

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PROTECTING WINE COUNTRY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

VOLUME XI, ISSUE I MAY 2015

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

### FOCUS HAS CHANGED TO ANNEXATION

Geyserville and Cloverdale Fire Protection Districts have been working together on a possible consolidation. Though still in process, the immediate priority has changed and the Geyserville Fire Protection District (GFPD) is pursuing the annexation of areas adjacent to the District. After this annexation, the GFPD will be in a stronger position to continue with consolidation. The areas identified for annexation are The Geysers, upper portion of Pine Flat Road, Briggs Ranch Road area, and an area to the south of Chalk Hill Road. The Geyserville Fire Protection District has been providing emergency response for these areas since the District was formed in 1996. Currently, the District is paid for each response to these areas by the Sonoma County Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This annexation would better reflect the District's jurisdiction and allow us to explore the possibility of a staffed station (career fire fighters) in Alexander Valley. The additional property taxes would provide additional funding to the GFPD to help prepare for the future.

### OPEN HOUSE

Come join us for the Geyserville Fire Protection District's annual Open House at Station 1 on May 9th, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Free hot dogs, cake, and a bounce house will be available for all. This is a great time to mingle with the firefighters and check out the exciting equipment firefighters use to do their jobs.



### ABOUT GEYSERVILLE FIRE



The Geyserville Fire Protection District (GFPD) is an independent fire district with a five member, elected Board of Directors. The GFPD was formed in 1996 from an area that had been previously served by the Geyserville Volunteer Fire Company of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. Property taxes, approximately

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### FACTS ABOUT US

Protects over 200 Square miles

Responds to over 500  
emergencies a year

30 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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## ABOUT GEYSERVILLE FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

3% of 1% (0.03%) of the overall property tax paid to Sonoma County, are redistributed to the GFPD. The District continues to operate on this portion of property taxes without a special tax (benefit assessment) or billing for emergency response. The GFPD received approximately \$336,000 a year when the River Rock Casino opened, however, this funding stopped in 2013. We are projected to receive approximately \$800,000 in property taxes for the 2015/2016 fiscal year from our 216 square mile jurisdiction. This money is used to pay three full-time firefighters, volunteer employee costs, training, a part time administrative assistant, and a part time fire chief, along with the maintenance of three fire stations and all fire equipment. The Geyserville fire station is staffed with a minimum of one person, with reliance on volunteer fire fighters for additional staffing. The GFPD has also been very fortunate to have great community support with donations and fundraisers, which has allowed the building of new fire stations and purchasing of fire apparatus and equipment.

## 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



As part of our 100 year anniversary, a fire fighter reunion was held on March 30th. Over seventy current and former fire fighters attended, traveling from as far away as Seattle. Many fire fighters had not seen one another in many years, and enjoyed the opportunity to share old stories and memories.

As part of our historical fact gathering, local historian Ann Howard discovered that the Geyserville Fire Company was actually organized on September 5, 1904. Though we continue to celebrate our 100 year anniversary, we now know that we are nearly 111 years old!

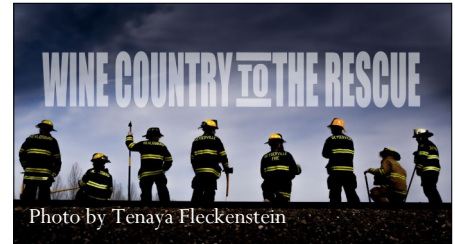


## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Boy Scout Nicholas Munsell recently landscaped Geyserville Fire Station 2, located at 6571 Highway 128 in Alexander Valley. Nicholas Munsell is a member of Boy Scout Troop 21 of Healdsburg, and has grown up in the shadow of his father, a long-time firefighter with the Geyserville Fire Protection District. Landscaping Station 2 was Munsell's Eagle Scout project. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scout program. Geyserville Fire appreciates all the hours of hard work put into this landscaping project by Nicholas Munsell and his fellow scouts. Munsell chose to serve his community by helping our fire department. Thank you Nicholas Munsell and Troop 21! Way to go!

## WINE COUNTRY TO THE RESCUE

This year's Wine Country to the Rescue will once again be held at Clos du Bois, on July 18th from 5 - 10 P.M. The Chris Gardner Band will provide entertainment as diners gather for food, dancing, and an auction. This event will follow our Centennial Celebration theme as we continue to honor 100 years of service to the community. For more information visit <http://www.winecountrytotherescue.com/>



## SKY LANTERNS



Sky lanterns, which are also referred to as “Wish” or “Chinese” lanterns, are not illegal but their use is not recommended. These lanterns are made of a paper material which forms a “balloon.” A fuel cell is suspended below the balloon. The fuel cell is ignited which produces a flame to illuminate the balloon and warm air. The warm air fills the balloon and causes the lantern to rise. The lantern falls to the ground after the fuel cell is consumed and the air in the balloon cools. The fuel cell should not be burning when it lands, however due to the possibility that it may, it may cause a fire. This is of most importance during the dry months when the vegetation is dry and susceptible to being ignited easily. Wind and other weather factors could also influence how the lantern burns and travels.

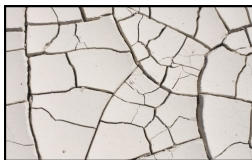
## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Now is the time to clear vegetation around your buildings and prepare for a potential early and long fire season. Be careful when mowing and using power tools to ensure you do not start a fire; mow in the morning or on cool days rather than when it is hot and dry. Have someone watch where you have mowed and have water on standby. More information is available at [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org).

## ADDRESSES AND LOCKED GATES

We occasionally have difficulty locating addresses and opening locked gates. Please help us by marking your address so that it is visible from each direction of travel and at all forks in a shared road or driveway. Reflective numbers work best for worst case conditions. Fire agencies carry a key that can open locked gates that are properly equipped. More information regarding outfitting your gate with a key override is available at <http://www.knoxbox.com/knox-rapid-entry-system/fire-departments>. If gates do not have this capability, fire agencies rely upon having a combination, cutting the lock or otherwise defeating the locking mechanism. If you provide us with your combination, we will have it entered into the dispatch database that is used by fire and law enforcement agencies in the County. Please call the fire station if you need more information.

## DROUGHT

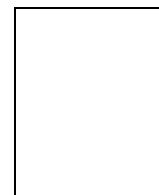


You may notice that our fire trucks are not always clean. We are doing our part to conserve water during the current drought conditions. We are also limiting the amount of water we utilize during trainings and incorporating fire fighting tactics that use less water.

The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association  
 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**  
 MAY 9, 2015

**GEYSERVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BBQ**  
 JUNE 9, 2015

**WINE COUNTRY TO THE RESCUE**  
 JULY 18, 2015

**FALL COLORS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
 OCTOBER 25, 2015

**TRACTOR PARADE**  
 NOVEMBER 28, 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).

