ROBERTSON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Robertson Report

VOLUME 2009 ISSUE 1 WINTER EDITION

Special Points of Interest:

- RFPD Celebrates 60 years of Service
- Firefighter Reading program at Schools
- Firefighters Assist Hurricane Victims
- Join the RFPD Community Event Email Address Book

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Join the Event Email Address Book	2
Patches the Fire Prevention Dog	2
Firefighter's Read to kids at schools	2
Smoke in the Kitchen Recipe	3
Firefighter's Help Gulf Coast Victims	3
Visit us at These Upcoming Events	4
Certified Car Seat Installs by Firefighters	4

Robertson Fire Protection District Celebrates It's 60th Anniversary in 2009

In April 2009, the Robertson Fire Protection District will be celebrating its 60th year in existence. Over the years the fire district has seen enormous changes from its original inception. The fire district was formed in April 1949 as an all volunteer department with community members paying for service. The original fire house was erected using free labor from community residents and the land was purchased through the sale of fire tags. The fire district was given its first fire truck by the city of Kinloch. The station served as a community center for residents., movies were shown to children on the weekend, and adults held evening functions there as well. As the area around the old town of Robertson grew, those residents also received their fire protection from the fire district.

Robertson Fire Protection District 60th Anniversary

The fire district was named after the original town that it protected, the town of Robertson. The town derived its name from Robertson Airfield, which was later re-named Lambert International airport. Due to airport expansion over the years, the old town of Robertson, as people knew it ,vanished. One of the only remaining buildings in Robertson is the first Baptist church. Originally surround by residential homes, it is now shadowed by commercial warehouse buildings.

In the late 1960's, as tax revenues grew, the Robertson Fire Protection Districts began to become a paid fire district. Currently covering parts of the city of Bridgeton, the city of Hazelwood, and unincorporated St. Louis County, the fire district covers approximately 16.5 square miles and has 40 paid employees. Please feel free to come by for a tour and a look back into your fire district's history.

Robertson FPD Smoke Detector Program

The Robertson Fire Protection District would like to take this opportunity to remind our residents that we have a smoke detector program in place that we encourage our residents to take advantage of. This program has been in place for several years. Upon the resident's request, the Robertson Fire Protection District will come to their residence to check their smoke detectors to verify that they are functioning properly. If a new battery is needed, we will put one in. If a smoke detector is defective, then we will install a new smoke detector at no cost to the resident. We feel this is a very important aspect of home fire safety and we are more than happy to provide this service. Please call us at (314)291-6180 and schedule an appointment.

Join the RFPD Email Address Book

Join the Robertson FPD event email address book. Email us today and join!

The Robertson Fire Protection District firefighters and administrative staff participate in many public relation community events every year. We also offer many programs to the Robertson Fire Protection District residents every year. We advertise for all the community events and many programs in this newsletter and on the monument signs in front of each engine house. We would like a more personalized way to communicate all of our services that we offer to our residents. We have opened a Robertson Fire Protection District resident email address book and would like all of our residents to be a part of it. Anytime the Robertson Fire Protection District participates in any community events or offers any new programs for our residents, a designated member of the Robertson Fire Protection District will send out a mass email to the residents in the address book to let them know of the event or program. This email address book will be an excellent informational tool for the residents as well as the Robertson Fire Protection District firefighters and administrative staff. If you would like to be a part of this resident email address book, please email the Robertson Fire Protection District Public Relations Committee at ***prcommittee@rfpd.org*** with your name (and address, if desired). Each resident email address that is received will be added to this resident event email address book. This is another example of how the Robertson Fire Protection District firefighters are always trying to provide the best and most personal service possible to our residents.

Patches The Remote Control Fire Dog

Patches is newest Fire Prevention Tool to Robertson FPD family.

The Robertson Fire Protection District is proud to announce another new addition. Patches the Fire Dog Robot. This new interactive tool will assist with fire and safety awareness. The target audience for Patches will be 3 to 12 year old but adults will also be amazed by the interaction as well. Patches is a fully animated dog and remote control fire truck., Patches can move, speak, listen, play audio, wink, blink, and move his eyes right to left all by remote control. As he talks, his mouth is synchronized with the words. The fire truck has headlights, flashing emergency lights, and a siren which all help to capture the audience's attention. Patches will be used in schools, assemblies, station tours, mall exhibits, parades and any other setting where a fire safety message may be presented. Keep you eyes out for Patches as he is entertaining by presenting safety and fire awareness in a fun and interesting way. Patches sole mission in life is to spread the word about fire safety, so please call and invite the Robertson Fire Protection District to any community events that you have planned and we will happily bring the fire trucks, the firefighters, and Patches to you. Be safe out there!

Robertson Firefighters Read to kids at Armstrong Elementary and Garrett Elementary.

Blazing A Trail To Literacy Program

The Robertson Fire Protection District has teamed up with Armstrong Elementary School and Garrett Elementary School and established a literacy program at their schools titled "Blazing A Trail To Literacy With the Robertson Fire Protection District." In this program the firefighters will visit the students once a month and talk about the importance of reading and education. We will then read a book to the students. At the end of the book the firefighters will have a discussion with the students about the story. At this time the program is limited to the third grade students at Armstrong Elementary and 2nd grade students at Garrett Elementary. The hope of this literacy program is to show the students that reading is fun and important in their lives. At the end of the school year, the firefighters will coordinate with school officials from both elementary schools and have a "graduation" ceremony for the students that participated in the reading program. The Robertson Fire Protection District would like to thank school officials for helping coordinate this program.

Smoke In The Kitchen

Firefighter Marty Flavin's Fire House Clam Chowder

Ingredients: One large salt pork (near bacon at Schnuck's), one large white onion diced, two sticks real sweet cream butter, ten cans of chopped clams with juice, 1/2 gallon of whole milk, one quart of heavy whipping cream, salt and pepper, corn starch for thickening purposes.

Directions: Place salt pork in a large stock pot and cover with water. Simmer over a medium heat for thirty minutes. Add diced white onions and refill large pot to cover salt pork and onions. Season with salt and pepper and allow this to simmer for at least an hour, adding water as needed. The longer you allow this to simmer, the more flavorful the chowder will be. Drain clams and retain the juice. Add clams to pot, stirring occasionally, and let simmer for another twenty minutes. Add the sticks of butter and the clam juice and stir the mixture, again heating over a medium heat. Add the whipping cream and 1/2 of the whole milk, retaining the other half for thickening purposes. Bring the mixture to a boil. In a mixing bowl whisk together two tablespoons of corn starch and the whole milk. Whisk the corn starch and whole milk into a boiling stock pot, stirring constantly until the chowder is thickened (you may need to use more corn starch, depending on the thickness that you prefer). Reduce the heat and again add salt and pepper to your preference. You can remove the salt pork at this point, but it is not necessary. Serve chowder with shredded cheddar cheese and enjoy.

This recipe is a favorite of the Robertson Fire Protection District fire fighters. If you have any questions about how to prepare this clam chowder, feel free to email Firefighter Marty Flavin at mflavin@rfpd.org. Be safe and enjoy your meal.

Robertson Paramedics Help Hurricane Victims

Robertson Firefighter's help Hurricane Gustav victims.

The Robertson Fire Protection District provided an ambulance and two paramedics for hurricane relief efforts on the Gulf Coast. Paramedics Dave Hinson and Vince Sbanoto responded on the morning of September 9th. They left at 5 am to report to the deployment site of Festus, Mo. From there they traveled with nine other fire departments to Alexandria, LA to check in for their assignment. They were deployed to Lafayette, LA. After arriving in Lafayette and getting their briefing, they were sent to their hotel at 1 am. The next two days Vince and Dave transported people that had been moved for Hurricane Gustav back to their homes. Most of the trips took twelve hours to complete. The Friday before Hurricane Ike was to strike the Gulf Coast, the units moved people from the potential landfall area to areas in northern Louisiana. The Robertson paramedics were assigned to report to a small community hospital to ride out the landfall of Hurricane Ike. The landfall was in Texas, but the hospital had winds of 85 mph and heavy rain. After the hurricane moved out of the area, the Robertson crew was assigned to the Louisiana Emergency Medical Unit (LEMU). This unit went into communities and provided first aid care to the residents. The areas the LEMU went into sustained heavy flooding and were in need of clean water and food. The Robertson FPD crew came home on September 19th.

Visit The Firefighter's at These Events

The Robertson Fire Protection District participates in many community events every year and we love it. It is great to get out in the community and meet the people that we are serving. The year 2009 will be no exception. All the fire trucks and ambulances will be at Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex on April 12, 2009 for their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Sparky the Fire Dog will also be in attendance for this event.

The Robertson Fire Protection District will also be teaming up with Hazelwood West High School officials near prom time to put on our annual vehicle extrication "docu-drama." This is a great teaching tool for the kids at Hazelwood West High School because it displays to them the results of drinking alcohol and driving. The official date has not yet been determined, but check our website at www.rfpd.org to find out the date or call Fire Marshal Charlie Braband at (314)291-6671.

On July 4th, you will find all of the Robertson Fire Protection District apparatus' participating in the Bridgeton parade and at Bridgeton's firework's display later that evening. There are many more events that get scheduled throughout 2009 and we look forward to them as well. Keep checking our website at www.rfpd.org to find out what's going on at Robertson Fire Protection District. Invite us to your events.

RFPD

Robertson Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Mark Bright, President
Steve Neuner, Secretary
Joan Noel, Treasurer
Dave Tilley, Fire Chief

Administrative building (314) 291-6671
RFPD House One (314) 291-6180
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Visit the website at www.rfpd.org

To Protect and Serve is Our Business, and Being the Best is our Passion.

Robertson Fire Protection District

Mission Statement

The primary Mission of the Robertson Fire Protection District is to protect the lives and property of our citizens from the effects of fire, emergency medical incidents, hazardous situations, and other disasters.

Through immediate response to emergency needs, rapid suppression of fire, competent application of life saving techniques, and public education, we dedicate ourselves so the quality of community life is increased by the security and peace of mind we promote by our actions.

We are committed to serving our community with professionalism, excellence, and devotion to duty by maintaining and improving the skills of our personnel. The Robertson Fire Protection District recognizes our personnel as our greatest resource and the key to our success.

Visit our website @ www.rfpd.org

State Certified Car Seat Checks Offered at RFPD

The Robertson Fire Protection District currently has two firefighters that are certified car seat technicians in the State of Missouri. In order to get this certification, our firefighters had to take a forty hour child safety seat (CSS) class presented by a certified CSS organization called Safe Kids. In 2009 we have several other firefighters that will attend the class and get state certified. If any residents would like their child safety seats checked for proper installation or assistance in installing a new one, please call our Engine House One and schedule an appointment. There are many different kinds of car seats and they can be very difficult to properly install. Many times car seat manufacturer's have recalls on their car seats. When you come into the Robertson Fire Protection District for a check or installation, we will check the Safe Kids website for any recalls on your car seat. If you have any doubts about proper installation of your car seat or any recalls, please schedule an appointment. Let's work together to be safe now and not sorry later.

Robertson Fire Protection District

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