



Firehouse Notes

September
October
2007

St. George Professional Firefighters Association Slates Blood Drive

The SGPFA Local 4524 is sponsoring a blood drive with Life Share Blood Center of Baton Rouge. The event will be October 22, 23, and 24 at the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market at 14241 Coursey Blvd. from 7AM to 3PM each day.

A number of local businesses are supporting the event by donating gift cards or discount certificates. Wal-Mart has donated \$500 in gift cards. Others that are contributing incentives are Quizno's Classic Subs, Sally Beauty Supply, and Manda's Fine Meats. Manda's will be serving jambalaya on October 23rd.

For more information, call Life Share Blood Center at 383-7728 or an SGPFA officer.

It's Fair Time; Christmas Parades are Just Around the Corner

The St. George Parish Fair is this weekend (October 12 -14) and the Greater Baton Rouge State Fair runs October 25 through November 4. We are working medical standby details for both events.

Our partners for past Santa Claus parades, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and the Christmas for Challenged Children organization, are taking part with us again this year.

The parade schedules are being worked on for the weekends of December 1, 2 and December 8, 9 are being worked on. PIO Ledoux should have them finished and provided to the public by the end of October.

Boot Shaking for MDA Was a Success

Members of the St. George PFA raised \$8884.20 for MDA this year. This topped last year's effort of raising \$7000.00.

Firefighters are always major contributors to "Jerry's Kids," and this year was no different. Like the Santa Parades, the MDA campaign is a terrific way to act as conduits of our citizens' generosity.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? ... Graduation, Wedding, or New Addition to The Family? ... Please Share It With Us.

Vital Renewal on October 20 Ballot

The voters of the District are being asked to renew a 6 mill property tax on October 20. Absentee voting for the election has begun and will continue through this Saturday, the 13th, at the Registrar of Voters Office, second floor of the Clerk of Court's Building on Coursey Blvd.

The resolution seeks a ten year renewal of a six (6.0) mill property tax first approved by the voters in 1998. It is not a new tax. The monies generated by the tax will be used for the general operation, staffing and maintenance of the Department.

This renewal, if approved, is expected to generate approximately \$4.7 million in its first full year. This will account for almost 40% of the Department's projected revenue in the 2007-2008 budget. In fact, this tax when originally passed, provided the funds to expand the St. George Fire Department from a volunteer into a career fire department.

Needless to say, the failure of this renewal would have far-reaching effects on the Department. It is difficult to envision any scenario that does not include significant staffing and service cuts and a de-rating of the Department. This outcome would be detrimental not only to our members, but to the community overall.

The annual cost to the owner of a \$100,000 home is \$15.00; a \$150,000 home is \$45.00; a \$200,000 home is \$75.00; and it goes up by \$60.00 per additional \$100,000 of value.

In order to address any questions the public may have regarding this tax renewal, St. George has scheduled two public meetings at which anyone may ask their questions directly to the Fire Chief. The first meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at the Bluebonnet Library. The second meeting is slated for the Jones Creek Library at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 15, 2007.