



WILMAR

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

JULY 2011

VOLUME MMXI

PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR

ISSUE 2

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ SUNDAY JULY 24

at the Holy Ghost Hall
Bodega Ave. at
Eucalyptus

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adults \$12
Children age 12
and under \$7

*Fun for the
whole family!*

- 2 Raffles
- Kids' Games
- Fire Engine Rides
- Silent Auction
- Can't stay?.....
- Take your meal "to go"!

INSIDE

- Chief's Report
- Directors' Dialogue
- Explorer Update
- Fire Department Profile
- Wilmar Roster
- Explorer Roster

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FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

July 2011. A free community newsletter, Volume MMXI, Issue 2, published twice a year.

3825 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

Chief's REPORT

The dedicated and professional members of the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department are proud to serve our community. We currently have over 40 Volunteer Firefighters and volunteer support personnel serving you by responding to your calls for assistance and performing community safety education.

Our Strategic Planning Committee has been working on developing a short-term and long-term strategic plan that will ensure we continue to serve you with quick and efficient response to your calls for service now and in the future while maintaining good fiscal health for the department.

I encourage you to visit our website which has been significantly enhanced, and is updated frequently, to provide an efficient means of communicating our services and information related to enhancing the safety of our community.

We, like many of our neighbors, are challenged by the current economy. The costs for the supplies, equipment, apparatus, and support items that we need to efficiently serve you have significantly increased placing a strain on our budget. However, our members are committed to maintaining the high level of service that you are accustomed to. Thank you for your support through donations

and attendance at our fundraising events.

As we enter another summer fire season I encourage you to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of your home and family from the threat of a wildfire. Our website has important information for you on this topic. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Directors' DIALOGUE

It may not feel like summer yet with all the recent rainfall, but the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department annual Chicken BBQ and fundraiser is right around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday July 24 at the Holy Ghost Hall! The Wilmar Fire family always looks forward to this event as an opportunity to get together with our community for some good food, great raffle prizes, and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors. If you'd like to volunteer to help out at the BBQ (or are just interested in learning more about Wilmar Fire Department activities and events) be sure to visit our website at Wilmarfire.com. Simply click on the "contact us" tab and leave a comment that you'd like to help at the BBQ, or you can contact our Wilmar Fire Department Auxiliary coordinator Pat McLaughlin directly at pmclaughlin18@comcast.net.

Thank you to all of our community members who attended the annual dinner

meeting in March. In addition to enjoying a great pasta dinner cooked and served by the Wilmar firefighters and a lot of great raffle prizes, we were able to spend some time updating the attendees on the previous year's activities. We also elected two members to the Wilmar Board of Directors to fill a couple of vacancies. Lisa Graveson was reelected for another five-year term, and Cheryl Brown was elected to fill the vacancy created when Pat McLaughlin completed his term last year. Cheryl has been filling that position on an interim basis, so I'm happy to officially welcome her aboard. Thank you very much to Lisa and Cheryl.

I can't express how proud I am to work with such a great group of people who selflessly volunteer so much time and energy to serve their community. From our bare-bones beginnings over 40 years ago we have progressed to a highly trained and well-equipped staff with a full complement of modern firefighting vehicles and equipment. Although we have weathered the economic downturn better than most, we haven't been immune to its effects. The Wilmar VFD works very closely with the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department, as well as Cal Fire, and both have suffered through deep budget cuts. However, your Wilmar Fire Board of Directors is diligently monitoring the fiscal situa-

tion and planning for the future, and needless to say we are committed to continuing to provide our community members and taxpayers with the high level of service that they have come to expect.

Thanks again to the entire Wilmar community for your ongoing support of your fire department, and of course thank you to all the members of the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department for your time, dedication, and commitment that makes this department the outstanding organization that it is.

Explorer UPDATE

This last April our Explorer Post sent Pat Bradley, James Hall, Andrew Morganlander and Shane Redmond to the annual Fire Explorer Academy. They learned about vehicle extrication, flammable liquid fires, wildland firefighting, rope rescue and structural firefighting. Their day started at 0500 and ended at 2200 each evening. It was a weeklong academy culminating with a graduation ceremony. Our current training is geared towards getting the State Explorer Task Book completed for each of the Explorers. We started this process in January and are well on our way to obtaining the Certification! For the summer we have started training with the Wilmar Volunteer Firefighters along with Cal Fire crews on wildland firefighting, tactics and strategies.

In June we have two Explorers graduating high school. David Lindsay is graduating from Casa Grande High and within a week after graduation will be leaving for basic training in the Army. His goal is to become a Paramedic. Gabe Horrel will be graduating from Analy High and attending the SRJC in the fall semester. This summer he hopes to be working for PG&E in some capacity. In August, Andrew Morganlander will be leaving the Explorer Post to go to school at Montana State. Andrew has been attending SRJC for the past two years to get most of his general education completed before moving

on. We wish all our graduates well and success in the future. Two of our Explorers, Shane Redmond and Tyler Selna have been accepted as Wilmar Firefighters! They have completed all of the necessary steps to move from the Explorers into the Volunteer ranks.

With all of the movement, we will have several Explorer openings. We currently have five or six applications under review for interviews but we always need additional interested youths who might want to be involved in our Explorer program. For more information, please call the station @ 765-1995, and leave a message for Explorer Leader, Kelly Bradley.

Fire Department PROFILE



Jane Singleton

Jane Singleton is the Wilmar Administrative Assistant working primarily in support of the Wilmar Chief Mark Heine. Jane joined Wilmar approximately three years ago during Al Mello's tenure as Acting Chief and was invaluable in getting the firehouse records in order. She responded to a Wilmar ad for office help, feeling a need to "give back" to the community. She is very glad to be part of the Wilmar family, and is impressed with the level of commitment of her fellow volunteers.

Jane and her husband Mark came to the United States from England in 1987 and lived in Rohnert Park until nine years ago when they moved into their current home in West Petaluma. Mark worked for British European Motors in Cotati and subsequently purchased the business in 1996. Jane works part-time doing their accounting as well as performing the same function for another small business several mornings each week.

Jane is a talented homemaker and decorator. She has also been very involved in their two children's sports, school and 4H activities. Naomi, 19, is finishing up her freshman year at Chapman University in Orange County. She is studying to be an Athletic Trainer and perhaps to teach in that field. Naomi is a graduate of

WILMAR ROSTER

Below is a list of all the personnel who volunteer their time to serve the Wilmar community:

Mark Heine	Chief
Mike Mickelson	Assistant Chief
Captains	
Doug Cole	Mark Horn
Justin Fox	Brian Mickelson
Garrett Green	
Engineers	
Devon Ayers	George Vedder
Chris Bonilla	
Firefighters	
Kristen Anderson	Nathan Haydon
Hannah Barnett-Powell	Kyle Kidder
Kenderic Braal	Carlos Lopez
Jesse Cole	Jonathan Lucchesi
Marc Dessel	Daniel Powell
Chris Foss	Kevin Powell
Eric Haggard	David Tuttle
Ryan Hamilton	
Recruits	
Jimmy Jensen	Mathew Moullyn
Steve Heine	Tyler Selna
Andrew Ihlenfeldt	Shane Redmond
SUPPORT MEMBERS:	
Kelly Bradley	Explorers
Pat McLaughlin	Aux. Coord.
Don Reid	Projects
Jane Singleton	Admin. Assistant
BOARD MEMBERS:	
Jim Eckhoff	President
Bob Green	Vice President
Al Mello	Treasurer
Cheryl Brown	Secretary
Lisa Gravesen	Member
Rich Casarotti	CSA40
Joe West	CSA40
EXPLORER ROSTER	
Tanner Berncich	David Lindsay
Pat Bradley	Andrew Morganlander
James Hall	Dylan Parks
Gabe Horrel	Shane Redmond
Jake Ielmorini	Tyler Selna

Petaluma High School where she was on the varsity basketball, tennis and swimming teams. Ricky, 16, is currently a sophomore at PHS and played varsity soccer as the starting goalie. He also played JV basketball and was the co-captain of the varsity tennis team. He hopes someday to become a financial advisor.

The Singletons love to travel as a family and made many trips back to England as their children were growing up. This summer they are planning a sight-seeing trip in the Austin, Texas area.

We are grateful for Jane's commitment to our community, and appreciate her support as a valued member of the Wilmar organization.