

Tarpley VFD

August 2015

Protecting Our Valley Since 1975

Annual BBQ, Parade, Auctions, and Raffle

Sunday, September 6, 2015

Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. (line up at 10:30)

Serving starts immediately after the parade.

Silent auction 10:30

Live auction 1:00

Tarpley VFD's Awarded \$45K Grant from LCRA/BEC

Last fall, shortly before the annual picnic fundraiser the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) through the Bandera Electric Cooperative (BEC) announced that funds were available for non-profit organizations to be solely used for improving infrastructure. In the Tarpley VFD five-year plan, an area of need addressed was increasing the size of the pavilion and replacing the roofs over the areas used during the picnic. The TVFD board discussed this need, however the board felt that our patrons' donations should be used for fire fighting and training needs. The board agreed that refurbishing the "picnic buildings" should be done primarily with grant funds. A group of members began compiling data for the grant and submitted it to the LCRA September 1, 2014. The competitive applications for the

grant were from the entire LCRA service area which extends from Brownwood to Goliad and Rocksprings to Brenham. On December 8, the TVFD received notice that it had been awarded a \$45,253 grant.

With this grant the department has increased the size of the pavilion by nearly 50 percent, put new roofs over the dessert/tea booths and serving area, bought a new refrigerator-cooler and installed a 40 foot stainless steel countertop in the bar-b-que area. The department was responsible for a 20% percent match. The board felt this was a good return on investment since these facilities serve as the primary resources for our annual fundraiser and as a resource to the Tarpley community.

From the Chief... The effectiveness of a volunteer fire department relies heavily on many different aspects, but none so much as it's volunteers. Without them, the biggest and shiniest fire engine in the world wouldn't matter. Here in Tarpley, our small department has a dedicated group of volunteers who put in countless hours to keep our response capabilities current. Over the past year, we have continued our monthly trainings at the Fire Station as well as traveled to many other trainings hosted by other departments or agencies. These trainings include Motor Vehicle Accidents, Wild Land Fire, Structure Fire, Medical, and Technical Rescue to name a few. Since this time last year, 911 calls in all of these areas of emergency response have been made and responded to by Tarpley Volunteer Fire Department. If you think you might be interested in joining our team, I invite you to reach out to me as we are always on the look out for responders. This past Spring, we finally received much needed rains. These rains have produced lush pastures that have been a sight for sore eyes. With the resurgence of pasture growth, comes an increase in Fire Danger as these fuels dry out over the Summer. If you are considering burning brush piles, trash pits, or even pastures, and are unsure of how to go about doing this, please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to offer any help or advice that I can. I'd like to personally thank those of you who have contributed in any way to our Department in the past. These contributions give us the resources and tools necessary to make a difference in our community and we strive to make good on your generosity. Be safe out there! — Chief Adam Jenschke

Shop Amazon.com ?

If you do any shopping at Amazon.com, please check out the charitable AmazonSmile program and consider making Tarpley VFD the organization you'd like to support. At no cost to you, our department benefits from your purchases.

Tarpley VFD Incident/Call Report

EMS:	7
Flood/Swiftwater:	1
Brush Fire:	3
Structure Fire:	3
Controlled Burn Stand-By:	2
Vehicle Fire:	2
Motor Vehicle Accident:	2
Search and Rescue:	1
Helicopter Landing Zone:	2
Total	21

If you have Auction Donations...

If you have donations for the live or silent auctions for our upcoming fundraiser, September 6, please let us know so that we can get the item(s) listed and placed in the auction order ahead of time. If you live in the area call Curtis Kosub at 830-426-9317. He will make arrangements to have the item(s) picked up. **If you are planning to bring the item the day of the picnic, please call Curtis so he can put it on the list(s).** This will help the auctions run smoothly. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The Need for Transparency

The Tarpley VFD operates totally on funds raised at the annual fundraiser, and from donations, and grants. The funds basically pass through the department from you, our patrons, and pay for various needs of the department. The department feels the funds never, truly, belong to the department; it is always **your** money. You work for it and use it as you see fit. You could do other things with it and we know that. We also know that it is through your generosity and commitment to the TVFD that you provide us these funds. So we take seriously how we use your money. Now the buzzword *transparency* steps onto the stage. To be as transparent as possible, the TVFD has posted its financial information online using the IRS form 990. The Form 990 is filed with the IRS by every nonprofit, annually. You can access this information at our website, www.tarpleyvfd.org. Also, at any time if you have questions regarding the financials of the organization you can call it's president, Curtis Kosub at 830-426-9317.

TVFD	2015
Expense Budget	
Administration	\$2,935.00
Fire Operations	\$28,445.00
Training and travel	\$5,000.00
Fuels	\$3,600.00
Build./ Grnds Maint.	\$750.00
Insurances	\$3,962.00
Memberships	\$130.00
Picnic costs	\$13,144.00
Utilities	\$2,200.00
Capital Improvements	\$54,303.00
Total 2015 Expenses	\$114,469.00

President's Column...

If you read the papers, watch TV, or check news online many of the top news stories are created by selfishness, greed, anger, etc. Not that bad things don't happen in Tarpley, but the vast majority of the time what happens in Tarpley bears out the kind of good neighbors we have out here. From the viewpoint of the TVFD we see many wonderful, kind actions of neighbors helping neighbors. Sometimes it's helping round up cattle that have gotten out onto the highway. Other times it's a passerby stopping to help change a flat on a stranger's vehicle. Then there are times we see a neighbor bring a meal to a sick neighbor. In the case of the TVFD, our "neighbors" show support to us in many ways. Many of our neighbors bring cakes for the dessert booth at the annual picnic and don't expect a thank you. Several of our neighbors stay up all night and cook the meat for our picnic and they have done this for years and don't expect a thank you. Many folks through out the year clean the Community Center, cut and trim the grass, paint, wash the trucks, and sweep out the fire station and they don't expect a thank you. Then there are these very committed few who answer the "tone signals" at all times of day or night to fight a fire, lift a fallen senior citizen, provide first-responder services to a car or motorcycle wreck victim. They do this on their own time and don't expect a thank you. Also, there are our "guardian angels." These are neighbors who faithfully write a check, some large, some not so large, but it all helps pay the bills. They too don't expect a thank you. To all these folks the department says, **"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! And when you need us we will be there because of your generosity!"**

Sincerely,

Curtis Kosub

Tarpley VFD Mission Statement

The mission of the TVFD is to promote community education on fire and public safety and to enlist and train volunteer members in order to provide firefighting and emergency services within its capabilities.

Meeting and Training Times

Regular membership meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 at the Tarpley Community Center. Every land owner and Tarpley area resident is welcome.

Regular monthly training is on the

Tarpley VFD

Board of Directors

President...Curtis Kosub
Fire Chief...Adam Jenschke
SecretaryLinda Andrade
Treasurer.....Vacant
Director-at-LargeKenny Alf