



# Hot Spots

Newsletter of the Friends of Creston Fire

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

## Chief's Corner: Miles of Heart



Creston Fire members train on all types of emergencies. In this simulation, our personnel extricate and treat a combine operator for a medical emergency. Thank you Mast Farms!

By Gary Mahugh

What a year of challenges—COVID-19, cancellation of the Creston Auction, changes to response protocols for medical scenes, weeks without group training, online school, no restaurant dining, a busy but different tourist presence and a host of other things have affected the community and Creston Fire. Some have been just a change in how we do things, and some have resulted in financial implications. At Creston Fire, these challenges have also slowed our progress on our station replacement project. What a year indeed.

All of this has been a trial for our membership in very personal ways. Just making a living for many of us was negatively affected, even as the community relied on volunteer members to respond to calls for assistance. Those calls did not slow.

Fire departments across the country reported a loss of members due to COVID and other factors. Here at Creston Fire, we have not seen that challenge; in fact, we recently accepted two new applicants. I believe that is a testament to the character of our members and certainly to

their reasons for being volunteer fire fighters and first responders. I also believe the current situation within our country will mean people will slow down a bit and maybe think some more about their neighbors and community and a little less about themselves.

I had several topics I wanted to write about in this column, but those topics have been put aside as instead I want to focus on our members and open the door to others who would like to do something that truly makes a difference in people's lives. That opportunity is to be a member of Creston Fire.

A contingent in this country will say, "Volunteer fire fighters are a thing of the past; taxes need to be raised, and fire fighters must be paid." I consider this a defeatist attitude and one based on a warped perception, a perception that may come from personal experiences but one that cannot be applied across the board.

These last 6 months serve as an example of why we need to stand together and help one another—and not just rely on Big Government to take care of us. Yes, Creston Fire is a government

entity, but one that is pretty darned conservative while being committed to our performance and being there when needed. There might be a touch of tradition in volunteer fire fighting too; sometimes it is just the right thing to do. The truth is that a volunteer fire fighter is a person who considers helping others in need as a pretty good measure of one's character. And that takes me to why I titled this column "Miles of Heart."

I believe volunteer fire fighters represent a segment of society that is somewhat extraordinary and does special things. We can list many reasons our fire fighters' volunteer, but it really comes down this: they all have miles of heart. In a movie about football (*The Replacements*, 2000), a coach was asked what it would take to be successful (in this case, pull out a victory), and his answer was that "it will take miles and miles of heart."

Being a successful volunteer fire fighter is much like being on a successful football team, at least at Creston Fire. It comprises a lot of things—training, listening, responding, performing safely and efficiently, being nice and a myriad of other things, but most of all it takes a person who has miles of heart. True success in Creston Fire comes on the shoulders of its members, who they are and what they stand for.

The "profession" of volunteer fire fighting is far from being a thing of the past. People don't change as a whole, but what motivates them might, mostly because we have so many things to choose from when it comes to spending our time. In our balance of life, it is important to have a niche for doing some things that really matter and that makes lives better for many. For those that think what we do is obsolete, I would have to question whether they have miles of heart. Maybe those individuals have changed, not people as a whole. We are professionals, whether volunteer or paid, and it is our "heart" that makes it so!

# Fundraising Changes for Creston Fire

The cancellation of the 2020 Creston Auction threatened to halt progress toward raising enough money for the replacement station on Hwy 35. The Friends of Creston Fire found new fundraising opportunities this year and is modifying the annual Soup for Supper to ensure the safety of our community members and volunteers. Your support of Creston Fire is more important than ever.



## Pork Shoulder Sale a Success

When Michael and Heather Massey approached Creston Fire several months ago about selling smoked pork shoulders as a fundraiser, so many of our community members were out of work that some of our volunteers were concerned people would be uncomfortable paying \$40 for a roast. We were not only wrong, but we never saw the support coming!

A lot of work went into the planning and execution of our pork shoulder fundraiser, with Creston Fire emergency responders, Friends of Creston Fire volunteers, and many other community members contributing their time and energy to the event. Their efforts were worthwhile—it was a great couple of days for our community and Creston Fire.

Community members preordered their smoked pork shoulders, and Creston Fire members and volunteers from Friends of Creston Fire smoked and wrapped the roasts and had them hot and ready for pickup at the Lake Blaine Station. The fundraiser raised nearly \$14,000 for Building Fund 251.

Thank you, our Creston community, for your help and your support, and a huge thanks goes out to the Masseys.



Did you know cooking is the  
No. 1 cause of home fires  
and home fire injuries?

Fire Prevention Week™  
is Oct. 4-10.  
Learn more  
at [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



— SERVE UP —  
**Fire Safety**  
— IN THE KITCHEN! —





Creston fire fighters stand in tribute and memory of the 343 brothers and sisters who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001. We honor these fire fighters because "we will always remember!"

## Mark Your Calendar

**Fire Prevention Week:** Oct. 4–10

### Friends of Creston Fire Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7 pm,  
Lake Blaine Station,  
595 Lake Blaine Road

### 13th Annual Soup for Supper

Thursday, Oct. 15, 3:30–7 pm

### Community CPR Class

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6:30–9 pm

### 55th Annual Creston Auction

Apr. 9–11, 2021

# Soup for Supper Moves to Lake Blaine Station

It's time for our 13th annual Soup for Supper, which will be held Thursday, Oct. 15, 3:30–7 pm. We look forward to this great community event every year. After the cancellation of this year's Creston Auction, Soup for Supper is more important than ever as a fundraiser for Creston Fire.

The event has grown each year to feed more than 530 people—an impressive

number for our small community. We have grossed more than \$10,000 annually at this gathering through the efforts of community members and businesses. All proceeds for this year's fundraiser will go directly into the building fund for the replacement Creston Fire Station 251 on Highway 35.

As everything else this year has changed, so will this event. It will be held

at the Lake Blaine Station, 595 Lake Blaine Road. To ensure the safety of our community, this year will be drive-thru and takeaway only. You will be given a printed menu as you enter the parking lot so that you can check off the items you wish to order: soup, bread and dessert. Members of Creston Fire and Friends of Creston Fire volunteers will then package and deliver your food to you. We won't be able to offer salad this year, and the desserts will be limited to cookies, brownies and cupcakes.

We again ask bakers in the area to help us with desserts. Items may be dropped off at the Lake Blaine or Creston station after 8 am on Oct. 15. Please do not add nuts to any of the yummys, since we will be prepackaging items this year.

If you'd like to order Soup for Supper for a large group, you can call ahead on Wednesday, Oct. 14 (see the soup menu for choices). Call 250-7396, and a pick-up time will be arranged.

## Yes! Make Us a 2020 Soup Sponsor

We would like to sponsor a soup for the 2020 Soup for Supper, benefiting Creston Fire.

Business/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ soups. We understand sponsorships are \$100 per soup and have enclosed a check for the appropriate amount.

For our records, please provide the following information:

Business/Organization Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Creston Fire Fighter's Association, 4498 MT Highway 35, Kalispell, MT 59901**

The Creston Fire Fighter's Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the State of Montana. Our tax ID number is 81-0457369. All donations are tax deductible, and your canceled check can serve as your receipt.

**Thank you for your support!**

## 2020 Soup Menu

Baked Potato Chowder with Bacon  
Beef Vegetable with Barley  
Broccoli with Cheese  
Chicken Noodle  
Chicken with Poblano Pepper  
Chili  
Italian Sausage  
Lobster Bisque  
Minestrone  
New England Clam Chowder

Creston Fire Fighter's Association  
Friends of Creston Fire  
4498 MT Highway 35  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Kalispell, MT  
59901  
Permit No. 166  
ECRWSS

## Postal Patron

### Yes! I Support Creston Fire

Your support is important to Creston Fire and its dedicated volunteers. Please help us in our efforts to be the first on scene to help you! For our records, please provide the following information:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
(if the donation is on behalf of an organization)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about participating in the Friends of Creston Fire.
- Please contact me about becoming a volunteer firefighter or medical responder.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Thank you for your support!**

Fall 2020

### Get Your CPR Card: Blended Class Offered

Creston Fire is offering a community CPR class for AHA healthcare providers and the general public. The in-person portion will be held November 10, 6:30–9 pm, at Creston Station.

Due to COVID-19, the class is split into two portions. Participants need to take the online HeartCode BLS portion **PRIOR** to Nov. 10. The online portion includes eight modules, four virtual simulations, and two video tutorials and is available at [shopcpr.heart.org/heartcode-bls](http://shopcpr.heart.org/heartcode-bls). Participants must print out and bring the online CPR completion certificate to the in-person class.

The in-person class will include a review of CPR basics and hands-on skills testing, which the participant must pass to receive a CPR card. The cost is \$35 per person for the Nov. 10 hands-on session. There's an additional \$10 charge if an AHA Healthcare Provider card is required. To receive further class details and register, call Louise at 250-2808.