



# P O N D E R O S A

# FIREFIGHTER

## HARRIS COUNTY ESD #28

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## PFD's Newest Fire Station Unveiled to Community



To say Saturday, September 10, 2011 was a special day to the Ponderosa Fire Department, our partners, and this community, would be an understatement, indeed. After three years of planning, construction and the securing of a very important tribute item, PFD's new Station #62 was unveiled – in all its glory – to a packed “firehouse”. The energy was palpable as Chief Fred Windisch recognized the many dedicated and tireless individuals involved in creating such a stunning and state-of-the-art addition to the community.

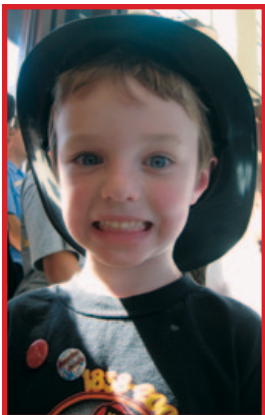
Station #62, located at Sorrel Ridge on Louetta, will serve as a replacement station for the current Station #2, located within the Cypressdale Subdivision. Many thanks go out to the Cypresswood Utility District for their almost 30 years of support, dating back to the building

of the first, very small fire station back in 1982.

A number of factors went into the decision to retire Station #2 and build a new facility on the tract of land (purchased in 2008) on Louetta. Of great importance, was the need to protect the residents of the northern part of our District. Increased responses and the risks posed constantly entering and exiting the subdivision were becoming more evident. A change was necessary. The new location on Louetta – and its quick access to a major thoroughfare – also allowed us to reduce total response times by an estimated **five minutes** per response. Think about that! In emergency situations, five minutes can really make a difference. These important factors, along with the need to provide our dedicated full-time, part-time

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Provided as a community service to promote fire safety and prevention  
Visit us online at [www.ponderosaVFD.org](http://www.ponderosaVFD.org)



Possible future firefighter enjoys the day's festivities.

and volunteer PFD members with the facility they deserve, all contributed to the decision to build the amazing Station #62.

This new fire station also interacts with the Spring and Klein fire departments on an almost daily basis, adding resources to their areas. All three departments believe in and practice mutual aid. The shared resources go both ways, and it benefits us all.

### Designing a State-of-the-Art Firehouse

As you can imagine, the design of a new firehouse, especially one that will serve an area of 13 square miles and approximately 48,000 residents, is crucial. It must, among other things, utilize durable and long-lasting materials, serve as both firehouse and home-away-from-home, and allow for quick access to emergency vehicles from all points in the building.

Harris County Emergency Services District #28, the funding arm of the Ponderosa Fire Department, commissioned the building of Station #62 in 2009, and worked alongside an internal team at PFD (Assistant Chief, Tony Spitzenberger as the lead, former Station #62 Captain, Robert Logan and ESD28 Treasurer, Dan Dronberger) to monitor and advise needs during the early design process. After much research, ESD28 decided upon Brown Reynolds Watford Architects (BRW) to design the facility based on their extensive experience in firehouse design.

“During the architecture selection process, BRW demonstrated their expertise in designing fire sta-

tions – a truly specialized industry,” stated PFD Chief, Fred Windisch. “Their team performed at the highest level of professionalism and showed true commitment to PFD and the community.”

Brian Gibbs (AIA) of BRW explained that the facility was designed to utilize low maintenance materials that conveyed permanence and stability, and that also reflected a Texas vernacular style. For the most part, stained fiber cement siding was selected for its durability and visual appeal.

“The 11,163 square foot facility is designed to resist 150 mph wind gusts, has sleeping facilities for eleven firefighters, and has room for temporary beds during a hurricane or other emergency,” Gibbs explained. “It has a ‘shot-gun’ layout – long and lean to fit its deep, narrow site, and the public entrance has a lobby that acts like a hub between three zones: Training, Administration and Living Quarters.”

The station was also designed with an open-concept Kitchen / Dining / Day Room, with direct access to a covered patio and grilling area. Flexibility in sleeping arrangements, which is divided between a dorm and individual sleeping rooms, was requested by the department due to the balancing of volunteer and career personnel. Of significant importance in design was quick access between the sleeping quarters and the apparatus bays. The station is actually laid out so that no firefighter has to travel more than 65 feet. This is incredibly important in our ongoing effort to cut response times as much as possible.

A unique feature of the station is the 14-foot-tall folding doors on the front and back of the apparatus bays, which operate much more quickly and quietly than standard

overhead doors.

“While the initial cost is more than conventional doors, future costs related to maintenance and door failures will be much less,” stated Chief Windisch. “We simply cannot allow a failed door to halt our response time. And an added bonus is that they look great!”

Station #62’s apparatus room has three 65-foot pull through bays and is equipped with an automatic exhaust fan system, bay heaters, ¾” and 2” hose bibs, drop-downs for power and compressed air and long trench drains below the vehicles. Large areas of glass in the walls and folding doors provide daylight for the bays and allow the vehicles to be displayed to the community. Bunker gear storage and a shop sit



PFD members pushing the fire engine into the new station

adjacent to the apparatus bays, and a second-story mezzanine provides approximately 800 square feet of storage as well as access to the well-equipped weight room.

It surely is a thing of beauty, and all of us at PFD thank BRW for their expertise and willingness to work with the specific needs and requests of our team.

### The Nuts and Bolts of It All

For complete success, a masterful design must be brought to fruition in a timely manner and with great attention to detail, quality, safety and longevity. The folks at LDF Construction, Inc. did just that. Their team exceeded our ex-

pectations and the construction of the beautiful Station #62 would not have been the positive experience it was without their proactive nature, dedication and expertise.

“To construct a fire station, you must have the experience to know how the station is required to function,” explained LDF Construction, Inc., President, Lynn Foster. “It’s also very important to foresee any issues before they crop up during construction. Being proactive in this manner helps to avoid any tear down or reconstruction. It also saves time, money and helps us to avoid tongue lashings from an angry fire chief!”

Chief Windish agrees. “An angry fire chief is not in Lynn’s vocabulary! Lynn and his construction superintendent, Donald Robson, exceeded our expectations at every phase of the process, and we sincerely appreciate their hard work, commitment and attention to detail.”

PFD did have a very special request of BRW and LDF Construction, Inc. for the station...to add a foundation at the front of the building and install a steel beam that the department acquired from the World Trade Center. (See article: “Victims of 9/11 Honored at Station #62 Dedication” for an in depth look at this poignant memorial.)

“We were honored and proud to fulfill this request,” said Foster. “The installation of the beam and the dedication of such an important piece at the station’s opening are moments I will never forget.”

PFD and our partners thank all of the groups and individuals involved in bringing this amazing facility to the community. We wish we had the space here to thank everyone, but you know who you are, we know who you are, and we will never forget all of your efforts. We hope our commitment and dedication will honor your hard work and support.

## **Ongoing Drought Conditions Necessitate Increased Attention to Fire Safety**

According to John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist and professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M, “about 95% of Texas is in either a severe or exceptional drought status and the past year has been the worst one-year drought in the state’s history”. In our area, the drought index (a system of measuring plant water content related to fire danger) has been at the highest level ever recorded. It is, to say the least, a potentially dangerous situation.

These statistics are certainly not shocking considering the virtually rain-free and blistering hot summer of 2011. Recent, sporadic rainfall has done little to make a dent in this serious situation, and forecasts (through to next summer) do not look promising.

Although the high summer temperatures are behind us, continued low precipitation levels and the resulting dry conditions in our area keep the potential for drought-related fires at an all-time high. At PFD, we hope that the dangerous and extremely damaging wildfires this year will serve as a reminder to us all that we must do our part to lessen the chances of future fires.

Wildfires might not be common in the PFD district, but in early September of this year, when we experienced a rash of fires (one of which threatened an entire subdivision on Ella Blvd), we found that we are not immune. Fortunately, our structural attack apparatus, along with our training and expertise in this area stopped the fire prior to destroying multiple homes. MUD 86 water supplies also worked flawlessly to flow very large volumes utilizing several master streams.

With the extreme conditions we are still facing, the boards of directors have authorized the purchase of a grass fire truck. We purchased a new pump/tank/hose assembly from the manufacturer and a used pickup truck to get us through this ongoing dangerous time. The truck went into service at the end of November.

Together, we can help keep this holiday season safe and joyous for our families and neighbors. Please take a few minutes to review the following fire safety tips.

### **Barbeque Safety**

- Portable barbeque pits, charcoal grills and other open-flame cooking devices outside of a building should not be operated on combustible balconies or located within 10 feet of combustible walls or roofs or other combustible materials.
- When igniting the barbeque charcoal, use a self lighting charcoal or a charcoal lighter fluid, not gasoline. Gasoline can flash violently in and around the pit causing serious injuries to anyone in the area of the flash. A fire extinguisher or charged garden hose should be handy while the fire is burning. Check the pit frequently to ensure that it is okay.
- Hot ash and coals from barbeque pits and charcoal burners should be placed in a non-combustible container until cooled or thoroughly saturated with water before being disposed.

### **Open Flames**

- Since April of 2011, Harris County has prohibited all open-burning within the unincorporated areas. The risk is too great based on current drought conditions. A small burning pile of pine needles can lead to a disaster.

### **Vehicles, Trailers and Tools**

- Park vehicles so that the exhaust system does not come in contact with dry grass, leaves, or weeds.
- Adjust the safety chains on trailers to ensure they don’t drag and create sparks that can cause roadside starts. Example: a large woods fire during September occurred on the north adjacent area to the airport necessitating evacuations and multiple fire departments on scene for 24 hours. This was caused when an 18 wheeler chassis failed and the sparks from the metal rubbing the concrete roadway caused the fire.

# Victims of 9/11 Honored at Station #62 Dedication



**World Trade Center I-Beam Memorial Dedication: Mike Montgomery (left – speaking); Skip Straus (right); Chief Fred Windisch (background)**

As the dedications and much-deserved accolades for the beautiful design and construction of Station #62 continued in the massive apparatus bays, a small boy walked outside toward the front of the building. With his mother following close behind, the curious child seemed almost magnetically drawn to an item mysteriously hidden by a large sheet.

“Don’t touch, sweetie,” his mother whispered, stopping his small hand as he reached for the cover.

“What is it?” he asked.

“It’s a very special piece of history,” she replied. “And we have to wait until it’s time for the brave firefighters to tell us all about it. We’ve got to be patient.”

“I can do that,” he said. “You know I’m going to be a brave firefighter, too, Momma.” He was

wearing last year’s Halloween costume – a tattered firefighter’s uniform that, if allowed, the boy would have worn daily.

And so he waited. He watched with wide eyes as the Klein Collins High School band set-up and tuned their instruments. His mother held his hand as a crowd of 250 people gathered behind them. The young boy stood in awe as the Klein Collins Jr. ROTC ceremoniously raised two flags: a United States flag that was flown over Afghanistan earlier this year when PFD member, Jim Luplow was serving, and a Texas flag flown over our state capitol – secured by State Representative, Debbie Riddle. Seventy uniformed firefighters then marched to stand guard before the covered piece. And as the dedication commenced, the boy and his mother listened, without a peep, until the last poignant words were spoken.

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There were few dry eyes in the house that sunny September 10th day. Emotions were high. The 10th anniversary of the unthinkable attacks on our country were just a day away, and the reality of how it changed so many lives were again fresh in our minds.

As the battered World Trade Center beam was unveiled, a heavy hush fell over the crowd. It was an unforgettable ceremony, punctuated by Chief Fred Windisch’s heartfelt words and the introductions of two very special men who would provide first-hand accounts of their experiences at Ground Zero.

## **In Their Own Words**

It was an honor for PFD to have Skip Straus, Senior Chaplain of Emergency Ministries, and Mike Montgomery, Harris County Fire Marshal, as speakers at the Station # 62 dedication of the World Trade Center steel beam.

Both men were deployed to Ground Zero within a week of the terrorist attacks, and their experiences were not only life-changing, but much appreciated and revered as well. After the dedication, we took some time to speak to both men regarding their thoughts on 9/11 and their fellow first responders, their time at Ground Zero, and the dedication of the World Trade Center beam at Station # 62.

An article can take many forms. Words can be cut or condensed due to space considerations and quotes can be sprinkled with flowery connectors. When interviewed, the answers that Skip Straus and Mike Montgomery provided were, we feel, more powerful than anything we could have summarized and diluted. Their words are real and they should go untainted. So, the following are direct answers to our questions. In their own words...

**PFD:** Please provide your current position, and your position at the time of 9/11 if different from today.

**Skip Straus:** I am the founder/CEO and Senior Chaplain of Emergency Ministries. I worked full-time



**Attendees touching the I-Beam**

in EMS and volunteered in Fire Departments until June 2010. I now run the non-profit ([www.emergencyministries.org](http://www.emergencyministries.org)) full time.

**Mike Montgomery:** I am the Harris County Fire Marshal. At the time of deployment, I was the Education & Inspections Manager for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

**PFD:** We listened to you speak at the PFD dedication and we were all very moved. Please briefly describe again when you arrived at Ground Zero, what brought you there, and how long you stayed.

**Straus:** I arrived on Day 6 (the Monday after) and initially stayed for two weeks. I then returned for three, one-week periods, for a total of five weeks. I initially went serving EMS on Manhattan and on September 19th, was assigned to the FDNY 1st Battalion.

**Montgomery:** I was deployed to NYC as a Logistics Specialist with Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) US&R team. We received alert status on 9/11 and were pre-staged at College Station and Austin. We arrived in NYC about 1 week after event and stayed for 10 days.

**PFD:** Describe your experiences at Ground Zero, the emotions you felt while there (and after) and why it was such an important event in your life.

**Straus:** I could (and probably will) write a book on this experience. It was the most impactful thing I have ever been through. Period. The FDNY Chaplain and I worked with and spoke to over 1500 firefighters about their experiences. Emotions? Initially, I was shocked by the sheer size of the event...16 acres of complete and total destruction. Then, every emotion imaginable while dealing with things like: firefighter fathers of missing firefighter sons, the "deer in the headlights" stare of people and the smell of burning and decaying

remains.

**Montgomery:** My experience was similar to those of other responders – we hoped we would be able to rescue those trapped and bring closure for those who could not be saved. Emotions were suppressed. As first responders, we are trained to do our jobs and manage our personal feelings. This event was a defining moment for me, both personally and professionally. I have established relationships and friendships that have lasted ever since. It has paved the way for future assignments and enabled me to take a personal role in better preparing our community for emergencies and disasters.

**PFD:** What do you feel was your biggest contribution while at Ground Zero, your biggest takeaway, and how it impacted your life?

**Straus:** My biggest contribution? A pair of listening ears. Compassion. My biggest takeaway? The in-your-face reality of the spirit and heart of public safety personnel.

**Montgomery:** I feel my biggest contribution was being part of the TX-TF1 team and its contribution to the overall rescue and recovery efforts. My biggest takeaway was the relationships and a renewed focus on the day-to-day first

responder mission. And the biggest impact was the confirmation that I was doing what I was placed on this earth to do – to help others in time of need.

**PFD:** What are your thoughts surrounding the events of 9/11, your feelings regarding those that were lost, and your feelings about those who helped in the recovery alongside you?

**Straus:** 9/11 was a reminder that we are not "safe." It also reminded us in public safety that there are folks in this world who have the means and the desire to take out the first responders. Feelings for those who were lost... 343 firefighter brothers... including a fellow Fire Chaplain...killed in one event. That is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice - personified. About those who helped? I have never seen such intensity for such a long period of time...men and women focused on one task: recovering the remains of those killed – for the families, and for themselves.

**Montgomery:** I'm proud to be an American, proud to have done my small part to serve our country following this senseless attack, and extremely thankful of the opportunity to know and work alongside some of the best firefighters and first responders in the world.



**PFD:** How do you feel about PFD's dedication and commitment to remembering 9/11, those lost there, and those that gave their hearts and time to help in the clean-up and recovery process?

**Straus:** It is a tribute to the "brotherhood," the "family" of first responders that says to America and the rest of the world: "We will never forget."

**Montgomery:** I thank PFD for the opportunity to share my thoughts and feelings...to be part of their commitment to remembering 9/11 and all that goes with it. I hope that the PFD 9/11 memorial (and others like it) will help our community and our nation to "Never Forget" the sacrifices of all and the selflessness of the heroes of FDNY and others. The fire service is truly a brotherhood (and sisterhood) that lives to serve.

**PFD:** What does it mean to have a steel beam from one of the World Trade Center towers in our community, and what did it mean to you to be part of the dedication?

**Straus:** That day, when Mike (Montgomery) and I stood up there to speak, it was all I could do to hold back the tears. I am very thankful that God allowed me to stand among heroes.

**Montgomery:** The PFD 9/11 memorial will serve a visible symbol of our resolve, our undying faith, and everlasting willingness to help others in time of need.

**PFD:** What can the community do today to honor those that were lost on 9/11?

**Straus:** Never forget that day. Never forget the sacrifices. Never forget how our country came together in the weeks and months following 9/11. Volunteer...our communities continue to lose volunteers.

**Montgomery:** Remember the innocent who died, the 343 first responders that made the ultimate

sacrifice, and say "thank you" to all the firefighters across the country who answer the call every day when people need them.

We thank you again, Skip and Mike, for offering your time and words at the Station # 62 dedication and for reminding us all of the importance of cherishing those in

our lives today, and honoring those lost. We, too, will "Never Forget".

If you are interested in coming by Station # 62 to take a look at our newest facility and/or to pay your respects at the 9/11 memorial, feel free to stop in. You are always welcome.

## **Advanced Signal Light Controllers and Emergency Vehicle Preemption Hardware To Improve Response Times on FM1960**

The FM1960/Cypress Creek Parkway median project is about completed and it is surely a change for us all. The next phase will be the installation of improved signal light controllers and emergency vehicle preemption hardware. Both will improve mobility, and will allow emergency service providers to respond more quickly to those in need while minimizing gridlock.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) traffic engineers planned the median project with a focus on "mobility" – or the least amount of disruption when traveling from point A to point B. Engineering studies have shown that driving in a straight line with less disruptions creates fewer issues when traversing the corridor. Minimizing turn opportunities has improved traffic movement and has led to a drop in accidents – something that the original design was focused on accomplishing.

### **How does this affect emergency services?**

Emergency services utilize the FM1960 corridor (between Willowbrook and IH45) at least 50 times every single day. FM1960 is one of the only east-west roadways (outside of Cypresswood, Louetta and Spring Cypress), and has a high population and business density, in addition to Houston Northwest Medical Center and Methodist Hospital. Initially, we were very concerned that unless traffic signal controls were not improved we would be in gridlock and your call for help would be delayed. But TxDot, Harris County, the Houston Galveston Area Council, and our emergency services brokered a fix to our concerns that we believe will be beneficial.

The medians project came in under projected costs and that allowed TxDot to replace traffic signal controllers. The new controllers are VERY programmable and will sense traffic counts and adjust accordingly. That will definitely help! In association with the controllers was an agreement to install the latest and greatest emergency signal preemption devices integrated into the entire system via GPS, radio links, fiber optics and transponders on responding vehicles. The Houston Galveston Area Council along with Harris County Traffic Engineering allocated a portion of those costs directly related to the mobility issues. The partnership allowed for what we believe will be the best of the best for both the traveling public and emergency services. We hope to have the entire corridor finalized by February, 2012.

There is no doubt in our minds that emergency services are here for YOU, and you require the best that we can provide. Even though the changes in driving habits are an adjustment, we are confident this project will benefit the public as a whole.



# Chief's Corner

Despite ongoing and often difficult economic times, we continue to do our best at PFD to grow and improve – always with the ultimate goal of providing those we serve with the top notch services

## Chief Windisch

you have come to expect and deserve. We are not here just to survive – but to thrive, and throughout the years, the community has supported this department in its continuing need to grow and adapt to an ever-changing environment.

Below are a few of the challenges met and advancements made in 2011:

**Drought.** All agencies in our region of the state were challenged this year, and depending on the specific location, loss to the public was significant. Our particular district had a huge event (one of many responses) to contend with on September 4th, when an entire subdivision was exposed to a potential total loss by a wind-driven woods and grass fire. We acted and reacted by deploying extensive area resources and utilizing an expansive command and control system. At the end of the day, our operational capabilities performed at the highest level and we prevented disaster. Experiences such as these highlighted PFD's need for a wild land fire truck. One has now been purchased and the apparatus consists of an older four-wheel drive pickup and new "skid" unit, which includes a tank, pump, and hose. By the time you read this newsletter, the wild land fire truck will be in service. For more information on drought-related fires and fire safety, see the article on Page 3.

**Training and Professionalism** continue to be our mantra. We are here to serve you and to do so at the highest level, we must have the best and most up-to-date training facility and staff possible. PFD has always been committed to protecting and serving through dedication and experience, but boy have times changed in regards to volunteer qualifications and training requirements. When I joined in 1975, you pledged to serve and filled out a one-pager with your name, address and phone number. Nowadays, we conduct a regional academy to certify our volunteers to state standards (about 210 hours) so they can be the best they can be for you! In the "old days" we certainly had training, but nothing like it is today. By combining that indispensable knowledge from the past with today's high-performance training techniques, we have built a first-class team committed and READY to take on any challenge thrown our way.

**The Economic Condition** that affects us all hit PFD hard the past two years, resulting in a revenue loss of about \$575,000. The 12% loss was largely a result of property devaluations that actually lowered your fire district taxes. The loss put us in a tough position. We were faced with the reality that we must either make cuts in service or raise revenue. We chose to remain dedicated to our high quality of service and the voters of this District agreed. Through your voice at the ballot box in May, a 1% sales tax was added to products or services purchased at businesses not involved with the Special Purpose Annexations (Special Purpose Annexations – or SPAs – are where the local water district and the City of Houston share the 1% sales tax of businesses within certain areas that do not have residences). We hope this revenue will help to replace some that was lost, but if there are additional needs, we will communicate with you – our partners in the community – to find the best options available to keep this department working at the high level you expect.

Remember, that our strength and commitment is focused on protecting you and your property. Our professional volunteers, along with our full and part-time employees, live to serve. Our doors are always open and we welcome your questions and/or help and involvement in all of our efforts. All of us at PFD wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season and an exciting new year!

*Continued from page 3*

- Keep lawn mowers and agricultural equipment in proper working condition and avoid rocks and other materials which might cause a spark.
- Do not weld or cut without a spotter, a water source and a shovel.
- Notify the electric power company when dead trees or overhanging limbs endanger the electric wires. The wires may touch each other or the ground, causing sparks that start fires.

### **Cigarettes or Other Smoking Materials**

- Another cause of accidental fires is carelessly discarded cigarettes or other smoking materials. They can smolder for hours and should be completely doused with water before discarded in a safe manner, rather than tossed out a window or on the ground. We have had several of these types of fires that have expanded into wooded areas along our urban roadways.
- Texas' arson law includes felony punishment for anyone whose cigarette recklessly sets fire to a building or injures anyone. Arson is a second-degree felony in Texas, punishable by up to 20 years in prison, but if a person is hurt or killed or if the fire involves a church, arson is a first-degree felony, carrying possible punishment of up to life in prison.
- Pay attention to all fireworks notices: There is a possibility that fireworks will again be restricted or banned during the upcoming holiday season.

**17061 Rolling Creek Dr.  
Houston, TX 77090**



**Volunteers are needed! If you are hard-working, dedicated and interested in becoming part of the Ponderosa VFD, call 281-444-8465 today!**

This publication is intended for the residents within the Ponderosa VFD service area. If you received it in error, we hope you'll still read it and utilize the fire safety information.

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## ***PVFA Board Member Spotlight: Paul Nichols***



**T**he Ponderosa Fire Department welcomes the newest member of our Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Association (PVFA) board, Paul Nichols. Nichols was appointed in May of this year and has already shown himself to be a valuable member of the PVFA team.

Nichols moved to the area in 1976 and has lived in Ponderosa for 20 years. His job as a Project Procurement Manager for Jacobs Engineering (for the past 24 years) has provided him with a deep well of experience and insight that will surely prove to be beneficial in his new position as a PVFA board member.

For quite some time prior to his appointment, Nichols was interested in finding the right opportunity to

volunteer and give back in some way to his community. When fellow board member, Brandon Huffman, informed Nichols earlier this year of an open position on the PVFA board, he felt it was a perfect fit.

"This is really a wonderful opportunity to be affiliated with a group of individuals that has contributed greatly to the community, especially those that put their lives on the line anytime they are called upon, day or night," Nichols states.

Nichols feels that the Board's most important role is to ensure that the PFD is maintained to the highest of standards in order to maintain the safety and well-being of the community and our volunteer and paid members.

"It is so rewarding to be able to serve with such a dedicated group of individuals," says Nichols. "We are all well aware that the decisions we make are for the betterment of the department and this community, and it is incredibly satisfying to know that what we do makes a difference."

"Paul is another great example of the caring individuals who give back to our community every day," PFD Chief, Fred Windisch, states. "His expertise will surely guide us as we continue to be the very best department we can be."

Paul and his wife, Marie, have two children, Mona Blake and Todd, and a two-year-old grandson, Benjamin.

The PFD thanks Paul for his commitment to this department and community, and we look forward to all of his contributions in the future.