

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

AT YOUR SERVICE

Serving the citizens of Greater Federal Way and Des Moines



WINTER 2015

Emergency Response & Safety Upgrades...



As I enter my 37th year as a member of South King Fire & Rescue (SKF&R), and my 14th year as your Fire Chief/Administrator, I am thankful to continue serving this community.

Here at SKF&R, we continue to work hard to provide you with the highest level of service possible in these unique economic times. We survived the deepest lows of the recession,

although with reduced staffing levels and services. We are now slowly recovering from the loss of nearly 30% of our annual revenues. The combined effort and leadership displayed by your elected Board of Fire Commissioners, our administrative staff, and our firefighters and officers, have bridged the gap between the worst days of the recession and today. However, we have fallen behind relative to our capital equipment, facilities, and apparatus needs. Therefore, your Board of Fire Commissioners is carefully considering the potential of a voter-approved bond measure in order to support our fire department with the necessary capital funding for the fire district to maintain firefighter safety and emergency response, and safety upgrades.

SKF&R has not placed a bond issue in front of the citizens we serve since the early 1990's. Our plan for many years had been to fund replacement apparatus, equipment, and minor fire station upgrades through a capital reserve account we worked to fund through our normal revenues. However, the loss of nearly 30% of our annual revenues from 2010 through 2013 required a close examination of a voter-approved bond measure to get us back on track once again. The specific components of the potential funding measure was shared through a series of "Town Hall Meetings/Open Houses" with our public. We truly want to hear our public's input. The measure will likely contain some of the following requirements:

- Capital equipment
- Replacement of fire engines (several date back to being placed in service in the early 1990s).
- Ladder truck (housed at the headquarters station, it is also from the early 1990s).
- Aid cars/ambulances (several of these need to be replaced).

- Replacement of above-ground fuel tanks at every fire station as they are at "end of life;" they allow us to refuel emergency apparatus daily as well as being available during a disaster.
- Seismic upgrades at all fire stations ensuring that all our fire stations remain standing after an earthquake to allow for ongoing emergency responses throughout our service area.

These are just a few examples of the capital upgrades and replacements the Board of Fire Commissioners are considering relative to a potential bond measure. We look forward to hearing *your input* as we establish the future of our fire department.

So once again, thank you for letting us serve you. When you see one of our firefighters or civilian staff, know that they take our Mission Statement to heart as they work hard for you day in and day out:

We help people by responding with professional Fire Department services.

I am proud of the sentiment of that statement, proud to continue serving you, and proud of all the men and women who make up South King Fire & Rescue!

Dr. Allen D Church, EdD
Fire Chief/Administrator



Assistant Chief Plumlee presents information regarding the proposed funding measure at a recent Town Hall meeting

SKF&R 9/11 Memorial

SKF&R proudly unveiled its 9/11 public memorial on September 11th. It was a moving ceremony befitting this important display. After years of planning, fundraising and hard work, this unique space honors those who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks. It is open to all to contemplate that day, see and touch items from each of the three crash sites, read the names of each victim etched in granite, and interact with history in a unique and moving way.

The memorial is located in front of Fire Station #64 at 3700 South 320th Street in Federal Way, east of I-5 and west of Military Rd South



Thanking a generous sponsor of the memorial

Hundreds of citizens, dignitaries and generous donors were on hand to commemorate the opening and to recognize the 13th anniversary of the September 11th event. The 9/11 Memorial is one of only a few that contains artifacts from the Twin Towers in New York, Shanksville, Pennsylvania (site of Todd Beamer's heroic flight 93 crash) and the United States Pentagon. These national treasures were brought to Federal Way by the efforts of firefighters specifically to create this lasting memorial for our community. The open space in front of fire station #64 has been permanently given over to this public memorial, and a non-profit foundation will oversee its care and maintenance.

In addition to the outdoor memorial, the lobby inside the fire station has been turned into a display room highlighting the contributions of SKF&R personnel at national disasters such as 9/11, the Oso mudslides, the Challenger shuttle disaster, and others. The inside display is available for viewing during the day when firefighters are in the station.

The 9/11 memorial is a free, wheelchair accessible, outdoor venue that is open year round and all are invited anytime to sit, contemplate and remember a day we will never forget.

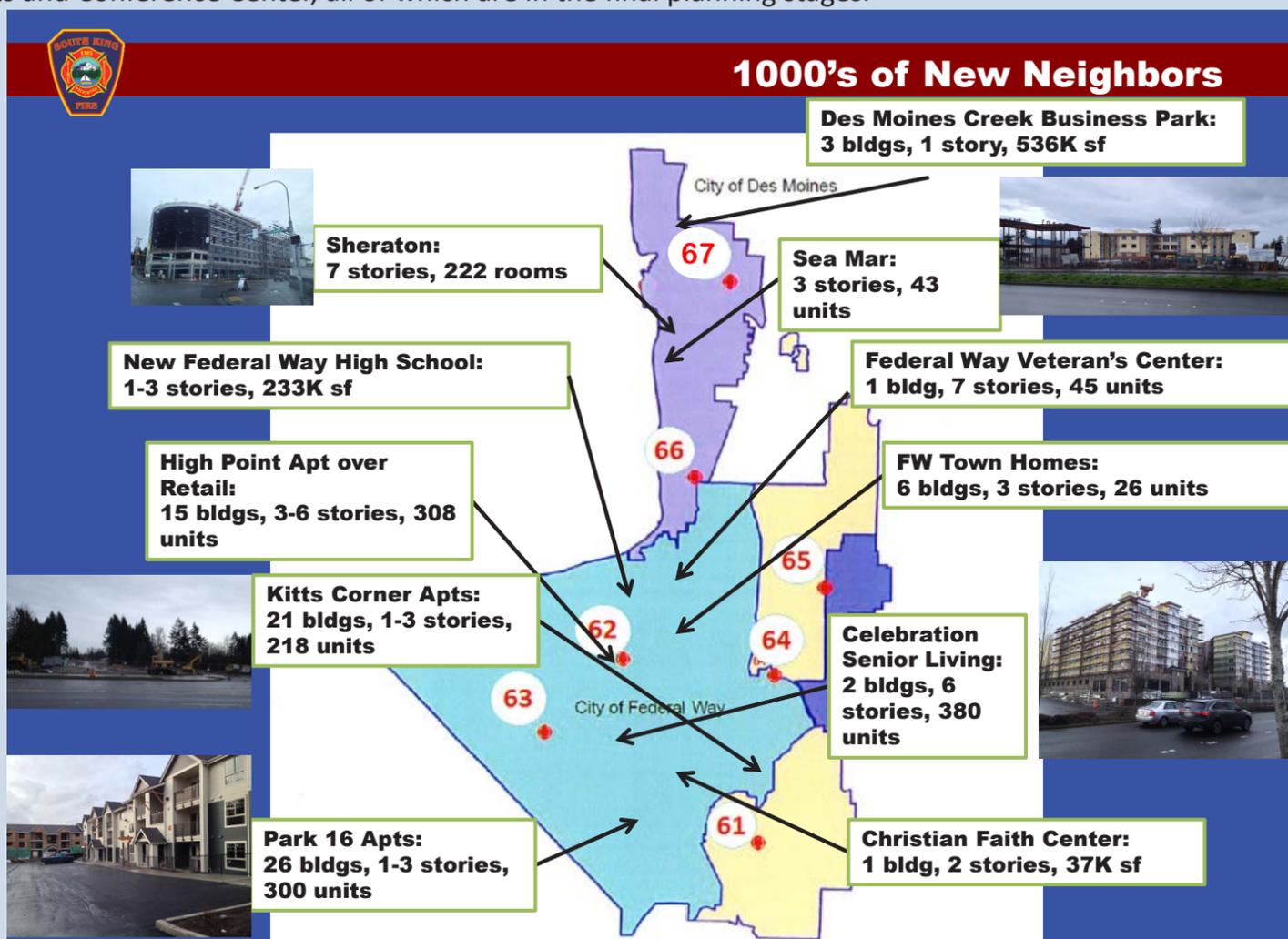
Thank you to all who have made this memorial possible.

Building Boom In South King County

After several years of little or no new construction, the South Sound area is growing again. There are many projects in the planning and review stages, and several are currently under construction. This includes nearly 1,500 new housing units, over 200 new single-family homes in various subdivisions, and many new businesses.

Our Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for ensuring all the projects meet the Fire Code, have proper access, and are equipped with the latest in fire protection systems.

There are more major projects on the horizon, including hundreds of additional living units, a new Federal Way High School, and the Performing Arts and Conference Center, all of which are in the final planning stages.



Super Volunteer... *Dick Body at 80 years young!*



"I enjoy serving others as it brings variety and personal growth into my life and because I enjoy the happiness it brings to others."

Dick & Kevin Body (above);

Dick at the wheel with his silent and faithful partner by his side (right)



You may have seen SKF&R's antique fire engine out and about at community parades, farmers markets, or car shows, and if you did, almost certainly the man behind the wheel was Dick Body.

Dick served with the Des Moines fire department as a volunteer firefighter from 1981 to 1988 in Des Moines. Today he proudly oversees the care and tour schedule of our 1941 Chevrolet fire pumper, and delivers interdepartmental mail to all eight stations on a weekly basis.

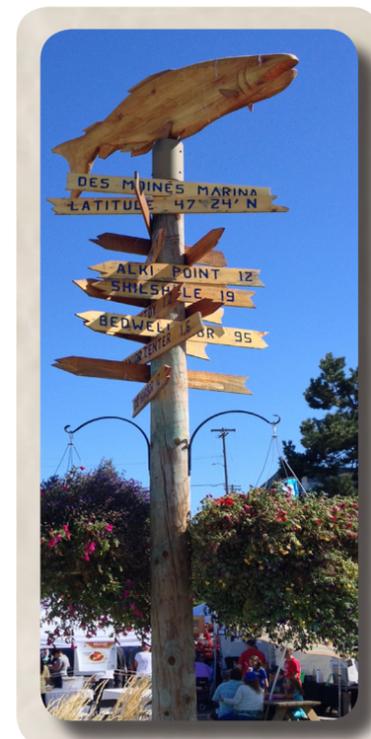
Dick does not limit his volunteer work just to serving SKF&R. He is also a driver for the Des Moines Senior Center, delivers Meals-on-Wheels, and chauffeurs people to doctor appointments through King County Senior Services.

In 1963 Dick, his wife and two children moved to Des Moines where he worked for the US Post Office until his retirement in 1988. One of his children is now a Battalion Chief at SKF&R.

At 80 years young, Dick is active in his church and is also an accomplished wood-worker. He carved the famous fish with the direction signs at the Des Moines Marina, and some intricate sailboats you can see at a local Des Moines restaurant.

There are so many people in our communities that give back generously every day through volunteer work. Whether it is scout leadership, elderly assistance or lending a hand to those less fortunate, we are all better off for these acts of selflessness.

Thank you Dick!



Dick's beautiful work of art donated to the City of Des Moines

SKF&R Facilities Maintenance... *Lance Boe*

Did you know that SKF&R has eight fire stations? Seven of these stations support firefighters 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. That is a lot of facility wear and tear! Each fire station has plumbing, heating and electrical systems like any other structure, plus emergency back-up systems necessary for fire and emergency medical responses. Additionally, Station 62 houses our administration services and Station 68 houses our Training, Fleet, and Facilities Divisions.

The Facilities Manager for SKF&R is Lance Boe. He and his family are longtime Federal Way residents. We are all fortunate to have such a skilled tradesman and manager taking care of our fire stations. Lance takes his responsibility seriously by providing common sense, efficient solutions to the many mechanical and building problems that arise. The stations were a crucial component to the 17,695 emergency responses SKF&R answered in 2014.

When Lance was hired in May of 2007, he was one of three employees in the Facilities Division. SKF&R made staff reductions during the recession with the Facilities Division going from three employees to one. That reduction in staff has changed Lance's job from facility maintenance to managing and repairing facilities. The staff reductions were necessary, but in the long run proper maintenance is preferable to emergency repair. Maintaining and repairing fire stations will continue to be a priority for the District, especially with the aging stations.

A primary concern is that six of the fire stations may collapse or suffer significant

Station	Year Built	Age	Safety Improvements
61	1979	36	
62	1978	37	1985
63	1964	51	1984/2010
64	1987	28	
65	1968	47	1985
66	1966	49	1984
67	1970	45	1999
68	1964	51	1986

Lance Boe



damage in a design level earthquake because they were all remodeled prior to building codes requiring upgrades to limit earthquake damage.

After an earthquake, when firefighters are expected to respond, damage to our fire stations may prevent fire apparatus from leaving the station.

Other facility needs are: to improve station decontamination areas; replace above-ground fuel tanks; provide four new roofs; upgrade four emergency generators; increase security around the stations; and upgrade vehicle exhaust extractors. All of these needs are to improve existing, aging equipment or structures and provide for firefighter safety.

SKF&R is fortunate to have past leaders who planned modest fire stations meeting the needs of the community by providing fast response to emergencies. Going forward it is important to maintain these stations for the long-term so that SKF&R can continue to provide helpful professional service.

Creating an Emergency Kit

Get Prepared

Home Emergency Preparedness Kit

Emergencies strike without warning. SKF&R will be at your side within minutes whenever you call 9-1-1

But, there are emergencies that are so widespread, such as an earthquake, a severe winter storm or other unforeseen disasters, that they close businesses, cause long-term power outages, and completely disrupt our lives.

By taking some simple steps today, you and your family can be ready when an event like this occurs. We have created a series of guides to help you be prepared for a disaster that requires you, your family and even your pets to be self-sufficient for several days. They are free and available at your neighborhood fire station and on our website at www.southkingfire.org/preparedness.



The guides offer tips on storing water, what types of foods work best, additional supplies to consider adding to your kit, and suggestions on how to create a good kit that won't break the bank. You probably already have many of the things you need; you just need to gather them up and store them where you can access them if there is a need.

We have included ideas to keep your pets cared for, and even a kit for your car.

Preplanning is the key

The guides will walk you through setting up a network of contacts that will help you and your family stay connected when local phone lines are down or jammed, and tips on maintaining your disaster supplies.

If you would like to get involved in disaster preparedness in your community, SKF&R partners with both the City of Federal Way and the City of Des Moines to offer neighborhood emergency training. These teams help by using the strengths of those in your immediate neighborhood, working together and helping each other until local emergency responders can help.

In Federal Way, contact Emergency Manager Ray Gross at ray.gross@cityoffederalway.com.

In Des Moines, contact Community Service Officer Kory Batterman at kbatterman@desmoineswa.gov.

South King Fire responds to a wide variety of 9-1-1 Calls

MEDICAL EMERGENCY
An aid call is for anyone that is sick or injured no matter how severely, or a service call where someone just needs help getting on their feet.

17,695
Total Calls 2014

FIRE EMERGENCY
Fires of course, but also for fire alarm activations and non-aid service calls, such as people locked out of their home or broken water pipes.

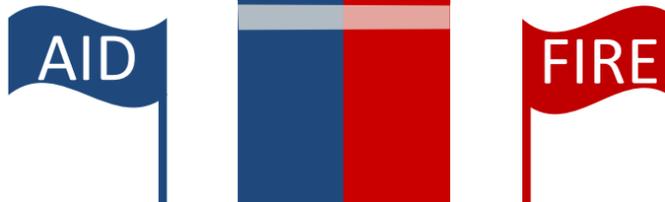
3,849
Fire Calls

13,846
Aid Calls

AID **FIRE**



Calls for Service have increased by more than 14% since 2010



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“ WE HELP PEOPLE by responding with professional Fire Department services.”
It's not long or flashy but it accurately represents our core value of helping whomever, whenever and however we can in the most professional manner possible.
Thank You for your trust and support

SKF&R Food & Toy Drive was a tremendous success

For over 30 years SKF&R has helped provide a holiday meal and Christmas gifts to those in need. This year presented some challenges due to greater needs in our community. With the GENEROUS support of our community, we were able to carry out two separate events that let us support over 250 families, including over 1,000 children in all parts of our fire district. In the Des Moines area, the Food & Toy Drive provided food and Christmas gifts. In other parts of the district we provided gifts to kids and teens through a partnership with Grace Church in Federal Way.



The remaining toys were provided to other groups, including Wounded Warriors, Seattle Children's Hospital and Puget Sound Mental Health Agency. We could never do this important work without the big-hearted help from our citizens.

THANK YOU!

STATION 62 - HEADQUARTERS
31617 1st Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003; 253-839-6234
www.southkingfire.org

**SKF&R
Website**