

BERGHEIM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

"Protecting Our Homes in the Hills"

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Visit our website at bergheimvfd.org for the latest Bergheim VFD news!

To volunteer or donate, call (830) 336-2590 or check our website

Call 911 to Report an Emergency

Bergheim Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) is dispatched through the Kendall County emergency system; therefore, **call 911 for all emergencies in our area**. When a call is made, the caller's address is used to determine which services are dispatched and from which department.

2018 Bergheim VFD Fundraiser - September 29th

Once again it is time to think FUNDRAISING and the fundraising committee has started planning! As our Fire Department responds to an increased number of calls and our community continues to grow in leaps and bounds, this fundraiser, combined with donations throughout the year, allows the Department to also continue to grow.



Plan to join us on September 29th at the Kendall County Fairgrounds to enjoy the sounds of the Almost Patsy Cline Band. Doors open at 5 pm. We are planning a raffle as well as the on-line silent auction. Watch for updates on our website and Facebook page.

Volunteers are needed to help in all areas! Some ways to volunteer: (1) solicitation of items for the silent auction and raffle, (2) raffle ticket sales, (3) event planning and setup, or (4) event night assistance. Sponsorships are also available to help offset the fundraiser costs. If you are interested in volunteering, donating, and/or becoming a sponsor, send a message to fundraiser.bergheimvfd@gvtc.com or call Nancy Arthur at 830-229-5504. We need everyone's help to make this event as much of a success as last year's fundraiser!

The 2nd Annual Bergheim Fire Music Fest Re-Cap

The 2nd Annual Bergheim Fire Music Fest held last October was an enormous success with just over \$90,000 raised! These funds helped advance the Department's goal to raise monies toward the next Pumper/Engine which is desperately needed to keep up with the fast-paced growth in the Bergheim VFD service area.

Many thanks again to all who made this fundraiser a success – the volunteers before, during and after the event, the donors, and the raffle ticket sellers. Special thanks to the Fundraiser Committee members who worked long hours for several months – especially Sherry Woodlee (Co-Chair) and Pat Denny (Silent Auction Chair). Finally, we are very appreciative of all who attended the event and have supported the Fire Department throughout the year!

We Continue to Grow!

As the Bergheim VFD's service area population continues to grow at a rapid rate, the Department's goal is to provide the most up-to-date equipment and training for our firefighters so they can provide quality service to the property owners in the area. Fire Chief Adam Hawkins says, "The area is growing way faster than we can. They're building new elementary, middle and high schools in the next five years and that will drastically change our response area."

This is reflected in the 2017 results. The Department made 251 runs in 2017 - a record and over 100 runs above the previous record year! About 70% were emergency/medical, 20% were for fires and the remainder miscellaneous. At year-end, the Department had 24 volunteer firefighters, also a record. Major accomplishments included:

- Purchasing about \$100,000 in equipment for the firefighters, including new radios, an AED defibrillator and vehicle extraction tools
- Beginning work on two new satellite substations, which will provide improved response to the northeast and northwest sections of our service area
- Kendall County EMS housed an ambulance with EMS personnel at the fire station during daylight hours to provide service to eastern Kendall County

The next few years is expected to be even more active:

- We received a new F-250 Command truck in early 2018. This truck will mean faster response times as well as better command and control at fire scenes.
- As of April 2018, Kendall County now has a full-time ambulance at the fire station! Having full time EMS staff at the fire station also means we may need to explore renovating and/or expanding the station at some point.
- We continue to purchase new equipment for the firefighters, including additional fire & rescue gear and iPads in all vehicles for better navigation and communication.

Improvements to firefighting and emergency response capabilities are made with the help of donations from people living in the service area who are receiving the benefits. Kendall County provides annual support to help with operating expenses necessary to "keep the doors open," but capital purchases of such items as vehicles, water storage and firefighter equipment are dependent on your donations.

Paul Knoll Named 2017 Firefighter of the Year

Paul Knoll was named Bergheim VFD's 2017 Firefighter of the Year. Paul has a strong background in firefighting and emergency services. He started his firefighting career in 1980 - 1985 serving as a firefighter, EMT, rescue squad and fire investigator for a fire department in northern California. He moved to the San Francisco bay area where he worked as a Police Officer and Fire & Explosion Investigator from 1992 - 2012. Paul joined the Bergheim VFD in 2016 and now serves as the department's Safety Officer. Congratulations Paul!



Prepare a Fire Defensive Zone

The Hill Country may be heading toward another dry period with increased chances of wildfires. Homeowners should take steps to protect themselves by preparing a “fire defensive zone” around their homes. This buffer zone is needed to slow or stop the spread of a wildfire and protect homes from catching fire. The National Fire Protection Association suggests the following be done within 30 feet of a home:

- Remove any flammable material away from exterior walls and from around/under decks – including flammable plants, leaves, firewood piles, anything that can burn.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves and other debris that could catch embers.
- Clear vegetation away from above ground propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Remove dead vegetation and keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches or less.
- Remove vegetation under trees so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees at least six feet from the ground.
- Remove branches that hang over roofs and, if possible, keep tree canopies at least ten feet from the edge of homes.
- For more information Google “Defensive Space - FEMA.gov”

Thank You, Bergheim Pet Hospital

Once again, the Bergheim Pet Hospital and Clinic combined their Annual Open House (the 2018 Spring Fling) on May 12th with a fundraiser for the Fire Department. Over \$7,500 was raised this year! Many thanks to Dr. Dawn Fradkin and her staff for their support!



How to Get Involved

Bergheim VFD is a completely volunteer organization, primarily dependent on volunteers and donations. Here are four ways you can help:

- Make a tax-deductible donation - use the donation form in this newsletter or see the Department’s website (bergheimvfd.org)
- Become a volunteer firefighter - attend a training meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm at the fire station or contact Chief Hawkins at adamh44@hotmail.com for more information.
- Join Bergheim ASSIST, the volunteer group supporting our firefighters - contact Patricia Hausman at 210-771-8809 or pkhausman@yahoo.com. The ASSIST now has a Facebook page and Instagram page.
- Assist or become a Bergheim VFD Board member - attend a Board meeting the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the fire station for more information.

See you at the Fundraiser!
Kendall County Fairgrounds – September 29th, 5 pm

Chief's Corner

Ambulance Now at the Fire Station 24/7: One year ago, Kendall County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) began providing services to the Bergheim area by providing a dedicated ambulance stationed out of Bergheim VFD's fire station during daytime hours only. **As of April 28th, an ambulance is now in service to the citizens and visitors of Kendall County 24/7/365!** In addition to providing service for the Bergheim area, it will make a huge impact by decreasing the response time for all of southeastern Kendall County.

New Command Truck: We are happy to announce delivery of a new Command Vehicle to help aid the emergency response for the area. This unit will assist not only with incident command but also serve as a first responder vehicle. The Command Vehicle was "christened" during a recent grass/structure fire. Four Departments (Bergheim, Boerne, Kendalia, and Sisterdale) with 14 vehicles plus the EMS unit (Med 3) based out of Bergheim VFD and the Bergheim ASSIST were on scene.



Volunteer Firefighters: We have welcomed new volunteers over the recent months. The majority of our volunteers do not live in our area so extra thanks to them for their dedication and hours they spend serving our community.

Greetings from Your Board

We are well into 2018 as depicted in this newsletter. The year started without long-time Board Member Dave Kibler, who served the Board as Secretary since its inception. We want to thank Dave for his years of service! Buddy Schuchardt has joined our Board as a Director, and we look forward to his input. The fast-paced growth in eastern Kendall County will continue to drive the Bergheim VFD expectations and plans. Fundraising and donations will continue to be a high priority as we acquire equipment and vehicles to support our growing needs. We appreciate the past support and look forward to your continued support of the Bergheim VFD.

Thank you for your support,

Ken West, Board President

And from your Board:

Jeff Hoffstadt	Vice-President	Robert Walker	Director
Nancy Arthur	Treasurer	Ben Pruett	Director
Paul Mebane	Secretary	Buddy Schuchardt	Director

We thank Matrix Printing Solutions, Inc. for donating printing of this newsletter.

NOTE: Electronic version of newsletters, notifications of fundraiser events and the annual meeting available by sending a message to newsletter.bergheimvfd@qvtc.com. Save paper & postage!