



FIRE 3 Insider

Clark County Fire District 3 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019

Fire District 3
CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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Message from the Chief

By Scott Sorenson

Promises made, promises kept...that's the message we are sharing with our community.

Two years ago, you supported a fire levy lid lift to improve emergency services. Your support has enabled us to hire three firefighters to respond to higher call volumes and purchase apparatus needed to save lives and property. We've also improved our training, paramedic and fire risk reduction programs the last of which had been discontinued due to budget constraints. We are sincerely grateful for your support.

Our next project is to facilitate the City of Battle Ground annexing to the Fire District. Fire District 3 currently provides emergency services to the City through a contract. Contractual relationships are short-term by nature, which means we are unable to make long-term investments or plan on a regional level.

Under a contract, the rate City property owners pay also can differ from the one we pay in the Fire District. For example, City property owners paid less than we did last year. This year, taxpayers in both jurisdictions pay the same rate. Next year, City property owners will pay a bit more as our fire levy rate drops for Fire District property owners.

Annexation would mean every property owner pays the same rate for emergency services. It also means that the Fire District can plan regionally for staffing and capital needs, which it can't do under a contract relationship.

The annexation proposal likely will be on your ballot during the February Special Election in 2020. Voters in both the City and Fire District must approve annexation before it can happen. We're hosting a public meeting on October 28 at 6 p.m. (Station 31 -- 17718 NE 159 St., Brush Prairie) to share more about it. We will continue to provide you with additional information as we move through this process. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with questions at (360) 892-2331 or scott@fire3.org.

Fire-Up Bootcamp

Did you know that women have been fighting fire for 200 years in our country? Currently, more than 7,000 women hold



Vintage photo of women firefighters

career fire-fighting and fire officer's positions in the United States.

And, Fire-Up Bootcamp is a great opportunity for women who are interested in a career in the fire service or volunteering. Fire District 3 Assistant Fire Chief Barbara Widlund was an instructor at the camp this year where 17 participants received hands on practical experience and career coaching. Fire District 3 hopes to host the program in 2020. Interested parties can learn more at www.fireupbootcamp.com.



**Asst. Chief
Barbara Widlund**

"more than fire..."

17718 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie, WA 98606
(360) 892-2331
www.fire3.org



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17718 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

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Promises Made, Promises Kept

Your support for the fire levy lid lift means Fire District 3 was able to replace two rapid response apparatus like these squads. This type of apparatus is smaller, faster and able to go more places than a fire engine or our ladder truck.



Speaking of ladder trucks, here's yours! Fire District 3 took delivery of this piece of apparatus and has been training on it for the past month. A ladder truck is critical for an emergency response to multi-story buildings, including fire, technical rescue and medical calls.