



Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT... Roy Golightly

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to sum up 2024 with two words: THANK YOU! We are extremely grateful for everything our members and volunteers did during the year to help us maintain a viable, well-trained group of firefighters and first responders. Fundraising events and charitable contributions allowed us to address our most pressing needs without jeopardizing our financial stability.

We promise to provide you with the highest levels of protection possible and we hope that you will continue to respond with the same levels of cooperation as you did in 2024. We are grateful indeed.

We all know how difficult it is to reduce costs these days, but let me remind you of how the PMVFD could help YOU save some money on your homeowners insurance.

For years, past Fire Chief, Dick Quinn and Assistant Fire Chief, Ron Dana worked tirelessly to achieve a better rating from the Insurance Service Office (ISO). And it paid off. ISO changed our 9/10 rating to 6/10!

What does that rating mean? If you are a paying member of the PMVFD and you live within five miles or less from Fire Station #1 or #2, you can tell your insurance provider that you have an ISO rating of 6. You may save a significant amount on your insurance premium.

If you live more than five miles from those Fire Stations, tell your insurance provider that your ISO rating is 10. You may still pay a lower premium.

We have held our 6/10 ISO rating since 2018, but it's not a "given". We are required to periodically demonstrate a level of fire protection that satisfies ISO standards for that classification.



Notice that none of the above applies to you until you have paid your membership fee, which is only \$50 per year and has not changed for many years. Your potential insurance savings from the 6/10 ISO rating could very well exceed that amount.

I encourage you to submit your fees by January 1. It's a win-win for all of us!

The October Annual Members Meeting was held on October 16 at the Training and Education (TEC) center. The following were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors: Jennifer Golightly, Gerri Parr, and John Parr. There were no suggestions for changes to our by-laws and no other suggestions or concerns from members.

Be safe and healthy and let's all have a good 2025!!

THE FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER - Doug Hagee

Once more, it is time to send out the Pine Mountain VFD newsletter to update the community on the events of the past year. The total call numbers this year are up from last year. Currently, we are at a total of 27 calls this year, broken down as follows: 9 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), 2 smoke investigation, 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1 tractor rollover, 4 auto aid calls, 5 wildfire calls and 4 lift assists. All homeowners and landowners have been doing a great job in preventing structure fires, wildfires and keeping controlled burns from getting out of control. Remember, Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) is always available to assist in any controlled burns by providing trucks on standby if needed. We assisted in one controlled burn this past year within the district. If you are a part time resident, you may want to ensure there is a key concealed somewhere outside in the event the fire department needs to gain access when you are not home if your alarm is activated. A quick phone call to the homeowner can eliminate the need to break in if fire or smoke is seen inside the dwelling.

PMVFD has downgraded our inventory of equipment to better fit our needs. Currently, we have 2 Engines (pumpers), 1 Brush Truck, 1 Brush/Rescue Truck and 2 Tankers. We are just finishing a project on one tanker to rebuild the water tank. If any members who would like to see the equipment we have, call Ron Dana or Doug Hagee and we will be happy to show them to you. Our phone numbers are on all three stations.

Marion County has upgraded our 911 radio system by adding 3 additional radio towers, which improves the radio coverage in the county. The system continues to improve, but it is still a "work in process". The CAD and "e dispatches" systems are still provided for backup of calls received on our radios, which is the primary system for notification.

Currently, the staffing for the Pine Mountain VFD consists of 13 firefighters with 2 in training. Six of the firefighters are also EMR's and we have 2 additional EMR's. We will be training 2 more EMR's next year when time permits. Mary Kelly-Beauchamp is now qualified to teach CPR and is teaching the EMR classes, which is very helpful to the department and will save us money on the training. As a reminder, the number of trained firefighters we have in the department is critical for us to qualify for funding from the state. The number required for us to qualify for Act 833 money is 6 trained firefighters. The current national standard for response to a fire in a district that has less than 500 people per square mile, is 6 qualified firefighters should arrive at the scene of a structure fire in 14 minutes 80% of the time. With 13 firefighters, we are much more likely to meet the standard. However, we can always use more people on the department. There is a lot of work involved in maintaining the equipment and buildings, which doesn't have to involve firefighting. It really doesn't take a lot of your time since we have a meeting once a month and training once a month. We really need members to step up and volunteer as firefighters and EMR's. When you are a volunteer, you are only asked to do what you feel comfortable or capable of doing. We can have the greatest trucks and equipment there is, but with no people to operate them we can't fight fires or respond to medical emergencies. Fortunately, we live in a fire district that has had very few structure fires and wildfires in the past; however, we need to be able to have enough people trained to respond when the need arises. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.**



We continue to have funding issues for personal protective equipment (PPE). We are purchasing PPE. We purchased additional PPE during the year and also purchased 4 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with two bottles for each SCBA. The new SCBA's will replace equipment that is more than 30 years old. We also purchased an air compressor to service the tanks. We applied for another FEMA grant this year, but were rejected. Contributions are another source of revenue and any contributions made to the fire department are tax deductible and could significantly affect

THE FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER (continued)

our budget shortfalls and improve firefighter safety. We need to have a minimum of 4 SCBA's with 8 air tanks to meet the requirements for ACT 833 funding.

I know I say this every year and I will continue to mention it, but all homeowners should be aware of the importance of keeping your property "fire safe" on a continual basis. This is a good time of year to check for accumulations of leaves, high grass, brush, etc. around your property that could threaten your structures in the event of a wildfire. Homeowners should ensure that all heating systems are in proper working order and properly vented. Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure proper operation and change the batteries. Chimneys should be checked for cleanliness and any damage that may interfere with correct venting. If you have a propane hot water heater the vent should also be checked on it. Your dryer vent should be cleaned out on a regular basis (yearly) to prevent dryer fires. Do not burn Christmas trees in fire places. If you are burning outside, there should be no wind and you should only burn yard waste such as leaves, grass, brush piles, etc. In Arkansas, it is against the law to burn household trash or construction scraps. All homeowners should evaluate the road that provides access to their property regarding the ability of the fire department to get trucks into the area in the event of a structure fire. Please trim or remove trees as required to make it easier for fire trucks to gain access to your home and outbuildings.

NOTE: If you should have a need to call 911, make sure you are talking to the Marion County, Arkansas Dispatcher. Frequently when 911 calls are made from a cell phone in our area, the call will go to a Missouri 911 center. If this happens, make sure you ask them to transfer the call to Marion County, Arkansas. There is also a Marion County in Missouri. When calling from a land line, your call should be immediately identified by name and address with the enhanced 911 system.

I would like to remind all homeowners that with 2025 just around the corner, it is time to pay yearly fire dues. They are due on the 1st of January, please pay them in a timely manner. The fire dues are an important source of funding for the fire department.

I would like to take this time to wish everybody a great Christmas and a prosperous and safe year in 2025. Thank you all for your support during 2024.

OLD MIDWAY CEMETERY by Carole Peterson

Information came to me of the passing of long-time resident Kent Campbell (8001) in 2023. We also lost former firefighter Fred Rivera of Webbs Landing in late 2023. So far in 2024 we've lost Lonnie Wheeler (8094), Sharon Harris (8008), Mark Spahn (8059), Bill Davenport (Lakewood Ln), Erick Blasdel (8012), Kathy Becton (8092), David Bodkin (8094), and Dale Unger (Lakewood Ln).

We've put a layer of gravel on the driveway, expanding it for further parking. That was followed up by the County who also put down more gravel and spread it out nicely. Mike Sanders has been faithful with the mowing (Thanks Mike!) and we've gained Jack Costa and Patty Williams to the Board of Directors.

We can always use more help with keeping the twigs and branches picked up year-long and especially in May when we try to do major cleanup and decorating in preparation of Memorial Day.

Ya'll have a peaceful Christmas and a great 2025!

EMR REPORT by Mary Kelly-Beauchamp

The Fire Department has welcomed 2 more EMR providers with the addition of Ralph Sparks and Dawn Osborne. We can always use more volunteers. I would like to inform everyone of the ICE (In Case of Emergency). If you have an emergency and cannot respond, it allows the rescue personnel to know your history. You fill out a paper or index card and place in an old pill bottle or ziplock bag and place in freezer (ICE). Include the following.

- Your name, age and sex
- Your address
- Your medication names, doses and schedules
- Your medical equipment
- Your chronic medical conditions
- Allergies
- Emergency Contacts

Do not include financial information or ssn. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

ANNUAL REMINDERS

by James Miller

For our new residents and for those of us with short memories:

Mailbox numbers aren't just for mail carriers. These numbers help get emergency services to you as quickly as possible. If your mailbox is beside a county road near your driveway, emergency crews can easily find you because the number of your mailbox is the distance to the junction of a connecting county or state road. For example, 8327 MC 8001 is 8.327 or 8 1/3 miles from Highway 14. Emergency crews know precisely how far they must travel to reach that mailbox regardless of the direction from which they are coming. That's why it is important for you to display the number on both sides of your mailbox. Large, reflective numbers are best for visibility at night. Remember, in an emergency, every minute is important. If your mailbox is on a county road and you and other residents live nearby on a non-county road, each resident should also display their mailbox number at their driveways. Unless all residents do so, emergency crews may not know which driveway will take them to the home for which they are looking. For your sake, give them a break!

PINEMOUNTAINVFD.ORG is the official VFD website. Mike Williams, the web master, has completely refurbished this site. If you haven't looked at it recently, please do so soon. You will be very pleased. Mike explains more about the website in another section of this newsletter.



Pine Mountain Community Board will take you to a page on Face Book. Here too, you will find a wide range of helpful information and local news items. You can read more about its purpose and contents in the 2022 Newsletter, or you can contact Chris Lavine directly at lavinewc@icloud.com. He voluntarily created this page for the benefit of all members of our community. Melissa Rhett-Costa, Patty Williams and he are current administrators of the Community Board.

The Book Exchange is located on the outside wall of the Training and Events Center. Jewel Hatcher maintains it for your reading pleasure. She will have more to say about it in another section of this newsletter. It is self-service 24/7.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

STATION #1 (Main Firehouse)

Doug Hagee - FF/EMR
Nick Giancana - FF
Wayne Hester - FF/EMR
James Joyce - FF
Mike Williams - FF
Patti Williams - EMR

STATION #2 (MC 8059)

Carole Peterson - FF
John Parr - FF/EMR
Rich Roberts - FF/EMR
Mike Peterson - FF
Mark Struttman - FF (T)

FIRE CHIEF:

Doug Hagee

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF:

Ron Dana

EMR Supervisor:

Mary Kelly Beauchamp



STATION #3

(Webbs Landing)

Lily Dana - FF/EMR
Ron Dana - FF/EMR
Jim Miller - FF
Ralph Sparks - FF/EMR
Dawn Osborne - EMR
Jay Osborne - FF (T)

NON-FIREFIGHTER HELPERS

Jack Costa - grounds maint.
Judy Miller - phone notification
Chris Lavine - Helper

EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Melissa Rhett-Costa



2024 was a very successful year for our fundraisers. In March we had our Gumbo Fest with Silent Auction. We served 89 people and brought in \$3,319.00. In June was our BBQ. Cal and Pam Kellogg donated all the ribs, pulled pork, smoked brisket, smoked chicken, and Low Country Bog. We had 135 people attend and that netted \$2,182.00. This year we had our Volunteer Appreciation breakfast in August for a change. We served 70 people and raised \$1006.00 at that event. Nancy Mroszczak donated a Sunflower basket to raffle off which brought in \$43. Our final event of the year was our Chili Cook-Off in October. We had 3 judges that judged 6 different chilis made by Chris Lavine, Doug Hagee, Deanie Coulter, Mark Struttman, Doug Beauchamp, and Mary Zito Thrash. Chris Lavine was awarded 1st place for his Boilermaker+ Chili. 92 people were in attendance and it netted \$893.00. Ken Comer donated a .45 Ruger SR 1911 that was raffled off for \$1170.



All told the fundraisers for 2024 raised a total of \$8570 for our fire department. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful volunteers at each event. So many many people stepped up to help and I am grateful to each and every one of them. Also, each event was successful because of the giving and amazing community we live in. Thank you all so much for your amazing support. I look forward to seeing you all at our 2025 events.



TREASURY REPORT

by Chris Lavine

Wow, this year has really flown by! In January, I was selected by the PMVFD Board of Directors to assume the role of Treasurer, as Carole Peterson elected to retire from her long-held post. Carole has graciously shown me the ropes and mentored me as I learned the role. Believe me, I have had some big shoes to fill! The Board and I would like to thank and commend Carole for her service these many years.

As for our finances, this has been a year of divestments, acquisitions, sponsorships, world-class fundraisers by Melissa Rhett-Costa and dues and donations from our community.

On the divestment side of things, we sold our rescue boat which was rarely used. We also sold our aging 1971 Ford-Engine 64, our ambulance which was replaced by our brush truck purchase last year, and our aging cascade system and compressor. We upgraded our compressor and purchased four new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units and components to replace the out-of-date units in our inventory.

We receive two grants this year, one from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Blue and You campaign which allowed us to purchase much needed EMR supplies and equipment. The second grant came from Arvest Bank, which helped partially fund our SCBA purchases.

Our four fundraising events were hugely successful due to the participation and attendance of the community. But most importantly, our ongoing funding comes from the residents of Pine Mountain through fire dues and donations. Thank you all!

Our financial situation remains strong thanks in part to the Board's responsible monetary leadership, but most importantly from members like you. The 2025 fire dues/membership fees are due on January 1, 2025 and remain \$50 annually, regardless of the number of properties. We have not increased the cost of our membership for many years, as we have been successful in acquiring funds from complimentary sources such as grants.

You will receive a postcard in the mail to pay your annual dues or you can complete the dues form on our website (pinemountainvfd.org). Additionally, you may pay through PayPal/Venmo online under the "Donations" tab on our website. There is a small processing fee (\$1.50) for the latter option to cover our costs.

As always, dues can be mailed to: PMVFD, 10 MC 8004, Yellville, AR 72687 or deposited in the black lockbox outside the Training & Events Center. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you need a receipt for your insurance company. Happy and Safe Holidays to all.



WEBSITE MAKEOVER

PINEMOUNTAINVFD.ORG is our community's one stop location for all the latest news, upcoming events, firefighting information, and emergency responses. Visit the home page where you will find the following:

- Community notices
- Annual newsletters
- Calendar of events
- VFD bylaws
- Latest news
- Forms
- Board meeting minutes
- Contact information

NEW for 2025! You can now pay your dues online or make special contributions. It's easy and it's secure. Visit: <https://www.pinemountainvfd.org/donations>. You will receive a confirmation and receipt for income tax purposes.



We welcome any comments or constructive advice on making our community website useful and easy to navigate. Please send website comments to Mike Williams at mike.williams@pinemountainvfd.org

ROADSIDE CLEANUP

by Chris Lavine

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, the Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department hosted its annual roadside clean-up, in its continued partnership with the Keep Arkansas Beautiful (KAB) initiative and the many residents of the Pine Mountain community.

This year, with the continued support of 50+ volunteers/participants, we cleared debris from over sixty-five miles of recordable roads in our community, collecting over nearly 650 pounds of trash and properly disposing of a bit more than 200 pounds of glass, plastic and aluminum recyclables. Your efforts are always much appreciated in keeping this beautiful community clear of litter.

If you didn't volunteer this year, please consider it in 2025. It will be my fifth and final year as event coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please let me know. I will be happy to assist in 2026 to bring anyone interested up to speed on the



existing process.

We are currently scheduling our next event for Saturday, March 22, 2025, with a Saturday, April 5, 2025 rain date. This is a really fun event that brings neighbors together, while only requiring about 2-3 hours of your time. The results have been awesome every year!

Once again, thank you all!

Contact Chris Lavine lavinew@icloud.com for more event details. For more information about KAB, please visit them at www.KeepArkansasBeautiful.com.





PMVFD

**10 MC 8004
YELLVILLE, AR 72687**

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

(Note: Officer Positions will be voted on and finalized at the January Board Meeting. Please check the website after the January 17th Board Meeting for the approved 2025 Officer positions)

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Roy Golightly
VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Miller
SECRETARY	Jennifer Golightly
TREASURER	Christopher Lavine



OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Peterson	Ralph Sparks	John Parr
Doug Hagee	Judy Miller	Mary Beauchamp
Gerri Parr	Mike Williams	Carole Peterson
Jim Simpson	Melissa Costa	

FEEES FORM

Submit to: Pine Mountain VFD
c/o Treasurer
10 MC 8004
Yellville, AR 72687

Annual fee is \$50 and due January 1, 2025

Note: Your information will never be shared with any other organization.

Name: _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Payments may be mailed or left in the drop box at the PMVFD Training & Events Center. If you need a receipt, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.