



# MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

JUNE 1, 2009



## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL FUNDRAISER Saturday, March 28, 2009

The recent annual picnic and fundraiser was a solid success, raising much needed funds while providing another opportunity for our firefighters, community service officers, and members of our Cistern and Muldoon area communities to spend some quality time together. We're only in our second year of working out the kinks to host this event in an outdoor setting at the Muldoon Community Park, with limited protected space for managing the auction and other activities. However, thanks to some resourceful use of hay tarps provided by Ray Harbich and Harold Boehnke, the pavilion stayed cozy and dry for the day's activities, despite strong winds and intermittent rains early in the day.

A team of MVFD firefighters barbequed all the delicious brisket and sausage served, receiving rave reviews from everyone who enjoyed the community-style meal that offered an amazing array of home-cooked dishes, including yummy desserts! The auction of over 200 items (live and silent) was lively, while the Cistern KJZT cake spin, bucket raffle, and kids' inflated playground area added entertainment for all.

Captain Stephen Kelly, assisted by his fellow firefighters, conducted the live auction, while Pat and Anita Lyons supervised the bucket raffle and silent auction. A special thanks to Raymond Harbich and family for their strong support during the auction – donating items, *and* bidding!

Dawn Moore, representing the County 911 Rural Addressing Program, sold 19 more road signs for our residents to guide emergency personnel down our country roads. An Air-Evac representative explained subscription services available in our area, including how their services link with the other emergency providers in our area. Air-Evac also presented an impressive live demonstration, performing a landing and take-off of their helicopter only a few yards from the park pavilion.

Muldoon VFD board members and firefighters extend their heartfelt thanks to all who supported the day's fundraising efforts that netted over \$12,000 in profit! Others who were unable to attend the fundraiser still took the time to mail their donations, or stop by during the day to make contributions. The MVFD firefighters and community members are proud to represent such a caring, supportive community, working together to take care of each other!

## Thank You, Danny!



(L-R) Capt. Stephen Kelly, Chris McCoy, Herbert Hart, Paul Splawn, Danny Mathews, Charles Vinklerek, Mark Miles, Lt. Melody McCoy, Jerry Haddox, Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr., Terry Vaughan, and Fred Hernandez.

MVFD special guest, Danny Mathews, was presented with a thank-you plaque from the firefighters, in recognition of his loyal service to Muldoon VFD since its inception in 2001. Mathews continues to perform all repairs on our "not-so-new" apparatus, at no charge for his many hours of labor, even making emergency response calls to a scene during fires to keep our equipment in service. He also generously donated a new set of auto tires for our auction which sold for a winning bid of \$800. Mathews owns and operates LaGrange Lube & Tire Company on Hwy 77, just north of town (across from the water tower).

## Muldoon Community Park Annual Picnic/Auction and MVFD 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY RAFFLE Drawing

The Muldoon Community Park Association is hosting its annual **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Picnic** on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Parade begins at **10:00 am** (line up at **9:30 am** at Muldoon Baptist Church) followed by firing of a cannon and anvil afterwards! Everyone is asked to bring a "pot luck" covered dish (meat, side dish, or dessert) for the community-style meal at **11:30 am**. Iced tea, coffee, water, bread, plates/utensils will be provided.

The auction begins at **12:00 pm**. Everyone is invited to donate items for the auction, to support the Muldoon Community Park Assn. Please bring any items (handmade, baked, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand, or brand-new!), including gift certificates or other merchant donations, to the park as early as possible so that volunteers can display auction items for viewing.

There will also be an inflatable playground and grass areas for the children to enjoy informal play. Please join us in supporting MCPA for a fun family picnic day at the park!

**MVFD Raffle tickets are now on sale** for the items shown at left, to be given away on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Drawing for the winners will be held at the conclusion of the MCPA auction.

Only 1200 tickets will be sold at \$20 each or 6 for \$100. We expect to be sold out, *prior* to July 4<sup>th</sup>. To purchase your tickets, contact any firefighter or MVFD officer, or call Gaye Wunsch at 979-702-0700. You may also e-mail to: [muldoon.vfd@gmail.com](mailto:muldoon.vfd@gmail.com) ...They're selling fast!



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*\*ELK Tractor will allow winner to upgrade either item, or trade for a larger piece of equipment of greater value, by paying the difference in price.*



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## Election of MVFD Board Officers June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Annual election of officers will be held at the next monthly community meeting, Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, at the MVFD fire station. Nominations were submitted at the May 7<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, as follows:

<u>Community Service</u>	<u>Command Staff</u>
President – Ron Wunsch	Fire Chief – Johnny McCoy, Jr.
Vice-Pres.–Tim Seubert	Assist. Chief – Stephen Kelly
Secretary – (currently vacant)	
Treasurer – Jo Brunner	
Chaplain – Mike Hostetter	

Gaye Wunsch is retiring as a board member, but will continue to serve on budget and communication committees, working under the direction of the Board.

If you have ideas, questions, suggestions, or desire to offer your time and efforts in support of any of our ongoing programs, please contact any board member (see back page of newsletter), or attend a general monthly meeting. The entire MVFD program is run by volunteers – join us!

## MULDOON VFD MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR BOARD

333 N 3<sup>rd</sup>, near Hwy 154 @ FM 2237

In January, 2008, Muldoon VFD began recognizing current contributions of \$500 or more, at these levels:

Bronze	\$ 500 - \$ 999	Gold	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Silver	\$1,000 - \$2,499	Platinum	\$5,000 or more

To date, we have received the following donations, as acknowledged on the MVFD Contributor Board:

- Bronze:** Sterling Bank, Houston  
Whitley Ranches
- Silver:** In Memory of Jerry Alexander
- Gold:** Fayette Truck & Auto Care  
Bar Nothing Ranches

Each contributor plaque will be displayed for a two-year term before transferring it to the interior Honor Roll wall, unless a new qualifying contribution is made prior to the end of two-year display period.

A similar board is being installed at the new **Cistern Station** at 7729 Jeddo Road in Cistern, to recognize donor contributions designated for the new facility. Contributions already received, to be displayed at the current Cistern construction site are:

- Bronze:** Five Star Ranch
- Gold:** Harbich Family



Asst. Chief Kelly and Michael Harbich with niece Emma Klozik

The Cistern Station building fund is over the half-way point with \$11,800 currently earmarked toward a goal of \$22,500.

To secure YOUR spot on either board, contact Ron Wunsch, at 979-247-4684 to make arrangements, or simply mail your donation to MVFD, P O Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949.

## Muldoon Fire Dept CISTERN STATION



Chief McCoy, Tim Seubert, Asst. Chief Kelly, Ron Wunsch, David Charba, Ray Harbich, Michael Harbich, and Richard Ogden were happy to present the new Cistern sign to the neighbors who gathered to see the new station location and plans. MVFD members owe a huge "Thank You" to this committee for their patience and diligence in working out the necessary details for location and design of the new facilities.



Firefighters, community service members, and neighborhood friends who participated in previous planning, gathered at the May 15<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking and photo session to celebrate the beginning of construction at 7729 Jeddo Road.



Asst. Chief Stephen Kelly and Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr. had the honor of turning the first shovel of dirt to begin construction. The existing 14' x 30' shed is being replaced by a 30' x 40' metal building with a concrete slab and 2 roll-up doors, at the same corner of the block as the previous shed. The new station will provide a secure storage location for two trucks and necessary firefighter gear and related equipment, including critical EMS supplies. The new structure is scheduled for completion by end of July.

A special thanks to Judge Ed Janecka, Commissioner James Kubecka, Harold Streicher, Mike Steinhauser, Mike Klesel, Hearitige Surveying, and Bobby Vinklerek (Cistern Water Well Company) for their guidance and assistance in securing site approval, including proper procedures to navigate the planning, and to Ed Hughes for providing steady support in the Cistern community, as well as arranging meeting space.



# MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

JUNE 1, 2009



## FIRE CHIEF'S CALL REPORTS January – May, 2009

During the first five months of 2009, the Muldoon firefighters have completed thirty-one (31) response calls, compared to a total of forty-one (41) calls during the previous year. The majority of incidents were *not* fire-related, usually occurring during late night or weekend hours.

Serving as the first responder for a wide range of emergency needs, firefighters are often the first to arrive on the scene to assess and stabilize the situation before EMS, law enforcement, or other agencies are able to arrive. Thanks to the success of our recent fundraising efforts, we were able to purchase first responder equipment bags for all firefighters, in order to maximize effective treatment as early as possible, especially when there are multiple persons at risk. Acute medical issues, industrial equipment accidents, automobile wrecks, and helicopter airlift support are the most common incidents, in addition to fire-related calls, that firefighters are trained to handle.

### Current Safety tips from the Muldoon Command Staff, based upon recent call experiences:

**Dry undergrowth:** Recent fires throughout the county have been particularly difficult to extinguish, due to the dried undergrowth that lies beneath the green grasses. There have been several incidents where the landowner leaves a fire scene after all live flames are extinguished, and then a change of wind or a buildup of heat will cause hidden dry undergrowth to ignite, generating dangerous flames left unattended. It is important to create (rake, plow, or drag) a "fuel-free" border around a fire that no longer appears active, before leaving the scene.

**Reporting a fire while traveling:** The 9-1-1 dispatcher often receives a call from a concerned citizen traveling on the highway, using a cell phone. If the caller is unable to identify the location by reporting a visible 9-1-1 number and name of road, the dispatcher cannot pinpoint a GPS location from the traveler, to provide firefighters with an accurate destination.

If you place a 911 call from your cell phone, please note any identifying numbers or roads. It is best to pull off the road when calling, to remain in visual contact when talking to the dispatcher.

Property owners can help responders by working with neighbors to increase the posting of the blue/silver reflective 9-1-1 signs to guide emergency responders. Let's all work together to keep each other safe!

## MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS

Each newsletter will feature a few dedicated volunteers. These profiles are also available at [www.muldoonfiredept.org](http://www.muldoonfiredept.org)



**Asst. Chief Stephen Kelly**, 39 yrs of age, single, has lived in the West Point area for eleven years. He has been a member of MVFD since inception of the Dept. in 2000, serving as its first Fire Chief, and playing a critical role in the development of the Dept. "There was a need in our area and we took charge of it." He has an associate's degree

in Criminal Justice, and is completing requirements for a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management Administration from West Texas A&M Univ. He has shared his experiences in serving with the Texas Forest Service as a seasonal wildland firefighter, in training his fellow firefighters in the skills needed to manage brush fires of all sizes and types. Kelly is dedicated to serving his community, and is always looking for volunteers who have the desire to join the MVFD firefighter team. "If you have the desire, we will train you!"



**Lieutenant Shay (Yates) Iannelli**, 38 yrs of age, has lived in the Muldoon area for 30 years. She and her husband, fellow firefighter Doug Iannelli, have two sons: Connor, 15 yrs old, and Rorey, 11 yrs old. Their daughter Brenna is 6 yrs old. Shay, who has always been interested in firefighting, met her husband Doug, an active firefighter in the Austin Fire Dept., while training and testing at the Austin Fire Dept. Training Academy. Her opportunity to become an Austin firefighter ended when she suffered a critical knee injury. She became a nationally certified dental assistant, currently employed by Michael Rathmell, DDS, in Austin, as a dental technician and surgical assistant. Shay enjoys responding to any type of call, embracing the "adrenaline rush." Her children share her enthusiasm, often rounding up necessary items for her when a call comes in. Her favorite past response calls were a successful mobile home "save" on Father's Day, and a fire at her father's home, late one night. The latter call gained the respect of her family, as they witnessed their daughter's skills during the call. Shay feels her work is "very rewarding and satisfying, helping other people."



**Lieutenant Melody McCoy**, 34 yrs of age, has lived in the West Point area for 14 years. She and her husband, Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr., have a son, Blaine, 12 yrs old, and a daughter, Tristen, 11 yrs old. After becoming a MVFD firefighter six years ago, Melody studied to become an EMT for the Fayette County EMS program. She has shared her critical skills training with her fellow firefighters and local community volunteers, promoting a top notch first responder program for MVFD. McCoy "loves anything that gets my adrenaline pumping. I love to make a difference...want to leave my mark." She enjoys responding to any type of call, "not knowing what each tone will bring—anything where we can make a person's bad day better." She feels that "this has been a learning opportunity that has opened many doors for me, and opened my eyes to so much. I have met so many different people." As an officer in MVFD, she shares her passion for her work with her fellow firefighters.

**Volunteer Firefighters Needed!** Anyone who lives within 20 miles of the MVFD station, is at least 18 yrs of age, and is in general good health is welcome to apply to join this outstanding team. Training is held one Saturday per month. Contact Chief McCoy at 979-966-8805, if you are interested. You may also observe training anytime, with no obligation.



**CURRENT BURN BAN STATUS**  
is maintained on MVFD website at:  
[www.muldoonfiredept.org](http://www.muldoonfiredept.org)

As of June 3, 2009, there was no burn ban in effect for Fayette County. Before you ignite a controlled burn, please take these steps:

- **Always call Sheriff's Dispatcher** to report your controlled burn at 979-968-5856, *before* you light a fire. Provide your exact location, including entry gate access and a telephone number where you can be reached *during* the fire (carry cell phone to fire scene, if available).
- **Avoid any wind when lighting a fire.** Drafts created during a fire tend to create artificial winds that carry embers, even on a very calm day.
- **Wear protective clothing and hat** for your own safety.
- **Keep a water supply with you.** A pump up sprayer works well.
- **Carry fire tools (rake, hoe, shovel) with you** while you stand guard beside any burning fires.
- **Burn early!** It is illegal to have active flames after dark, even without a burn ban.
- **"Attack from the black"** if you need to extinguish part of a controlled burn, especially to prevent spread of the fire. The safest area to work, or park your vehicle while monitoring a fire, is within an area that has already burned (the "black").

### General Fire Safety Guidelines

- **Check smoke alarms**, testing batteries twice yearly. A good practice is to check batteries at each daylight savings time change
- **Check fire extinguisher** locations and operating conditions. Keep one nearby at all times.
- **Use extreme caution** during activities that could start a fire, such as welding or operating equipment that generates high heat or sparks.
- **Don't store flammable materials** or fuel-driven vehicles and equipment near hay bales or barns, dry grass, leaves, or underbrush.
- **Don't drive or park** trucks/autos or other hot, fuel-driven equipment in tall grass or underbrush.
- **Maintain a "defensible" space** (30 ft. recommended) around all structures, trimming dry brush, pruning trees, and cleaning gutters to prevent spread of fire.
- **Remember that wet hay**, under certain conditions, may spontaneously combust. Check bales regularly for signs of decomposition.

### IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY START A FIRE

- **Call 9-1-1 immediately!** Firefighters would rather arrive and *not* be needed, than for you to try to handle it yourself, lose control, and *then* call for help.
- **Flag the entrance** route to fire site to help in locating your site from the road.
- **Unlock and open any gates** in or near the location
- **Remove vehicles** and other equipment from fire vicinity.
- **Stay out of harm's way** after help arrives, but stay within reach to be a resource during the event.

### PLEASE REMEMBER...

All firefighters are volunteers who "drop everything" to answer a call. Any personal courtesies you can extend to them are very much appreciated, including access to additional water sources or special equipment, if needed. For extended fire events, energy snacks and drinking water are always welcomed.

### WEBSITE & E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

MVFD maintains current Department information, as well as burn ban status at: <http://www.muldoonfiredept.org>

Burn Ban flags are displayed at Muldoon VFD, the Cistern station, and the Muldoon Community Park. If you wish to be added to our MVFD e-mail burn ban notification list, as well as other timely news notices, send an e-mail request to: [muldoon.vfd@gmail.com](mailto:muldoon.vfd@gmail.com)

### Special Note About Fire Extinguishers

If your fire extinguisher has not been checked for a few years, or if you have questions about what type of extinguisher you should own, the following business has offered to help:

**Adamcik's Service Station**  
103 N Water @ W Travis  
LaGrange, Texas 78945  
(979) 968-5156

This business is a service stop for **Shiner Fire & Safety**, a company that services and sells several types of fire extinguishers for home, farm, and industrial use. If your fire extinguisher needs service, you may drop it off at Adamcik's for free pick-up and delivery. A typical re-charge costs \$12.00. A new 5" ABC-type extinguisher will cost approximately \$45.



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JUNE 1, 2009



✂ Clip and Save.....

### Directory for Quick Reference

Fire Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr 979-966-8805  
 Asst. Fire Chief Stephen Kelly 512-914-6021  
 President Ron Wunsch 979-247-4684  
 Vice-President Timothy Seubert 979-247-4280  
 Secretary (currently vacant)  
 Treasurer Jo Brunner 361-865-3771  
 Chaplain Mike Hostetter 979-247-4299  
 Newsletter Gaye Wunsch 979-702-0700  
 Muldoon Fire Station (leave message) 361-865-0176  
 Muldoon VFD, P. O. Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949  
 Location: 333 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Muldoon  
 Website <http://www.muldoonfiredept.org>  
 E-mail muldoon.vfd@gmail.com  
 Cistern Station 7729 Jeddo Road @ Hwy 95  
**Fayette County Sheriff –Dispatcher 979-968-5856**  
 (to report controlled burns, prior to ignition)

**ALL EMERGENCIES ----- CALL 9-1-1**

### Calendar of Events

Thurs	June 4	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting (election of officers)
Thurs	July 2	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting (plan for picnic & parade)
Sat	July 4	9:30 am	<b>MVFD July 4<sup>th</sup> Raffle MCP Parade, Picnic, &amp; Auction</b>
Thurs	Aug. 6	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Mon	Sept. 7	Holiday	LABOR DAY
Thurs	Oct. 1	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Nov. 5	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Nov 26	Holiday	THANKSGIVING
Thurs	Dec. 3	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Friday	Dec. 25	Holiday	CHRISTMAS
Friday	Jan. 1	Holiday	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thurs	Jan 7	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting