



FALL 2013 Newsletter

2013 has been a busy and productive year for SVVFD. We've upgraded equipment; conducted a training academy for our firefighters; provided emergency and fire services; updated and distributed a Directory of our Hillside residents; and SVVFD formed new alliances with sponsors and residents to support fundraising needs.

Fire & Safety Equipment Upgrades

- In the next couple of weeks, we expect to receive a 1997 Wildland fire Engine surplus from the US Dept of Interior which will provide the most technologically advanced piece of equipment to help SVVFD combat a wide range of fire incidents and ensure firefighter safety. SVVFD has gotten rid of two older model fire engines.
- SVVFD replaced aging patrol vehicles for 2 fire chiefs with newer more reliable vehicles (Yukon and Tahoe). We also added an additional Ford 4x4 brushfire patrol pickup truck.
- We've upgraded and procured newer Radio communication equipment and gone to a narrow-band format for better more effective communications. SVVFD has also replaced some safety equipment such as helmets, protective clothing, and breathing apparatus there is an ongoing need to continue to raise funds for new safety equipment and vehicle fuel and maintenance.

Fire Fighter Training Academy

- April 27 2013, ceremony was held for 7 graduates of the first SVVFD firefighters academy. This followed six months of physical training and classroom training. This was the first academy put on by a volunteer fire department in California. Graduates earn Firefighter 1 State Fire Marshall Certification. This milestone elevates the stature of SVVFD with CalFire, Milpitas FD, San Jose FD and others in recognizing the professionalism of SVVFD.

Calls for Service

- SVVFD has responded to more than 50 calls for service through October. 3 calls were for fires. SVVFD responded to 70 calls for service in 2012. Most calls are for medical aid and accidents. In addition, SVVFD participated in the fight to put out the fire by Mt. Diablo. During

the Yosemite Rim fire, SVVFD staffed the CalFire Smith Creek fire station on Mt. Hamilton road while the CalFire unit was fighting the Rim Fire.

Resident Directory

- Updated, published, and delivered to Hillside Residents in June 2013.
- Please alert Rick Smith to update corrections to change in ownership, phone number(s), and email address: rsmith@svvfd.org

Fund Raising

- We want to publicly thank our residents who made donations, and we are very grateful for wonderful sponsors of our events, many of which include raffle prizes. and for folks who generously donate their time and skills. It is not appropriate to list names and amounts You know who you are..... **and we appreciate it.** We've added to the number of fund raising events , to raise money for the safety of our firefighters, and upgrade and maintenance of equipment to enable SVVFD to serve you better.

The following were the 2013 fund raising events. We anticipate similar events in 2014.

<u>2013 Fund Raising EVENTS</u>	
March 1	Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed
March 10	Pancake Breakfast at Spring Valley Golf Course
June 21	SVVFD Spaghetti Feed at the Milpitas Community Center
July 4	BBQ at Ed Levin Park to thank our volunteer firefighters
September 8	“Round Up” at Chaparral Ranch to benefit SVVFD

- **Donations can be made by sending a check to**

SVVFD P.O. Box 360211 Milpitas, CA 95036

Donations can also be made online through PayPal at the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department website SVVFD.org . This website is under construction and one of our tasks is to create clear instructions for how to donate online.

NOMINATE NOW!

SVVFD Board of Directors nominations needed !!

There are two open board positions: Vice President and Secretary.

Please consider serving on the board. Meetings are once a month in the third week. Board members serve for two years.

Please submit your interest in serving to the board email BOD@svvfd.org

Nominations should be submitted by December 10

Vice President assists the President. Currently, the highest priority needs for Vice President are to focus on fund raising events, including communications with sponsors. SVVFD has a very talented and motivated volunteer staff which have done a wonderful job of organizing events in 2013. We want to continue our fund raising momentum.

Secretary (a) keeps accurate minutes of meetings, (b) keeps an organized file (book) of SVVFD administrative publications and proceedings (by-laws, meeting agendas, minutes, important emails, and other records of the SVVFD), (c) prepare communications as appropriate (ie newsletter) and distribute to Hillside Residents.

Following receipt of nominations for these two positions, an election via email will be conducted in December. Election results will be announced via email in January.

November 2013 -- SVVFD Board of Directors

Fire Chief	-	Mike Hacke	
President	-	Rick Smith	(also performing duties of Secretary)
Vice President	-	Sheryl Wold	Nominations needed for 2014-2015 term
Treasurer	-	Phil Park	
Secretary	-		Nominations needed for 2014-2015 term

The Board of Directors would like to personally thank the outgoing President Keith Hurley for his many years of service and leadership of the SVVFD. Keith has resigned for personal reasons. The BOD has elected Rick Smith to fill this vacancy. Under Keith's leadership, the SVVFD made tremendous progress toward becoming a truly professional and organized department. Improvements have been made in all areas, from staffing, equipment, training, administration, and safety All of which contribute for SVVFD to better serve our residents. Thanks Keith.