

# Bethany Salem Fire Department

October 2016

## Volunteers

Without the idea, the inspiration, someone willing to bring all the threads together, BSFD would not exist. Without the efforts of those who dream up the fund raisers, that raise the funds, BSFD would not exist. Without those who pay the bills, who run the numbers, who manage the accounts, BSFD would not exist. Without those who get the buildings built, who keep the heaters running, the bay doors on, the radios working, BSFD would not exist. Without those who clean the bays, clean the bathrooms, pull the weeds, pick up the trash, mow the yard, BSFD would not exist. Without those who inspect the engines, maintain the equipment, check the batteries, BSFD would not exist. Without those who carry a beeper and who are willing to stop their normal lives and respond, BSFD would not exist.

BSFD is far more than a fire fighters on a hose. It is a deep and wide pyramid of volunteers, and without them, BSFD would not exist.

BETHANY-SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Recent Social Events

The Beauty Pageant was a success. The number of attendees was up from the previous year and the pageant ran very smoothly. After many years of running this event, we have figured out how to make it work. Chief Prather, as always, was outstanding in his role as MC. Thanks Chief! In addition, a huge thanks is due to Chief Elrod and Chief Prather's prospective in-laws for providing so many volunteers who helped out in so many ways. We also had assistance from several 911 dispatchers. In all, quite a few non-members contributed quite a bit to the success of the beauty pageant and we are very grateful.

The past weekends Bratwurst Sale was a success. Not only did we recover our costs on the supplies, but, it provided an excellent opportunity to both show our presence to the community we serve and to once again reconnect our volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped make that such a great event!

## Upcoming Events

Halloween! We would like to have the Station open and available! Volunteers needed!

There may be slots available on November 7th, 8th and 9th for a driving simulator. This is being offered by the County's insurance company.

The December 12th Christmas party is just around the corner.

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## From the Chief

First off, I want to thank Tom for dreaming up and putting this newsletter together! This is a first for us to have! Second, I want to thank each of you reading this newsletter for your support of Bethany Salem Volunteer Fire Department. The dedication of men and women like you is what keeps this Department operating! This year marks my 25th year at BSFD, and the friendships and memories made here will carry through my lifetime! I look forward to sharing each month some of those memories!

## Recent Incidents

It has been a quiet stretch for our fire district. We have been spared any serious fires, motor vehicle accidents and our neighbors have not had to call upon us. The County though, has had some major events.

The Marble Hill structure fire. A complete loss of someones home. Was a difficult fire. A broiling hot day with no breeze taxed fire fighters to their limits of endurance. Young and old firefighters lay exhausted on the warm pavement. Rehab had its hands full. Interior attack throughout most of the event, but, unable to dig the fire out of the old wood. The structure endangered nearby structures and was set in thick and very flammable woods. Sadly, a rekindle later that night destroyed what remained.

The Big Canoe structure fire. Again, a complete loss of a large, modern, but unoccupied home. The location, near the top of Mt. Oglethorpe presented many challenges to fire fighters. The road was very steep, very windy and slow. Water supply, up the steep hill, was difficult. The delayed response meant the structure was well involved and was primarily a defensive operation.

The Griffith Ave (Jasper) fire. This was an awesome save. The fire started in an attached utility room, spread through a carport and was migrating into the attic space above the kitchen when City of Jasper and County fire crews made a good knock down. While there was some damage to the kitchen area due to operations, the home was saved. Rehab was again busy as always.

The 515 N Bus Accident. While Station 8 personnel were not involved in the accident between a gravel truck and a tour bus near the Gilmer County line. This was a major event with a fatality and nearly 50 injured. Several counties were involved in this major accident.

The Person Missing event, still on going, at The Preserve. As we start the fifth day of search activity, little is really known. Essentially, the missing person, a 79 year old, retired doctor, was last seen on Sunday at 4:30pm returning to his home from a walk. County Fire Department personnel as well as PSO combed the woods on Sunday and Monday. Specialized dog teams and search teams from Gordon, Cherokee and Gilmer have been called in. But, as of this time, nothing has been found.

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## Equipment Status

Our equipment remains in good shape:

E80 - First Out Engine for our Fire District. Kevin has recently conducted a thorough review of the med kit and found some deficiencies related to aging supplies and is in the process of updating the med kit.

E81 - Second Out Engine - Water Supply to Other Districts. During the most recent Engine Inspection, the generator stalled while under load but recovered and operated normally afterwards. We will need to follow up on this. The med bag on E81 has been recently inspected. (Thanks Kevin!)

E82 - First Out Engine to the Preserve. It is a functional fire engine equipped with hand tools, Scott 2216s and a chainsaw. The 2216s are fully operational. The med bag on E82 has not been recently inspected.

T80 - First Out Brush Truck. The "Tanker" (Forestry pumper) continues to serve us well. A 1" hose reel, a 1 3/4 nozzle. Basic hand tools and 1350 gallons of water. The engine has new tires and solid batteries.

S80 - Squad Vehicle. Squad 80 contains a collection of hand tools, medical bag, oxygen bag and support equipment. The med bag has not been recently inspected.

In summary, due to the fact that our responders carry their own medical supplies in their POVs and the fact that our equipment is rarely called to medical events, we have not been good at inspecting the medical equipment on our vehicles. We should correct this deficiency. In all though, our equipment is in excellent shape.

## Hydrant Testing

Hydrant testing is on our list of "Honey Do's". All of our hydrants have been recently painted. It is now time to get crews out to ensure that they do indeed flow water. However, until it rains, it would be "not politically correct" to be seen "wasting water", so, that project is on hold for the moment. Still, if you are interested in working on this project contact Tom.

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Did you know that debris burning is Georgia's number one cause of wildfires? To prevent injury and damage, state law requires residents to obtain a burn permit before burning outdoors. Illegal burning without a permit is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a year imprisonment. Stay safe...burn legally...burn wisely. Secure a permit, 24 hours a day.

It's fast and easy at [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org) or 1.877.OK2-BURN.

It is BSFD policy to interpret authorized "warming" fires to mean that a supervised campfire is an authorized burn. We are trying to protect the environment and guard against wildfires, but we recognize that a supervised campfires is an important part of our community.



## The Search Continues

As you may have heard, an extended search is underway for a person who was last seen near his home in The Preserve this past Sunday at 4:30pm.

Pickens County is looking for volunteers from Station 8 to continue the search. They are requested to meet at the old Lawson Chevrolet dealership (on Camp Road just prior to Ingles) by 0800.

If additional details are needed, please see Chief Collis.