

District looks for volunteers

by DAVE PINSON
Staff writer

BORING — The Boring Fire District is seeking a few more volunteer firefighters. And fire district officials probably would be more than pleased to gain some additional Ron Toyookas.

Toyooka is the type of volunteer firefighter that fire chiefs must dream about. In 1986, for example, he responded to more than 500 alarm calls in the three-station district.

The average for the other 64 district volunteers was between 17 and 20 responses. During 1986, the district received 892 alarm calls.

Toyooka's impressive record is helped by the fact that he lives next door to the Boring fire station and can respond to any alarm within seconds.

His philosophy about volunteer firefighting is nearly as impressive as his record. "No. 1 is that you're serving the community," he said.

"And that takes some dedication on the part of the person who's doing it," he added.

The district's volunteer program is important to the community in many ways, said Capt. Dan Odell, training officer, who is in the midst of a recruitment drive.

"It's not just a matter of responding to alarms, but a lot of other areas," Odell said Tuesday.

Most notably, he said, the volunteer organization saves the district residents a tremendous amount of money. Yet the volunteers are highly trained.

"This whole group of 65 (volunteers) is costing less than one career person would," Odell said.

About the only monetary reward the volunteers receive is reimbursement for expenses.

For that, they do plenty of hard work.

"It's a lot of time and effort. And a lot of times you get discouraged. And a lot of times you get rewarded," Toyooka said.

"You're setting an example. (It depends) on how much effort you're willing to put into it... as to how much you're going to get out of it," he said.

The district is seeking volunteers who live within a 1½-mile radius of the Boring, Damascus and Eagle Creek stations. Applications are available at the stations.

Odell said the close-in volunteers are important, but so are those who live farther away. Those who live four or five miles out are able to respond to the distant alarms quickly and provide immediate assistance until other firefighters arrive with the equipment.

All in all, Toyooka said, being a volunteer firefighter is worth hauling an electronic beeper around, even though the monetary compensation is small.

"The pay's not great, but the excitement's there," he said.



Ron Toyooka, left, and Capt. Dan Odell of the Boring Fire District are looking for local residents to participate in the district's successful volunteer firefighter program.

Gorge tour planned

A leisurely drive through the Columbia Gorge, a tour of the Wind River Nursery and a chance to explore an 87-year-old sailing vessel will be featured in a one-day tour sponsored by the World Forestry Center.

The tour will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Cost is \$17.50 for World Forestry Center members and \$20 for non-members. Participants can bring a sack lunch or order a box lunch for an additional \$5.

The tour group will meet at the World Forestry Center at 8 a.m. for a drive to Carson, Wash., and the Wind

River Nursery. Constructed in 1900 during the early days of the U.S. Forest Service, the nursery is home to numerous historical buildings built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Tour participants also will visit an arboretum adjacent to the nursery where some of the oldest experimental tree culture work done by U.S. Forest Service personnel is displayed.

The tour will continue to Hood River.

To register for the tour, contact the Western Forestry Center at 4033 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, or call 228-1367.

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Gresham class of 1962 schedules reunion

The Gresham High School class of 1962 will have a 25-year reunion Sunday, July 12, at Roslyn Lake, Area 5.

The picnic reunion will be from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Chicken, soft drinks and table service will be provided.

Former classmates are asked to bring either a salad or a dessert; a relish tray, chips and dips or beans, and any beverages other than pop.

The committee organizing the reunion has not been able to notify all

former classmates of the event. Anyone not previously notified or anyone who knows where to contact classmates should call Janet Bergh McGill, 665-0111; Dorinda Wilson Grah, 663-5419; or Karen Knox Cody, 663-3849.

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