



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: A LIFE WELL LIVED *By Gary Mahugh*

I am known to be a reader of sorts, and sometimes from my downtime reading certain phrases grab my attention. When that happens, I have learned that maybe I am being told something and maybe I should pay attention. From that, I have had this nagging thing on my mind: a reference to "a life well lived." This phrase has popped up in my recent reading, maybe some television watching and for sure in my actual life.

Such things make me think about my fire life and what it means to me. And then something happens that solidifies the whole deal. In my case, it was the passing of two close friends in the last couple of months, friends from various parts of my Fire World and both people who make me think of lives well lived. As I often do, I bring my outside realm into my daily Creston Fire life. This darned adage of lives well lived hammers at me, and now I am writing about it.

Why would I choose the topic for this column? It is because of how I feel about fire fighters, especially volunteers and even more so about your Creston Fire Fighters. Much of this comes from my belief that people who volunteer to help others are exceptional folks, and those who decide being a fire fighter and/or medical provider is their opportunity to serve have a special place in my heart. It tells me they are in it for the right reason: to help others who might be having a really rotten day for nothing more than feeling they did something good.

It probably seems like I write about the people of Creston Fire more than I do about engines and rescue rigs and cool medical stuff and even more than that replacement fire station that is garnering much of our time. If you think this, then you are correct. Anyone can have all those big red trucks and interesting pieces of equipment, but not everyone has what we do. We have people who believe in the organizational values of Creston Fire and who know the importance of returning with honor from every run we make.

That takes me back to where I started: a life well lived. When it comes to how someone is remembered after a career ends, and sometimes even life itself, I can't think of a better measure than having others say that person had a life well lived. Even more so, I think the people of Creston Fire are living lives that are well lived. Your Creston Fire Fighters don't serve for recognition or pay, although a thank you from those served does help keep the battery charged. Rather, they are living what I hope is an example of making a difference in others' lives. Being a Creston Volunteer Fire Fighter does not make one special. The special part comes from who these fire fighters are at their core and in their heart.

Some people might say volunteering to be a fire fighter is an outdated model of how things should be done. I would dispute this because I don't view what we do as a job. If it was a job, it would be described as putting out fires and doing CPR and splinting broken bones. No, what we do is serve others to bring comfort and caring during what might be trying times, and in doing that, we use our training to have a positive impact. We do put out fires and a lot of other things, but in the end, it is about the human side of life that matters. It is about the hope that others will be able to say Creston Fire Fighters personify life well lived.

A long-serving member (RIP) once answered a simple question posed by someone around midnight who just had their home saved from fire, "Why did you help us? You don't even know us." That Creston Fire Fighter merely said, "It is what we do." Yup, it is about a life well lived. I can think of no better purpose in life.

SELL AND BUY QUALITY, USED ITEMS TO SUPPORT THE CRESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 THE 57TH ANNUAL



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 Info Line (406-250-7396) to get on a schedule and be part of "the experience". Thanks ahead of time for supporting Creston Fire.

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

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

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

OUTDOORS: Help setup the grounds on Thursday (Mar 30) or clean up the grounds on Sunday (April 2).

To learn more, attend the next Friends of Creston Fire meeting, Mar. 21, 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 Info Line at 406-250-7396.

**FRIDAY MARCH 31ST 7AM TO 7PM
CONSIGNMENT DAY**

Bring your items to the sale grounds at Creston School
MT HWY 35 - 12 MILES EAST OF KALISPELL

**SATURDAY APRIL 1ST STARTS AT 9AM
CRESTON AUCTION AND COUNTRY FAIR**

Arts and Crafts Sale • Rummage Sale • Bake Sale • Local Food
Get your \$10 Bid Ticket for the day starting at 7am

**SUNDAY APRIL 2ND STARTS AT 11AM
VEHICLE, MARINE, RV AND EQUIPMENT SALES**

Get your \$10 Bid Ticket for the day starting at 9am

VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP PAGE
FOR THE CRESTON
AUCTION



**CALL FOR
COMMISSION RATES
AND TO LIST YOUR ITEMS
FOR ADVERTISING**



GENERAL
INFORMATION &
QUICK LINK FOR
DONATIONS

WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER FOR AUCTION PURCHASES (+3% CONVENIENCE FEE)
•• NO BUYERS PREMIUM •• PURCHASE YOUR BID TICKETS FRIDAY!
•• BID TICKET FEES PAY FOR 24 HOUR SECURITY
•• FREE PARKING AND ADMISSION

WWW.CRESTONFIRE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 406-250-7396



COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

The more valuable items that are donated/consigned for Saturday's Auction are segregated into Collectibles, which is located in the large white tents on the east side of the Sunday Sale grounds. These treasures can also be viewed beginning at 7 AM on Saturday until approximately 11:00, when this auction will begin shortly thereafter. Your \$10 Saturday bid ticket is honored here as well.

Bakers needed!

Once again we are asking for all the community bakers to come out in force and donate their goodies for the Bake Sale. Please bake until your heart's content, cut, wrap, and mark everything. **NO NUTS AND NO REFRIGERATED ITEMS, please..** Drop them off at Creston Station all day on Friday or early Saturday morning.

Tips for Sellers

Get paid: Commission rates are per item.

| If your item sells for | the fire department receives |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| more than \$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. and can be used for purchases in both the General Auction and in Collectibles. 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, find Creston Auction on Facebook or call the auction info line at 406-250-7396.

THURSDAY - SUN. MAR. 30 - APR. 2, 2023

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 57th Annual Creston Auction and Country Fair will be held March 31 - April 2. All proceeds go directly into the Building Fund for the replacement fire station.

THURS., MARCH 30TH: SETUP DAY

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

FRI., MAR. 31: 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. 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 prior to March 27th.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1: GENERAL AUCTION

- 6 AM:** Cut, wrap, and price baked goods at the fire station.
- 7 AM:** Purchase your \$10 bid tickets and view Collectibles.
- 8 AM-3PM:** Visit the Bake Sale on the Auction Grounds & the Rummage Sale in the gym
- 9 AM:** Attend Opening Ceremonies. Wagons start immediately afterwards.
- 9AM-4PM:** Visit the Arts & Crafts Bazaar in the Eastside Grange
- 11AM/Noon:** Collectibles Auction 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. Volunteer to "hold up" items that are being auctioned.
- 3PM:** Help to tear down / box up leftover rummage items in the gym. After the auction, help tear down tented areas outside.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2: 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.



CRESTON FIRE FIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Friends of Creston Fire
4498 Hwy 35
Kalispell, MT 59901

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POSTAL PATRON



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| FRIENDS OF CRESTON FIRE @ CRESTON STATION | TUESDAY, MARCH 21 | 7PM |
| AUCTION VOLUNTEER MEETING @ CRESTON STATION | THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | 7PM |
| 57TH ANNUAL CRESTON AUCTION | FRI., MAR. 31 - SUN. APR. 2 | |
| BURN PERMIT REQUIRED <i>FiresafeKalispell.com</i> | MARCH 1 - APRIL 30 | |
| 4TH ANNUAL PORK SHOULDER FUNDRAISER | WED. & THURS. MAY 24/25 | |

DID SOMEONE SAY BBQ PORK?

The 4TH ANNUAL PORK SHOULDER FUNDRAISER will be held on **May 24th and 25th**, just in time for your Memorial Day Celebration. The fully cooked smoked pork weighs 6-7# each and will feed 10-12 people. Pick up times are 4:30-5:30 at Lake Blaine Station on each day. We will begin taking your orders on April 17th so please call 406-250-7396 after that to arrange your ticket retrieval. **These go fast so don't delay in calling!** All orders must be pre-paid with a minimum \$50 donation per roast. *All proceeds will go directly into the building fund for Replacement Station 251.*



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.
- Contact me about becoming a volunteer firefighter or medical responder.
- Please add this donation to the Building Fund.

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 2023