

NEWS FROM THE ELLSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 20180801

Our August meeting took place on Wednesday, August 1, at 1830, at the Bass Lake Firehall. Due to scheduling conflicts, our September meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, at 1830 at the Bass Lake Firehall. Stop by if you are interested in joining or you just want to sit in on a meeting. Lee Leighton stopped in our firehall in July to bring us huge bags of candy for the Parade and Picnic. While he was there, he noticed that our Zodiac boat did not have a motor. Would you believe that he came back in August with a brand new motor that he donated to us? Thank-you so much, Lee! We really appreciate it! Now we don't expect every visitor to do something like this, but we sure appreciate Lee.

The main topics that were discussed at our meeting were vehicle maintenance and repair, the sale of extra equipment, the renovation of our Freightliner to a tanker, and plans for National Night Out. There is always maintenance and repair to be done when we are responsible for 12 vehicles. Both of our engines had developed water leaks and these were repaired. It is difficult for our vehicles because they carry heavy loads of water, the water is hard water or lake water which leads to rusting, they travel on uneven dirt roads, and they don't always get driven regularly. There are also many pumps, hoses, levers, nozzles.....that wear out and need some TLC. We sold our two extra water tanks last month. We still have our old engine left to sell. This engine runs and can carry water. Imagine how fast you could water your garden if you had this engine! How about wash down your siding? Lawn ornament? I am sure that someone can find a use for it. Let us know if you are interested.

Our Freightliner needs to be painted. It is painted camouflage now because it is an old military vehicle. This needs to be scraped down and then repainted either red or yellow. We had a painter lined up but, unfortunately, he was injured and can no longer do this project for us. If anyone has any recommendations, please let us know. We might just have to have a painting party with brushes. There is a 2200 gallon white water tank that is waiting to be installed on this truck as soon as we can get it painted. Our hope is that this project can be completed before the end of this year.

We had a wonderful day for National Night Out on August 7. The weather was sunny and warm. The brats, hotdogs, and burgers were grilled to perfection by Brandon Cavanaugh and his family. Our meeting room held all of the delicious salads that were bought and donated. Thank-you to all who brought something to share! The dessert table looked like a bakery shop. Deborah Feth, Shauna Dulinski, and Laurie Mesedah! had everything organized so well. The freshly washed vehicles were outside of the bays on display. The bays had been washed down and tables and chairs were set up in there. There were tables of things to give away for kids and adults. Thanks to Linda Skiba from Polaris for the donations of bags and thermos! There was a toy raffle, bean bag toss, ladderball, hula hoops, and pools of water available. And what was the favorite game? Water balloons! The kids were happily drenched after tossing about 600 water balloons at each other. North Memorial Air Care landed their helicopter about 7pm. and everyone got a chance to talk to the crew and look at the ship. All too soon, the festivities were over, the helicopter took off, the food packed up, tables and chairs folded, games put away, and all of the vehicles put back in their spots. Thanks to everyone who put something in our donation bucket! We really appreciate it!

Now that our summer activities of Parade and Picnic, and National Night Out are over, it is time to plan for the next season. Yes, Fall is coming - I have seen red leaves already! We will be at Big Truck Night at Old School Lives on September 23. Our department is cooking the Community Meal at OSL on October 13. We are planning on making Pasties. We will be using Laurie Mesedah!'s secret recipe. Make sure you come and taste them!

September is a good time to prepare your home for the colder months ahead. It is time to clean out those chimneys and get your heating system cleaned and serviced. Remember to stack your firewood away from your house. Rake leaves and sticks away from your house and out from under your decks. Think about the spring wildfire season, and prepare now to decrease the fire fuel available close to your house and other buildings. Store your gasoline for your gas powered tools in metal cans over the winter. Plastic cans may create a spark from static electricity which can ignite

fumes and cause an explosion. Check your fire extinguishers to make sure that they are the right type for that area and that they are not expired. Check your smoke detector batteries. Replace your smoke detectors if they are more than 8 years old. Make sure that you have one in every bedroom, hallway, and furnace room. Install them on the ceilings of these places because smoke travels up. Don't install them on the wall just below the ceiling. Smoke travels up a wall and then curves over to the ceiling around a foot below the ceiling. It may miss a detector that is placed right up by the ceiling. Remember that our department has free smoke detectors that we can install for you if you need some. Also, our smoke detectors have 10 year batteries. Give us a call. Make sure that you also have carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home. There were too many carbon monoxide deaths last year. Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless, so you won't be aware of its presence until too late. Any type of heating system - whether wood, gas, or oil - can produce CO. Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed on the wall about two feet from the floor. This gas travels across the floor and then fills a room from the floor up. If a CO detector is placed too high on the wall, the gas may overcome you - especially if you are short - before the detector senses its presence. Do not get the combination smoke alarm/ carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke detectors need to be on ceilings and CO detectors need to be close to the floor. Check the detectors in your parent's homes. If your children are in college dorms or similar housing, make sure you check those places for the presence and proper placement of these detectors, and review emergency escape plans with them. Remember, there should be two ways out of every room. Those in dorms should also know how many room doors there are between their room and the stairwell. Remind them to keep low to the floor in a fire. Call 911 if an emergency arises. Review fire safety with them even if they roll their eyes at you! If you have questions or need help, give us a call. We are here to help you.

Pictures from National Night Out on August 7th, 2018



