



NORTH ROUTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Summer 2018

Greetings to you and your family and we hope you are enjoying being in beautiful North Routt County!

The Board of Directors, Chief Mike Swinsick and all our Volunteers genuinely thank you for the support you provided in the May 8th election. Your vote to approve a Mill Levy increase and to allow the Board of Directors to offset impacts to the District because of the Gallagher Amendment speaks volumes of the value that you place on the NRFPD and we all truly appreciate it and thank you!

Briefly, in case you missed the final vote outcome, the results are as follows:

Candidates for Director:

Jim Standish

Re-elected

Steve Warnke

Re-elected

Ballot Issue A – Mill Levy Increase

Approved by 82% of the voters

Ballot Issue B – Gallagher Amendment Mitigation

Approved by 73% of the voters

The Mill Levy increase will be applied in the 2018 tax year and will be implemented for property taxes paid in 2019. Whether the Board will utilize the Gallagher Amendment mitigation will depend upon whether there is a change in the Residential Assessment Percentage Rate.

Again, the NRFPD genuinely appreciates and thanks you for your support!

WILDFIRE STATUS

It is hard to not notice that we are in an extremely dry region of the State; reports of the status of existing wildfires as well as new wildfires appear daily in the newspapers, on TV and on the radio. Several fires are occurring in Counties bordering Routt County and to reaffirm, Routt County effective June 29th, declared a Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Open Fire Ban. Under the restrictions, and excepting a few conditions, open burning and camp fires in the County are prohibited. For additional information on the restrictions please visit our website or Facebook page

We encourage you become pro-active in knowing the status of wildfires near you, understand what can be done to protect your property from wildfire damage, and what you need to do if an order of evacuation is issued. There are several internet sites which have detailed information:

- Current Wildfires – excellent sites for locations and wildfire status are:
 - <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

- www.facebook.com/RouttCountyOEM/
- Perimeter protection for your property, guidelines and evacuation preparedness – there are several links that will assist you on these topics on our website:
 - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/northrouttfire>

The NRFPD Facebook page (North Routt Fire Protection District) has important information and is updated continuously. Also, if you haven't signed up for the Routt County weather/special warning system, please take some time and view the website for details on how to sign up and what notifications are available.

- <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736727602#/login>

CALLS FOR SERVICE

As of this writing we have had 50+ service calls, which at this pace would put the District on target for the largest call volume in our history. Sadly, there have been two drownings, four deaths, one major structure fire, and several injury rescues. Recently, we deployed the 4 x 4 Razr and 6 x 6 Ranger to an injury call on the Hahn's Peak trail. These units got us to the scene quickly and the Ranger provided us the opportunity to transport the injured person down from Hahn's Peak in a safe, efficient and timely fashion. These two UTVs were acquired via donations from many individuals in the District – a special thank you to those who generously contributed!

PERSONNEL

Deputy Chief Matt Mathisen was deployed to the 416 fire for two weeks for his full-time job with Steamboat Springs Fire Department (SSFD); he has since returned safe and sound. Thank you, Matt, for your service!

We currently have four new members that have turned in applications in recent weeks and are beginning their probationary training program. We also have three other probationary members that are in the finishing stages of their training period.

While the Mill Levy to expand our paid staff was approved by the voters in May, because the actual increase in tax revenue will not be realized until 2019, we will not be increasing the paid staff until next year.

EQUIPMENT STATUS

Several months ago, the District received a donation from the Steamboat Springs Fire Department in the form of a 1984, Sutphen, 75' ladder truck. They had ordered a new replacement unit and thought that NRFPD could use the old one. After some repair to major components by our volunteers, as well as a bit of TLC, the truck was ready for duty and used most recently on a structural (barn) fire. The members of NRFPD and the residents of the District appreciate the generosity of the SSFD!

A second piece of equipment was recently acquired from the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control via the Federal Excess Property Program; it's a 2001 Ford F450 brush truck that had been based in Pueblo for the Bureau of Land Management land there. While the truck had no equipment on board and needed a little elbow grease to get the pump system back in service; our Chief and the

volunteers were able to get it fully operational. It was immediately pressed into service going to several illegal campfires and most recently, the Corral Fire.

With the addition of this truck, the UTV's and associated equipment, NRFPD has doubled its wildland fire fighting and back country rescue capabilities.

COMMUNICATIONS

You may have already noticed that the NRFPD has a new website which may be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/northrouttfire> Feel free to visit the site as it has several links to articles concerning fire safety which all are of value to you, your family and your property. We have also commenced posting the minutes of our Board meetings on the site. The site is a "work in progress" but we are quite enthused about it and trust you will find it informative!

Additionally, if you haven't noticed, the NRFPD also has a Facebook page (North Routt Fire Protection District) on which many current events, matters of importance to the community, and great photos are posted.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A couple great events took place in June. On June 1st, VISTA VERDE GUEST RANCH hosted a "BBQ Dinner and Barn Dance" fundraiser for the District. A nearly full house of 59 enjoyed the gorgeous ranch setting, an exceptional meal, and lastly, a classic barn dance orchestrated by the staff, including our NRFPD volunteer Nate Margason. All proceeds from ticket sales went to the District as the entire evening and expenses were most generously provided compliments of VISTA VERDE. We can't thank them enough and we truly appreciate their contribution to the District and the community!

The folks from the Glen Eden HOA hosted a "thank you" BBQ dinner for the NRFPD volunteers and family members on June 2nd. A pig roast provided the entrée for dinner along with all the trimmings. The HOA presented Chief Swinsick with a check in appreciation for the Districts' efforts and in return, the volunteers all thank the Glen for a wonderful dinner, evening and the donation!

Of course, there was North Routt's own Fourth of July Parade held in the Hahn's Peak Village on July 7th, at which we proudly displayed all of the new additions to our fleet. The vehicles were all trimmed out with decorations designed and coordinated by Barbara McNary.

Thank You everyone for your generous contributions, whether in time, talents or money! You all are greatly appreciated!

Have a great summer and thank you for your continued support!

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