

HOT SPOTS

April 2006

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Thank You!

I knew I was proud to be associated with the Independence Fire Department right after beginning here last year. Here's one reason why I feel that way:

The Administration Office received a phone call on February 13, in which the caller wanted to express her appreciation to the "good Samaritan off-duty fire fighter" who stopped on February 3, approximately 1:30 a.m. to assist her son and a friend who had a vehicular accident on Bundschu at the railroad tracks.

A homeowner stopped in for an incident report one day recently and had nothing but good things to say about Aaron McNabb, Jeff Keogh and Wes McCullough for a job well done on alarm #2006-158.

We also received a note saying of the Pumper 2 fire fighters:

"Independence has the best fire department in Missouri. They care about people and show it. Thank you very much."

Concerning the fire at Highland Manor Trailer Park, we received this note:

Fire Chief Schiess,

I want to thank you and the Independence Fire Department and the EMTs for your help during the tragic fire at Highland Manor Trailer Park, Lot B91. In the early morning of February 10, 2006, I tragically lost my beloved fiancé, Deborah Weinstein. I will forever be indebted to all of you for your heroic efforts.

*God bless all of you,
Jeff Furney*

We also received a note in the mail saying:

"Thank you for being you—the men and women who are always willing to risk your lives or lend a hand. Thank you for caring so much and asking so little. Thank you for ensuring our safety, even though we may never meet, may be different, and may not have the same views. Thank you for being you. Amanda"

The Fire Prevention Bureau receives positive and encouraging responses from area businesses:



Chief Inspector Joy Musquiz

"...excellent—very

professional—prompt reply."

"...always been of great assistance!"

I, also, had an experience fifteen years ago in which my 5 year old daughter fell down the stairs at our home and was complaining of her back hurting. After calling 911, fire fighters from Station #1 showed up quickly. I was immediately put at ease (as much as a mom can be) and my two year old who was eating her Pop Tart at the kitchen table, had a fire fighter who was there talking with her (she still talks about it to this day). I was allowed to ride to the hospital with my daughter and she was being cared for and comforted in the back while I was being "distracted" in the front. I've regretted that I didn't think to send a note of appreciation many years ago so I hope there are still some of the men who attended us that are around to know they were appreciated more than words could say.

Written by Georgie Waldrop

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Station 7 Grand Opening!

Submitted in part by Chief Inspector Musquiz

On March 28th, Elected Officials, City Officials, Public Safety Employees and the general public witnessed the ribbon cutting of the new #7 fire station at 23rd St. and



291 Hwy. The official address is 2206 S. Hub Drive.

The long awaited station took approximately 1 year and 3 months to be completed from the time



the application was submitted for a permit, to the construction being

completed and all final inspections conducted. Of course the need, concept, and planning of the project has been in the works for many years.

The general consensus of the firefighters who will be housed at the station is "it's pretty exciting." Those who have seen the station are amazed at how large it is and how many different functional areas it has. The 10,000 square foot station was designed to have the ability to expand and grow with the community and be useful for many years.

Besides the functional areas of bunk rooms, bathrooms, a locker room, a kitchen,



dining and living areas and

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PROMOTIONS



West McCullough—FEO

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Opening of Fire Station 7

storage rooms that most fire stations have, the firefighters at the new #7 can have at



FF Brian Bogue and baby Graham

their disposal a multi-purpose conference room, a fitness room, a library study room with a handy referenced library, private offices and bunk rooms for Captains and a secured foyer area that the public will be able to enter at any time. No station is complete without computer/satellite/cable hookups. This station has it all.

A growing concern of responding to hazardous materials incidents has been addressed by providing a engine bay area shower that



Chief Ron Thompson

can decontaminate large pieces of equipment and firefighter gear should the need



Chief David Sellars

arise.

And speaking of the engine bay, this station has four engine bay doors, with two of the garage bay areas being



Patty Keever-Admin. Spec. III

drive through and the entire engine bay area being large enough to house multiple



Inspector Cindy Culp-Nance

pieces of firefighting equipment including the department's large ladder trucks.

This state of the art station captures a home environment in a commercial building. The building provides fire protection by featuring a fully sprinklered building, including the engine bay area. As in commercial buildings, you will notice exit signs and emergency lighting. The building also has a back up generator so the station can maintain service in the event of a black out as well as an air bottle fill station for firefighters to refill their SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) bottles.

One last tidbit of information is that a bridge from the old to the new has been maintained. How so? The original stone from the old #7 is now a part of the patio of the new 7.



The station is beautiful and the opening was a spectacular event as many people worked hard to ensure that everything was ready and in good order.

CLAYTON ESTATES WELCOMES NEW STORM SHELTER

Submitted by Georgie Waldrop

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The tornado season opened with a bang and residents of Clayton Estates have been the fortunate recipients of a brand new tornado shelter.....and not a minute too soon!



This new structure had its Grand Opening Ceremony on March 4, 2006. Twenty-nine people took advantage of this 3,133 square foot facility on March 12, 2006.

This structure is said to have a capacity of 355, can withstand winds up to 252 mph, has a roof that is made of 12" of concrete and has an emergency underground generator that is automatic. There is a supply room as well as cable and internet access. For the grand opening, sixty to seventy residents viewed the facility as did city officials and Clayton Estates' Regional Manager, Randy Brooks.



Joelle White, manager of Clayton Estates, told me that in the event of severe weather, the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) would text message of approaching danger and she or one of the Block Watch Captains would unlock the facility for its residents.

Fire Fighter Kelly Scott Receives Award of Appreciation

On March 1, 2006, Firefighter Kelly Scott received an award of appreciation from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) for his participation in their efforts to assist Fire Chiefs and Fire Departments in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Central Jackson County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Steve Westermann, Vice President of the IAFC, made the presentation in Fire Administration.

