



4498 Hwy 35, Kalispell, MT 59901

Hot Spots

Newsletter of the Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership

Learn more about your fire department and the efforts of its dedicated, hardworking volunteers.

Building in Training



Creston Fire Department volunteers spend an evening renovating their new training building at Lake Blaine. Photos by John Klippel.



It was a busy summer for Creston Fire Department volunteers: not only were they responding to numerous flooding and fire calls, but they were also hanging drywall and pounding a new roof onto the new Lake Blaine training center.

“With this department, there are so many people who have so many different skill sets that they can say, ‘I have a couple of hours here, and I can do this,’” said EMT Rachel Siblingud. “It’s another team effort, like we do everything else.”

The building, an unused modular classroom moved from a site in the Bigfork School District, is not yet ready for use, but Chief Gary Mahugh said the money saved and volunteer effort behind the renovation are making the wait worth it. Most of the project is being handled by volunteer labor, and most of the funding was raised in the last 2 years through the Creston Auction, which is hosted by the Creston Fire Fighters Association.

“We’re trying to use as much of the old structure as we can. It’s about 3,300 square feet of usable space, ... [and] we’re spending about 25% of what the cost of new construction would be for comparable footage,” Mahugh said. “We’re pretty

close to where we thought we would be for budget, ... but we’re still looking for funding and donations toward the completion of this center.”

Mahugh said the project is about 70% complete. An existing building on the site has been shifted to make room for the new portable structure, concrete and initial utility work have been completed for both buildings and a new steel roof is in place on the three-classroom portable.

The remaining work involves completion of the exterior, including utilities and skirting, before winter, as well as interior remodeling and painting. But Mahugh said the project is actually larger and should be viewed as a renovation of the entire Lake Blaine complex. It’s been about 10 years since major work was done at the site, when a new roof was installed on the station building.

“Part of this whole project will eventually be interior painting and remodeling of the Lake Blaine station,” Mahugh said. “This really is a whole upgrade of the Lake Blaine facility.”

The new building will primarily be used as indoor training and classroom space for the department’s volunteer

firefighters and medical responders. For several years, they have been meeting inside a truck bay at the station before moving outside for practical training.

The classroom and restroom area in the newly installed building are likely to be in use by Nov. 1, Mahugh said. The fitness facility and office workspace are expected to be functional by early 2012. Work on the remainder of the third phase, which includes staff space and on-call bunkrooms, will likely be postponed until after the 2012 auction, when a final fundraising push can be made to complete construction and to furnish and equip the center.

The fire department still plans to hold a community open house when the building is ready for public tours. The date will be posted on the reader board at the Creston fire station and online at the “Creston Auction” page on Facebook.

“On top of training, on top of responding, our volunteer firefighters are also working on this building,” said Mahugh. “It’s coming together as quickly as volunteers can make it happen.”

Help us finish! To donate to the fund, offer materials and furnishings or volunteer your time, fill out and send us the card on p. 3.



Creston Fire Department's volunteer firefighters and medical responders put on slightly different uniforms for a softball tournament Sept. 24 against other teams of emergency responders valleywide. This is the first year Creston has participated in the event, organized and hosted by Andy Gloschat of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. Seven teams participated this year; the Creston team won two of its three games in the double-elimination tournament. Photos by Joey Wood.

Getting the Best out of the 2012 Creston Auction

Tips for Sellers

- **Advertise your treasures:** Contact us in early March to include your larger items for free in our ads throughout northwest Montana.
- **List it:** For faster service and to insure you are paid in full, bring a list of the items in your load on Consignment Day.
- **Consign and donate:** Bring all items to the sale grounds Friday, March 30, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Give your best:** Donations are welcome and tax deductible. Consider donating one or more items from your load to the Creston Fire Department for the sale.
- **Think like a buyer:** If you wouldn't spend \$5 on an item, please donate it to the Rummage Sale. All proceeds from items that sell for \$5 or less in the auction are donated to the fire department, so improve the sale by taking these items to the Creston School gym's west door.
- **Organize your load:** Rather than handing over a box with books, canning jars and videos, make one box for each type of item so that it is easy to sell.
- **Form a group:** Collect items at your church, school, etc., and bring them as one load to the sale. We'll send the

proceeds (minus the fire department's commission) to your organization.

- **Take junk to the dump:** We also cannot accept tires, hazardous chemicals, ammunition or livestock.
- **Prepare for weather:** Bring disposable tarps to cover your items. We regret that we cannot guarantee their return.
- **Sleep soundly:** We provide security for all consigned items from Friday, March 30, through the sale Sunday, April 1.
- **Note this:** At Saturday's auction, no items are sold with minimum bids attached. At Sunday's equipment sale, a minimum bid can be set at \$1500 or more. Call 250-7396 for more information on reserves and titles.

Tips for Buyers

- **Pack cash:** We accept MasterCard and Visa for auction purchases only, so bring cash, checks or your ATM card.
- **Buy your ticket:** The auction's \$5 bid tickets go on sale at 8 a.m. Saturday. Get \$10 bid tickets for the equipment sale at 9 a.m. Sunday. These fees pay for security.
- **Carry ID:** Show it to buy a bid ticket.
- **Bid away:** There is no buyer's premium. Your winning bid is what you pay.
- **Stay warm:** Hot food is available

throughout Saturday and Sunday.

- **Treat your sweet tooth:** Visit the Bake Sale in the Creston School gym on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Even better, donate your favorite goodie! Call 250-7396 for drop-off times.
- **Get artsy:** The Arts & Crafts Sale is held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Eastside Grange Hall.
- **Keep it clean:** Federal rules prohibit smoking on the school grounds. And please leave your dogs at home.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers make the Creston Auction happen, and we could use your help:

- **In advance:** Attend the CFFAM meetings, typically held the third Tuesday of each month (see p. 4).
- **With promotions:** If you have a flair for writing, graphics or photography, you can help us behind the scenes. Call Julie Laing: 212-1657.
- **On Consignment Day:** Help on March 30 as items are dropped off. Call Rich Lapp: 253-5263.
- **At the auction:** Call the auction hotline: 250-7396.

Yes! I Support the Lake Blaine Project

The Lake Blaine training building is on its way to completion, but we still need help finishing the renovation and furnishing and equipping the building. All donations are tax deductible; for donations to the building fund, your canceled check can serve as your receipt. Let us know if you can donate needed materials and furnishings or can work on the renovation project, and we'll contact you:

- I would like to donate materials. I would like to donate furnishings.
 I would like to volunteer during a community work day.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____
 (if your donation is on behalf of an organization)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make your check payable to the Creston Fire Fighters Association and mail it with this coupon to:

Creston Fire Fighters Association, 4498 Hwy 35, Kalispell, MT 59901

Thank you for your support!

By the Numbers: From the Ground Up

These numbers give a snapshot of the relocation and renovation of the Lake Blaine training building:

Dimensions: 120 by 28 feet

Size: 3,360 square feet

Rooms: 3

Bunkrooms: 4

Distance moved: 15 miles

Loads moved: 4 14-foot-wide sections

Gravel and fill material: 250 yards

Paint needed: 10 gallons

Total expected cost: \$65,000

Amount spent so far: about \$45,500

Volunteer time so far: 400–500 hours

On Call: Creston Firefighters Emphasize Safety and Professionalism

Have you ever thought about joining CFD? Here's what some current members had to say:

Name: River Mallery

CFD role: firefighter

With CFD: almost 2 years

Lived in fire district: 5 years

Day job: Gatiss Gardens in Creston

Personal support group: six brothers (two also in CFD), four sisters, parents, nephews and nieces

Prior experience: volunteer with the Marion Fire Department with four brothers and dad

Decision to join: "It's just something I've always loved to do, to just help people out."

Highlight: "[I'm impressed with] the professionalism of everything: how seriously we take it, how well we do it and how worried we are about safety. That's something I haven't noticed as much at other fire departments I've seen.... You're not out trying to be a hero; you're just trying to get the job done and let



River Mallery

everyone go home.

Key lesson: "Safety. If you don't have safety, there's no sense in going out on the line."

Goal: To work as a paid firefighter and emergency medical technician: "I would like to take my EMT B if I could use it more often."

Reason to join: "The older guys aren't just looking down on the little guys and saying, 'Well, you're new.'... I work the front of the nozzle, pull lines, I've gone inside a couple of times.... They're letting you get your hands in it and teaching you how to do it right."



Rick Fetterhoff

Name: Rick Fetterhoff

CFD role: fire captain in charge of the Fairmont fire hall, licensed EMT Basic

With CFD: about 27 years

Lived in fire district: 35 years

Day job: 33-year-plus veteran, Plum Creek; now charter and school bus driver, Treasure State Transit of Kalispell

Personal support group: wife Diane and three grown kids

Prior experience: none

Biggest achievement:

"Getting my EMT B. I had been an EMT First Responder since 1994. I finally was able to get my EMT B license almost 2 years ago.... It was a

huge hourly commitment ... to get that Basic license."

Responding: "Depending on the call, you start thinking about things right away: what you're going to do, the circumstances you might come across. Personal safety is No. 1; your crew's safety is a priority. You have to put that all into focus and not get such an adrenaline rush going you forget that stuff. If you don't get there safely, you're not going to do anybody any good."

Accident advice: "Every situation's different. You always have spectators, and especially on accidents you have drivers gawking [as they pass the scene].... Try to stay back as best you can and let people do their jobs and do them safely."

Reason to join: "We always need new members. It's a big time commitment, but you learn a lot of things and meet a lot of great people. And it's a good thing to do.... If I had it to do over again, I'd do it in a heartbeat."

Creston Fire Department
 Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership
 4498 Hwy 35
 Kalispell, MT 59901

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Soup Supper Features Quilt Raffle

CFFAM's annual soup fundraiser is guaranteed to warm your tummy—and possibly your feet.

The Oct. 18 Soup for Supper will be held 4 to 8 p.m. This fundraiser for the fire department features a raffle of "Hunter's Paradise," a hand-quilted quilt donated by the Thursday Sewing Group of the Mountain Brook Ladies' Club. Raffle tickets for the quilt, valued at more than \$325, will be sold for \$5 at the event. The winning ticket will be drawn Dec. 1, and the winner will be notified by phone.

At the soup supper, volunteers will serve homemade

On Call
 CFFAM Meeting
When: 7 p.m., Oct. 11
Where: Creston Fire Station,
 4498 Hwy 35
What to bring: A dish to share
More info: Contact Gloria Graves,
 250-4655, crittermom10@hotmail.com

soup at the Creston fire hall on Hwy 35. You can eat at the hall or grab supper to go.

The menu includes homemade soups, salads, desserts and beverages. Donations are accepted for supper. Last year's event raised more than \$2,900. All funds from this year's supper will go toward the Lake Blaine training center (see p. 1).

Whole homemade pies and handcrafted pie plates, as well as other pottery from Mountain Brook Studio, will also be on sale.



46th ANNUAL

Join us for
 A FUNDRAISER TO
 BENEFIT THE
 CRESTON FIRE
 DEPARTMENT

Sell your gently used items and support a good cause.

Friday, March 30	Saturday, March 31	Sunday, April 1
DONATION & CONSIGNMENT DAY	CRESTON AUCTION & COUNTRY FAIR	AUTO, RV, BOAT & EQUIPMENT SALE
7 A.M. to 7 P.M. Volunteers needed!	Starts at 9 A.M. \$5 bid tickets	Starts at noon \$10 bid tickets

Arts & Crafts Sale • Rummage Sale • Bake Sale • Local Food
 Bring your items to sell to the Creston School, MT Hwy 35, 12 miles east of Kalispell, and we'll take care of the rest. Then come to browse and buy from the acres of items for sale during the auction. Proceeds benefit the Creston Fire Department.
 250-7396 • crestonfire.org • Creston Auction on Facebook