

A Healthy Forest is a Healthy Habitat



951-659-6208

Volume 8, Summer Issue

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ABATEMENT SEASON IS HERE!

Local fire agencies are currently finalizing their yearly inspections.

Off Hill property owners should be sure their mountain properties are in compliance.

Property clean-up is essential to reducing fire hazard and keeping our community safe.

Contractors advertising in this newsletter are used by the FSC for grant work. They are licensed, insured, and bonded.

If you would like one of our Project Managers to assess your property, please call our office at 951-659-6208.



NORM WALKER TO LEAD IFPD

Mike Esnard, President



We are very happy that **Norm Walker**, friend and MCFSC Board Member, is the newly appointed chief of the Idyllwild Fire Protection District.

As everyone who reads *The Town Crier* knows, Norm faces significant challenges going into the job. When asked about his goals, he commented about the need to update policy and procedure, on everything from personnel practices to record-keeping. He is looking carefully at what training is needed and how best to enable all firefighters to get it.

Norm is in discussion with Riverside County on dispatch procedures, looking at the possibility of a computerized, voiceless dispatch system, which would be state-of-the-art, but beyond

the district's financial capability without outside help. Another possibility is connecting to the City of Hemet's less-expensive dispatch system.

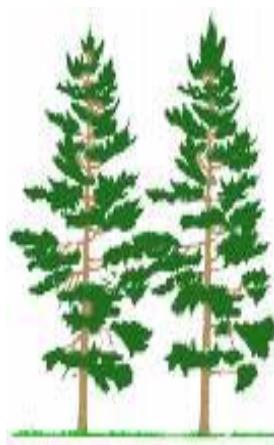
IFPD faces a general financial challenge, as revenues have fallen behind expenses. After long delays, the audit for 2008-09 is nearing completion and the 2009-10 audit is ready to begin. A new bookkeeper, Rhonda Andrewson, has been hired in-house. Norm believes some increase will be needed in the parcel fee for fire protection in the district, along with an increase in ambulance fees. At the July 13 IFPD Board meeting, he presented a proposal to raise the ambulance fee from \$695 to \$895, still 20% below the rate charged by AMR (American Medical Response). Both increases, difficult in a recession, are currently under study by the board.

Norm remains firmly committed to fire prevention and to the inspection program that supports fire clearance around properties. A major effort in this area will be a grant application to the US Forest Service for funds to help pay for staff time devoted to inspection. Norm will encourage all who do not pass inspec-

Council, especially if they need help with abatement.

I asked Norm if what he brought to his new job had been enhanced in anyway by being on our board. He said that it had, in two ways: first, it has provided him with a better understanding of the public finance process in fire prevention and, second, he has an improved understanding of board process.

We look forward with great anticipation to Norm's tenure as chief and to what we are sure will be an outstanding partnership between IFPD and MCFSC for fire safety in our mountain communities.



The Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council Newsletter is funded by a USDA Forest Service grant through the California Fire Safe Council, sponsors, and donations. Donations to Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council are used to further public awareness and support fire prevention and hazard fuels reduction objectives.

Newsletter

Shela Boynton, Editor

Summer, 2010

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

SAYS THANK YOU TO ITS FUNDERS

With deep appreciation for their support, and on behalf of our entire community, the MCFSC says thank you for the following generous grants and assistance:

Supervisor Jeff Stone approved the purchase of a new splitter for the Woodies.

Idyllwild Community Fund and Pine Cove Property Owners Association will fund the purchase of other equipment and supplies for the Woodies as they continue to help those in need. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, we anticipate the Woodies will assist 15 mountain families to make their homes more fire safe, and provide an estimated 80 cords of wood, which will be processed into firewood and delivered to The Help Center for distribution. This wood will help about 100 families at a value of more than \$11,500.

Riverside County Fire and Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council's Professional Services Agreement was approved on July 13th for immediate use. These funds can be used for abatement and the removal of dead or downed trees. The property owner's match for this grant is 25%. If you need help bringing your property into compliance with the fire code, call MCFSC at 951-659-6208.

California Fire Safe Council sent unofficial notification that MCFSC's 2011 application has been approved. This grant will offer

financial assistance for hazard fuels abatement on private properties. We will notify the community when we receive notification to begin work.

FEMA recognizes that the presence of a shake or wood shingle roof significantly increases the risk of your home being damaged or lost in a wildfire. They are working with MCFSC to replace these kinds of roofs on the mountain. If you have a wood roof and would like to receive a 75% reimbursement to have it replaced, please call our office at 951-659-6208.

WOODIES MARCH ON

On Saturday, July 3, Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council's volunteer Woodies marched in the Idyllwild Independence Day Parade. Our 2010 theme was READY, SET, GO! GET READY now...GET SET if fire threatens...and make preparations to leave...GO when told to do so by emergency personnel.

The procession was led by Blair and former Riverside County Supervisor Kay Ceniceros in an ATV.



The intrepid Woodies followed in splitter wedge formation.



Janice Fast, Doris Lombard, Ron Perry, John Hauer, Don Patterson, Edwina Scott, Vita Roubideaux, Wendy Wilkerson, Rick Wilkerson, Pascal Simon, Vivian Larson

The Woodies are an award-winning group working to make our community safer. There is no better depiction of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" than these selfless volunteers. They have been serving the community since 2001, donating more than 18,500 hours. If you'd like to join the fun and have 4 hours to give to make a difference in our community, call Don Patterson at 951-659-6208.

After the parade, the hungry bunch met at Doris and Ron's lovely home for an annual potluck.



Standing: Don Patterson, Kay Ceniceros, Doris Lombard, Ron Perry, Mike Esnard, Edwina Scott. Seated: Roberta Corbin, Larry Kueneman, Janice Fast, Mo Farrell, Blair Ceniceros, Veda Roubideaux. (Not pictured: Viv Larson.)

MOUNTAIN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SHAKES THINGS UP

Veronica Alt

MDP has been so busy lately with a whirlwind of activities. Volunteers have been “sitting the post office,” as we call it, drumming up interest in the events that are keeping us so engaged.

The first event was our participation in Idyllwild’s wonderful **Independence Day Parade**. Great vintage vehicles were donated by Dick Rennick, as well as the Alt’s neat corvette and Dorian Paul’s fabulous Jaguar. Our walking volunteers showed off their well-dressed pets and handed out hundreds of fliers advertising MDP’s upcoming exercise and fundraiser.

Next on our full plate was all the planning and preparation for our biggest ever exercise, the **Idyllwild Shake Up**. On July 10 at 8:45 am, MDP conducted a “boots on the ground” simulated response to a major earthquake. Three DAS (Disaster Aid Station) units were opened at DAS B (Pine Cove Community Resource Center on Franklin Drive), DAS C (St. Hugh’s Church at the North/South Circle intersection), and DAS H (at the entrance to Idyllwild School of Arts on Tollgate). We were anxious to test all our multiple response capabilities with an eye to learning our strengths as well as areas in need of improvement. To the best of our knowledge, it was our most ambitious effort to date and much credit for the planning and preparation goes to David Alt, DAS Director, Rick Foster, Training Director, Dorian Paul, Communications Director and Dr. Dick Goldberg, Medical Director.

Then, there was all the work involved in putting together our July 24 **Western-Themed Fundraiser** at St. Hugh’s Church outdoor area. Everyone’s favorite “buckaroo,” Herb Jeffries, was guest of honor and rounding out the celebrity participants was Conor O’Farrel as MC. This popular event is a major source of funding for our non-profit MDP.

And, speaking of funding, we are very pleased that the **Idyllwild Community Fund** has given MDP a generous grant of \$750 to go towards our various training and supply needs. We greatly appreciate their generosity in these difficult financial times.

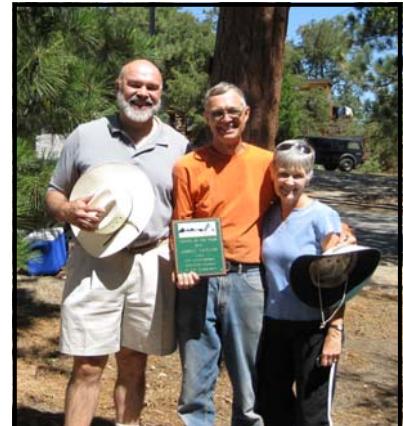


Finally, a quick look at August will find us participating in the **OES (Office of Emergency Services)** interagency communications drill, along with many of our sister agencies here on the Hill, as well as in the surrounding communities. It will be another opportunity to test and improve our readiness.

On behalf of all of us at MDP, we hope you are having a great, safe summer. As always, stay prepared.

(If you are not getting our gmails, please contact me at veronica.m@altandassociates.com. We'll be sure to get you on the distribution list.)

Please visit our website at www.mdp-idyllwild.com.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MCFSC and Woodies honored Jim Taylor as their Citizen of the Year. The recipient of this annual award is selected for “Outstanding Selfless Service to the Community.” Jim and Susan Taylor are pictured with Mike Esnard, MCFSC Board President.



WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THE WOODIES!

In April, they joined staff and board members in the MCFSC's conference room to fold, label, stuff envelopes and sort for mailing 8,500 newsletters. By preparing the bulk mailing ourselves, we saved over \$1,500.

Pictured left side: Doris Lombard, Janice Fast, Ron Perry, Don Patterson, John Hauer, Vi Hallacy. Right side: Tom McCullough, Jim Taylor, Viv Larson, Bob Royer, Pascal Simon.

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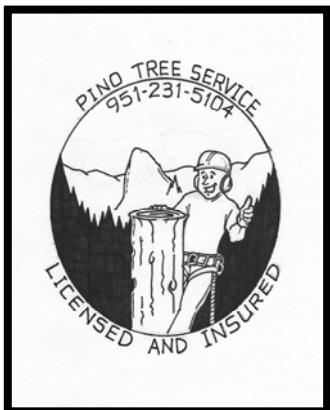
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM — Summer 2010

(\$10 per person or \$20 per family)

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MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MCFSC, PO BOX 507, Idyllwild CA, 92549

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