

MAYORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2017

After months of negotiating, the City of Lake Quivira has reached an agreement with the City of Shawnee regarding contract firefighting services. The contract will effectively end the volunteer fire department that has served us well for decades. Chief Mark Stephan will remain on staff for the next year to ensure a smooth transition.

The decision is not a reflection of the quality of our department. Changes in the county requirements in recent years have made it increasingly difficult for small departments to exist.

For years our volunteers provided immediate medical attention and firefighting services while professional firefighters were en route from the closest station that was 15 minutes away. We are fortunate that Shawnee now has a station that is three minutes from our emergency entrance.

The ten-year contract is effective January 1, 2018 and will renew every five years thereafter. We anticipate liquidating the fire department assets in 2018.

This was a hard decision for me personally. As a lifelong resident and former member of the department, I am sad to see this great tradition end. Those who have served understand the level of commitment that it takes. As residents, we have had caring members of our community on call 24/7 ready to provide aid to our families, friends, and property. I urge all of you to personally thank the members of our Lake Quivira Fire Department.

It's only June, but it is not too early to start thinking about the 4th of July. Please note that the dam will be closed for traffic following the parade and will not reopen until the show is over and the dam is cleared of all debris. The west gate will be staffed, but will be used only for exiting traffic. Last year we received several requests to start the show a little earlier so, watch for the first burst shortly after dark. Remember, private fireworks are not permitted in the City of Lake Quivira. Please resist the urge to launch your own show. If you do, you will be fined.

I look forward to a long, warm, safe summer on the lake. I will see you on the water!