



MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

OCTOBER 6, 2008



Be sure to save new calendar / telephone list printed on back page, for future reference.

MULDOON COMMUNITY PARK PARADE & PICNIC Friday – July 4, 2008



Red Hat Society of Cistern was well represented!

We had a great time again this year, with very active participation in the parade. For more photos, visit MVFD website at <http://www.muldoonfiredept.org> Next year, we may be featuring YOU, so plan to join us in 2009!

4th of JULY RAFFLE

Winners Drawn at Muldoon Community Picnic

This year's sell-out raffle was even more successful than last year's. There were over 370 purchasers of tickets sold by more than 30 MVFD seller-volunteers, producing \$11,054 in profit. Winning tickets were drawn by Rev. Chris Irving, assisted by Tim Seubert, MVFD secretary.



Kawasaki Mule from ELK Tractor

Presented by Ed Koslosky, Sr.

1st PRIZE: Sherry Bubela of Schulenberg
Winning ticket #0768 sold by Rosie Boehnke



Cub Cadet Lawn Mower from ELK Tractor

2nd PRIZE: Cistern Country Store

Winning ticket #0664 sold by Betty & Conrad Danner



**Char-Broil
Gas Grill
from SEARS**

3rd PRIZE: Wally VanWart of West Point

Winning ticket #0039 sold by Joe M Kelly, Jr.

We are grateful to EVERYONE for their participation and support. It was an exciting, rewarding event--but even more importantly, it was another opportunity to meet more nice folks in our area.



BURN BAN IN EFFECT!

NO OUTDOOR BURNING ALLOWED

Burning Ban Flags are maintained at:

- ☒ Muldoon fire station
- ☒ Muldoon Community Park
- ☒ Cistern station at Hwy 95/Jeddo Road

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 and lose control.
- **Flag the entrance** route to fire site.
- **Unlock and open any gates** in or near the location for trucks to maneuver around spreading fires.
- **Remove vehicles** and other equipment from fire vicinity.



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MULDOON VFD CISTERN STATION - UPDATE

Hwy 95 @ Jeddo Road



Firefighters living near MVFD's Cistern station can reduce response time by at least 10 min. with access to local equipment.

At a "town hall" meeting on June 26th, hosted by the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church and Cistern community members, Muldoon VFD representatives presented firefighters' current needs for improvement of MVFD's Cistern station facilities (shown above).

Volunteers formed a committee to seek information regarding a proper location, size, and utilities. This group will present its findings at a future Cistern "town hall" meeting to be scheduled by the end of this year. Committee members are: Chief John McCoy, Jr., Asst. Chief Douglas Iannelli, Raymond Harbich, Michael Harbich, David Charba, and Richard Ogden, with Ron Wunsch serving as moderator. Residents who wish to provide input, furnish information, or ask questions are encouraged to speak with any of the committee members.

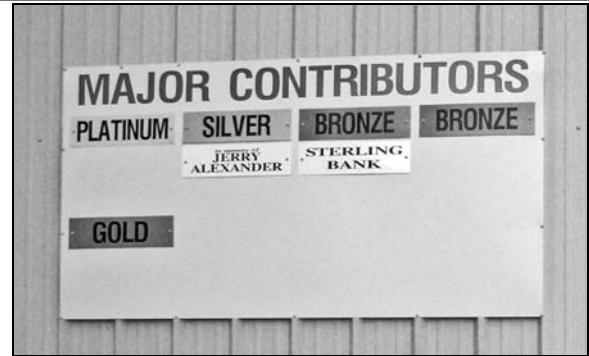
Preliminary plans are based upon construction of a new 2-bay Cistern station at the corner of Hwy 95 and Jeddo Road, located on the same property block as the current facility. One grass truck currently housed at the Muldoon station will be assigned to this station, along with the existing pumper.

At this time, the committee is researching all regulations, determining required permits, and seeking bids for construction. MVFD has set aside \$6,000 from our 2008 fundraising efforts for this station, with plans to raise additional funds by year-end. We are asking all of our members to contribute whatever they can, to ensure that the Cistern area of our fire district receives the same level of protection as the Muldoon area.

We are also actively seeking new firefighters, especially those who live or work in or near the Cistern location. Anyone who has the ability, interest, and dedication to become a trained, certified volunteer firefighter is encouraged to contact Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr., Asst. Chief Doug Iannelli, or Captain Stephen Kelly for further information. Monthly training is scheduled for the third Saturday of each month, and visitors are always welcome to observe.

MULDOON VFD MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR BOARD

333 N 3rd, near Hwy 154 @ FM 2237



New installation needs contributors from \$500 to \$5,000 levels to receive two years of public community recognition.

In January, 2008, Muldoon VFD began honoring 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

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 planned for the Cistern station to recognize donor contributions specifically designated for the new facility.

If you wish to secure YOUR spot on either board, contact Gaye Wunsch, Treasurer, at 979-247-4684, to make arrangements.

MVFD 7TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Saturday -- March 28, 2009

SAVE THE DATE! We believe we've picked a perfect date for a picnic at the park, and hope you will plan to join us this year. Even though we rely on this event to raise much needed funds for our annual operating expenses, we believe the "real value" has been the opportunity for all of us to get to know each other better. The firefighters will be there in full force, helping with each event--especially the kids' fun! New neighbors have a chance to meet everyone, and we all enjoy the visits of those who return to see old friends, relatives, and neighbors. So please mark your calendar for MARCH 28th and plan to join in the fun.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you are willing to help with planning and/or supervision of this year's event, please contact any board member (see list on back) Having more people involved will make it more fun for everyone. We need volunteers to help--or take the lead, in these areas: FOOD DONATIONS - MEAL SERVICE - AUCTION ITEMS - PARK SET-UP - GAMES/RENTALS FOR KIDS - AUCTION PROCESS. Organize your own helper team!



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LESSONS LEARNED – Recent Fire Calls



Firefighters Jerry Haddox and Martin Spoelstra work the hose.

Prior to the burn ban, a controlled brush pile fire spread out of landowner's control (mowed grasses fueled spread of fire) and threatened onsite oil field operations and nearby storage tanks. After landowner called for assistance, he supported their efforts by plowing a fire barrier between the burning field and the oil equipment, preventing more serious problems from developing.



Smoldering hay bales burst into flames after being relocated, to prevent delayed fire activity along the fire perimeter.

This 11-acre hayfield fire ignited from a malfunction in the baler. When the hay bale was ejected to examine the problem, it burst into flames. A total of 9 MVFD firefighters manned all 4 MVFD vehicles to combat the fire. Supported by LaGrange VFD mutual aid to increase water supply to the operations, the fire did not spread to adjacent fields, underbrush, or nearby homes.

When a water pump failed during operations, Danny Matthews of Fayette Truck & Auto Care made a timely onsite service call, returning the truck to service within minutes, for completion of mop-up operations. Matthews has provided timely, quality service for a variety of equipment needs to keep the MVFD fleet in operation. MVFD firefighters say, **"Thanks, Danny!"**

SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS --Burn Ban Precautions

- ✓ **Check smoke alarms**, testing batteries twice yearly.
- ✓ **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.

(You may contact anyone in our directory with your questions.)

FIREFIGHTER INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM

When firefighters respond to a call, they focus on the need to arrive quickly, and with appropriate firefighting gear. They often walk away from a meal, and can't take time to gather refreshments. They also may not be familiar with the response area and neighbors near the scene. During this past year, Ron and Gaye Wunsch have traveled to several calls to observe and support the firefighters in whatever way possible, learning ways that community service volunteers could help. Our fire department is comprised of only 14 firefighters, yet each call routinely produces 5 – 9 firefighters in response, averaging 40 calls per year. They deserve the best support we can give!

Volunteer duties would primarily include:

1. Delivery of an ice chest of water, Gatorade, etc.
2. Bring supply of power bars or similar energy snacks.
3. Taking file photos of the scene, when possible.
4. Bring extra gasoline for water pumps, if needed.
5. Meet with landowners and residents to gather contact information and identification of adjacent neighbors.
6. Provide other non-firefighter support as requested.

Volunteers must be appropriately dressed for fire safety when arriving on the scene, and should have a cell phone for communicating with incident command. If you are interested in participating in a small volunteer support team, please call Ron Wunsch at 979-247-4684 for more details. This is an excellent opportunity to support our hard-working Muldoon VFD firefighters.

WEBSITE & E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

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

To join our e-mail notification list for timely news notices, just e-mail your request to muldoon.vfd@gmail.com