

Lake Cypress Springs Fireworks Show

13 Years and Going Strong!



April 15, 2010

Dear POA Executive Board:

Will you please present this information at your next board meeting and strongly consider making a donation to the South Franklin County Volunteer Fire Department?

Our fire department has been struggling for the past several years due to increasing expenses and minimal funding from the county. Our fire department is rated in the next to lowest level by the Insurance Service Organization. However, the Mt. Vernon fire department was able to purchase a \$270,000 fire truck with county funds and improve it's ranking to the fourth highest level. Why? To lower insurance premiums!

Have you considered the savings homeowners in your subdivision would incur through lower insurance premiums if we were able to fund much needed improvements to our fire department? Without our fire department, how long would the response time be if someone in your subdivision needed emergency medical care? These men volunteer time away from their work and families to protect our community. We need to continue our support for this much needed organization!

How well do you know the South Franklin County Volunteer Fire Department?

Do you think they are housed in the nice brick building near Brookshires? **They are not.** Their equipment is stored in a four pole barns along FM 115.

Do you know if they respond to many emergencies? **They respond to 200-250 each year.** Of those, about **one-third** is to assist **other volunteer fire departments.** Thus far in 2010 they have responded to 81 fires.

Do you know how many volunteers comprise the volunteer fire department? **22, plus the assistance of their families to provide wet towels, water and support.** They have 4 EMTS and one Emergency Care Attendant.

Do you know how much equipment they maintain? **They have 6 trucks, 1 trailer, 1 water pump and 1 first responder car that require fuel, repairs and insurance.**

Do you know they build their own fire trucks since they cannot afford to purchase new or used equipment? The new truck bought by the Mt. Vernon Fire Department cost \$270,000. Used trucks are about \$160,000. They build their own trucks in their spare time for \$50,000.

Do you know how large an area they cover? **Basically the area south of I-30, east of Hwy 37 to the county's eastern and southern borders.**

Do you know where their primary funding comes from? **The fireworks donations!** The county gives them \$8,400. Their total budget for the year is about \$20,000. Fireworks donations totaled over \$10,000 last year.

We know the economy hasn't recovered enough to make an impact on anyone's finances. The expense to put on the show increases each year due to manufacturer price increases. In spite of bad economies, drought, floods, lack of support – **we have been able to increase the donation to our fire department every year. Last year we exceeded \$10,000!**

Please consider forwarding this letter to your homeowners through a newsletter or make a contribution equal to \$10 for each house in your subdivision. We receive donations from less than 10% of the homeowner's on the lake. **If each homeowner was to make a \$20 contribution we could fund the fire department for an entire year. The vast majority of those who contribute are the much maligned "weekenders". It would be so much better if more were willing to contribute equally! For the benefit of all homeowners on the lake, we MUST increase our donations to the fire department.**

Please make checks payable to Rick Boltz or SFCVFD and mail to 11122 Edgemere Rd., Dallas, Texas 75230. Checks payable to the fire department are tax deductible. We hope you will continue to support our efforts to help the volunteer fire department and provide a great Fourth of July attraction. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Our Fireworks on the Lake will be Saturday, July 3 at 9:30 at Mary King Park. Come by boat, sit with friends on the shore, either way come on out for THE BEST fireworks show in East Texas!

Thanks for your continued support,

Rick and Sarah