

# BERGHEIM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

“Protecting Our Homes In the Hills”

## SPRING/SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Visit our website at [bergheimvfd.org](http://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.** The caller's address is used to determine which services are dispatched from which department.

### 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Meeting of the Bergheim VFD took place on December 13, 2018, at the Fire Station. The 2018 highlights presented at the meeting included:

- 22 active volunteer firefighters with 5 new firefighters in processing at year end
- 250 calls made in 2018
- Department ordered a new Engine 33 for late 2019 delivery
- Status on completing two sub-stations in Cordillera Ranch to increase area coverage
- Kendall County EMS and ambulance service now full time at the fire station

The annual Board elections also took place. Jeff Hoffstadt, our previous Fire Chief, was elected President, and our prior President, Ken West, was elected Vice President. Nancy Arthur, Paul Mebane, Buddy Schuchardt, Bob Walker and Ben Pruett remained in their current positions.



## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

11 AM – 3 PM

On June 1, 2019 your Bergheim VFD celebrates a major milestone – 10 years ago, our volunteer firefighters responded as the Bergheim VFD to an emergency call for the FIRST TIME! The Department has grown in leaps and bounds since then – as has our community – and we want you to join us in celebrating this landmark event!

Join your friends and neighbors to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bergheim VFD at the Fire Station on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 11 - 3 pm. Burgers and brats will be served as you meet the volunteer firefighters who protect our 'Homes in the Hills', tour the station and emergency equipment, and watch a variety of demonstrations.

Check our website and Facebook page for updates!

# “POWER UP” ENGINE 33!!

## 2019 FUNDRAISING PLANS

We need your help to get new Engine 33 “Powered Up”! The focus of our 2019 fundraising campaign is to raise funds for Engine 33 prior to its delivery date in late 2019. Thanks to a \$200,000 Texas Forest Service Grant, approximately one third of the vehicle is being paid for.

This new Engine will enhance our ability to serve the community! But we NEED HELP and yes, that means money. Our fundraising goal is to pay not only for the basic fire engine, but also the equipment necessary to have it operationally ready upon delivery. Let’s join together and raise the funds to pay for the rest of the vehicle and “POWER DOWN THE ROAD”!! Our fundraiser this year is a “**virtual fundraiser**”, no brick and mortar event this year.

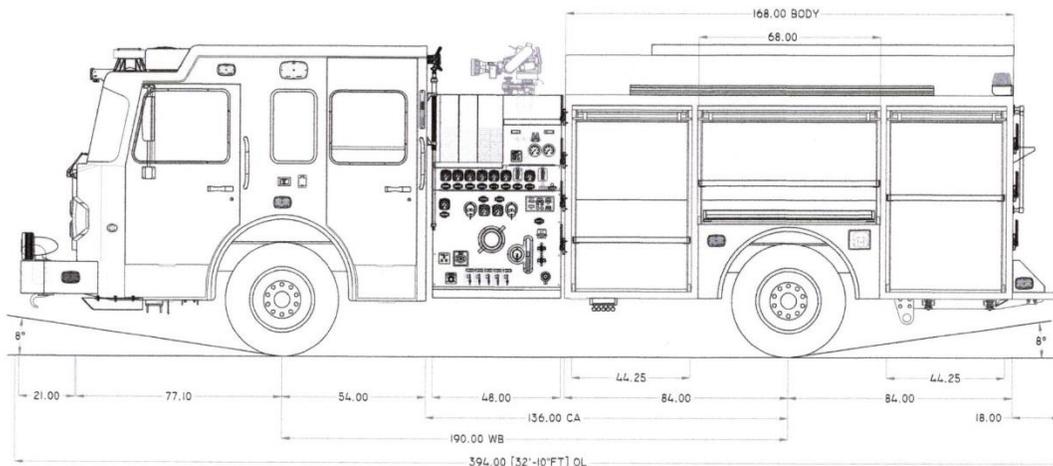
Members of the Board of Directors and our Volunteer Firefighting cadre are asking to be invited to your group events or meetings to provide information on the current status of the Fire Department – how the department and our community have changed in the last 10 years, how we are funded, and other questions you might have or don’t know you have! Send a message through the “Contact Us” section of our website and schedule a date!

Our community continues the rapid growth it has experienced over the past few years and your Fire Department is receiving more emergency service requests – Fires, Medical Emergencies, and Vehicle Accidents. As more private homes and businesses are completed and as our main roads are widened and extra lanes added, both our population and vehicle traffic has increased. As a Volunteer Fire Department, we rely on our community to donate the funds to enable the department to keep up with this growth and increased use of our services.

How do I donate?

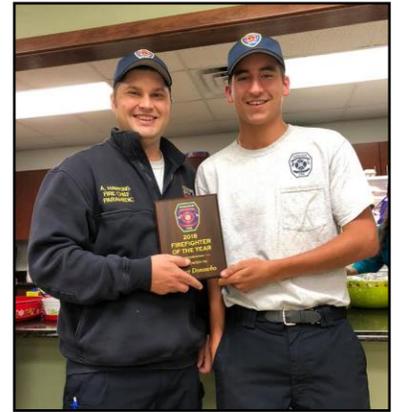
- Complete and mail the donation slip including your donation in the enclosed envelope. If you select an item from the priority needs list to purchase (on the back of the insert), annotate the item on the card. If receiving your newsletter electronically, the donation slip with the address will be attached to the email.
- Contributions in the form of cash or stocks are also welcome; send a message through the “contact us” section of our website or email [bergheimvfd@gvtc.com](mailto:bergheimvfd@gvtc.com).

The campaign goal is to raise **\$250,000** by the end of November in preparation for the delivery of the vehicle. We will continue to accept donations until the end of the year to apply towards equipment and other department needs.



## 2018 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Sawyer Donowho was chosen as 2018 Bergheim VFD Firefighter of the year. Sawyer is a senior at Boerne Champion High School. He enjoys hanging out with friends and volunteering his time to help out in the community. He has been volunteering with the Bergheim VFD for just over a year. Sawyer plans to attend Texas A&M San Antonio and, after college, continue his education and pursue a career in the fire service.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY HELP OTHERS

Did you know Pedernales Electric Cooperative Power (PEC) and GVTC both have programs where one can donate monthly through their bills – as little as \$1 or less per month – and help organizations in our community? The Fire Department has benefitted from both organizations – PEC recently awarded us a grant and the GVTC Foundation was a sponsor for our 2018 Fundraiser. If we all donated a small amount monthly, both organizations will be able to support even more nonprofits in the area!

**PEC:** PEC's Power of Change program provides members the opportunity to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the rounded-up funds used to award Community Grants to local nonprofits throughout the Hill Country. In 2017, the Bergheim VFD was awarded a \$5,000 Community Grant through this program. PEC members can enroll in Power of Change today through their online PEC account, by phone, on their payment slip, or by visiting a PEC district office. Members can find complete details at [pec.coop/power-of-change](http://pec.coop/power-of-change).

**THE GVTC Foundation:** The GVTC Foundation is an organization that is dedicated to the goal of building and supporting stronger communities within the GVTC service area. The Foundation has donated over \$3.2 million to date to numerous causes within six important program goals: Health & Human Services, Youth Programs & Services, Volunteer Emergency Services, Education, Cultural and Public Charities. Follow this link to information on how to donate through your monthly bill with their Round Up For Change program: <https://gvtc.com/gvtc-foundation/partnership-campaign/gvtc-bill-donations>.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pkhausman@yahoo.com).
- 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.

## **CHIEF'S CORNER**

Bergheim VFD is a 100% volunteer fire department. We are currently operating with a total of 25 volunteers, with ages ranging from 16 to 70 years old. We currently serve the community with a total of seven vehicles, with the eighth (new Engine 33) on the way. The Department has two engines, two brush trucks, one water tender, one squad vehicle (used as the EMS first responder vehicle) and one command vehicle. The Texas Forest Service grant will pay for a good portion of the new engine.

Spring is upon us, and grass is starting to grow - fast. It is always recommended to keep grass areas short around the house to help prevent the spread of a grass fire from reaching your home. It is also recommended to keep at least a 50-foot area around the home free of tall grass and cedar trees, if possible. Although it looks like the area is in good shape, currently we are in dryer conditions than normal for this time of year. Please use precautions and check the weather before lighting a controlled burn. Call the Boerne Police Department's non-emergency number 830-249-8645 to let them know you are planning to burn.

The Bergheim VFD continues to work hard to serve the needs of the Bergheim Community. We can't thank you enough for your continued support!

## **GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD**

Greetings all! The first quarter of 2019 has virtually flown by as we look forward to spring's early arrival. The year has brought an abundance of changes to our area of Kendall County. The middle school is almost complete, new homes are being built at a faster pace each month, Hwy 46 improvements continue, and our local historical icon, The Bergheim General Store, changed hands for the first time in three generations. (Thank you Stanley Jones for everything you've done for Bergheim VFD!) One thing remains the same: change is inevitable. The fast-paced growth in eastern Kendall County will continue to drive the Bergheim VFD expectations and plans. This June 1<sup>st</sup> will mark our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of operations as a fire department. It is amazing to think about how much we have grown and developed over the past 10 years. Our board is dedicated to providing the direction and means for Bergheim VFD to continue to meet the needs of our community, and to protect "Our homes in the Hills". Your support of our fundraising efforts and monetary donations will continue to be a high priority as we expand our infrastructure to meet our departments growing needs. We appreciate the past support and look forward to your continued support of the Bergheim VFD.

Thank you for your support,

*Jeff Hoffstadt*, Board President

And from your Board:

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

**JOIN US ON 1 JUNE FOR THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

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