



Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT... Roy Golightly

Each year, when I write this article, I review the minutes from our quarterly Board of Directors meetings to remind myself of all the key issues that have confronted our Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department the last twelve months.

This year, it occurred to me that we face a dichotomy year-in and year-out. The PMVFD's mission is to provide Pine Mountain with the best fire services and emergency medical services possible. Now, in order to do that, many hours of training are completed, all vehicles and equipment are constantly serviced, repaired, and replaced as needed, all funds and payments are scrutinized for maximum efficiency, and a constant effort is applied to complying with changing regulations. And all of that is done with one hope in mind: that no one in our community ever has to be the beneficiary of our services.

Thankfully, we've been fortunate in that regard. Over the years, we have had relatively few structural or brush fires and few calls for emergency medical services. Now, our good "safety record" tends to work against us when we apply for grants and other requests for funds, but that hasn't, and will not, prevent us from asking for any possible governmental or local funding that exists.

Regardless, you should know that all of our volunteers remain absolutely dedicated to ensuring that our preparedness remains second to none, and I am deeply grateful for that, and I'm sure you are too. We are indeed a blessed community.



The annual Members Meeting was held October 15 at the Training and Events Center. Members elected the following for three year terms on the Board of Directors: Carole Peterson, Jim Miller, Judy Miller, and Ralph Sparks. Members also approved the revisions to the bylaws as proposed by the Board of Directors. The new bylaws can be found on

the PMVFD website at pinemountainvfd.org.

Thank you for your growing support of our fund raisers during the year and thanks for your generous contributions, which help us stay solvent and operational. And, as always, please submit your annual fees (only \$50!) by January 1. Those fees are our lifeblood, and having a good handle on our financial situation early in the year helps us immensely with our planning for the year.

Lastly and most importantly, stay safe and healthy and have a great 2026!

THE FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER - Doug Hagee

Here is an update on Firefighting and Emergency Medical Response activities during 2025. The total call numbers this year are down from last year. Currently, we are at a total of 23 calls this year, broken down as follows: 9 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 5 auto aid calls, 3 wildfire calls, 1 medical alarm (false), 1 ADT alarm(false) and 1 lift assist. 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.

PMVFD inventory of equipment remains the same from last year. Currently, we have 2 Engines (pumpers), 1 Brush Truck, 1 Brush/Rescue Truck and 2 Tankers. We are looking for an engine to replace our oldest engine, but it is difficult to find something that's affordable. Any members who would like to see the equipment we have, call Ralph Sparks or Doug Hagee and we will be happy to show them to you. Our phone numbers are on all three stations.

Marion County 911 radio system continues to improve and the radio coverage in the county is much better with the new towers. However, there is still a lot of work to be done on the system. The CAD and "e dispatches" systems are still provided for backup of calls received on our radios, which is the primary system for notification. Marion County is also pursuing a grant to upgrade to a new radio system, since most of our existing equipment is not the latest technology and it is becoming more difficult to obtain repair parts.

Currently, the staffing for the Pine Mountain VFD consists of 14 firefighters with 2 in training. Six of the firefighters are also EMR's and we have 4 additional EMR's. Two of the new EMR's are also qualified as an EMT and a Paramedic. We will be training 2 more EMR's next year when time permits. Mary Kelly-Beauchamp is teaching the CPR and EMR classes, which is very helpful to the department and will save us money on the training. We are always looking for more people on the department. There is a lot of work involved in maintaining the equipment and buildings, which does not have to involve firefighting. It really does not 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. When you are a volunteer, you are only asked to do what you feel comfortable or capable of doing. We can have the best possible trucks and equipment, 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 ensure we have sufficient people trained to respond when the need arises. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.**



We continue to have funding issues for various items that are required for the fire department. Our funding comes from member dues, ACT 833 funds, sales tax funds and fundraisers. Contributions are another source of revenue and any contributions made to the fire department are tax deductible and could significantly affect our budget shortfalls and improve firefighter safety.

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

THE FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER (continued)

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. If you are a smoker, DO NOT throw cigarette butts out the window while driving.

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.

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.

I would like to remind all homeowners that with 2026 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 2026. Thank you all for your support during 2025.

OLD MIDWAY CEMETERY by Carole Peterson

We received a note from Jane Vines (Glory Ln) informing us of her husband Harold's death in March of 2022. Thanks for the update, Jane, and please accept our very late condolences.

In December of 2024 we lost Paul Harris (8007) and Mary Ann Rodri-gus (8113). In 2025 so far we've lost Kathy Munsell (8013), Tommy Cheek (8059), Mary Ann Cheek Angus (8059), David Wilkes (8004), and Jewel Hatcher (8097).



We welcome Patty Williams and Jack Costa to our small volunteer group and we're always looking for more people interested in the cemetery's history enough to take on some management roles. It takes very little of your time. We hope to put gravel down the east side this coming spring. That'll give us a bit less to mow and a bit more off-road parking.

EMR REPORT by Mary Kelly-Beauchamp

The EMR team has grown this year to 12 responders. Nick and Angie Dooley, Dawn Osborne, and Reed Pallo have joined our group and bring many years of previous medical experience. Ralph Sparks is also adding EMR training to his firefighting skills. We are so proud of all our volunteers working to support the health and well being of our community.

You can help the PMVFD respond to emergencies by insuring your driveway is marked with your address number. Many mailboxes are centrally located, and not at your residence entrance. This will help decrease response time and improve service to you in an emergency.

We will be updating our CPR training to the new 2025 American Heart Association released last month. If you are interested in training contact me at maryb@pinemountainvfd.org.

The PMFVD EMR team wishes you a happy and healthy New Year!

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

by James Miller

The PMVFD website address has changed from .com to .org. More important, Mike Williams has given the website a very professional makeover. Although much of the content remains the same, Mike has made browsing easier and much more enjoyable with the addition of colorful photos. The whole transformation is amazing!

The annual VFD newsletter is no longer automatically mailed to all members. Instead, members receive a flyer giving them an option to read the newsletter on the VFD website. A paper copy is sent only to members who request one. This is an effort to reduce the ever-increasing cost of printing and mailing hard copies. Only the online version is in color. Like the paper copy, the flyer includes a section that can be submitted with payment of the annual membership fee.

Attendance at fundraising events has also changed. Thanks to Melissa Rhett-Costa and her capable associates, the Training and Events Center (TEC) and the outdoor patio are often filled to capacity. What better indication of a successful event than a large turnout!

In fact, there were so many people at the first three events in 2025 that background noise drowned out normal conversations. It prompted the Board of Directors to authorize the purchase and installation of acoustic "clouds" which now hang from the ceiling to

absorb some of the interfering sounds. Several attendees at the Chili Supper commented on the improvement. Since then, some acoustic wall panels have been added to reduce the noise even more.

The TEC floor was scrubbed clean of scuff marks and given a fresh coat of enamel paint recently. The room looks cleaner and brighter now.

The next time you drive by fire station 1 or 2, be sure to notice the area around those buildings. Jack and Melissa Costa accepted the torch from Steve Gibson and are keeping the grounds immaculately groomed. Appearances make a big difference in how everyone views the VFD.

The plan for next year is to remove the canvas awning which has been used on occasion to cover the TEC patio. However, the awning is difficult to roll out and to clean. It will be replaced with a permanent metal cover that will always be in place during events to give patio users protection from the sun or a pop-up rain shower.

The book exchange is located outside of the TEC. Books of different genres are available. Take a book, leave a book. It is self service 24/7! For several years, Jewel Hatcher has maintained it for your reading pleasure. Please volunteer to continue this service.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

STATION #1 (Main Firehouse)

Doug Hagee - FF/EMR
Nick Giancana - FF
Wayne Hester - FF/EMR
James Joyce - FF
Mike Williams - FF
Patty Williams - EMR
Angela Dooley - EMR/EMT
Reed Palo - FF(T)/EMR(T)

STATION #2 (MC 8059)

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

FIRE CHIEF:
Doug Hagee
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF:
Ralph Sparks
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 (T)
Jay Osborne - FF

NON-FIREFIGHTER HELPERS

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

EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Melissa Rhett-Costa

2025 was again a very successful year for our fundraising events. We had 4 events at the TEC and 1 online event.



Our first event of the year was in March, the Gumbo Fest. Deanie and David Coulter again donated the Gumbo and bread pudding. We served 109 people and had 50 silent auction items with a total amount of \$2,798 raised. The weather was crisp but people still enjoyed eating outside.

The next event was the BBQ in June. We dodged the rain and served 135 people and raised \$2,305. Cal and Pam Kellogg again donated the ribs, pulled pork, smoked brisket, smoked chicken, and Low County Bog. There were 4 tables FULL of donated desserts. No one went away hungry at this event!

In early August we launched the Pine Mountain Supporter T-shirt fundraiser. This was primarily an online event in which we sold short and long sleeve tee shirts along with hoodies. The event closed on September 12th with a total of 66 items sold and \$970.29 funds raised.

Our third event was in August also. It was the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast fundraiser. We served 98 people with a total of \$761 raised. It was a warm morning and most wanted to stay inside out of the sun.

Our last event of the year was the Chili Supper. It was pouring that night!! Chris Lavine, Doug Hagee, and Deanie Coulter made their award winning chilis again this year. We served 87 people. The dinner raised \$816.28. The big draw was the 2 rifles that Ken Comer from Sager Creeks Arms donated to raffle off. We sold 150 tickets and raised \$1075.

The noise level was terrible at the first three events in the TEC so we hung several acoustic clouds from the ceiling prior to the Chili Supper. People noticed the difference. Some acoustic wall panels might reduce the noise even more.

It also became very apparent that we are serving more people, people like to eat outside, and thus, we need more space. So we've started discussing putting up a covered area on the back cement pad.



The total amount raised for 2025 was \$8,726.88.

This would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers working the events, community members donating items to the auctions, and the 464 people who came out to support the 2025 fundraisers. I've said it the last 2 years that we live in an amazing and blessed community. I look forward to seeing you all at our 2026 fundraisers.

TREASURY REPORT

by Chris Lavine

The Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department is one of only a few fire departments in Marion County governed by a community-elected Board of Directors. This means that support from our residents to help supplement department income is extremely important. Our main sources of income are county sales taxes, annual Act 833 of 1991 monies, fundraising events and annual dues and donations from the community residents in our district.

Through carefully managed spending, our financial position remains strong. In fact, our accounts are slightly higher than a year ago through October. That is quite an accomplishment as we recognized divestment and grant income of over \$17k last year, compared to zero in 2025.

For the first three quarters of 2025, our largest singular expenditures were for insurance, turnout gear/personal protective equipment for new fire fighters and a new heat pump and acoustic clouds and panels installed in the TEC building. Outside of these large expenses, the majority of the department's spending is primarily focused on maintenance and repairs of our buildings and vehicles, gasoline purchases and utilities.



We couldn't remain as fiscally strong without the support of our incredible residents and tireless volunteers. Thank you all!



The 2026 fire dues/membership fees are due on January 1, 2026 and remain \$50 annually, regardless of the number of properties a single resident owns. Please note that this amount has not increased for many, many years.

Be on the lookout for a postcard in the December mail to pay your annual dues and update your personal contact information.

Dues can be mailed to: PMVFD, 10 MC 8004, Yellville, AR 72687, deposited in the black lockbox outside the Training & Events Center or paid online on our website (pinemountainvfd.org) under the 'Donation' tab using PayPal or Venmo. Please remember there is a processing fee (\$1.50) for the latter option in order to cover our costs. If you need a receipt for insurance purposes, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment.

I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

ROADSIDE CLEANUP

by Chris Lavine

On Saturday, April 12, 2025, the Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department hosted its annual roadside cleanup in partnership with the residents of Pine Mountain. This marked the first year in quite some time that we did not partner with another entity. We made that choice based upon the extra manpower necessary to meet their reporting requirements and the safety concerns regarding manually sorting through the trash collected.

With the support of 40+ volunteers/participants, we cleared debris from more than sixty-five miles of roads in our community. This year's collections filled the fire department trailer and were disposed of at the county transfer station. Your efforts are appreciated and critical in keeping this beautiful community litter-free!

If you didn't volunteer this year, please consider it in 2026. It only takes 2-3 hours out of a Saturday morning and the results are well worth the effort. Next year's event will be scheduled for the end of March or early April. Notification of the event will be posted on the PMVFD website, the Pine Mountain Community Board (Facebook) and through an email.

Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers, and a special thank you to Susan Bles for her t-shirt design work.



WEBSITE

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



Remember, you can 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 your taxes.

New! We would like to make our community website interactive. If you have any pictures or testimonials of how the fire department or emergency medical staff have helped you, please send them via email to me at mike.williams@pinemountainvfd.org



PMVFD

10 MC 8004

YELLVILLE, AR 72687

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

(Note: Officer Positions will be voted on and finalized at the January Board Meeting. Please check the website after the January 21st Board Meeting for the approved 2026 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, 2026

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.