GRRFD Annual Report to GRRHOA

The GRRRFD was formed in December 1999 by a resolution of the Gallatin County Commissioners. It is a tax-funded quasi-governmental organization which is managed by five Trustees who are elected to staggered 3-year terms. Elections are held each May. The RFD is the “umbrella” under which non-law enforcement emergency services are provided through the GRR Fire Department.

The GRRRFD has five trustees:

1. Chair Spencer Millimen
2. Vice Chair Richard Anderson
3. Secretary/Treasurer Susan Piechowski
4. Wendy Ward
5. Rick McCourt.

Meetings are:

1. Open to the public
2. Held on the third Wednesday each month
3. Announced on the Pony Express bulletin board and on the GRRRFD website: <http://www.grrrfd.org/>
4. Meeting location varies and is always specified in the announcement.

The GRRRFD website is the primary tool the Trustees and Department use to communicate information to District residents.

The GRRRFD is in good financial condition, the details of which are posted on the website.

Projects include:

1. The Fire Station Project.
   1. The GRRRFD Trustees have negotiated and signed an agreement to purchase a part of the GRRHOA Shop and a 50% ownership interest in the property at 5770 Nixon Gulch Road.
   2. Now that the purchase is complete, the Trustees are looking for a contractor to complete the project.
   3. When project costs are known, the GRRRFD will reach out to GRR residents in a fundraiser effort to support the fire station construction. All donations to the GRRRFD are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the IRS Code.
   4. The GRRRFD has two Phillips Heartstart automated electronic defibrillators which it will sell for a $1000 donation. This includes personal instruction in hands-only CPR and the use of the AED.
2. Consolidation of GRRRFD with the Manhattan Rural Fire District.
   1. Discussions are underway.
   2. This is not a “take-over” by Manhattan, but a joint consolidation that will form a new fire district.
3. Community Wildland Fire Preparation and Prevention.
   1. A committee was formed, headed by Dennis Ochs. It includes Alicia Ochs, Willie Eide, and Deb Harvey.
   2. The committee has:
      1. Sent wildland information packets to all GRRHOA owners in April 2021.
      2. Prepared the same packet to be mailed to new GRRHOA owners following that time.
      3. Organized a Wildland Fire Risk Assessment Program in which one committee member and one firefighter provide free wildland fire risk assessments to all GRRHOA members.
      4. We encourage GRRHOA members to take advantage of this free program.

A successful fire department is a team effort. This involves the Fire District Trustees mentioned before along with the people who staff and run the department. These include:

1. Chief Marlin Sprow.
2. Assistant Chief Ken Weskamp
3. Medical Officer and Executive Assistant John Andrews, MD, EMT
4. Firefighter Wayne Langel
5. Firefighter Bruce Reynolds.

The Fire Department serves the community in the following capacities:

1. Firefighting: both structure and wildland with automatic aid from Manhattan VFD
2. Service calls for smoke and CO detectors
3. Rescue services
4. Medical services

Wildland fire risks are high this summer. GRRHOA members should:

1. Put an ABC fire extinguisher in each vehicle including recreational vehicles.
2. To not park on roadsides where dry grass can contact their exhaust systems.
3. Refrain from driving on roads with uncut long grass:
   1. The area northeast of the reservoir.
   2. The area served by Bonanza Trail.

Reserve members include:

1. Reserve Supervisor Spencer Millimen
2. Julie Brown
3. Bruce Buccilli
4. Ray Rigel

Auxiliary members include:

1. Vanessa McMurray, coordinator
2. Bev MacMillan
3. Patti Draude
4. Rob and Maria Fraser

Projects in the past year included:

1. COVID-19 Program
   1. Formation of Neighborhood Support Teams
   2. Constant literature review and publication of summaries on the website
   3. Developing policies and protocols which were then shared with other agencies around Montana
   4. Coordination of policy development with the County and State
   5. Reconfiguration of medical kits to address COVID-19 mitigation efforts
   6. Acquisition of supplies necessary to address COVID-19
   7. Dr. Piechowski and Dr. Andrews worked in the Gallatin County Health Department vaccination point of distribution at the County Fairgrounds once weekly for 15 weeks from February to May, in the name of GRR Fire.
2. Regular cross-training with Manhattan VFD (Sprow, Reynolds, Weskamp)
3. Wildland Fire Prevention and Preparation Program
4. Nixon Gulch Cleanup Day

Readygallatin.com info.

The Fire Department needs more volunteer firefighters and reservists. Our fire department is GRR’s first line of defense in non-law enforcement emergencies. Of all the volunteer opportunities available in the community, this is the most important to public safety. We also need more EMTs. Firefighters and Reservists are eligible to train and serve in this important capacity. Please consider serving our community. If you are interested, email us at [admin@grrfd.org](mailto:admin@grrfd.org).