

Sub-Fire Newsletter

Since 2003

April 1, 2004

APRIL 2004

CALENDAR

- Apr. 1—All Fools' Day; Drill Night (Bus. Mtg/EMS Drill)
- Apr. 2—Jerry Heater's Birthday
- Apr. 3—Recruit Academy (Safety; Fire Behavior)
- Apr. 4—Recruit (Protective Clothing/SCBA; Salvage & Overhaul)
- Apr. 6—Passover
- Apr. 7—Recruit (Portable Fire Extinguishers)
- Apr. 8—Kim Zuber's Birthday; Drill Night (IMS System/Pumping Evol.)
- Apr. 10—Santiam Canyon Fire Officer Test
- Apr. 11—Easter
- Apr. 14—Board Mtg. 7pm; Recruit (Water Supply)
- Apr. 15—TAX DAY!; Drill Night (Fire Prev/Public Ed)
- Apr. 16—Becky Merrell, Micheal Patrick, & Katie Thiel's Birthdays
- Apr. 17—Recruit (Fire Hose; Fire Streams)
- Apr. 18—Holocaust Remembrance Day; Recruit (Ladders; Search & Rescue)
- Apr. 21—Administrative Professionals Day; Recruit Final Exam
- Apr. 22—Earth Day; Drill Night (Const. Materials & Bldg Collapse/Pump Evol.)
- Apr. 24-5—Recruit (Haz-Mat)
- Apr. 26—Officers Mtg.
- Apr. 29—Drill Night (Wildland Refresher)



Chief's Message: Serial Levy on May Ballots

As most of you know, the Board authorized offering a local option levy to the voters in an effort to fund positions and provide funds to improve the Volunteer program. The measure has been submitted to the Elections office. Below is the text of the question and explanatory statement that will be included in the election.

FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY- MEASURE 24-119

QUESTION:

Shall Sublimity Fire District impose 98¢ / \$1000 assessed value for 5 years for equipment and personnel beginning 2004/2005?

*This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

*This measure requires at least a 50 percent voter turnout.

The Board of Directors has determined that the lack of available personnel for emergencies is critical and warrants hiring of paid personnel as well as im-

proving conditions for volunteer firefighters. The District's goal is to provide in-station staffing 24 hours a day. The District currently waits for off-duty and volunteer personnel to respond to the stations prior to responding to emergencies.

This levy provides funds to hire and equip paid personnel and to provide financial support for a revised staffing plan, training system and improved reimbursement and stipends for the volunteer firefighters.

The tax on a \$100,000 home would be \$98.00 per year (\$8.16 per month) for 5 years. The proposed rate will raise approximately \$172,235 in 2004/05, \$177,331 in 2005/06, \$182,578 in 2006/07, \$187,980 in 2007/08, \$193,542 in 2008/09. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

The Sublimity Rural Fire Protection District is not a part of the city or county but is a "special service district" protecting 40 square miles of Marion County including the City of Sublimity. District personnel respond to fire and medical emergencies from fire stations in the city of Sublimity and in the Drift Creek Rd. area.

The Fire District's Board of Directors is requesting that the taxpayers of the district consider a 5-year local option levy for the specific purpose of hiring and equipping paid personnel and reorganizing the volunteer firefighter program so personnel are available to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day. The District currently waits for volunteers to respond to the station. This can take up to 9 minutes during the night, while during the day there are no regularly available volunteers to respond, leaving only the Fire Chief and a paid Captain to respond. This low level staffing is not an effective or safe service level for the community and its residents.

Factors prompting the District's (cont'd on next page)

What's Inside

Chief's Message: Serial Levy	1-2
Alarm Totals for 2004	2
Recipe of the Month: Traditional Biscuits	2
Bits & Pieces	2

Serial levy (cont'd.)

Board to submit this measure:

- *The lack of available volunteer firefighters,
- *Continuing population growth and new construction,
- *Increases in emergency response,

*Strenuous national and state training requirements,

*The inability to fund any additional staffing or re-organization of the volunteer firefighter program with the current permanent tax rate,

*The need to improve response due to growth in the Fire District.

Sublimity's population has increased from 1493 in 1990 to 2148 in 2003 (PSU data), a total increase of 43%. In

that same time period, emergency responses increased from 215 annually to 713 annually (+232%), and, the number of available community volunteer firefighters dropped from 22 to 15 (-46%), with no volunteers regularly available to respond during the daytime in town.

The District is presently unable to provide adequate response and quality service to its citizens due to this low staffing issue. To accommodate the increased growth, the additional emergencies, and the reduction in volunteer firefighters, the District's Board of Directors have determined that hiring two full-time firefighters is appropriate to improve response, along with increasing funds to improve conditions for volunteers. They have also decided that it is appropriate that the issue be decided by the voters of the District.

Property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$8.16 per month to improve this vital public safety service.

Recipe of the Month

Traditional Biscuits

- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 cup shortening (or 1/3 cup marg. or butter)
- 3/4 cup buttermilk

Heat oven to 450. Combine dry ingredients. Use 2 knives or pastry blender to cut shortening into flour mixture. Add buttermilk and mix lightly. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead gently for 30 seconds. Roll or pat to 1 inch thick. Cut with biscuit cutter and bake 20 minutes.

(Recipe Source: The Statesman Journal)

APOLOGIES!

In last month's thank-you, these folks were not recognized for helping set up for the banquet: Denise Brant, Darlene Hendricks, Jennifer McMahan, Becky Merrell, Joan Merrell, Katie Thiel, Amy Thomas, & Kim Zuber

2004 Alarms

(as of 03/29/04)

EMA	94
Fires	3
False Call	26
MVA	5
Service Call	9
Good Intent	5
Hazardous Cond.	3
TOTAL	145

Bits and Pieces

- ◆ The District recently received a 1975 Mack Aerial Scope free of charge from the Woodburn Fire District. The newly named Ladder 51 (L-51) was given to the District on the condition that it may still be used by Woodburn if their new ladder truck goes out of service. L-51 was completely refurbished in 1996, has a 75-foot aerial platform with a nozzle at the end and breathing air plumbed up to it.
- ◆ On March 29th, Woodburn Fire came to Sta-

tion 51 to give Captain Williams, Captain Hamilton, Captain Heater, & Engineer Ditter a class on the basic use & operation of the ladder truck. After establishing SOPs & properly equipping the truck, all other training related to L-51 will begin.

- ◆ Engine 50 is now back in service. However, Brush 51 is out of service being re-plumbed.
- ◆ The District has applied for a FEMA Grant. If successful in acquiring this grant, the District will be able to get a

Quick Attack Pumper for Station 52.

- ◆ Captain Williams has applied for a grant through the Neil R. McDonald Charitable Foundation to be used for equipment for L-51.
- ◆ There are currently still two Resident Internships available at Station 51. The District is seeking highly motivated individuals who are currently in the fire program to fill these positions. Please call the station for more details (503) 769-3282.