

# CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



May 31, 2010

## Clackamas Fire District #1 Newsletter

### Meet the Fire District's New Board Member



At the board meeting on May 17, 2010, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Thomas Joseph to fill the vacant board Position #1 through June 30, 2011. He was sworn-in at the board meeting by Chief Kirchhofer. Thomas was born in India and attended K.E. College Mannanam, Kerala, India. After college, he served for 12 years with distinction in the Indian Air Force. In May 1978, he moved with his family to Portland, Oregon. In 1983, he founded Thomas Joseph Inc., DBA Thomas Joseph Personalized Dry Cleaning, which today has three locations. Thomas is active in the community with organizations such as the Clackamas Rotary, North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce, Providence Milwaukie Hospital Foundation.

### DC Smith Retired



DC Jonathan Smith retired May 31, 2010 after 29 years with the fire service. He began his career as a student intern with the City of Happy Valley Fire Department in 1981. He was hired as a full-time apparatus operator for Happy Valley on January 1, 1984. He rose through the ranks and in 2006 became a deputy chief. During this past year, DC Smith led the District in the process of updating our Standards of Cover document. Congratulations on your retirement, Jonathan!

### Promotional/Swearing-in Ceremony

On Tuesday, May 25, 2010 the Fire District held a promotional/swearing-in ceremony at our Training Center. It was well attended by crews, staff and guests. Congratulations to the following personnel: Battalion Chief Joe Pelletier, Captain Don Davis, Lieutenant Sean Brown and Apparatus Operator Kevin Schurter.



BC Joe Pelletier and Chief Kirchhofer



Capt. Don Davis and Chief Kirchhofer



Lt. Sean Brown and Chief Kirchhofer



A/O Kevin Schurter and Chief Kirchhofer

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### Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards

Safety Officer Capt. Dave Phillips and FF Clay Buford received awards at the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Capt. Phillips received the President's Award. This prestigious award is presented each year by the outgoing Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association (OFCA) President to the one person he/she believes has had a profound impact on Oregon's fire service. Capt. Phillips was honored for his leadership in the development of the new Safety Section of OFCA. FF Clay Buford received his Distinguished Conduct award for his outstanding efforts performing a rescue on a coastal river while off-duty. Congratulations Capt. Phillips and FF Buford!

### Update on Our Newest Firefighters

Our latest graduates from the Recruit Academy finish their Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) on May 31. They will begin June 1 as probationary firefighters.

### Re-Accreditation Update

The Peer Assessor Team, made up of four fire service personnel, arrived on Saturday, May 22 and was on-site touring the District and speaking with personnel until Thursday, May 27. We are optimistic that once they have completed their report that we will be recommended for re-accreditation and awarded this status at the International Association of Fire Chief's conference in August in Chicago.

### 2010 Teen Cardiac Screening Event

Clackamas Fire District, the Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation and Local 1159 sponsored the 2010 Teen Cardiac Screening Event held May 15 at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland. This event screened 345 teens aged 13-18 for the potential of cardiac events based on patient history, family history, current health issues and resting 12 Lead EKGs. Our Wellness Coordinator Heather Goodrich, Wellness Assistant Alicia McVicker and eight firefighter paramedics administered 12 Lead EKGs on all participants. Special thank you to Rescue 3 crew Lt. Ken Mulkey and firefighter/Paramedics Chris Taylor and Trevor Cooper for delivering a spare 12 lead to the event. Once the test was completed, all participants were evaluated by a pediatric cardiologist and given health improvement opportunities based on their findings in the above exams or history taking. The EMS Division would like to acknowledge Lt. Curtis Guttman, A/O Brian MacKender, A/O Josh Gehrke, FF Melanie Kinne, FF Amy Jo Cook, Lt. Kari Shanklin, Wellness Coordinator Heather Goodrich, Wellness Assistant Alicia McVicker and EO Kyle Gorman for making this event the success it was.

### OFSOA Spring Workshop Summary

Clackamas Fire District #1 hosted the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators' (OFSOA) 2010 Spring Workshop April 22-23. There were 42 people who attended from all over the state. It was a powerful and enjoyable learning experience for all who attended. The following topics were shared by the informative speakers at the sessions.

1. The **leadership** session emphasized the traits of effective leaders: the need to be responsible and accountable, the mistakes and errors to avoid, seeking wise counsel, and being transparent.
2. An interactive session on **Harassment Policies** stressed the importance of having this policy in place, what should be included in it, and the definitions and types of harassment.
3. The Fire District's outstanding **wellness program** was reviewed. Participants got a hands-on look at the sugars and fats we ingest when eating certain foods (specifically, fast foods), how to make alternative and better nutritional choices, and that healthy eating takes planning. The importance of good posture and other ways to prevent back injuries were discussed.
4. Attendees participated in the **Workplace Violence** role playing. They all shared and learned valuable information from the presenters and each other about handling possible violent situations that may arise in the workplace.

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5. The workshop wrapped up on Friday morning with a presentation on ***Communication in the Workplace***. Effective communication is a life-long process that takes practice; that the best communication skill is.

### Update on Clarke's Fire Station Project

The updating of the Clarke's Fire Station continues. The finishing touches are being put on the inside of the station and the outside on the landscaping. The last of the siding will be the next section of the update to be accomplished. If all goes well, we should be able to begin moving in this week.



### Program Highlight – Overall Financial Management

#### Fiscal 2010 Budget

The District's Budget Committee was held on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Scott Fire Station. District staff presented a conservative budget for Fiscal 2010 based on current economic factors. The financial goal of the District is to balance revenues with expenditures, while maintaining service levels and asset integrity. The budget presented was representative of this goal.

Challenges for Fiscal 2010 include the following:

- Monitoring economic conditions and determining the impact on the District as the economy strengthens will continue to be in the forefront of our efforts.
- Being attentive to current and potential urban renewal districts, strategic investment zones and enterprise zones will continue as cities and the county look for ways to finance infrastructure improvements. All of these tools available to local government effectively divert revenue from overlapping special districts.
- Staff continues to research financial management software options in an effort to integrate the various data sources from our business. This integration is essential to efficient financial management. While this will be beneficial to the District, the initial cost is of concern in light of other budgetary needs.
- Radio communication continues to pose a challenge as the fire service struggles to identify the next generation of radio systems that will meet the rigorous service and reliability demands of the nation's emergency

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- The anticipated PERS rate increase over the next biennium is of great concern as this could increase personnel costs for all employees. The Fire District has proactively established a reserve fund to help mitigate the impact of the potential increase.
- We have outgrown our current administrative headquarters facility and have staff split up between five physical locations. We will begin the planning process for addressing this issue by first completing a needs assessment and then proceeding to the development of a master plan.
- Staff provided an overview of the District's accomplishments for 2009, the aforementioned challenges and requested approval of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal 2010 to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee deliberated on the Budget for Fiscal 2010 and voted to approve the budget. The Budget Adoption Hearing will be held on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> during the regular Board of Directors meeting.

The Approved Budget for Fiscal 2010 may be viewed on the District's website at: [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com) under the Finance section. Questions regarding the budget may be directed to Finance Director Susan McSperritt either by e-mail at [susanmcs@ccfd1.com](mailto:susanmcs@ccfd1.com) or by phone at 503-742-2600.

### **Bond Refunding**

In 2000, District voters approved a \$9 million bond levy to allow the District to upgrade facilities, build fire stations, and purchase apparatus. Current economic conditions may allow the District to refund (refinance) a portion of the remaining bonds for bonds at lower interest rates. The proposals presented to the District indicate a savings to District tax payers of approximately \$160,000 over the next five years. While refunding the bonds does not improve the District's financial position, it does reduce the tax burden to our citizens.

### **LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES**

*See Station Summary*