

NEWS FROM THE ELLSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 20190807

Our August meeting took place on Wednesday, August 7, at 6:30pm at the Bass Lake Firehall on Mink Road. Our September meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30 pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. All are welcome to attend. We had two big events to discuss at this meeting: the Melrude Parade and Picnic on July 6, and the National Night Out on August 6. We enjoyed our participation in both events! Thank-you to everyone who visited our table at the picnic in July, dropped a bill in our boot, put tickets in our baskets at the raffle, played our games, purchased an Ellsburg township map, or bought a raffle ticket from us. We had a lot of fun stuff for the children and educational literature for the adults. I know that we had plenty of water balloons and that the children- and several adults - enjoyed them!

We did not have as many children attend the National Night Out at our firehall. Therefore, each child received a toy at the toy raffle, as well as more fun stuff. Jeff Dulinski, our fire chief, put on a display of fire extinguishers by making a fire and then putting it out using the different types of fire extinguishers. Everyone was interested in this display, and most of the children there were able to practice using a fire extinguisher to put out a fire. We had all of our vehicles and equipment (except our boat) on display, and shot water out of our water cannon. We also had Stop The Bleed kits to give away for adults. These kits contain tourniquets, bandaging, scissors, and directions for stopping blood loss from a gunshot injury or other trauma. We hope that those who received these lifesaving kits never need to use them, but have the peace of mind that they are available if needed. Congratulations to Dale Erickson for winning the door prize for being the oldest person in attendance! Thank-you to Troy, Carrie, and Ginny from Meadowlands Ambulance for bringing their rig to show! Meadowlands ambulance responds to the southern part of our township, and Virginia ambulance responds to the northern part. Thank you to the Melrude Community Club for donating brats and hotdogs to us. Arrlette Krog grilled them to perfection! Laurie Mesedahl and Shauna Dulinski did a beautiful job with the decorations and organizing the food for this event. Thank-you to these three ladies who are support members of our department! We really appreciate you! We also really appreciated all the donations of food that were brought that night. Thanks to all who helped make this meal a scrumptious feast! For those who took home the recipe for the potato salad, I think that a half cup of sugar was left out of the recipe. I did not purposely leave this out! Honest! The Ellsburg town board let us borrow their tables and gave us a monetary donation. Thank you for supporting this community event! Thank you to those who left a donation in our boot. We are very grateful! Thank you to Lee and Lourdes Leighton, Jimmy, SuAnn, and Cody Anderson, D'Lil, Lauren, and the rest of the "Friends of the EVFD" volunteers for all of your help in cleaning up the firehall, setting up the tables, selling the Ellsburg township maps, and organizing the money raffle! We really appreciate all of your help! You truly support the Ellsburg VFD, just like your t-shirts say. There will be beautiful Ellsburg township maps on display in many homes and cabins now. These maps show the topography, roads, lakes, rivers, trails, residences, and GPS coordinates of our township. There are still some available if someone wants one. Contact the firehall at 482-3777 or email me at heidiyokel@gmail.com. The money raffle was also a successful fundraiser, and left 4 winners very happy.

The purpose of these fundraising activities is to help us finance our portion of the conversion of our Freightliner to a tanker. We were awarded a 50/50 matching grant from the DNR for this conversion, and the fundraising will help us meet our half. The Freightliner needed to be stripped of its military equipment, painted, fit with a 2500 gallon tank complete with hose couplings, and stocked with a dump tank, pumps, hoses, and other firefighting tools. The conversion is almost complete. We hope to have it in service soon. This will be a real asset to our township and surrounding communities. Thank-you to all who participated in our fundraising activities so that this conversion could happen!

Courtney Acree, our newest member, was sworn in at our last meeting. Welcome to the family, Courtney! Courtney is interested in starting up a Facebook page for our department. I will let you know when it is up and running! Then you will be able to follow our activities and see pictures of us in

action. We are excited to get this project going! Thank you, Courtney, for volunteering to serve your community in this way. Unfortunately, we have also lost a member of our department. Chris Berg has taken a job outside of our township. Thank-you for your service, Chris, and we wish you all the best in your career.

Our department will be hosting the Community Meal at OSL on September 14. We will be serving homemade potato sausage, mashed potatoes, vegetables, Cole slaw, rolls, and dessert. We are looking forward to preparing this for you, so please mark your calendars and plan to come. It will be delicious!

It is hard to believe that September is here already. Summer vacation is over, and it is time to go back to school. Take the time to review with your children some safety precautions to ensure that they get to and from home and school safely. About 20 children are killed each year while getting on or off of the school bus. Remind your children to stand 6 feet, or 3 giant steps, away from the curb while waiting for the bus. If they must cross the street to get to the bus, teach them to walk on the sidewalk or side of the road until they are 15 feet ahead of the bus. Then stop, look left, right, and left again to see if cars are coming. Make eye contact with all drivers and the bus driver before crossing the street. The safest seats on a bus are aisle seats in the middle of the bus on the side opposite of the driver. When walking to school, walk facing the traffic and always cross the street at crosswalks or intersections. Again, look left, right, and left again for oncoming vehicles, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing. When riding a bike, wear a helmet and bike with the traffic. Stop and walk the bike across the street. Whether taking a bus, walking, or biking, teach your children to stay alert and avoid being distracted by phones or other electronics. Also, don't wear headphones or earbuds or they may not hear what is happening around them. If you are driving, make sure that you obey school zone speed limits and make eye contact with children who are crossing the street. A child's backpack should not weigh more than 10% of your child's weight. Avoid overloading the backpack and risking a back injury. Wear both straps of the backpack so that weight can be distributed evenly across the shoulders. Discuss and plan with your children what to do if confronted with an active shooter situation, whether at school or in any other public place. Always know where the two nearest exits are, have an escape plan in mind, and identify places where you could hide. The main priority is getting away from the shooter, so leave your belongings behind and run for the exits you have identified. When you are in a safe place, call 911 and give your location and a description of the shooter if possible. If it is not safe or possible to escape by running, hide. Lock and block doors, close blinds, turn off lights, and silence all electronic devices including the vibration mode. Do not hide in groups. Spread out along the walls or hide in separate places to make it more difficult for the shooter. Ideally, your hiding place should be out of the shooter's view and provide some protection if shots are fired in your direction. Stay in your spot until police tell you that it is safe to leave. If it is not possible to run or hide, then you must fight. Act as aggressively as possible and throw any item within reach such as chairs, fire extinguishers, food, scissors, books, backpacks, papers, pens, computers, purses...aimed to distract and disarm the shooter. This works best if several people are assaulting the shooter from different sides. If you get a chance, run. Follow the commands of law enforcement when they arrive. It is sad that we have to discuss and plan for an active shooter, but it is reality. It can happen anywhere. Call 911. We will be there to help.

