



## CRESTON FIRE FIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Friends of Creston Fire  
4498 Hwy 35  
Kalispell, MT 59901

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
KALISPELL MT  
PERMIT #93

ECRWSSDDM  
POSTAL PATRON

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

#### FRIENDS OF CRESTON FIRE

Tuesday March 15  
Creston Station 7 PM

#### AUCTION VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thursday March 24  
Creston Station 7 PM

#### 56TH ANNUAL CRESTON AUCTION

Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 3

*Burn Permit required  
March 1 - April 30th*

#### 3RD ANNUAL PORK SHOULDER BBQ

Wednesday May 25 and  
Thursday May 26

### 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:

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!*

SPRING 2022



# 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: Making a Difference By Gary Mahugh

It's common to have people come up to me and say, "I want to do something important. How can I make a real difference in others' lives?" Folks are not necessarily asking about Creston Fire; they just know I have been around for a long time and involved in a lot of things. But if you know me well, you know Creston Fire is the first place I will lead them.

During my life in the Flathead, I have participated in activities and groups across a broad spectrum—all have been enjoyable, and most were just downright good things to do. The one that has held my attention the longest and has borrowed my time for nearly 50 years is Creston Fire. It has been said that "being a Fire Fighter gets in your blood." I think it does—and for some unexpected reasons.

Sure, it is "fun" to drive big red trucks and to spray water on a fire and cut a vehicle apart and run equipment that, as kids, we never thought we would operate. It is even "fun" to go into a burning building, wear a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, climb ladders to great heights, perform an ice rescue, and push ourselves to physical and mental limits maybe not thought possible. Yes, there are "fun" times when you are a Fire Fighter.

But with all that, when I look back on the nearly half decade I have been around Creston Fire, my greatest memories are in the people we have helped, those who call 911 when they are having a bad day and who are reaching out for assistance. It might be a fire, a medical emergency, a trapped child, a vehicle crash, or any number of bad things that can happen. The fact is that they all happen to people, people who live in our community—sometimes friends and sometimes complete strangers. It does not matter because we at Creston Fire are here for everyone.

It is truly the people we help that stick in my mind. Most are very grateful, and some are sort of grateful. Some just think it is our job to respond because that is what fire departments do, and maybe this latter group has not taken the time to consider who it is that comes when they call 911. Here in the Creston Fire District, it is your next-door neighbor or the person down the street. The volunteer responder may be a construction worker, a medical worker, a farmer, a biologist, an electrician, or a business owner, or maybe they are retired. It is a person who has said, "I want to make a real difference in people's lives," and who has made Creston Fire the outlet in how they do exactly that.

And now, here is some reality. I would like to be able to say that as we do our volunteer work in Creston Fire, it is all about those we help. That would be a pretty honorable statement, and to the greatest extent it is true. However, there is another person who receives benefit, and that is the Fire Fighter themselves. You see, there is no greater personal fulfillment than that found in helping others. I could never put a dollar figure to this personal fulfillment because it is much deeper than any monetary number. It is about who we are, what constitutes a good Fire Fighter, and what internal drive we have. It is a way to find balance in life and to teach the next generation what is important.

I have experienced highs and lows in my lengthy career at Creston Fire. It is the highs I remember, the hundreds of times we have been there for our community when someone needed help. It is never a game to us; it is a calling of sorts, a calling of dedication and commitment and one of just doing the right things for the right reasons.

The opportunity for you to be part of Creston Fire is open to you. The reality I speak of includes the element that if people did not volunteer for their community fire departments, there could be times no one shows up when 911 is dialed. What a bad day that would be.

There are those who will say, "All Fire Fighters should be paid for what they do." I suppose one could argue that would be the right thing, but I can honestly say that if I viewed this as a job I had to go to every day to get a paycheck, I doubt that I would have lasted this long in this "volunteer career" I love. I believe that is true for most volunteer Fire Fighters. I guess it does get into your blood!

My challenge to you is to check out Creston Fire. Maybe it is for you. Maybe you would find that it does get into your blood and that there is no better calling for anyone. The people of Creston Fire are just like you, normal good-hearted folks looking to make a difference.



*Myron Yoder, MT Auctioneer of the Year, will be selling at this year's Creston Auction.*



*Aerial view of buyers, sellers, and vendors on the auction grounds during a previous year.*



**THE 56TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE CRESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

SELL QUALITY, USED ITEMS TO SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE!

**FRI. APRIL 1ST 7AM TO 7PM DONATION AND CONSIGNMENT DAY**  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**SAT. APRIL 2ND STARTS AT 9AM CRESTON AUCTION AND COUNTRY FAIR**  
BUY \$10 Bid Tickets @7am

**SUN. APRIL 3RD STARTS AT 11AM VEHICLE, MARINE, RV AND EQUIPMENT SALES**  
BUY \$10 Bid Tickets @9am

Arts & Crafts Sale • Rummage & Bake Sales • Local Food • Fun for Kids  
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.

**Commission rates are PER ITEM:**

If your single item sells for:	The fire department receives:
more than \$10,000	5%
\$1,000.01 to \$10,000	15%
\$5.01 to \$1,000.00	30%
\$5.00 or less	100%

WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTERCARD FOR AUCTION PURCHASES (+3% CONVENIENCE FEE)  
•• ATM AVAILABLE •• BID TICKET FEES GO TOWARDS PAYING FOR 24 HOUR WEEKEND SECURITY

Questions? CALL 406-250-7396 or check out our FAQs at WWW.CRESTONFIRE.ORG



**The Creston Auction takes over 200 volunteers to make it a success.**

See the areas below where we need your help and call the Auction Hotline (406-250-7396) to get on a schedule and be part of "the experience". Thanks ahead of time for supporting Creston Fire.

**2 HOURS:** Work in Hold-Up on Saturday, lifting items so bidders can see what is being auctioned.

**2 HOURS OR MORE:** Help to unload trucks and trailers on Consignment/Donation Day

**INDOORS:** Sort, organize, and price rummage items. Cut, wrap, and price baked goods in the station.

**OUTDOORS:** Help setup the grounds on Thursday (Mar 31) or clean up the grounds on Sunday (April 3).

To learn more, attend the next Friends of Creston Fire meeting, Mar. 15, at 7 PM. Church groups, book clubs, HOAs, and other groups are welcome to volunteer as a unit. Or sign up by calling the Auction Hotline at 406-250-7396.

**Tips for Sellers**

**Get paid:** Commission rates are per item.

If your item sells for more than	the fire department receives
\$10,000:	5%
\$1,000.01 to \$10,000:	15%
\$5.01 to \$1,000:	30%
\$5 or less:	100%

**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.

**Give your best:** Donations are tax deductible! Consider donating one or more items from your load to Creston Fire for the sale. We provide security for all consigned items Friday through Sunday.

**Think like a buyer:** You will not receive a commission on items that sell for \$5 or less in the auction. If you wouldn't spend \$5 on an item, please take it to the Creston School gym's SE door for the Rummage Sale; this helps improve the quality of the auction.

**Organize your load:** Rather than combining books, canning jars and videos, box similar items together so that they're 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 unsafe tires, hazardous chemicals, paint, livestock or junk.

**Prepare for weather:** Bring disposable tarps to cover your items. We regret that we cannot guarantee their return.

**Note this:** No items will be sold with minimum bids on Saturday. For Sunday's equipment sale, a minimum bid can be set at \$1500 or more. Call 406-250-7396 for info on reserves and titles.

**Tips for Buyers**

**Bid away:** There is no buyer's premium. Your winning bid is what you pay.

**Buy your ticket:** Saturday's \$10 bid tickets go on sale at 7 a.m. Get Sunday's \$10 bid tickets at 9 a.m. Bid ticket fees go toward 24/7 weekend security. Buy your bid ticket on Friday and avoid the crowds.

**Carry ID:** Show it to buy a bid ticket.

**Pack cash:** We accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover (3% convenience fee) for auction purchases only, so bring cash, check or your ATM card for other purchases.

**Head indoors:** Take a break from the outside auction Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to visit the Rummage Sale in the Creston School gym.

**Stay warm:** Hot food and drink are available throughout Saturday and Sunday.

**Get artsy:** The Arts & Crafts Sale is held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Eastside Grange Hall.

**Treat your sweet tooth:** Also visit the Outside Bake Sale on Saturday from 8-3. Even better, donate your favorite goodie!

**Keep it clean:** Federal rules prohibit smoking on the school grounds. Please leave your dogs at home.

**Get your questions answered:** For more info, visit our website and auction FAQs page at [www.crestonfire.org](http://www.crestonfire.org), find Creston Auction on Facebook or call the auction hotline at 406-250-7396.

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY APRIL 1-3, 2022**

**THURSDAY SETUP DAY: Be a volunteer!**

**FRIDAY DONATION & CONSIGNMENT DAY 7am to 7pm Bring your items to sell**

**SATURDAY GENERAL AUCTION: Wagons start 9 am \$10 bid tickets go on sale at 7 am**

**SUNDAY EQUIPMENT & AUTO SALE: Wagon starts 11 am \$10 bid tickets go on sale at 9 am**

**AUCTION SCHEDULE** The 56th Annual Creston Auction and Country Fair will be held April 1-3. All proceeds go directly into the Building Fund for the replacement fire station.

**THURS., MARCH 31ST: SETUP DAY**

**Noon:** Help set up the grounds. Be a volunteer but no early drop off of goods.

**FRI., APRIL 1: CONSIGNMENT/DONATION INTAKE DAY**

**7 AM-7PM:** Purchase bid tickets early Drop off your donated and consigned items. Bring rummage items and goods valued at \$5 or less to the school gym. Visit the food trailer all day. Be a volunteer! Help unload trucks and trailers on the auction grounds. Help in the gym by sorting, organizing, and pricing rummage items.

If your business would be interested in donating product or services to be auctioned, please call 406-250-9457 or email [crestonfiremt@gmail.com](mailto:crestonfiremt@gmail.com) prior to March 28th.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2: GENERAL AUCTION**

- 6 AM:** Cut, wrap, and price baked goods.
- 7 AM:** Purchase your \$10 bid tickets early
- 8 AM-3PM:** Visit the Bake Sale on the Auction Grounds & the Rummage Sale in the gym
- 9 AM:** Attend Opening Ceremonies and then the General Auction begins
- 9AM-4PM:** Visit the Arts & Crafts Bazaar in the Eastside Grange
- 11AM:** Collectibles Sale begins
- ALL DAY:** Visit local food vendors and the heated Dining Tent. Buy your bid ticket. Report to the Staging Area to be assigned a volunteer session in the area with the greatest need. At the end of the auction, help to tear down outside tented areas on the grounds.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3: EQUIPMENT & AUTO SALE**

- 9 AM:** Buy your \$10 bid ticket
- 11 AM:** Equipment Sale begins
- All day:** Visit local food vendors and the heated Dining Tent. Buy your bid ticket. Be a volunteer! Help to clean up the grounds or hold up items during the sale.

## CRESTON FIRE'S BBQ FUNDRAISER

**WED. & THURS. MAY 25TH & 26TH**

**CALL TO PLACE YOUR ORDER**

**TICKET SALES BEGIN APRIL 16TH UNTIL SOLD OUT!**

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID.

**FULLY COOKED SMOKED PORK SHOULDER**

**6-7# EACH (SERVES 10-12) BY DONATION**

**\$50 MINIMUM**

**\$75 DONATION**

**\$100 DONATION**

**PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE REPLACEMENT CRESTON FIRE STATION!**

**PICK UP TIMES 4:30-5:30 PM LAKE BLAINE FIRE STATION / 595 LAKE BLAINE RD / ALL SALES FINAL**

**406-250-7396** **CRESTON, MT FIRE FIGHTERS**