
- Organize fundraising initiatives
- Assist with canteen services at major incidents
- Assist with informational newsletters
- Serve as a member of the support team
- Be the department photographer
- Be the department historian
- Assist with community food drives, Christmas boxes, toy collections, pancake breakfasts, etc.

If you have a skill, talent or interest, we have a position for you. Return the enclosed interest form to the fire district, indicating your area(s) of interest and we'll contact you.

The Blue Ribbon Report: Preserving and Improving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service

This report was prepared for the International Fire Chief Association to report on the status of volunteer fire departments across the U.S.

America's volunteer fire service is deeply woven into the basic fabric of our nation. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are close to 800,000 volunteer firefighters across the U.S., and the majority of this nation's geographical area is protected by volunteer fire departments. Of all the fire departments in America, 73% are all-volunteer.

Firefighters, both career and volunteer, are extremely dedicated to public service. This trait explains why firefighters often take tremendous risks to save the lives of the citizens they are sworn to protect. Volunteer firefighters, because of their diverse educational and employment backgrounds, bring tremendous depth and diversity to any emergency scene based upon their jobs and expertise in their communities. In many cases, volunteer firefighters invest an enormous amount of time and dedication to fire fighting, moving the fire service forward through improved fire fighting techniques and technological innovations.

Volunteer firefighters provide an enormous economic benefit to our nation. It is estimated that volunteer firefighters save the American taxpayers \$37 billion per year that can be reinvested in each community's infrastructure, social and other community programs, and/or a general

reduction in local taxes.

Unfortunately, despite their tremendous contribution to American society, volunteer fire departments are often underfunded and ill-equipped, putting many in a position where they must raise their own operational funds to provide apparatus and safety equipment. In addition, the number of volunteer firefighters is declining across the nation. During the mid-1980s, it was estimated that the volunteer fire service was more than 880,000 members strong, but those numbers have dropped to less than 800,000 in recent years.

The demands on volunteer fire departments have increased significantly over the past 20 years. Today, because of increasing call volumes, departments provide more and more traditional services (fire fighting and EMS response, etc.). However, volunteer fire departments also are being asked to expand their roles in order to address new problems, the most prominent of which are new duties surrounding homeland security. This increase in responses and responsibility, combined with lack of resources, equipment and manpower, means that many departments must make hard choices about what level of service they can provide. This is difficult in a mobile society, when urban (big city) dwellers move to more remote locations and continue to expect the same level of service they were receiving previously. Often, they do not appreciate the funding constraints placed on rural communities.

Board of Directors

- **President:**
Gary Rychard,
serving since 1994
- **Vice-President:**
Jeff Kropf,
serving since 2003
- **Secretary/Treasurer:**
Ralph Fisher,
serving since 1989
- **Director:**
Rick Kauffman,
serving since 2003
- **Director:**
Kyle Amsberry,
serving since 2003

Volunteer Firefighter Facts

- The number of volunteer firefighters in the U.S. has declined by more than 10%, from 897,750 in 1984 to 800,050 in 2003.
- There are currently 790,000 volunteer firefighters in the United States.
- Communities smaller than 25,000 people depend most heavily on volunteer firefighters.
- About 73% of all firefighters in the U.S. are volunteer firefighters.
- Volunteer fire departments save the American taxpayers an estimated \$37.2 billion a year in services.
- Sublimity Rural Fire Protection District NEEDS MORE community volunteer firefighters to continue its level of service.

Getting Ready for the Holiday Season

TURKEY SHOOT BINGO

The 69th Annual Indoor Turkey Shoot will be held **Sunday, November 19**, from 1-5 p.m. at Sublimity's main station, 115 NW Parker St. Participants play BINGO and compete to win frozen turkeys. This year, anyone donating cash or non-perishable food items from the list below will be entered into a special raffle.

FOOD BASKETS

The fire district will be collecting non-perishable items to be placed in

"traditional holiday dinner" baskets for local families. **Items requested: stuffing mix, mashed potato mix, canned gravy, cranberry sauce, canned yams, bags of mini marshmallows.** **Any monetary donations will be used to purchase perishable items just prior to delivery.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to help put together baskets. Food baskets will be delivered in the Stayton/Sublimity area on the evening of **Thursday, December 21**, via fire engine.