

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

7th Annual Pancake Feed

This year's Pancake Feed was a great success; we served 221 people and received \$1,549 in donations. The total amount raised after food costs was \$900!

Thank you for supporting our volunteer firefighters!

We would also like to thank all the community volunteers for helping our firefighters: Fire Board Director Terry Lindauer, the Vernonia High School Cheerleaders, Roby and Mindy Brewer. Your assistance helped immensely! From the District to the vol-



unteer firefighters and family members who helped: Thank you for always going above and beyond and serving our community with pride!

New this year, the Vernonia Ambulance Association held a garage sale during the weekend of the pancake feed. Fearless leader Trish Smith, Metro West employee and VVAA volunteer, organized and ran the sale. All the proceeds, \$1,012 will go towards the 4th of July firework show. Thank you to all those that donated items, came by to shop and/or just stopped by to make a monetary donation! Because of you, we will have an even better firework show! Thank you Trish for your dedication and taking the time to arrange this great fundraiser!

Renovation, Remodel, Upgrades

What started out as a project for a local citizen to pay towards their community service hours, slowly evolved into a kitchen/bathroom/communications room makeover. The fire station's kitchen has always been too small, with barely any useable space. When prepping for any events, two people could work side by side, but three was a crowd. The kitchen has gone without any upgrades, minus a stove and microwave, since its inception years ago. The bathroom was in the same shape. In contrast, the communications room was much too large, which lent itself to being used for unorganized storage. Luckily, all these rooms are along the same one wall, which made remedying these problems more attainable.

The project started out with a good deep cleaning of all 3 rooms. It was then confirmed that there was a need to repaint. From there the decision was made to go ahead and lengthen the kitchen and shorten the communications room simultaneously. Lt. Dan Hanson took on this task and completed the adjustment. While in the middle of the de-construction a task foreman was chosen.

Trish Smith, who works for Metro West out of our station and volunteers for the Vernonia Volunteer

Ambulance Association, took an interest into the style and direction of the project and ran with it. A meager \$1,000 budget was allotted for the entire kitchen, bathroom, and communications room remodel. The VVAA also made a monetary donation to help out with the project.

The current kitchen cabinets were taken down, resized, painted and rearranged. New countertops were made available with large discounts through the efforts of FF. Norm Brown. Trish acquired used products to replace the older worn out items. The bathroom was cleaned, painted and also received a new countertop and sink. The communications room was cleaned, painted and reorganized. The desk was updated with a new countertop matching the kitchen and bathroom.

This project would not have been completed without the outstanding group of volunteers who worked countless hours on it. They were able to finish the area just in time for the 7th Annual Pancake Feed, which was extremely appreciated by the volunteers who were a part of the event. Thank you Lt. Dan Hanson, FF. Jason Smith, FF. Norm Brown, Trish Smith and Michelle Janson-Moe for showing what dedication and volunteerism is all about! The time



and hard work you put in to make this space functional will be happily enjoyed by all for years to come!

Besides the renovation, the station also had some lighting repairs and upgrades in coordination with the contractor and West Oregon Electric Co-op. The program upgraded the building

to higher efficiency bulbs, ballasts and some LED lighting. Occupancy sensors were installed to turn lights off if there is no movement in the conference room and apparatus bays. Light sensors were also installed to turn the outside lights off during the day.

Calls and Responses

The volunteers have responded to a whole array of calls the last few months; from a broken carbon monoxide detector and medical assistance calls, to vehicle crashes/fires, illegal burns and structure/natural cover fires.

Call volume continues to increase with a total of 43 for April and as of May 11th, already 21. Back to back incidents are no longer abnormal. This often leads to an extended response

time for an ambulance since a second crew has to travel from out of District. VRFPD has fostered an outstanding relationship with our neighboring districts, Banks and Mist-Birkenfeld, as well as our partnership with Metro West.

We thank them for their support in attaining our main goal to assist each other in providing the best service for all community members in need!

Calls responded to April 1- 30

Fire	1
Emergency Medical Service	31
Hazardous Condition	4
Service Call	3
Good Intent	2
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	1
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	1
Total	43




CAN YOU FILL THESE BOOTS?

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Call Dean Smith for more information on free training (503)429-8252