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September 2023

ISSUE #4

THE NEWSLETTER FOR HAUSER LAKE RESIDENTS FROM THE HLFPD AND HLVFD
(HAUSER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT & VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Breakfast with Santa Planning is already underway! Save the date: December 10, 2023



Have you noticed the wrecked cars at the fire station? They are serving a valuable purpose! Pictures inside.

We hope every household within the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District* sees this newsletter and we welcome your feedback. Contact us with your comments, questions, suggestions and address updates. Email admin@hauserfire.org or call (208) 773-1174. We will reply within two business days.

How to Contact Hauser Fire

IN AN EMERGENCY: Call 911. Otherwise...

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District (HLFPD)

The Fire Station is located at
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd, Hauser, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 773-1174

Website: hauserfire.org

Emails: chief@hauserfire.org | admin@hauserfire.org

We are on NextDoor and Facebook (HauserLakeFire)

*Find your home on the Hauser Fire District map. From a browser, go to hauserfire.org and click "District."



**Hauser Lake Volunteer
Firefighters Association, Inc.**
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd
Hauser, ID 83854

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In This Issue:

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- Retirements and an UN-retirement
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Three Grants Go To Hauser

This year through grants, the HLFPD has received extra revenue of \$7,747 for purchasing specific items.

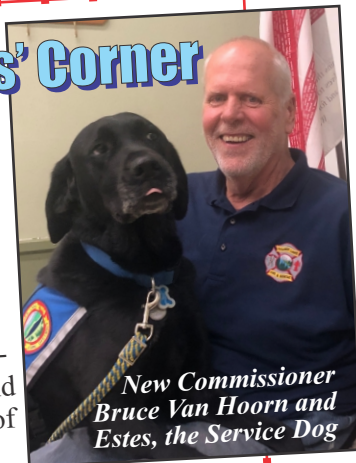
1) **The 2022 Idaho Firefighter's License Plate grant** covered \$1,799 toward a new, modern laptop and video conferencing system that improved in-house training (total cost \$2,167). Shown above: Members tried out the new 360-degree video system and were pleased with what a big difference it made.

2) **A 2022 Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) grant** paid \$2,315 toward several fire shelters (total cost \$2,947).

3) **A 2023 RFC grant** will cover \$3,633 of personal protection and wildland fire fighting equipment (total cost not yet known). This latest grant required having a minimum number of volunteers. *Thank you* to our volunteers for helping us reach the needed threshold! You can see that it takes money to make money. Equipment often costs more than the grant covers and sometimes prices go up during the grant distribution process, so the district must pay any difference. Ultimately, we get great equipment for a fraction of what we'd otherwise have to spend.

Commissioners' Corner

A big 'Welcome!' is hereby offered to Bruce Van Hoorn and his service dog, Estes. Bruce offered his time, energy and talents to fill the position opened upon Wes Michael's retirement from the Board. Bruce joins two other commissioners, Andrea Maddalone and Shane Kamps. Meet all three of our Commissioners on the "District" page of hauserfire.org.



*New Commissioner
Bruce Van Hoorn and
Estes, the Service Dog*

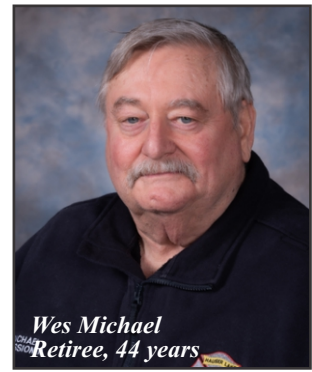
What do the Commissioners do?

Good question! Fire commissioners are citizen-elected representatives charged with overseeing management of the Fire District. Our community has benefitted from having competent, frugal and dedicated public servants leading the district for as far back as can be recalled. Their office is nonpartisan; political views are irrelevant as they provide high-level oversight to ensure the district can provide service.

Retired: Wes Michael

With gratitude, we fondly send best wishes with Wes Michael, a genuine and dedicated public servant who retired this July from the HLFPD after **more than 44 years**. Among the hats he's worn are fire fighter, fire marshal, commissioner and EMT. Wes was the Fire Chief from 1990-95, leading during Firestorm '91, a big event in our area's history. Among the biggest improvements he's seen is higher quality training with better coordination and greater participation. He's also seen the District's reputation improve over the years; HLFPD has earned a high level of respect around the area. The most memorable part of his service, Wes shared, was when he finally received EMT certification and was able to do more, to make more of a difference on calls. His transition away from active response decades later was Wes's biggest challenge. He was elected to the Board shortly after quitting the firefighting role, but he really missed answering calls. He knew there was plenty to be done as a Commissioner, however, and found all his years very fulfilling. When asked if there was anything he would change, he said matter-of-factly, "I don't think so because, due to budgetary constraints, everything we did has been basically reactionary and logically so—we couldn't afford to go beyond that." He feels strongly that the Commissioners have always done their best with what they had. What the public might not know about Wes is that he was, independently of the fire department, also a neighborhood activist who worked hard to facilitate positive change in our area. "It's one thing to sit around and complain but if you don't offer a way to solve it, if you're not offering solutions, you're not doing any good for anybody."

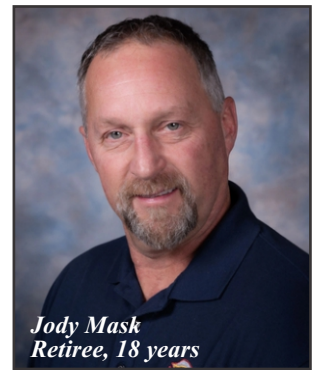
For certain, Wes Michael, in his many decades of volunteering for our District, has done a great deal of good for a great many people. *Thank you, Wes.*



*Wes Michael
Retiree, 44 years*

Retired: Jody Mask

This summer volunteer Jody Mask retired from the HLFPD after 18 years of volunteer service, during which he was a wildland and structural firefighter. Jody was the ultimate safety guy and everyone in the department is more aware, more conscientious, and much safer for having worked alongside him. Jody has put in more years than anyone could have asked for and he will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jody, and enjoy your free time!



*Jody Mask
Retiree, 18 years*

UN-retired: Ken Birge

On a bright note, Ken Birge has returned! He retired in 2013 after 14 years as an HLVPD firefighter and first responder. Why did he join again this summer? Well, it's well known that Ken is a skilled, smart, productive guy and he must have decided he had more to share of his time and talents. We are thrilled to work again alongside this authentic and humble man.



*Ken Birge
Unretired with years to go!*



Summer Photos What have we been up to?

- Pic 1: Rare action shot of HLFPD's specialized apparatus, drafting from a local creek. Gary Mobbs and Larry Shervanick refill the water tank on Tender 733 from a local creek. They and other firefighters spent three days helping to extinguish a slash pile that had rekindled after a year of dormancy!
- Pic 2: Anyone who ever has to travel on Hwy 53 through Hauser will appreciate that our firefighters, including William Neils shown here, have had practice learning extrication!
- Pic 3: BNSF hosted Railroad Response Training which is helpful to Districts like ours with tracks running through.
- Pic 4: Behind the scenes: Lt. Kamps restocks the ambulance so it's ready for the next call.
- Pic 5: Hauser personnel in E720 at the Rathdrum Days parade.
- Pic 6: Courtesy Carolyn Bostick of the *Coeur d'Alene Press*. In a 7/23/23 article (cdapress.com), she wrote that our truck was "star of the show" in the Rathdrum Days parade.

Coming up on 9/30/23 The Community Library Network is hosting Hauser Park Day from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Hauser Lake Fire Station. They will have the Bookmobile and Discovery Bus and Gizmo's Think, Make, Create trailer there. There will be free books, hands-on activities, new things to try, and other businesses. <https://communitylibrary.libcal.com/event/10715386>



'Tis the (Fire) Season to Help Others

Wildland fire season is our busiest time of year. Lots of training and preparation go into firefighting efforts for our own district as well as in aid to others. Our neighbors and mutual aid partners at Newman Lake Fire & Rescue (NLFR) posted on Facebook 8-22-23 about how we all help each other. Their post is well written and may help our community understand as well, so we share it here. NLFR wrote,

“On Friday, as devastating fires ravaged the region, a desperate plea for help rang out countywide. Firefighters from Newman Lake Fire answered that call as we sent crews to Medical Lake and Elk. This begs the question of how a department that is constantly appealing to the community for more volunteers can afford to commit personnel to fires across the county during a major wind event. When the first reports of a raging wildfire west of town started coming in, our chief and training captain proactively began calling in our shift volunteers. Remember, the shift volunteers don’t live in the community and only respond when they are on duty at the station. With the shift volunteers, we had enough staff to send crews to the fires and supplement our community volunteers protecting the home front. Why are we responding to fires on the other side of the county? The obvious reason; someone needed our help and as volunteers that is what we do. Secondly, fire departments in Spokane and Kootenai Counties have mutual aid agreements to help each other when in need. Over the years we have benefitted from aid from departments in Spokane County and North Idaho.”

We do not have shift volunteers but Hauser Lake VFD operates in a similar way. Before any actual calls for help came, Chief Neils and the officers worked hard to identify which apparatus and personnel would leave the District and which would stay here. HLVFD firefighters were deployed to Athol (August 18) and Cheney a few days later. Our members were also monitoring and on standby for the terrible Gray Fire in Medical Lake. We help other districts while maintaining appropriate resources here for our citizens. If and when we have oversize trouble in our area, our neighbors will be here to help us, too. It’s the Golden Rule in real life!



PIC 7



PIC 8



And the Awards go to...

At the Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Department’s annual awards banquet in May, four deserving volunteers were recognized for extraordinary service. (Pic 7: Katie H., Larry S., Andrea K., Shane K.)

- ★ **Katie Hron** earned the **Firefighter of the Year** award, perhaps the most prestigious of all HLVFD honors.
- ★ **Larry Shervanick** was duly recognized with the **Dedication & Devotion** award.
- ★ **Andrea Knorrpp**, for outstanding effort and progress, was given the **Most Improved** award.
- ★ **Shane Kamps’** service was so exemplary this year that an award was created especially and secretly for him, the first-ever **Community Award**, given for outstanding service to the citizens of Hauser Lake. (Pic 8: Gary Mobbs, Andrea Knorrpp, Eric Hron, Shane Kamps, Larry Shervanick, Chief James Neils.)

Speaking of wildfires Now is the time to prepare for next year because fire preparedness work is best done from fall through spring. There are many good online guides to help you, for example fire.ca.gov/dspace. Devastating fires are frequent in our area. Preparing your property and making evacuation plans can determine whether a wildfire is catastrophic or not.



PIC 9

Picture 9: HLVFD volunteers take a lunch break during wildland firefighting training. Left to right: Jeff Fleury, Eric Hron, Gary Mobbs, Josh Katanik, Shane Kamps, Andrea Knorrpp, Lisa Sellers, Jody Mask, Larry Shervanick, Andy Boyle.



Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue | SPECIAL APPARATUS INSERT

Since 1952 when the District was established, an extensive variety of apparatus has been procured, with capabilities specific to Hauser Lake's needs. We have saved money, written and been awarded grants, found opportunities and negotiated good deals to get the most for our money. The HLFPD owns all vehicles debt-free. They are our taxpayers' assets—*your* assets. HLVPD members train extensively on how to operate these apparatus safely and effectively. Volunteers and the Chief also maintain each vehicle for immediate response. It's an impressive, capable fleet.

Terms used: "In Service Date" is when HLFPD put the vehicle into service, not the date it was manufactured. "ARC" or "Approx. Replacement Cost" is our educated estimate of what it would cost to purchase a comparable vehicle today.



Name: E721
 Type: Type 1 Engine
 Year and Model: 2006 Spartan
 In Service Date: Dec 2006
 Uses: Structural Fire fighting, wildland structure protection, Quick Response Unit, extrications, rescue operations
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$269,115
 Approx. Replacement Cost: \$750,000 to 1,000,000
 Notes: Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) allows more protection using less water.



Name: U799
 Type: Command
 Year and Model: 2006 Dodge
 In Service Date: March 2014
 Uses: Most used, all-purpose vehicle
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$23,060
 Approx. Replacement Cost: \$55,000
 Notes: This apparatus goes on almost every call and is driven more miles than any other in the fleet. Personnel transport to meetings, training, events. Responds to most runs. Backup medical response.



Name: T732
 Type: Tender Pumper
 Year and Model: 2010 Fort Garry
 In Service Date: Sept 2010
 Use: Water shuttle
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$195,185
 ARC: \$400,000 to \$550,000
 Notes: Carries 2000 gal of water and is pump and roll capable. Has the newest chassis of all the apparatus.



U781
Name: U781
 Type: Converted Type III Ambulance
 Year and Model: 1994 Ford
 In Service Date: Dec 2011
 Uses: Support vehicle and ice rescue
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$1 (one dollar!)
 ARC: \$160,000 to \$180,000
 Notes: Has Cascade System for refilling Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) tanks. Used for ice rescue operations throughout Kootenai County.



Name: T733
 Type: Vacuum Tender Pumper
 Year and Model: 2004 Firovac
 In Service Date: June 2018
 Uses: Water shuttle, wildland firefighting operations, pump and roll
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$281,771
 ARC: \$450,000 to \$600,000
 Notes: Custom build on a military 6-wheel-drive chassis. Vacuum pump can fill the 2000 gal tank in less than two minutes from a lake or other remote water source (as shown in Pic 1).



HLVFR | SPECIAL APPARATUS INSERT



EMS71

Name: **EMS71**
 Type: Type II Ambulance
 Year/Model: 2009 Chevrolet
 In Service Since: March 2009
 Uses: Ambulance, Quick Response Unit, medical response
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$64,665
 Approx. Replacement Cost: \$100,000 to \$150,000
 Notes: The only bariatric transport for Kootenai County; special gurney that can carry patients up to 1600 lbs.

Name: **B751**
 Type: Brush Truck
 Year and Model: 2004 Bridger Fire
 In Service Since: June 2021
 Uses: Wildland fire fighting, wildland structure protection, extrications, rescue operations
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$65,000
 Approx. Replacement Cost: \$350,000 to \$550,000
 Notes: Has a separate motor to run CAFS and allows for operation of the pump while the apparatus is moving.



Name: **U791**
 Type: Fire Boat
 Year and Model: 1989 Almar
 In Service Since: Sept 2011
 Uses: Water rescue, boat fires, wildland fires along the shoreline.
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$8,000
 ARC: \$35,000 to 50,000
 Notes: Originally a sheriff's boat.



'34 Chevy

Name: **'34 Chevy**
 Type: Department's Original Tender
 Uses: Parades, ceremonies, events
 Notes: This was HLFPD's very first apparatus. It was partially restored by local volunteers. Price paid unknown and cost to replace not applicable.



Name: **U782**
 Type: Converted Type III Ambulance
 Year/Model: 1999 Ford
 In Service Since: Oct 2015
 Uses: Support vehicle for firefighters and other responders
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$1 (one dollar)
 APR: \$160,000 to \$180,000
 Notes: Donated to our Support Services division by a neighboring department. Provides rehab, recovery and food to firefighters during incidents.

Did You Know?

Per National Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA) guidelines, vehicles should not be used as a primary response vehicle after 15 years of service and after 25 years, vehicles should be retired. Some of our vehicles are nearing the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced, but rest assured that the HLFPD always works to get the most out of each.



E720

Name: **E720**
 Type: Engine
 Year and Model: 1953 American LaFrance
 In Service Since: April 2021
 Uses: Special events and appearances
 Price Paid by HLFPD: \$5,000
 ARC: Not applicable
 Notes: In-service with HLFPD until the mid-1990s. Sold to a private party years ago and donated back to us in April 2021 by Marc & Marguerite Kaufman.