



Nozzle News is distributed to the residents of Montebello Road/Stevens Canyon area. Serving our community since 1978, the Stevens Creek Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD) provides fire suppression, advanced first aid, rescue evacuation, CPR training, and hazardous materials containment.

We are grateful for the editorial contributions from Orion Larson, Lynne Farris Schafer, and Chief John Schafer, and we are grateful for the web assistance from Firefighter William Wood.

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



John Schafer, SCVFD Chief

Currently the SCVFD has 14 volunteers, three of whom are new recruits to the team this year: Pete Christensen, Erik Fellom, and Aaron Simonson. Our team trains to certify competency to the same standards as that of a paid firefighter. Each volunteer contributes dozens of hours of personal time each month toward maintaining that level of competency through rigorous training sessions conducted by members of our team along with Cal Fire officers.

We respond to emergencies—not just during a specific shift, but anytime we are called, 24/7. We hone our skills for firefighting as well as rescue, medical aid, and community service within our area. We are fortunate to have a highly trained team of volunteers to augment a highly trained *paid* fire service that provide additional full-time responses. We are further motivated because we live in an underserved urban interface, where response time from the county often exceeds the time necessary to reach their destination when time is a critical life-saving factor. We work as a team with Cal Fire and Santa Clara County Fire to save lives.

Like each and every one of our volunteers, I feel a passion for training, serving, and responding to our community needs so that we can continue to enjoy the benefits of living in this special environment.

We greatly appreciate the contributions and support we receive from our community, without which we could not survive as a department. This year, we were unsuccessful in our efforts to secure any of the increasingly scarce federal grants, so your contributions remain more important than ever before.

With this 2016 picnic and fundraiser, we hope to highlight our new SCVFD recruiting and retention efforts, which are aided by some grant funds described in more detail below.

In memory of the late “Mayor of Montebello” Elmano Homem, long-time resident of Montebello Road and friend of SCVFD, we received an anonymous and generous donation. Thank you!

HELPING NEIGHBORS: LION’S CLUB AND STEVENS CREEK QUARRY SPONSOR FISH-A-THON

Over the last 32 years, the SCVFD has worked with the local Lion’s Club and the Stevens Creek Quarry to provide a fish-a-thon and barbecue for special needs children and adults. We greatly appreciate the time and effort extended by all the volunteers who participated.

SCVFD helped set up the night before, assembling all the tent coverings and tables for this outdoor event and were treated to breakfast before the event started the next day, Saturday, April 30, 2016. There were 165 children registered, plus their caretakers and/or parents, and approximately 150 volunteers, for a total of about 400 participants. They were assisted by all the volunteers in catching three large rainbow trout fish each, cleaning, and icing the fish for taking home. Afterward, they sat down to a hamburger or hot dog and all the trimmings.

Additionally, we arranged for our SCVFD fire engine to serve as an educational tool. These special needs children have always enjoyed having tours of the fire engine and having their photos taken behind the wheel while wearing a fire helmet to dress them up.

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG): HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND NECESSARY *Orion Larson, SCVFD Assistant Chief*



Each year, SCVFD applies for grant money from several government sources. These funds are sought by more than 29,000 fire departments across the country, so it is a highly competitive process, and success is periodic at best. Last year, we were successful in gaining assistance from

a firefighter grant from FEMA to replace damaged tools, hoses, and some turnout gear for a total of \$19,000. This figure represents a small fraction of what is necessary to meet the needs of our wish list.

Additionally, funds for the purpose of recruiting local residents and providing them with personal protection equipment (PPE) was jointly awarded to other local volunteer fire departments at Casa Loma, Spring Valley, and us. Bill Betchart, one of our best veteran SCVFD volunteers, has worked tirelessly for several years to secure these funds. This grant covers a four-year period and focuses on recruiting and retaining volunteers.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: AN ONGOING DRUMBEAT



As Southern California burns away with two different fires, plus two more fires in the Sierras and another in Oregon—aided as always by record temperatures, high winds, and the effects of a multi-year drought—the importance of creating and maintaining defensible space around your homes remains an ongoing drumbeat.

Defensible Space most often refers to a landscaping restriction imposed by law on most rural and semi-rural residences for the purpose of protection from **wildfire**. It describes a 30-foot circle around a residence where any combustible vegetation is minimized in size and combustibility. We're talking concrete and ice plant, with the occasional flower bed or low shrub. This circle is surrounded by a wider circle that extends another 70 feet, out to 100 feet from the residence, where the fuel load and combustibility have been reduced. This involves removing ladder fuels and dead wood and thinning trees to a separation of about 30 feet. Ladder fuel describes situations where a fire can easily climb from the ground to the treetops in a matter of seconds. The usual situation is where grass is next to brush, which in turn is under trees with low-hanging branches.

Meeting the legal requirement can require a significant effort on your part. This effort usually involves planting fire-resistant plants, removing brush, and/or trimming or removing trees. If you fail to meet the requirement, you can be cited. Both Cal Fire and Santa Clara County Fire inspect properties from time-to-time, and they are legally authorized to issue warnings and citations as well as assist you in understanding exactly what needs to be done.

Having defensible space can make the difference between saving your property and not. Be sure you are in a position to help firefighters defend your property by creating a defensible space around it. You will be happy you did.

While SCVFD does not issue citations, we are qualified and willing to help you evaluate and create defensible space. Feel free to contact me for assistance or more information at tasomne@aol.com.

NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

We are proud to announce the addition of three new volunteer firefighters to SCVFD, all of whom bring a sense of dedication and talent to our group: Pete Christensen, Erik Fellom, Masumi Hodgson, and Aaron Simonson. With the new grant, we are focusing on recruiting new volunteers and retaining existing ones. For more information on the program and its benefits to volunteers and the community, please contact Chief John Schafer at 408.639.2723 or Assistant Chief Orion Larson at tasomne@aol.com.



Erik Fellom

Pete Christensen

Aaron Simonson

Masumi Hodgson

Erik Fellom is a graduate of Monta Vista High School, studied communications at Foothill College, and currently works as an apprentice contractor. Since elementary school, Erik has been involved with SCVFD, helping out with grilling at our annual barbecue picnic. Erik lives on Montebello Road and, as a long-time resident and neighbor, he is a dedicated neighbor committed to maintaining a fire safe community

Pete Christensen currently serves as a hospitality consultant with his own design firm and teaches college-level design classes. A resident of Cupertino for 25 years, he and his wife, Cindee, moved to Flintlock Road in late 2014 with their Pomeranian and two rescue ponies. Impressed by the scenery, extraordinary views, sense of community, and self-reliance in the neighborhood, they are refreshed by the change from the flatlands. Since joining SCVFD, Peter has become fascinated by the amount of knowledge and skill required to become a firefighter. Pete's goal is to follow and adhere to the training protocol and utilize skills previously acquired to become an effective and useful member of SCVFD and to protect and serve his neighbors and greater community.

Aaron Simonson is the most recent addition to the SCVFD team. His goal is to employ the skills he attained in his studies at Columbia College Fire Academy. He is certified in operations associated with structural fire fighting, wildland firefighting, hazmat incident first responder, emergency medical pre-hospital care, and rescue/confined space awareness. Born and raised in this area, he is focused on becoming a career firefighter, with a passion for medical aid and assisting those in need. He believes that the training he receives at SCVFD will be helpful throughout his life, with a priority on safety first.

Masumi Hodgson is a 16-year resident of Montebello Road. Masumi recently finished EMR training at Foothill College and is an active participant in the SCVFD annual barbecue and picnic activities each year. She lives with her husband Dallas, a software engineer, and her daughter Michelle, who is an artist and a designer. Masumi's company, TranSavvy, provides Japanese localization and translation services. She can sometimes be seen walking a pair of Westie puppies on Swiss Creek Lane.

SCVFD 2015 ANNUAL BBQ PICNIC & FUNDRAISER

Last year, we succeeded in generating a small profit from the proceeds of our annual BBQ picnic and fundraiser. We typically generate our largest amount of operating funds from the event. We use these funds for training, equipment repair and purchase, insurance, and related expenses. We count on proceeds from the picnic, plus individual donations from appreciative friends and neighbors, to help keep the department functioning year-round. Our next event is currently scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2016 at Camp Via West, as always, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

To give you a sense of the fun we have, check out the photos below. Businesses from around the area contribute to our auction and raffle. Last year's contributors included Picchetti Winery, Ridge Winery, Naumann Winery, Cooper-Garrod Winery, R&W Winery, Fontana's Italian Restaurant, Fellom Ranch, Cinnabar Winery, Outback Steakhouse, Country Inn, Aqui Cal-Mex, Bella Saratoga, Fontana's Italian Restaurant, Vidovich Winery, Starbucks, Trader Joe's, Fortino Winery, as well as time, talent, and treasure from a host of neighbors and friends. Thank you!

Donna Larson, wife of Assistant Chief Orion Larson and brains and organizer of the event, created a beautiful wreath of corks from all the local wineries. It was hugely popular at the auction. It is rumored she is planning to create another masterpiece this year.





In photo taken September 2015, below, from left to right: Bill Betchart, Eric Rinna, William Wood, Carl Bohley, John Schafer, Mike Bologlu, Noel Relyea, Brandon McVeigh, Orion Larson



2016 SCVFD ANNUAL BBQ & FUNDRAISER: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

This year, summer of 2016, there will be a silent auction, raffle tickets for prizes, and more activities for children (the Fun Jump, face painting or tattoos, bean bag toss, bucket brigade, fire truck tour, crafts table). We will be selling soft drinks, water, beer, and wine from local wineries, along with t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and mugs.

When/Where:

12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Camp Via West (Formerly Camp Costonoan)

13852 Stevens Canyon Road (at Stevens Canyon and Mount Eden Road)

Cupertino, CA 95014

If you have an activity that you would like to see included and would be willing to help set it up and assist, and/or would be willing to donate to the raffle OR volunteer that day, please phone Donna Larson at 408-867-6006 or email her at DHeberle@aol.com.

The BBQ will offer steaks, chicken, a vegetarian dish, or hot dogs for children. Tickets range from \$18 for steak, \$14 for chicken/vegetarian, and \$5 for hot dogs. Tickets can be purchased at the picnic. Dinner includes salad, roll, corn and veggie. This year, we are asking interested bakers to bring a dessert that can be shared. Those who bring a dessert will receive a raffle ticket. The winner will receive an SCVFD T-shirt or cap.

The Department has been in existence since 1976, incorporated in 1978, with the goal of ensuring that the community's emergency's needs are met with professionalism and promptness. The funds that are raised help pay for new equipment, continual training, and supplies.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS WELCOME

If you or anyone you know has ever had a fireman help you in any way, we ask that you consider contributing to our cause and keeping SCVFD alive and well in your neighborhood.

By donating to the Stevens Creek Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD), you will be supporting the welfare and safety of your community. Please send your tax-deductible donation payable directly to SCVFD at PO Box 2673, Cupertino, CA 95015.

CONTACT US

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please fax any comments to Chief John Schafer at 408.371.7909, or call him directly at 408.639.2723, email us at fire@scvfd.org, or visit our website at www.scvfd.org.

SCVFD

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CURRENT MEMBERS OF SCVFD

Fire Chief John Schafer
Assistant Chief Orion Larson
Captain Bill Betchart
Secretary Tom Carroll
Firefighter William Wood
Firefighter Noel Relyea
Firefighter Mike Bologlu
Firefighter Winston Vines
Firefighter Danny Gonzales
Firefighter Ryan Barnett
Firefighter Tristan Fryer
Firefighter Eric Rinna
Firefighter Brandon McVeigh
Probationary Firefighter Masumi Hodgson
Probationary Firefighter Pete Christensen
Probationary Firefighter Erik Fellom
Probationary Firefighter Aaron Simonson



Stevens Creek Reservoir