

# Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department

Tax ID #61-1730953, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable non-profit organization

[www.asfvfd.org](http://www.asfvfd.org)

SPRING NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2016

Spring and the fishing/hiking season are upon us and we are anxious to share the activities of the ASFVFD. Our progress has been made possible ***only*** by your generous donations, for which we extend our sincere thanks. Much work remains to be done and we hope that ***your strong financial support will continue.***

## **USFS/BLM Fire Clearance Planning:**

As we reported in our October 2015 Newsletter, several ASFVD Board members met with USFS and BLM personnel and provided preliminary recommendations regarding the agencies' tentative plans for a fuels reduction program in the Bishop Creek drainage. USFS and BLM are now ready to begin a public participation process. Two presentations on the plan will be made on **July 2, 2016: at the Cardinal Resort community room beginning at 9:00 a.m., and at the South Fork homeowners' meeting, beginning @ 11 a.m.** We hope that you can plan to attend and provide your recommendations.

## **ASVFVD Training**

Our full and part time volunteers remained active during the winter and early spring months, maintaining and working with the engine, consulting with an avalanche expert (who generously donated her time) to develop a preliminary avalanche response plan and to conduct avalanche beacon training, and fulfilling requisite CPR/AED and First Aid training. Our volunteer firefighters have also begun training with the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department, a crucial step in our effort to provide safe and effective response in emergency situations.

Please note that First Aid/CPR/AED training are important skills for ***everyone***. The American Heart Association has made it simpler by making the courses available online, with follow-up skills sessions at an approved location (such Northern Inyo Hospital and, likely, your local hospital). We strongly encourage you to take this training. You may save a life!

## **Caretaker Apartment Status:**

You may have driven by the firehouse in Aspendell and noted that it looks different! Construction of the caretaker studio apartment is well underway. The existing bathroom is being enlarged to accommodate a shower; there will be a new kitchen, living/sleeping area and storage loft. There will also be a new (quiet) direct vent gravity heater and 4 new insulated windows (which have already been installed). When closer to completion, the recruitment of candidates to fill the position will be initiated. If you know a good candidate, please let us know!

**Finances:** Your response to our prior requests for financial support has been extraordinary; **we cannot do this without you and we are very grateful.** In addition to ongoing costs for rent, utilities, insurance and vehicle maintenance, we need your support to fund the significant costs associated with personal protective clothing and equipment for our volunteers. Additional equipment is still needed to outfit the engine properly, and of course for the completion of the caretaker apartment modification. We intend to seek grant funding to support the ASFVFD, but there is significant competition for these funds and typically there is an extended time period for receipt of any awarded funds. ***This makes your ongoing supporting membership critical to our success.***

**Please Support Our Efforts:** It is important for all residents/property owners to understand that we are completely independent from and do not receive any financial support from taxes or fees from any other organization or public agency. We have attached a supporting membership donor stub and enclosed an envelope to simplify the donation process. Checks can be made out to the ASFVFD and mailed to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. We offer our most sincere thanks in advance.

*We'd like to express those thanks publicly; if you are willing to be identified as a contributor, please initial the "yes" blank on the donation form. Otherwise, please initial the "no" blank.*

**Volunteers Still Needed:** In closing, we also need other assistance. As we said in our prior newsletters, if you have skills you would like to offer, please let us know. We still need volunteer firefighters, particularly in the South Fork area, but we also need volunteers engaged in fundraising activities, grant solicitations, web page design and in building/equipment maintenance and repair. If you have ideas for fundraisers or especially if you are willing to help to set-up/oversee such an event, please email us at asfvfd@asfvfd.org

With our sincere thanks, the ASFVFD Board of Directors: Secretary, Joanne Schneider, Past Treasurer and now Member-at-Large, Mike Johnston, Vice President, Michael McBeth, President, Roy Harthorn & Past President, Joe Hart.

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**Donations:** Checks can be made out to the **Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department** and sent to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you!!!

**\$75\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ \$200\_\_\_ \$500\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ Caretaker Apt. Project \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Aspendell – South Fork Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to be listed as a contributor to the ASFVFD: **Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

(the amount of your contribution will not be identified)

(initial either yes or no)