



## Community Calendar

First Aid/CPR Class  
March 12 at PF&R

Daylight Savings Ends  
March 13

Spring Break  
March 21— 25

PHS Robotics Competition  
March 26

Salmon and Jazz Dinner  
Saturday, April 23

First Aid/CPR Class  
May 14 at PF&R

## Personnel Spotlight:

Volunteers featured at Appreciation Dinner



**Marta McGovern Philpott** received the Career Award



**Marty Theurer** was awarded for 20 years with Philomath Fire & Rescue

# Hot off the Press

Spring 2016

## A message from the Fire Chiefs



**Chief Phelps**

The end is here, my replacement has arrived, and I've been thinking about my career in the fire service. Space doesn't allow me to thank everyone that's helped me out through the years, so I'll boil it down. First of all, I'd like to thank my wife, Wendy, and the rest of our family. Their support has been obvious and critical to me. Secondly, I'd like to thank the men and women with Philomath Fire & Rescue. The paid staff and volunteers are united in their desire to serve the community and need to be thanked more than they are. Finally, I'd like to thank the

Board for their dedication to the District. The common denominator amongst all of the various Board members I've worked with is their desire to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community. They took the business of finding a replacement for me very seriously, and the process led them to Tom Miller. I think the community will be pleased with their choice. Farewell to all, and welcome to Chief Miller.



**Chief Miller**

I would like to thank the Philomath Fire & Rescue Board for the opportunity to lead one of the finest

fire and rescue districts in the country.

I truly believe that firefighting is THE best job in the world. It has incredible rewards and responsibilities. Whether paid or volunteer, our firefighters dedicate themselves to excellence. We are here to listen to our community and to respond to your needs. We know that we can only succeed in keeping our community safe by working with, for, and through the community.

I would like to thank Chief Tom Phelps for his hard work over the years and for handing me such a well-prepared and well-trained fire district. His hard work is evident and I feel blessed to follow in his footsteps.

## A message from the Board

As we close the book on another year of record-setting call volumes, the Board thanks all of the volunteers and paid staff for their outstanding service to our community. We recently held our annual Appreciation Dinner in order to recognize the exceptional contributions of the volunteers and staff. There have been many changes in the last few months, but one thing that has not changed is the dedication of these volunteers and staff to the safety of the community. As the Board, our goals are, and always will be, to continue to provide the leadership, equipment, and facilities that our volunteers and staff need to continue to provide the excellent service that Philomath Fire & Rescue is known for.

One way that we are working towards these goals is to ensure that the District has the necessary funding

to provide for safe and adequate apparatus and equipment for our volunteers and staff. In addition, we want to make sure that our facilities are operational and accommodating to everyone in our community. The Board has identified that a \$3.5 million General Obligation Bond is the most effective way to accomplish these goals.

Over the last several months Chief Tom Phelps has been meeting with local community groups to discuss the challenges facing the District and how we plan to continue to meet the needs of the community. This outreach education will continue in order to equip you, the voters, with the information you need to make a decision about a bond measure come election time. The Board has identified the May 2016 election for the measure. While we believe

that this bond measure is a needed step in the progress of the District's Master Plan, we realize that we are here to provide a service to the community and will educate the community on our needs, and respond to the desires of the community. We have also defined a contingency plan for the District should the bond not be supported at the ballot box. For more information about the Fire District's Master Plan, Bond Summary, and Contingency Plan, please visit the District's website;

[www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com).

The Board of Directors looks forward to another successful year providing fire and medical emergency services to the Philomath community.

*-PF&R Board of Directors*

## Philomath Fire & Rescue

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Visit our website: [www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com)  
and like us on Facebook!

**The preservation of property through the  
extinguishment and prevention of fires.**

**The protection and care of human life  
through education and treatment.**

**The development of character through  
commitment and teamwork.**

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## Improving Response by Expanding Hours and Improving Facilities

On December 21st, 2015 Philomath Fire & Rescue adopted a 24-hour schedule for career firefighter officers. This represents a step forward in fire and life safety protection for the citizens of our District, and is part of the District's Master Plan.

This change has already made a difference in 'out of hours' calls (between 5 PM and 8 AM weekdays and on weekends) by having at least one highly trained EMS person responding to any medical incident, and an officer to respond to any fire incident within minutes of receiving the call. Although this will have a huge impact on the ability to address calls after-hours and on weekends

quickly, the majority of support still comes from the Volunteers of the District. The District would not function as well as it does without the Volunteers, who are an integral part of the service delivery. We have three Volunteer-Residents who are also on duty in the off-hours and on weekends (who live at the Main Station) that work in concert with the paid staff, and other Volunteers who live within the District that give their time to ensure the safety of our citizens. They are truly heroes.

This spring, Philomath Fire & Rescue will be asking the voters to approve a bond measure. This

bond measure will, among other things, allow the District to expand the living quarters for the career staff, as well as provide for the possibility of expanding Resident Volunteers. We also will be able to expand our community education by having a public meeting room that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act in the proposed expansion plans. The Union wholeheartedly endorses the bond measure and the Master Plan as sound options to continue to provide quality services to our community.

*-Local IAFF Union President, Rich Saalsaa*

## 7th Annual PF&R Appreciation Dinner

On Saturday, February 20th, 2016 Philomath Fire & Rescue held an annual Appreciation Dinner where members were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the Fire District.



**2016 Philomath Fire & Rescue awards recipients.**

From left to right: Ken Corbin, Rich Saalsaa, Tom Phelps, Marta McGovern-Philpott, David Young, Sean Ellison, Levi Schell, and Marty Theurer in front.

## Get your Questions Answered about the Bond Measure

Philomath Fire & Rescue will hold three community town-hall type meetings to discuss the proposed Bond information. Presentations will be given by Chief Tom Miller and former Chief Tom Phelps.

Meetings will be held at the three fire stations:

**April 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Station 203**—25700 Llewellyn Road

**April 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Station 201**—1035 Main Street

**April 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Station 202**—34925 Wren Road

Please join us to get more information about the bond and to get your questions answered. Light refreshments will be served.

Additional information about the bond can be found on the District's website: [www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com)