

# THE FIREHOUSE

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

VOLUME X, ISSUE II NOVEMBER 2014

20975 GEYSERVILLE AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 217 • GEYSERVILLE, CA 95441 • (707) 857-4373

### DISTRICT EXPANSION & CONSOLIDATION

The Geyserville Fire Protection District (GFPD) continues to collaborate with Cloverdale and Healdsburg on providing increased levels of emergency services to Northern Sonoma County, including the possibility of consolidation. The GFPD Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of expanding our District boundaries to include The Geysers and Pine Flat Road area above the Modini Mayacamas Preserve. Our fire department currently responds to these areas and is paid per incident by Sonoma County Fire. However, we do not collect the fire service portion of the property tax and this money, though generated by areas we provide services for, is used elsewhere in Sonoma County. The Board of Directors is also considering including Knights Valley, Fitch Mountain, Mill Creek, and southern Dry Creek Valley areas into our District. With the exception of Knights Valley, which has a Volunteer Fire Company, these areas are currently protected by Sonoma County Fire whom contracts with the City of Healdsburg. The Board would maintain these existing contracts and use the additional tax revenues generated by these areas to increase the levels of service provided to them. Among the possibilities are a staffed fire station in the southern Alexander Valley closer to Knights Valley/Chalk Hill, contracting with CAL FIRE for additional resources/staffing, increased staffing at existing fire stations, and local based fire prevention/fire marshal services.



Photo by Tenaya Fleckenstein

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has tasked the County Administrator's Office with evaluating fire services in Sonoma County. This Project is occurring while we are considering our options for regionalizing fire protection and has added some confusion to our efforts, which started over three years ago. The following is from the Sonoma County website, <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Fire-Services-Project/>: "The Chair of the Board of Supervisors has formed a Fire Services Ad-Hoc Committee to address the nature of fire services in the County, particularly in the unincorporated areas.

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### FACTS ABOUT US

Protects over 200 Square miles

Responds to over 500  
emergencies a year

34 Volunteers

Thousands of hours of training  
each year

Station 1: 20975 Geyserville  
Avenue

Station 2: 6571 Highway 128

Station 3: 3970 Dry Creek Road

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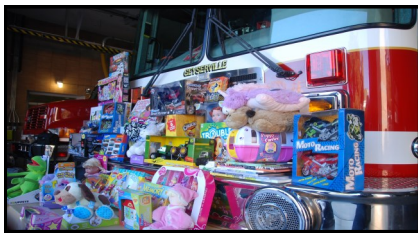
## DISTRICT EXPANSION & CONSOLIDATION

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The intended outcome is a more effective and efficient fire system in Sonoma County. The Ad Hoc Committee will address some immediate challenges, as well as establish a longer-term process which builds on historical and recent efforts to improve fire governance.” The County has studied this subject many times previously without any meaningful improvements or substantial changes. This study is projected to take at least two years. We are committed to moving forward with what we believe will provide our community and its residents improved emergency services now and not wait another two years.

Please reference the County’s website if you would like more information about the study.

## ANNUAL TOY DRIVE



Once again, the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters’ Association is teaming up with the Geyserville Christian Church to provide toys for the Geyserville community. Please bring new unwrapped toys to the Geyserville Fire House anytime from now until Christmas. All toys stay in Geyserville and are distributed by the Geyserville Christian Church to children in need. If you bring a toy to the Fire House during the Tractor Parade you will receive a free bowl of chili.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

Volunteer fire fighters are becoming an endangered species. The amount of time required for initial training and to retain currency is making it hard for us to maintain our volunteer firefighter staff. We are relying more and more on paid staff; one on duty 24 hours a day, and then paying a daily stipend for a volunteer to have two personnel always available. Volunteers and our neighboring fire departments (Cloverdale, Healdsburg, CAL FIRE, Dry Creek Rancheria) are used to help staff emergency incidents and/or cover fire stations to be prepared for multiple simultaneous incidents. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us.



## WINE COUNTRY TO THE RESCUE



Photo by Tenaya Fleckenstein

Thanks to your generous support, we are on our way to purchasing a new vehicle that will carry an air compressor for refilling cylinders for structural fire fighting breathing apparatus, water and drinks for sustained fire fighting operations, and medical supplies for an incident with multiple patients. This vehicle will also be able to tow our small rescue boat and be shared with Cloverdale and Healdsburg fire departments. Plans are underway for the 2015 Wine Country to the Rescue Event.

<http://www.winecountrytotherescue.com/>

## BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ASHES



This is the time of year when we start using fireplaces. In addition to ensuring your chimney is clean, be careful when disposing of your ashes. They need to be cool to the touch before being disposed. This can take several days. We have seen garbage can fires and vegetation fires start from the improper disposal of ashes. See the following website for more information: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/387766>

## BURN PERMIT

The first step for your burn permit is the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District in Healdsburg. Their telephone number is (707) 433-5911. Depending upon whether or not there is a fire department imposed "Burn Suspension" in place, you will then need to contact us or CAL FIRE depending upon the location of where you plan to burn. Please burn safely and be considerate of where your smoke is traveling.

## 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



2015 is our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Many events are being planned. Please join us in the celebration.



## BLOOD DRIVE

The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association took first place in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bucket Brigade Challenge with 97 donors. We exceeded the second place finisher by just 4 donors. We are looking to defend our title with our Blood Drive scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Geyserville Fire House. Dinner will be provided.



## BOARD MEETINGS

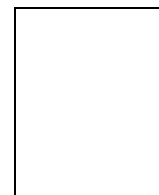
Many of the topics you see in this newsletter are discussed on a monthly basis at the Geyserville Fire Protection District Board of Directors' Meetings. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Geyserville Fire House (20975 Geyserville Avenue). Meetings are open to the public.



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 PO Box 1042  
 Geyserville CA 95441

The Geyserville Fire Protection District  
 PO Box 217  
 Geyserville CA 95441

GVFA  
 PO Box 1042  
 Geyserville CA



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **OPEN HOUSE & CHILI (LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE)**

NOVEMBER 29, 2014  
 STARTS @ 4:00 P.M.

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

JANUARY 30, 2015  
 2:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

MAY 9, 2015

This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in Fall and Spring. It is intended to provide information to the community about news and events as it relates to the Geyserville Fire Department. If you are receiving this newsletter then our records show one of the following: You live within the Fire District boundaries, you own property within the District boundaries, or you have donated money to the GVFA. If you think that you have received this newsletter in error or would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact us at (707) 857 - 4373 (GFPD).

