



The Sunshine Fire Protection District Newsletter

Letter from the Chief By Michael Schmitt

Dear Sunshine Residents,
I hope that everyone's summer has been going well. SFPD has a strong membership of firefighters and junior firefighters, making up a well-balanced roster. We are always looking for people that can take on a role in the organization, as active firefighters or in other capacities that do not require a physical capability. Of course, there is always a turnover, and training firefighters or an administrator before another one retires helps with a smoother transition to maintain operational readiness. Right now, we have several folks that are leaving because they are going to college, retiring after many years or are simply moving. I'd like to mention them!

Bruce and Joyce Honeyman moved to Sunshine in 1993, one year before welcoming their son Alex who has also been a firefighter and EMT with SFPD for many years.

Joyce has been a board member of the department, so you could say that the involvement in the department and the community is a family affair for the Honeymans.

As of July 31, 2022, SFPD has responded to 67 calls.

- Structural, car, & wildland fire/smoke reports – 10
- Vehicle/Bike Accident – 5
- Medical/Medical Assist – 25
- Hazardous Conditions - 0
- Other - 4
- Dispatched & Canceled in Route - 23

Bruce became an active firefighter in 1996 and started learning the ropes from then Marshal Jim Burch in 1997 before taking over the Marshal's duties entirely. Bruce took over as Chief from Chief Stratton in 2008 until just after the Fourmile Fire in which the Honeyman's sadly lost their home, as have so many

others. The home was rebuilt and they have since split their time between Boulder and Salt Lake City, where Joyce thrives as the phenomenal professor of medicine and section chief of the cardiothoracic radiology department at the University of Utah.

Bruce has responded to many emergencies that were memorable, partly because of the nature of the emergencies. Bruce was always going to every call that he could, no matter how inconvenient the time or how bad the weather or how uneventful his involvement may be in the call itself. Even when he had to do traffic control (standing at either end of the incident with a Stop/Slow sign, one of the most important jobs) while an impatient motorist bumped

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Games

Meet your SFPD FireFighters
and Board Members

Sunshine Fire Protection District's Annual COMMUNITY FEST is BACK

October 22, 2022

2 - 6 p.m. at Station #2 on Sunshine Canyon Dr.

There will be a new format this year that is not fundraising focus. Just come out and enjoy your neighbors & play some games.

If you have questions or would like to help with this event, please contact: Jean Gatz at jeangatza@gmail.com

Available for purchase unique
Sunshine clothing and other items

Delicious Food from
Sunshine chefs = POTLUCK

SFPD's 2022 Fundraiser

If you have the capacity, please give to our fundraising campaign - GoFundMe campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sunshine-FPD-2022>. If you prefer to give by check, you can mail your donation to: Sunshine FPD, 311 County Road 83, Boulder, CO 80302. Or you can drop off your envelope at the Station #1 mailbox. Please provide a contact email address and/or phone number with your donation. SFPD is looking to purchase specific equipment not covered by other fund sources. These include buying new AEDs (heart defibrillators), a truck cabin air filtration system for firefighters on wildland calls, a thermal imaging camera, chainsaws, replacement radios for better communication throughout the district, updates for our 20-year-old pagers and a replacement projector that is used during training. These important equipment upgrades will cost over \$25,000.



2022 SFPD Firefighters (minus a few)

CWPP Committee Update - By Abby Silver

Fall chipping is coming soon:

Fall chipping will be taking place from October 3-7. Please see the email from our Sunshine Fire communications with details. Please contact Abby directly (vs replying to that email) to sign up.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Document Update:

A lot of new wildfire mitigation project funding is becoming available from State and Federal grants. Most of these grants require the applicants (yes, us!) to have a CWPP that was written within the past 10 years. Ours is currently 9 years old.

As we previously announced, Gold Hill, Sugarloaf, Four Mile and Sunshine Fire Districts are partnering together to produce a single, joint CWPP. The CWPP is essential in determining the most effective measures fire districts and communities can take to best engage in wildfire risk reduction, and to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible when wildfires occur. Partnering with our neighboring districts will both increase resilience and hopefully make our 4-district consortium a more compelling candidate in the competitive grant process.

Your input is valuable and appreciated. If you haven't taken our **10-minute survey** yet, please do so at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSKTFCT>

We will also be hosting a **Virtual Town Hall** on September 12 from 6:30-8pm. The event will include a summary of CWPPs, what they are and why they matter, and why our four districts decided to collaborate on wildfire planning and preparedness.

Guest speakers from the Colorado State Forest Service, Boulder County Fire Management and the United States Forest Service will talk about forest management and restoration, wildfire suppression and other topics related to the CWPP.

<https://zoom.us/j/93397391184?pwd=eIUzK0FYVVIFUjc1UFpCSWQ5aGNzZz09>

Save the Date for Chipping:

October 3-7

The Signs Are Alright or should I say, "upright"? Kudos to Brooke Weathers and Dan Fischer for righting and replacing signs and posts as needed throughout SFPD this spring/summer. This is an important aspect of timely emergency response!

CWPP Committee Chair: abberoo@msn.com

Are you planning to burn slash this winter?

If so, you need two burn permits, one from the county and one from SFPD.

- Boulder County Permit information: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/safety/fire/burn-permits/>
- SFPD Permit: <http://www.sunshine-fpd.org/downloads/Slash-burn-permit-v4.pdf>

SFPD slash pile building & burning tips: <http://www.sunshine-fpd.org/about/Burning-Slash-Piles.cfm>

Letter from the Chief - Cont

By Michael Schmitt

into him with the front of their car because a firefighter and a State Trooper with stop signs managing someone else's medical emergency on the road was not significant enough to let it affect the motorists day (safe to say that the motorist ended up in the State Trooper's car for a free ride). Bruce would always still get deep satisfaction out of having been able to help in whatever way. When I recently asked him to summarize his involvement with SFPD he stated that just one of the times he got to hold a patient's hand and this patient remembered it was why he got up all those nights. As a department, and as Chief, you want this type of person in your department to selflessly help others.

From having experienced Bruce as a firefighter and a friend, I can tell you that he is as good and committed as they come, and learning from him has always been a pleasure, and an honor. Bruce has dedicated thousands of hours over the years to contribute to what our district is today, including but not limited to the adoption of the International Fire Code, and I can't thank him enough. Now Joyce and Bruce can focus on their split time in Utah and Sunshine and hopefully will stop by the station from time to time. Don't be strangers!

Bruce's successors are Michael Johnson as Fire Marshal marshal@sunshine-fpd.org and Paul Hourihan as Deputy Fire Marshal deputy-marshal@sunshine-fpd.org. They have big shoes to fill, and I would like to thank them also for taking on this critical responsibility.

Another person that dwarfs everyone's longevity in the department is Linda Ballard. Lin has been with the department since about 1979. Yes, I did not mistype that, she's been with the department for 43 years, likely the longest membership since the founding of the department

(1969). Not only has she been involved with the department of the district that she calls home, she has also been with the Ski Patrol since that time. As I believe I have said to some before, the only way you can last that long is if you stay out of politics and focus on what you want to do, help others. Not only did she do that, but she was the first female national avalanche program director! This tells me that we do have actual royalty in Sunshine Canyon! While I was running with a plastic shovel in hand around a sandbox in my Kindergarten's yard, Lin made a difference. When you know Lin you realize that she is one of the kindest and most loving people you will ever meet. Possibly a contributing factor as to why she now has retired is because the department just can't win when it has to compete with blossoming grandchildren that deserve all the time she can give them.

Talking to Lin about what it was like in the department many years ago is very interesting, and you can't help but realize that the obstacles that existed are just another piece of the puzzle that is her dedication to the department. She focused on helping and again, not on the externals. Lin is in her own right an example of public service and using the compassion within to help others in need in the best and most committed way. Not only was she a firefighter and medical responder throughout her time, but she also worked tirelessly as SFPD's Medical Officer in recent years. And if that isn't enough, when she was already living in Sunshine she introduced a certain Henry to the department, who

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Letter from the Chief - Cont

By Michael Schmitt

then became a firefighter and has been the Deputy Chief of the department for many years, someone without whom I would not know how to fulfill my own position. It's the team that does it and having someone like Lin on the team has been a true pleasure, and have learned so much from Lin and Henry it goes without saying that they are far more than just department colleagues. Thank you, Lin, for your service of so many years. I speak for the department when I say that your capable hands and wonderful demeanor and attitude will be missed.

Lin's position of SFPD Medical Officer has been taken on by David Begleiter. Thank you, David, for taking on this vital role!

There are more people leaving the department! Jake Frommer has been with the department for about a year and a half now, and will be moving on to accompany his father on a fundraising bike trip across the country for a good cause, followed by traveling around the world with his girlfriend. Jake is a fine person that will be an asset to any place and organization where he ends up in the future. Jake always is mindful of his impact on others and is one of the most respectful and respectable people you'll find. Good luck with your endeavors, Jake, and thank you for serving SFPD!

Ethan Koehler has been a Junior Firefighter with SFPD since early 2020. Ethan is currently at Dartmouth and also comes from a long lineage of involved SFPD members. His father Marc is a current member of the department, then his grandmother Madeline Koehler who was always supportive of the department, and Frank McGuire, who was a friend of the family and a friend of mine. Ethan has relatively shortly after his involvement with the department moved to go to Dartmouth so we

have not had the pleasure to work with him as much as we would have liked, but Ethan is a bright young man and I can't wait to hear where he ends up after college. In any case, he'll do well, and hopefully, we have instilled the desire in him to serve in a volunteer capacity wherever he ends up. Thank you, Ethan, for your service!

Samantha Lansky... last but not least by any means! Samantha has been a junior firefighter for 2 years now. She is a very intelligent and kind young woman and I can proudly say that I remember (I believe I have mentioned this to her numerous times in recent years...) her and her brother Jack as babies in their mother's arms on the living room chair shortly after they were born. To watch her and her brother become the people they have has been a real treat. Samantha is always a pleasure to have around and has hopefully learned a number of things as part of her time with the department. She can now check our trucks like the best of us and I wished I could have spent more time training with her, but her father Rick is one of the most dedicated firefighters in our department and he's always done a fine job showing her the ropes of being a firefighter. We will miss you, Samantha, and hope you have the best time at Cal Poly. Thank you for your time in the department, and we look forward to seeing you in between!

I would like to introduce our new Junior Firefighter, Malachi Brooks. Malachi lives in Boulder and goes to New Vista High School. From the interviews and the first training that we had, I can tell you that he is

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an excellent addition to the department, and we will benefit from him as much as he will hopefully benefit from learning things that you just cannot learn in school. Welcome, Malachi!

Our Marshals and the members of our Water Supply Group will be in touch with residents about their dedicated fire cisterns. If you have one on your property or you have a water source such as a pool that we may not know about, please contact Fire Marshal Johnson or me so that we can make sure that we know about it.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their cistern, and we are happy to have a conversation with anyone unsure what this entails. Our wildland “season” is not over. As I type this, in early September, we have 90+ degree days with no precipitation for a couple of weeks and only more heat and low humidity in the forecast. Please keep your fire-mitigated property maintained and accessible throughout the year.

Michael Schmitt
 Chief, Sunshine Fire Protection District

*****IMPORTANT WINTER ASH & COAL SAFETY NOTICE*****

- The ONLY proper method of disposing of ashes and coals is to put them in a metal container with a lid that is designed for that task, then drown them with water.
- The ONLY way to know if they are cool is if you can put your hand in the coals/ashes, all the way to the bottom, without your hand getting hot.

Did you know?

Our all-volunteer fire department responds to calls within Sunshine day and night within our district but do you know that we jointly help out our neighbors in Four Mile, Gold Hill, and lower Sunshine? With being an all-volunteer fire department there is no guarantee that an SFPD first responder is available when a call drops. Therefore these joint agreements benefit everyone and guarantee a quick response regardless of the situation. Not only do we help out our neighbors but we help out throughout the county when more resources are needed. Over the last year, SFPD sent

resources to the Marshal Fire, NCAR fire, and helped staff Lyons fire after a tragic incident involving one of their firefighters. As Lyons FPD chief Peter Zick stated “The ability for all of us to come together and help a neighboring fire district truly showed the special relationships that we have all built, how we always support each other, and take care of one another.” These connections and responses benefit everyone in and outside our district. As we know, they all quickly came to our aid during the Four-mile fire.

Sunshine FPD Board News

Alan Kirton – Chair, Dan Fischer – Treasurer, Jean Gatzka – Secretary, Cathy Shoenfeld, Dick Smith

Hello Neighbors!

It was great to see many of you at the June Summer Social which was our first community event since the start of COVID. Yay for being together in person!

Put the Fall Community Fest on your Calendars for Saturday, October 22 from 2-6.

How Your Board is Supporting Our Community:

- We are exploring creating a 501c3 organization to support the district. This would be a parallel organization to our current board that would support the district in fundraising and potentially a range of other activities. While donations to the district are tax-deductible based on special district status, many types of donations require 501c3 status (e.g. Amazon Smiles). If you know of foundations, matching grants or other potential donors that contribute primarily to 501c3 groups, it would be useful for us to know more. Also, if you have experience with 501c3 development or management – we need your expertise. Please contact Jean Gatzka if you have thoughts on this or would like to help.
- Recent survey and improvement to house numbers, which are essential in an emergency.
- Cistern installation on CR 83 is complete and several other cisterns and hydrant projects are in the works.

Please consider joining in to help out our district! We always have possibilities for serving your community other than being a first responder. Your skills are needed for:

- Event planning and assistance – many hands are needed to execute the Community Fest.
- Grant writing and grant administration. In any given year there are multiple wildfire protection and fire department grants that the district can apply to. Grant income has become an integral part of the district's revenue.
- Become a Board Member! We will have a vacancy in the Treasurer position in 2023
- Reach out to any board member for more information and to volunteer!

JOIN US any 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Station One for monthly Board Meetings. We're meeting in-person now and welcome everyone. The Sunshine website provides access to the board meeting minutes and Treasurer's reports. Feel free to contact board members if you have any questions or concerns about what's happening in the district.

As always, many thanks to all the people who volunteer their time to the district.

Please Call 911

If you need emergency assistance or come upon an emergency, please call "911". This is the most efficient way to get an emergency response to the scene. Calling an SFPD firefighter directly can delay emergency response.

*** Boulder County's Emergency Alert Notification System ***

This system allows residents of Boulder County to be notified of emergency situations including mandatory evacuation notices in a variety of ways including on their cell phone, home, and work phones and by text messaging and e-mail. You will receive time-sensitive messages for your chosen locations such as home, work, school, and family. YOU pick where you pick how.

To register for these alerts or to validate your existing account please go to:

www.boco911alert.com

Communication & Sunshine Community Directory

SFPD Communications:

To receive SFPD email communications or to update your email address for both urgent and non-urgent SFPD business please contact chief@sunshine-fpd.org. SFPD communications may include announcements, evacuation information, safety concerns/issues, CWPP, and fire department information. The SFPD announcement emails will not be used for conversations/discussions.

Directory:

The Community Directory is available on our Sunshine website. To make changes or for instructions and password please email directoryupdates@sunshine-fpd.org. It is password-protected for security. This directory is for just our community, please do not share it outside of our community and protect our secure access. Help us by keeping this information updated with your information.

Sunshine Community Forum:

As a way to keep our Sunshine community connected, we created a special Google Group called the Sunshine Community Forum. It's a private group that allows all our neighbors to post non-commercial topics and respond to others. If you would like to join this group, please contact John Bauer at JRBauer01@gmail.com. Also, please email John if you would like more instructions on how to post to the group.

Important Winter Driveway Reminder

Please make sure you have your driveway plowed for emergency access and have a fire extinguisher always on hand. Also, if you burn in a wood stove or fireplace, it is advised that you clean your chimney annually and have a ChimFex or similar chimney fire suppressant nearby.

Last Year Allenspark Fire responded to a structure fire at approximately 02:00 AM along Highway 7.

Due to deep snow in the driveway, no large firefighting apparatus was able to get to the house. Firefighters were transported to the home via UTVs and used portable fire suppression units, fire extinguishers, and a one-inch wildland fire hose to suppress the fire.

Unfortunately, because of the access difficulties encountered, the house was severely damaged.

SFPD OFFICERS

Chief - Michael Schmitt
 (303) 246-4519
chief@sunshine-fpd.org

Deputy Chief - Henry Ballard
 (303) 449-8619
deputy-chief@sunshine-fpd.org

Fire Marshal -
 Michael Johnson - (775) 790-2662
marshal@sunshine-fpd.org

Deputy Fire Marshal -
 Paul Hourihan - (303) 551-3443
pthourihan@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Jean Gatz
jeangatz@yahoo.com

Treasure - Dan Fischer
fischer_dp@outlook.com

Cathy Schoenfeld
cathyschoenfeld@yahoo.com

Dick Smith
recjsmith@aol.com

John Bauer
jrbauer01@gmail.com

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

CWPP Chair - Abby Silver
 (303) 442-1253
abberoo@msn.com

Fire Department Directory

Our directory and email list are always a work in progress. If you have updates/changes to this list, please email directoryupdates@sunshine-fpd.org with any changes, deletions, or updates. Help us by keeping this information updated with your information and your neighbors who are new to the area.

SFPD's Website:
www.sunshine-fpd.org

SFPD Phone #
 303.786.7731

Are you ready to Volunteer for SFPD?

We are always looking for dedicated individuals to become station cleaners and organizers, event managers/support, and equipment managers. Please contact Michael Schmitt at chief@sunshine-fpd.org if interested.

Calendar

Oct:

- 5 Medical Training 7-9 PM
- 8 Practical Training 8:30-12 PM
- 11 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 PM @ station #1
- 22 Community Fest 2-6 PM @station #2
- 27 Classroom Training TBD 7 to 10 PM

Nov:

- 2 Medical Training 7-9 PM
- 8 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 PM @ station #1
- 12 Practical training 8:30 AM-12 PM @ Training Center

Dec:

- 7 Medical Training 7-9 PM
- 10 Practical Training: 8:30 AM - 12 PM
- 13 SFPD Board Meeting 7:30 PM @ Station 1

Comments or suggestions for next newsletter contact:
 Jennifer Lansky at 303.442.2709 or jen@lansky.cc