



Hot Spots

The Newsletter of the Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership

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

CFD Acquires Engines, Land

Thanks to auction funds, additional donations and loans and some serious bargain hunting, the Creston Fire Department is expanding its fleet and its base this year, purchasing two additional engines and nearly 7 acres of land adjacent to the Creston School.

The fire district is funding the engines, one set up for wildland emergencies and the other for structure fires. The 2009 GMC wildland engine is housed at the Lake Blaine Station, said Chief Gary Mahugh, so that it is readily accessible to the heavily forested east side of the district. The structure engine, a 1996 Freightliner, is based out of the department's Fairmont Station.

Although both are used engines, they replace even older vehicles, 1969 and 1984 engines that are no longer ideal for emergency use. "Both [replacement] vehicles bring many years of service life both for our district and for mutual aid to other communities," Mahugh said.

The structure engine was a particularly good deal, costing the district around \$51,500 compared to a \$250,000 price tag for a new vehicle. Its low mileage and usage hours were attractive, Mahugh said, as well as its ability to haul 1,000 gallons of water and pump 1250 gpm. Funds had been set aside previously for the purchase.

The \$130,000 wildland engine, purchased through a loan, is set up for 770 gallons of water, as well as carrying portable pumps, wildland hand tools, fire shelters, and other equipment. While some loose equipment needs to be purchased, both engines are already in service.

After this spring's Creston Auction, which raised \$30,000 for the fire department, the fire district was able to pursue a land purchase as well. Although the



Creston firefighters Tom Benvenuto (left) and Tracy Mayhood (right) scan through items brought to the 46th Annual Creston Auction Saturday morning.

Creston Fire Station sits on the south side of Highway 35, every year the fire department expands to the north side of the highway, using the Creston School grounds and neighboring fields to hold the thousands of goods and visitors that arrive for the Creston Auction. It has long sought the opportunity to own some of that space and this summer bought 6.99 acres immediately west of the school for just over \$73,000.

"The Creston Fire Fighters Association will be one of the primary funders of this acquisition," Mahugh said. "We are hoping to find alternative funding as well and will be evaluating those options." He emphasized that other funding sources would free up association money for training and equipment for the all-volunteer fire department's firefighters and medical responders, among other uses.

Auction Raises \$30,000 for Creston

Gorgeous weather drew large crowds to the 46th annual Creston Auction, packing the Creston School grounds throughout the weekend-long event. The auction raised nearly \$30,000 for the Creston Fire Department, up about \$5,000 from last year's fundraiser.

Although dark skies decreased the number of items auctioned, Saturday's sunshine led to more bidders "and items in general sold for more money," said

The land purchased will allow the Creston Auction to continue in its current location for many years to come, Mahugh said. He is also excited about future opportunities for the land. "The Creston Station is limited in use, with only two small truck bays and very limited parking," he said. "It is very important to have this land for future improvements in the district."

Also important is the long-term funding plan, which Mahugh said he hopes can be enhanced by community and other support so that the association does not need to rely on tax and auction dollars for loan payments. He added that community members have already stepped forward to help with the project, including a community member who has volunteered to keep the weeds down on the land.

medical responder Louise Tidwell, who managed the event's finances.

Overall, the auction raised around \$150,000, giving nearly \$123,000 back to consignors. The fire department will use some of the money raised to finish the Lake Blaine training center project. It is also using funds to help secure a loan for land immediately west of the Creston School grounds, long leased from the landowner for parking during the auction.



April's 46th annual Creston Auction attracted large crowds. From top left to lower right: The Civil Air Patrol Color Guard prepares for opening ceremonies Saturday morning. Rob Quist sings the National Anthem. Beautiful weather fills the sale grounds. Creston firefighter Bill Nickel helps with Friday's consignments. CFD trustees wait for the event to begin: (from left to right) Don Vogel, Tom Arnone, Allen Zimmerman, Greg Phillips and Myron Mast. Photos by Julie Laing and Louise Tidwell.

Local Businesses Support 46th Creston Auction

The Creston Fire Department could not hold the annual Creston Auction without the support of community members and businesses, who donate countless hours of their time, as well as equipment and services needed to put on the event and items sold during the auction. More than 200 individuals also volunteered their time to plan, organize and run the event. The fire department thanks the following businesses and individuals for their support of the 46th annual Creston Auction:

Advanced Restaurant Supply
Alert Security
American Web Design
Anderson's Hearth and Home
Sam Bagley
Big John's

Big O Tires
Bigfork Auto Parts
Bigfork Quick Lube
Blue Star Knives
Brenneman Dairy
CHS
Civil Air Patrol
Columbia Container
Creative & Native
Creston Topsoil
Dairy Queen of Kalispell
Echo Lake Cafe
Electric Avenue Gifts
Eva Gates
Fastoys
Flaming Arrow Archery
Flathead Bank
Flathead Concrete
Flathead County Sheriff's Posse
and Mounted Posse
Flathead Electric Cooperative
Flathead Vo-Ag Dept/Ag
Experiment Station
Four Seasons Nursery
Glacier Horse Blanket Cleaning
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Mahugh Fire & Safety
Nick Marshall
Massey Excavating Inc.
Midway Rental
Mild Fence
Montana Ace Hardware
Montana Army/Navy
Montana CAD
Mountain Brook Studios
Murdoch's Ranch & Home
Music One Workshop
NAPA Auto Parts
Bob Nosh
Penco
Pisk Chiropractic
Plant Land

Plum Creek Northwest Plywood
Pro Build
Pro Clean Car Wash
Rob Quist
Raceway Park
Riecke's Bayside Gallery
Rosa's Pizza
Sandry Construction Co.
Jim Sappington
Schellinger Construction
Schuster Construction
Margo Siemion
Snappy Sports Senter
Ann Summers
Swan River Gardens
Tree Image Custom Cabinets
Triple W
Valley Glass
Wendy's
Western States CAT
Matt and Emily Zemacke
Alan and Nancy Zimmerman
The Zone Family Fun Center
CFFAM apologizes if any names were unintentionally missed and thanks everyone for their support.

On Call: McGruff and Sparky Team Up for the Creston Fire District

Name: Larry Manley
CFD role: CFFAM member
Lived in fire district: 10 years
Notable life experience: Montana National Guard, U.S. Navy SeaBees, 2 years in Vietnam, 18 years with the Redondo Beach Police Department, voice of McGruff the Crime Dog in commercials for the National Crime Prevention Council, *Webster* TV sitcom. "I was chosen as the best crime prevention practitioner, where I won the award for California."
Reason for joining CFFAM: "I thought it would be fun. One son is a police officer, another is a firefighter and a third is a master electrician. It all falls in place, working with the public and my local community."
Most memorable moment: "It's all been good. It's easy for me to talk to people. When people find out I did McGruff, it seems to open a door, and people enjoy hearing about



Larry Manley

the program. Where else would anyone be able to meet people like Paul Newman, Iron Eyes Cody, and Nancy Reagan...? It's been a joy working with people in fundraising or other special programs: D.A.R.E., McGruff, or the Creston Fire Department!"
Reason to join CFFAM: "The idea of doing something for and with others from your neighborhood or community. The auction is always fun, and you meet a ton of people!"
Advice to future volunteers: "Just be a part of something good. It can be rewarding!"



Tracy Mayhood

Name: Tracy Mayhood
CFD role: Firefighter, lieutenant
Years with CFD: 13
Lived in fire district: 17 years
Day job: Owner, Tree Image Custom Cabinets
Support group: "My four kids are my support group."
Prior experience: "It may not be the norm, but when I was a very little girl, I was riding my tricycle in the front yard, when I heard snap, crackle, pop, coming from the backyard. I went to investigate and discovered the backyard on fire. I went and told my Mom

and she called the fire department. They came with the big red trucks and put out the fire. That set off a spark in me that stayed with me until I was able to make something out of it by joining CFD."
Highlight: "Playing Sparky the Fire Dog at the surrounding schools during fire prevention week. I get so many hugs. Wow...it's great!"
Key lessons learned: "Always be safe. Not only during an incident, but also in your day-to-day life."
Reason for joining CFD: "I wanted to put that spark I mentioned earlier to use by giving back to my community in this way."
Goal: "To be the best I can be in everything I do."
Reason to join CFD: "It's a blessing to be able to help your neighbors when they are having a bad day."
Have you ever thought about joining CFD? CFFAM and CFD welcome new members.

Creston Fire Department
Creston Fire Fighter Associate Membership
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Kalispell, MT 59901

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CFFAM Prepares Flood Support List

CFFAM is starting its fifth year as the community-based support group for the Creston Fire Department. It has planned and organized fundraisers—the flagpole installation, the annual fall Soup for Supper, lefse making and quilt raffles—as well as helping to offer public CPR classes and put on the annual Creston Auction. CFFAM also produces this newsletter to keep the community apprised of the fire department’s activities and the efforts of its dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

The group is now planning to prepare and transport food to emergency responders in the event of flooding or wildland fires. “The department is ready at a moment’s notice to help its neighbors, and we want to be able to provide our volunteer responders with food and nourishment.... They may be out for several days at a time, depending on the emergency..., so this is a big deal,” said

CFFAM Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m., Sept. 18

Where: Creston Fire Station,
4498 Hwy 35

What to bring: A dish to share

More info: Contact Gloria Graves,
250-4655, crittermom10@hotmail.com
or Creston Fire on Facebook

CFFAM member Gloria Graves.

“We’re compiling a list of community members who would be available to make food, salads and desserts... that can be taken to the field or to help at the hall for any further preparation and cleanup,” she added. “We have a small core group of community members who work together when the firefighters get a call, but we are in great need of more people to help support them on lengthy emergencies.”

Graves is creating a contact list to minimize calls when people are unavailable. If you can help out this summer, contact her at crittermom10@hotmail.com or 250-4655. CFFAM’s regular monthly meetings resume in September.

By the Numbers: CFD Apparatus

The fire department has several types of vehicles so that it can handle calls ranging from fires to accidents to medical emergencies.

No. of engines: 8

Age range: 1992–2009

Wildland/rescue engines: 2

Medical/rescue units: 2

Apparatus with full extraction: 3

Engines with compressed air foam: 4

Water per engine: 350–3,000 gallons

Apparatus with 350–800 gallons: 5

Apparatus with 1,000+ gallons: 3

Total gallons of water:
9,000+

All engines carry basic medical supplies and equipment, including oxygen and an automatic external defibrillator.