

P.O. Box 634
Albion, CA 95410



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In the Line of Fire

WHAT IF...

A message from the ALRFPD Board President

What if you called 911 to report a fire or medical emergency and no one responded? Really—think about it.

In Albion-Little River we're very lucky to have a handful of dedicated volunteers who work and train hard to make sure we're protected. Did you know that in this area, we're among 80% of this country who rely on volunteer fire service for our protection? And this year—the year of COVID-19—we're even luckier to have them available and ready to help when needed.

That's why we're working hard to make sure they have the facilities and equipment they need so they can focus on saving lives and property. Despite the hardship this year has brought, some important strides have been made in this respect.

Our old Station 810, located in Albion Village, underwent an extensive remodel with the addition of a new ADA accessible entrance, ramp, and bathroom. Raising of the roof was completed and we are finally able to get our Rescue vehicle indoors and out of the corrosive weather. The office/meeting area is being cleaned, repainted and reorganized.

Our Station 812 on Little River Airport Road is also getting a facelift with the addition of a new 30' x 40' metal building with rollup door that will house engine 8181.

All this construction has been paid for solely using funds from you—our donors, and we can't thank you enough! As you are already aware, our annual barbeque fundraiser was cancelled due to the pandemic and we would be remiss if we didn't mention the outstanding efforts of community members Zo Abell and Sydelle Lapidus who, through tabling at the Albion Post Office, together raised over \$8000 towards the effort of replacing those funds. We are indebted to their efforts in *being* the change we need for our community!

We're pleased to welcome a new board member, Pamela Linstedt. Pam brings years of experience with CalFire to our board and will be increasingly involved with the state agency in fighting fires locally. She replaces Terry Surles who will continue to play an active role in all affairs at the state level as we become more involved with CalFire.

Chief Michael Rees has been working with Mendocino Redwoods Co. to develop escape routes throughout the district in the event of a catastrophic fire as well as identifying fire safe zones folks can safely flee to. Debbi Wolfe continues to offer reflective address signs for the public to use in conjunction with a road naming effort by our Board of Supervisors. Our Fire Safe Council continues to grow and inspire community efforts to maintain roads and driveways. And our firefighters continue to train so they can ensure your continued safety. Please consider a life-saving donation today. The life you save may be your own.

Chuck Greenberg, President
Albion-Little River Fire Protection District Board of Directors



ALRFPD firefighter Shaun Lindeblad at a wildfire training exercise earlier this year pre-pandemic

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DID YOU KNOW...

That if you lived here in the 1950's (or before), you'd find that the fire department was comprised of all able bodied men in the community. The community was composed of highly self-reliant and common sense type people who had few expectations that others would guarantee their well being and safety. People had a strong sense of community and a less complicated lifestyle.

The 1960's brought sweeping changes to fire-fighting as the back-to-the-land movement began and state and federal governments became more involved in mandating requirements for volunteers.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Over the past few years the bar for coping with unprecedented events is being raised ever higher. Whether it's prolonged drought, tropical storms, catastrophic wildfire or global pandemic, these tragic events happen all around us and we must understand that not only will they affect us, but that we are NOT immune to them.

This year alone, our sun has been blocked out by smoke and surrounding fires have produced some of the worst air quality in the world. It's hard in our little community not to feel as if a wildfire will break out here at any moment.

More than ever, it's imperative that we stay aware and vigilant and focus on keeping our awareness high in order to protect ourselves and our neighbors despite the COVID fatigue we all suffer.

Simple, individual acts truly help make a difference. You can protect your community from the effects of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, socially distancing, refraining from unnecessary travel. You can protect your community from disaster by clearing defensible space around your house, posting your address clearly in both directions, making sure your drive-

way is able to be accessed by a fire engine (and that the engine has room to turn around), making an emergency plan well before an emergency occurs, identifying neighbors who need extra help in the event of an emergency.

Always, our first line of defense is our community helping each other and the community at large.

Since our community meeting last winter, I've been working on a district wide evacuation plan. I meet regularly with community members and land owners and am in the process of vetting possible alternative evacuation routes in our most vulnerable areas. COVID permitting, in the near future I would like to hold another community meeting with some of our operational area partners to present this plan.

And through all of this, our firefighters continue to train hard and stay vigilant, following strict COVID-19 protocols at all times. Our team is constantly working on upgrading our equipment to meet the standards of our "new normal." This past fire season highlighted the need for our
(Cont'd—see CHIEF—pg. 3)



PERSONAL EMERGENCY PREPARENESS

Personal preparedness means being ready for emergencies in your home, your car, or anywhere else. Did you know the more prepared you are, the more you help our team help you? Here are some tips to get you started:

1—If you live alone, have suffered falls, have a serious medical condition or are taking medications which may cause dizziness, get a medical alert device. With the press of a button you can alert 911 immediately and save valuable minutes for their response. In addition, set up a "buddy system" with a friend or neighbor where you make a point of communicating with each other daily.

2—Get a **File of Life** document to keep on your refrigerator. You will fill out this document with your medical information and place it on your refrigerator. Believe it or not, it's the *first thing EMT'S look for after checking on you*. This is critical if you are unconscious or unable to communicate your condition. **Be sure to sign the document.**

3—Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home and change the batteries twice a year.

Even if you're not a member of AARP you can find valuable information on their website such as "How to Choose a Medical Alert Device," and "AARP Recommended Medical Devices". Visit: <http://www.aarp.org> and search for **Medical Alert Devices**.

There are many File of Life forms on the web that are free to print out and keep on your refrigerator, or, for a nominal cost, there are magnetic refrigerator magnet pouches. Search for **File of Life** on the web.

ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Last December the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District held a community meeting to encourage the community to form a Fire Safe Council. As of this past August, under the guidance of our board member, Lea Christensen and several other community members, we have a council in place.

Council members currently include Lea Christensen, Zo Abell, Carole Barnes, Jeanette Rasker, Karen Bowers, Sydelle Lapidus, Alix Rankin, and Debbi Wolfe.

The primary job of the council is to work with the fire department and first responders in preparing our community for disaster. Currently, the council is working to identify areas and roads that need clearing, educating neighbors about safe harbors and potential escape routes, go-bag preparation, help naming roads and improving street address visibility.

As a result of these efforts, the Council is asking residents to convert their house numbers to the green and white reflective signs that are visible from both sides so your property can be found, especially after dark. You can get more information on signs by writing to Debbi Wolfe at debbi@albionfire.com.

Recently, council members arranged for a big brush chipper managed by the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to come to Albion and break down brush piles on several private

properties. This chipping program is free to all county residents. While the program is finished for this year, it will re-start in spring. Please contact a council member for more information.

Other functions of the Fire Safe Council: scouting out back roads accessible for use by automobiles, educating the public on go-bags, property clearing and identifying residents who need help in this or assistance in the event of an evacuation, identifying available water resources on properties, equipment that can be used to help firefighters and plotting this information on a map.

Although still in its formative stage, eventually all these efforts will come together to form a cohesive plan or program, and when combined with the efforts of our firefighters and district board, the outcome will be a major part of the District's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ultimately, this plan will improve our community's likelihood of purchasing fire insurance and possibly even prove we're eligible for lower fire rates.

If you're interested in joining the Fire Safe Council, or want information on how you can help support it, please email Lea Christensen at lea@albionfire.com.

WORKING HARD

2020 has been a tough year, creating hardships for everyone, including and especially volunteer fire departments. Despite this, we've been forging ahead with our improvements.

Station 810 located in Albion village has been remodeled—roof trusses were raised and a new roll up door installed to dispatch our rescue truck. We modified the existing bathroom to be ADA compliant and added an ADA interior ramp with new doors to our meeting and office space. Station 812 located at the airport is being expanded with a new 30' x 40' metal building with roll up door. The building is scheduled to be completed in January 2021.

Both these building projects have been accomplished with the use of donations, and we can't do it without you—our amazing community. Thanks for your continued support!



Clockwise from top: 1) Exterior of Station 810 with raised roof 2) Masked firefighters worked with board members to demo old 810 bathroom 3) New slab poured at Station 812 next to the airport.

CHIEF (cont'd from page 2)

district and county to have a strong home team. State resources (CalFire) were assigned out of county for most of the season leaving local and volunteer fire departments working together to cover the gap for the county.

To be able to meet the needs of our community we need make some changes and modernize—changes such as replacing our older equipment and upgrading to a modern, reliable Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine. This type of engine would not only be a resource for our community, but for the county and state as well.

We need to continue working towards building a central fire station that will also serve as a community center anchor and gathering place in the event of a fire in this area.

Our Fire District is in this for the long haul. The more we can organize and work together—from individuals to the community as a whole—the better off we will be when faced with unprecedented events in these unpredictable times.

Please stay vigilant, safe, healthy, and above all, wear your mask!

OUR DONORS

The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District would like to thank all who donated and have helped support our organization. If you have any questions, please call the District at (707) 937-4022 or email office@albionfire.com.

If you'd like to make a donation, please make your check payable to ALRFPD and mail to: P.O. Box 634, Albion, CA 95410.

All gifts listed below
were received between
January 1 and
December 11, 2020

FIREFIGHTER HERO (\$500 AND UP)

Anonymous	CRV Collection (Debbi Wolfe)	Ellen Irene Athens
Gwen Lowery	Hal & Sidra Stone	Janet Baron
Jenny Harrison	John & Kathryn Hughes	Lisa Orselli & Bob Rodriguez
Lynda Reed	Martha Wagner Estate	Mendo Mill
Michele M. Tellier	Steven & Deborah Farmer	The Daley Family Foundation
Zomala Abell		

FIREFIGHTER FRIEND (\$200—\$499)

Bob Isaacson	Cathie Mellon	Corners of the Mouth
Jeannette Rasker	Jeff & Rosanna Bertheloa	Jonathan H. Borah
Julie Rumble	Kim Peuser	Leona Walden
Little River Builders, Inc.	Michael K & Joan L. Stevenson	Peter Temple Studio
Princess Seafood (Heather Sears)	Richard Green & Susan Keller	Rita Crane
Simon B. Hodson	Stephanie & Doug Bliss	Susan J. Waterfall
Tai Farm Association	Virginia Stearns	

FIREFIGHTER SUPPORTER (UP TO \$199)

Anne Marie Weibel	Bowers Studio	Carrie Durkee
Charles D. & Charlotte L. Saunders	Christine C. Berchen	David & Donna Forsberg
Donna Feiner	E. Meinke	Francis S. Casey
Gary Grimm & Ann Holsberry	J.A. Pepper	Jaen Treesinger
Joan I. Sutherland	John M. Curtis Trust	Jul Niemier
Kathleen & Anthony Lombardi	Kirk Kleinschmidt	Lee Zabin
Leslie D. & Linda Festa Plack	Leslie White & Barton Burstein	Louise Mariana
Maggies Books	Mansour Shokohi	Margaret M. Roberts
Margaret Watson & Bruce Erickson	Melissa Hayes & Nancy Harris	Michael G. & Maureen L. Adams
Nancy K. Chao	Pamela Slingerland & Rodney Smart	R. Timothy Scully
Rabbi Margaret Holub & Nick Chalfin	Robert & Dorothy Ayres	Robert & Emily Shipley
Robert & Vicki Bruce	Roderick & Kathleen Cameron	Rose Marie Baron
Russel J. & Kit Williams	Sam & Christine Speake	Sharon Hansen
Shelley Martin	Simone & John Pisias	Stephen Mizroch, M.D.
Susan Joyce Hofberg	Sydelle Lapidus	Weisman Family Trust
William H. & Karen K. Lewis	Woodson S. & Alison Thornton	

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

A warm welcome to our newest board member, Pam Linstedt, who fills an interim term position left by Terry Surles, in November.

Pam brings 30 years of experience working for CalFire to our board. She is a registered professional forester and retired Jackson Demonstration State Forest Manager with extensive experience in forest and fire management in addition to contract and budget administration.

Pam's interests include promoting public safety in our community where she has resided for over 30 years and is confident that as the district and board work together, her connections and experience with CalFIRE will assist in future cooperative efforts and mutual support.

Pam is an avid mountain biker and enjoys reading and taking walks with her wife and dog.



Pam Linstedt

MEET OUR FAMILY THE WOLFE PACK

Never for an instant did Debbi and Steven Wolfe think they'd become firefighters when they retired and moved to their dream home in Albion, but fate had other plans for them.

As it happened, Debbi and Steven, who have been married 40 years, joined the fire department shortly after their house caught on fire in October 2011, and ALRFVD showed up to put it out. Never missing an opportunity, then chief Ted Williams explained to the couple how the department was understaffed and invited them to attend the next operations meeting and check it out. They attended their first meeting in January 2012 and have been with the department ever since.

Debbi and Steven hail from the Oakland Hills area of California and met at a class. Debbi, who has a masters degree in social welfare with a specialty in gerontology and Steven, an acoustical consulting engineer had been visiting our beautiful area for many years on vacation and in 1994, purchased the property on which they now reside. Initially they had a cottage and garage built, and in 2007 began the permitting process for a larger home. The home was finished in July 2011 and consequently, Debbi retired and Steven semi-retired and they became full time residents of Albion.

In October 2011, Steven had a speaking engagement in Australia and the couple decided to spend three weeks vacationing after Steven was finished. According to Steven, 2011 was a rough year. Just as they were about to fly out, the airline had a labor issue and locked out their employees on the day the couple was to depart. Although he made the speaking engagement on time, Debbi and Steven had to quickly find alternate transportation.

The day after they returned, while Debbi was preparing dinner, a neighbor from across the



river called and asked if there was a fire on their property. Apparently, a GFCI circuit had corroded on their former cottage, and the building was on fire. According to the couple the roof had been on fire, but apart from that and some ensuing water damage, the building was salvageable and repairable.

Affectionately known to their colleagues as "The Wolfe Pack," Debbi previously served on the ALRFPD Board of Directors for about a year,

was active in the ALRFPD auxiliary, serving as both liaison between the department and auxiliary as well as running the barbeque one year, and has been a volunteer with both the Fort Bragg Food Bank and library. She runs the CRV collection program to benefit ALRFPD once a month in two locations. Mostly retired, nowadays Steven prepares tax returns for AARP and occasionally agrees to consult on acoustical engineering jobs.

YOUR DONATION DOLLARS

WHAT DOES IT COST TO OUTFIT ONE FIREFIGHTER?

Before firefighters can respond to an emergency, they need adequate equipment without having to worry about their own safety. **Please consider donating today.** Here's what it costs:

- 1 Helmet (**\$350**)
- 1 pair of goggles (**\$75**)
- 1 Breathing Apparatus with spare bottle (**\$6500**)
- 1 Nomex Hood (**\$45**)
- 1 Jacket/Pants combo (**\$1800**)
- 1 pair fire gloves (**\$75**)
- 1 pair extrication gloves (**\$50**)
- 1 pair boots (**\$450**)

Total = \$9345

Other items not included in total, but needed:

Axe—\$100

Flashlights—\$200

Safety harness—\$200

Handheld radio—\$5400

Plus the cost of training.

We are able to reissue equipment to new volunteers from those who have left, but over time and use, equipment ordinance wears out, gets destroyed, and needs to be replaced.

Tax dollars alone can't pay for everything. Your donation, in whatever amount you can afford, will help us protect our firefighters and EMS teams so they can focus on saving lives and property.

Donations may be sent to:

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 634,
Albion, CA 95410

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 634
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OUR TEAM

The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District's mission is to provide the personnel and resources necessary for protection of life and property in the Albion and Little River communities against threats from structural and wildland fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material releases, and disasters, natural or man-made.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Greenberg, President
Lee I. Welty, Treasurer
Steve Acker, Secretary
Pam Linstedt
Lea Christensen, PhD.

FIREFIGHTERS

Michael Rees, Chief
Kenyon Begley, Jim Berta, Dan Gates, Craig Hathaway, Leslie Hrbacek, Mickey Kitahara, Sheila Klopper, Gabrielle Levine, Shaun Lindeblad, Michael Marr, Brad Montgomery, Roger Nell, Jaime Placido, Jessica Preiss, Sierra Ratekin, Barbara Schneider, Laurie Starr, Ted Williams, Debbi Wolfe, Steven Wolfe

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Wendy Meyer



Trex, firehouse mascot (companion to firefighter Shaun Lindeblad) taking a break from his busy day with a little R&R.