

BERGHEIM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

Visit our website at bergheimvfd.org for the latest BVFD news!

To volunteer or donate call (210) 663-4340 or email board@bergheimvfd.org

BVFD GRAND OPENING MAY 14 & OPEN HOUSE MAY 16

As the saying goes, all good things take time, and along with vision, perseverance, and the dedication of many solid citizens, the opening day has finally arrived. Our Grand Opening will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Fire Station on Thursday, May 14th, at 1:30 pm. Board members and volunteer firemen will be joined by Boerne Chamber of Commerce representatives for the ceremony and reception that will follow. The ceremony will recognize our state, county, and local leaders who played key roles in making this happen. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this long anticipated event.

If you can't make it on Thursday afternoon, plan to attend the Community Open House at the Fire Station on Saturday, May 16th, from 1 – 5 pm. We hope you will stop by for an opportunity to tour the Fire Station, meet staff members, Chief Hoffstadt, and the cadre of fire fighters who will all be happy to answer any questions. Our equipment will be on display, along with information regarding fire service to the community. In appreciation for all of the community support, the Department will serve hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soft drinks. Please come by to visit your new Bergheim VFD and find out what you can do to support this organization.

[We are looking for volunteers to bake cookies for the Open House; anyone wishing to donate cookies should bring them to the Fire Station that Saturday morning beginning at 10 am.]



Sept '06 Ground Breaking



Today !

SAVE THE DATE: ANHALT BARBEQUE & AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 26

Put the evening of Saturday, September 26, on your calendars for our Third Annual BVFD Barbeque, Dance & Auction Fundraiser. Start thinking about contacting your favorite merchants to contribute auction items or what you might bake for the bake sale. A newsletter will be in the mail during the summer updating everyone on this year's Anhalt plans.

BOOK THE FIRE STATION FOR YOUR NEXT LARGE EVENT

Any organizations in our area interested in scheduling a meeting/event at the fire station should contact Sean Hager, the BVFD Facilities Manager (phone 210-385-1183 or email: sean@thehagers.net). Waterstone and Coveney homeowners' associations have scheduled meetings at the fire station, and Boerne ISD has had a School Board Candidate Forum there. Firefighter training continues to take place on Tuesday nights at the station, and a new Cub Scout Pack meets on Wednesdays.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT from Chief Jeff Hoffstadt

Our volunteer firefighters have been working hard obtaining the necessary training and skills required to respond to an emergency incident in a safe and productive manner. The Board is working closely with us to provide the support and funding that we need to obtain equipment and materials that will enable us to become an operating Fire Department. As you well know, we are experiencing one of the worst drought conditions in history. Our properties and homes need protection from the possibility of a brush fire. **Our first goal for this year is to be able to respond to brush fires by June 1st.** BVFD needs your help, as homeowners, by conducting an assessment of your home and properties to help protect against the effects of a brush fire:

- Clear combustible debris at least 30 feet away from all structures (dead vegetation, leaves that have collected, piles of wood materials stacked near buildings, anything that could be ignited by embers)
- Keep natural growth cut low 80 to 100 feet away from buildings.
- Ensure a clear pathway to your property for emergency vehicles to gain access (most emergency vehicles will need a path at least 10 feet wide by 13 feet tall)

FINANCIAL REPORT - OVER \$850,000 GIVEN BY COMMUNITY!

The Bergheim community has been most generous with donations of products, services and money, as 98% of the construction costs have now been raised:

Estimated final construction cost	\$865,000
Less work & services donations	\$445,677
Less cash donations	\$407,189
Total remaining funds needed	\$ 12,134

We now move into an operational mode and must supply our firefighters with the equipment they need to do their jobs: helmets, breathing apparatus, gloves, boots, rakes, shovels, bolt cutters, jaws-of-life, commercial washer & dryer, water cans, etc. We have access to federal and private grants, and will apply for every grant available. Grants require the ability to pay as little as twenty percent of the actual cost for equipment, such as a new engine or tanker truck. But when that cost is three hundred thousand dollars, we need thirty thousand. So please use the form at the bottom of this newsletter to continue your generous donations!

On March 31st, a representative from the Pedernales Electric Company presented Board President Tom Laurin and Chief Jeff Hoffstadt with a \$1,000 check from its "Light the Way Campaign". The event was also attended by some of our volunteer firemen.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings once again to the Bergheim Community! What a treat it is to live here in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. Several years ago a group of interested citizens had a vision of a volunteer fire department to help preserve our native beauty and protect our homes from loss due to fire. The dedicated effort of so many has resulted in the completion of our new BVFD building, located at the corner of Old Curry Creek Road and Hwy 46.

With the help of county officials, the eastern portion of Kendall County now has a fire protection plan that has long been envisioned. The fire equipment and manpower that Bergheim will soon provide brings Kendall County its seventh volunteer fire department. As residents, we can all be proud of the initiative undertaken by the visionaries four years ago. [Yes, it has taken that amount of time to get from a good idea, to where we are now.] These folks led the way by building support in all subdivisions, pooling talents, raising funds, looking for resources, and the building design & construction of what we now see on the site. Those who pioneered this effort are truly appreciated by our community. There are so many people and organizations that have contributed to the BVFD, I would just say, "Thank You" for all your generosity.

Let us all continue to do what we can. Your financial donations have allowed this Fire Department to become a reality, so please keep up your strength of giving. The life or home saved may be yours or a family member. Your gifts make a difference because fire and accident is no respecter of persons. When the alarm sounds, you'll be glad we are here!

Thank you for your support,

Tom Laurin, Board President

And from your Board:

Stanley Jones	Vice-President	Ken West	Director
J.W. Pieper	Treasurer	Nalga Mebane	Director
Dave Kibler	Secretary	Joe Ripkin	Director

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To make a donation, please mail the form below, with your check, to:
Bergheim VFD, PO Box 4141, Bergheim, Tx 78004



Please accept our donation of \$_____ to the Bergheim VFD, which is enclosed.

Name : _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

The Bergheim VFD is a 501C(3) non-profit organization and donations are deductible under Section 170 of the IRS Code. A letter acknowledging your contribution will be returned to you as your tax receipt for donations of \$250 or greater.