



Grand-Tebo Siren

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2022

Upcoming Events

- **March 14th-18th** Clinton and Leesville School Spring Break
- **March 28th** No Clinton School
- **Apr 5th** Election Day 6am-7pm PLEASE VOTE!
- **Apr 7th** FPD Court Hearing @ Clinton Courthouse, 1 pm

Clinton School News:

clintoncardinals.org/test_calendar

Leesville School News:

leesville.k12.mo.us/news

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Fire Board Election

On April 5th citizens will have an opportunity to shape the future of their fire protection district (FPD). Three Directors will be elected to rebuild the Board of Directors of the Tightwad FPD after the Court declared last November that all three seats on the Board to be vacant.

Seven candidates will be on next month's ballot: **Ernest (Roy) Evans; Gerald Dick; Randy R. Mock; Rodney Goslin; Candy Smith; Jeremy Smith; and Milton Houk.**

The candidate receiving the most votes will serve for a six-year term; the candidate receiving the second most votes will serve for a four-year term; and the candidate receiving the third most votes will serve for a two-year term. The FPD holds elections in April of even years with candidate filing taking place in December of odd years.

The FPD Board sets direction; adopts budgets, policies, and administrative procedures; approves contracts and payment of bills; and hires personnel. The FPD Board meets at least monthly, but the Fire Chief runs day-to-day operations of the FPD. FPD Board meetings are open to the public.

Polls open on April 5th at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

YOUR
Vote
YOUR
Voice

February Call Summary

Tightwad Fire Protection District Fire Chief Chuck Willis reported that there were 7 calls for service during the month of February, including 1 day where there were 3 calls in one day. 4 out of the 7 calls were medical-related; 1 call was

an death investigation; and the remaining 2 were motor vehicle accidents.

Call information will soon be posted to the District's website at www.tightwadfpd.org/calls.

Chief's Chat by Fire Chief Chuck Willis

If all 143 calls for service in 2021 involved residents of the Tightwad FPD, then about 12% of us residents received direct services from the District. What do the other 88% of the District residents receive? *Peace of mind.* Peace of mind that someone will come to help—whether that's our neighbors that volunteer for the District or contracted mutual aid from surrounding communities.

What other impacts does the Tightwad FPD have on us residents and business owners? Insurance premiums—the cost for us to replace our homes and businesses in the event of a fire.

Nationally 87% of the homes and businesses in a community are insured. *That means the Tightwad FPD impacts the amount we pay to insurance companies for about 500 homes and business in the area.*

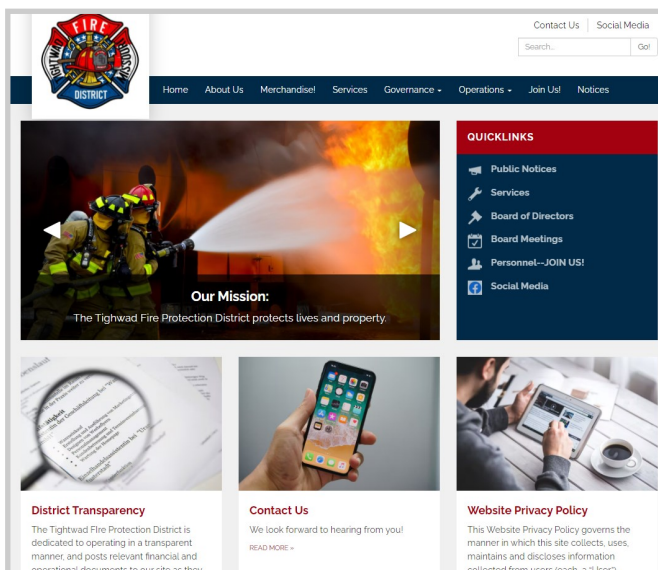
The insurance industry uses a rating system that insurance companies use to calculate premiums. A rating of 1 means a community has the best fire protection and the lowest insurance premiums. A rating of 10 means a community has the best protection and the highest premiums.

The Tightwad FPD has the worst insurance rating with the highest premiums.

A pumper truck is a minimum requirement to improve the Tightwad FPD insurance rating. With my help, the FPD now has a pumper truck, so I have invited the insurance industry to conduct an initial field audit to have our insurance rating lowered to a 9, which will ***save us all about 25% on our insurance.*** Soon after, another field audit will be scheduled to *save even more on our insurance.*

Visit Our Website!

Read Did you know the Tightwad FPD has a website? Visit us on the web at all kinds of information on your District: www.tightwadfpd.org.



Tightwad FPD on Facebook



Follow the FPD on Facebook for immediate information such as severe weather, recent calls for service, safety tips, and more.

Just search for @TightwadFire on Facebook or Facebook Messenger.

Join our mailing list

Want to receive this newsletter via email? Want to receive emails of important information such as upcoming Board meetings?

Visit www.tightwadfpd.org and click on “Join our mailing list” in the lower right corner.

2018 Audit Results

The Court-ordered 2018 audit by [Troutt-Beeman & Company](#) is complete and the results on the FPD's website under the Notices tab (www.tightwadfpd.org/announcements-and-notices).

Unfortunately, due to the conditions of the FPD's financial records, *the Auditors were unable to obtain sufficient audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.*

However, the Auditors were able to identify over two dozen significant deficiencies, which are described starting on the 18th page of the Auditor's Report on the FPD website. *Cited in the Auditor's Report are lack of policies, including the lack of purchasing policies; lack of bank reconciliations; missing records; illegal activities; noncompliance with state laws; and violations of IRS laws.*

Sitting on the Board of Directors of the Tightwad Fire Protection District during 2018 was Jeremy Smith, Candy Smith, and Mark (Chris) Smith, who was appointed on January 13, 2018.

The Auditors are currently working on audits for 2019 and 2020. An audit will also be performed for 2021. The estimated costs of a Court-ordered audit is \$6,000.

Please Help

The Tightwad FPD needs your help! Even if you cannot or do not want to be a medical first responder, emergency medical technician (EMT), or firefighter, there's always something that needs done—and you can help!

To explore how you might be able to help the FPD, please call the FPD's Personnel Officer Linda Veatch at 660-477-3456 or email her at linda-veatch@tightwadfpd.org.



If you'd like to explore becoming a medical first responder, emergency medical technician (EMT), or firefighter, please call Fire Chief Chuck Willis at 660-723-5373 or email him at tightwadF.D@outlook.com.

To learn more about joining the Tightwad FPD, visit www.tightwadfpd.org/personnel.

FPD Board Notes

There's a lot to do when the new Tightwad FPD Board of Directors are sworn in on Friday, April 8th.

Fire Chief Chuck Willis has identified vehicles and a lot of equipment and supplies that are surplus, too expensive to repair, inefficient to use, obsolete or not usable, or create liabilities because they were apparatus created without being designed by a licensed engineer. The Fire Chief will ask the new Board authority to dispose of these items in a way that generates the highest possible money for taxpayers.

Southeast Henry County benefits enormously from tourists and others that drive through the area on Highway 7 or stay for a few days at second homes or campground resorts. Sometimes the Tightwad FPD is called to help our tourists and visitors—but they do not pay taxes to support the FPD. A ½% tax sales tax would allow tourists and visitors to help fund the FPD and **reduce FPD property taxes by about 25%!** But the Board will have to act fast to meet the May 24th deadline to put a sales tax on the August ballot.

Contact Us

If, as a result of a disability, you or someone you know needs this newsletter in alternative format, or if you have suggestions, questions, or story ideas, contact Angela Miller. Drop a postcard or note in the District's mailbox; call 816-663-3045; or email angelamiller@tightwadfpd.org.

Tightwad Fire Protection District

11585 East Highway 7
Tightwad, Missouri 64735
Emergency: 9-1-1
Administration: 660-477-3456

**DO NOT FORWARD
RETURN INFORMATION REQUESTED**



March Birthdays

1—Logan Jessup, Richard Gebhardt, Ethel Snider & Sonnie Walker

2—Robert Burkhart

3—Melissa Battaglia, Michael Huey & Irma Straisinger

4—April Kilgore

5—Betty Bailey, Melissa Callahan, Mathew Schmitt, & Charles E. Willis

6—Billy Bell, Cathy Devolt & Sally Evans

7—Terry Black & William Meyer

8—Miles Bailey & John La Rue

10—Nancy Sanders & Leeanna Slater

11—Steven Kihn & Darolyn Terry

13—Michael Cochran, Matricia Hilty, Julie Mackey, & Stephanie Nichols

14—Jenny Bradley, Darla Brzuchalski, Amy Klein, & Kimberly Tackett

15—Scott Severini, Darlene Wilkerson & Jimmy Willmon

16—Margaret Hurley, John Nichols & Curtis Thornburg

18—Vicki Yutzy

19—Dustin Davenport, Edward Hamlett, Mark Nichols, & Julie Renfrow

20—George Carter, Edward Degraw, Rebekah Cloud, & Nicholas Raper

22—Graham Bellamy & William Moore

23—Christopher Huff & Arthur Stotts

24—Billy Boyd & Christopher Rickey

25—Billie Gilley, Robert Lower, & Brandi McKinney

26—William Ballard & Monte McQuillen

27—Patricia Gebhardt, Julie Tottle, & Patricia Westenburg

28—Jitra Bartlett, Joshua Barrett, William Bonar, Trisha Houk, Joe Ruffier, & Vickie Schley

29—Matthew Myers

30—James Maness

31—Michael Dunn, Mary George & Amanda Kuhn