If you are reading this, you are likely served by Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2. A look at your property tax indicates a line item labeled “Medford RFPD #2” and the amount you are charged is based on your assessed valuation. The tax rate is fixed at $2.494 per $1,000.00 of assessed value.

Your fire protection district was established close to sixty years ago to provide fire protection for property outside of the City of Medford’s jurisdiction. It is also referred to as the “rural” area. Fire District #2 entered into an agreement with Medford Fire-Rescue to provide protection to the rural area. This agreement was renewed in ten year increments, with little modification. I am more than pleased to report this agreement was again extended for 10 more years in October 2016.

Medford Rural pays the City of Medford 80% of property tax collected for providing the District fire protection. This is about $1.5 million per year. The taxation rate of 2.49 cannot be changed though the assessed valuation. It may vary, but cannot increase more than 3% per year.

MRFPD2 budgets its funds to provide the very best protection for the District patrons. A part of this includes equipment purchase (rolling stock), special safety equipment, and training for firefighters. Medford Rural owns approximately half of the rolling stock which Medford Fire-Rescue services, houses, and maintains at their expense. They have complete control and discretion in the deployment of these vehicles. Medford Rural has provided funds to equip each unit with modern life saving equipment such as defibrillators, automatic CPR machines, (Auto Pulse) and high technology EMS equipment. This is important since over half of all calls are for EMS (Emergency Medical Service).

Medford Fire also provides us with a meeting room in the Lausmann Annex and more importantly, their most competent staff! The Chief and his command staff attend our monthly Board of Directors meetings. The Chief’s Administrative Assistant efficiently and accurately records the minutes and provides great support where we need it.

The Board of Directors is composed of five elected members. The President and Vice President are rotated among the members. However, the Secretary - Treasurer is appointed by the Board.

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The meeting of any three Board members constitutes a quorum which is required by State Law to conduct any business.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 P.M. in Room 151 of the Lausmann Annex. Regular Board Meetings are open to the public.

State law limits Board members to $50.00 for attendance at the district meeting. The Secretary Treasurer is paid a monthly stipend of $500.00 which is set by the Board. This is very appropriate considering the responsibility of developing and overseeing the budget, monthly bills, and meeting the requirements of the State of Oregon Special Districts Administrative Rules.

The Secretary Treasurer is the Designated Budget Director and is responsible for recruiting members from the District to serve on the Budget Committee and prepare an annual Budget.

The District does not have employees. The intergovernmental agreement with the City of Medford secures, well trained and experienced personnel to serve the district with the same quality of care as the City of Medford.

The current Board is composed of three former fire fighters (retired), one retired timber company executive and one owner and active manager of a 50-Unit Mobile home park.

It is a gratifying experience to be a part of a government board that WORKS! The long time harmonious relationship between Medford Fire-Rescue, the Medford City Council and the citizens as customers is indeed remarkable.

Bill Riggert, Vice President.
We are thrilled to report that a ribbon cutting ceremony took place on February 13, 2017, to celebrate the completion of our new Fire Station #2, located at 1107 Stewart Avenue, near Columbus.

The ceremony was filled with long-held Fire Department traditions. Our Color Guard opened the ceremony with the raising of the American Flag, and messages of celebration were followed by the uncoupling of two sections of fire hose, in place of ribbon cutting. A fire bell rang symbolizing the official opening of the Fire Hall and Firefighters manually pushed the new fire engine into the garage bay for the first time.

The building process started on April 6, 2016 with the groundbreaking ceremony. The station is a total of 9475 square feet, with a design not only appropriate for today’s requirements, but also meets the needs of our community for the next 50 years. It is designed with maximum efficiency, and a strategic floor plan in an effort to quickly respond to your emergency calls. The apparatus bays are built to house three fire response vehicles with pull through bays for added safety. The station will house one fire crew at this time, with the potential to add one additional crew for future needs as our response area grows. The fire crew that responds from this station, covers the southwest area of the City of Medford, and it also covers the County area (Rural Fire District 2).

The newest MFPD2 fire pumper will respond from the Stewart Avenue station, which is now closer to our rural district. We are looking forward to serving from this strategically placed fire station and are planning to have an Open House later this year.

In addition to fire station #2, we are finishing up Fire Station #4, located next to the Railroad Park, on Table Rock Road. We anticipate it will be completed shortly after you receive this newsletter in the latter half of March. Thank you all for your support of these projects, it makes serving you more efficient for all of our firefighters. Brian Fish, Fire Chief
Residential burning of yard trimmings is permitted in Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 beginning March 1st until fire season is declared. Here are some safety tips to remember:

**Call First to Verify it is a Burn Day**
- 541-776-7007 (Ventilation less than 400; expected wind speed, less than 20 mph; temperature less than 90° F)

**Plan Out Your Burn Area Prior to Igniting**
- The maximum burn pile size is 4 feet in diameter by 3 feet tall with a minimum distance of 50 feet from any structure; or 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet tall, and a minimum distance of 25 feet from any structure
- Clear the ground around the burn location, at least 10 feet in all directions
- Never burn under overhanging limbs or power lines

**Know What You Can and Cannot Burn**
- Never initiate the fire using petroleum products (illegal in Oregon and unsafe)
- Never burn garbage, automobile parts, industrial waste, petroleum products or petroleum treated products, plastics, rubber products, animal remains, or any other material which normally emits dense smoke or obnoxious odors

**Always Have Adult Supervision**
- Never leave a fire unattended - only a responsible person should attend the fire
- Keep children away from the burn area

**Have a Means of Controlling the Fire and a Cell Phone**
- Keep a hose and shovel near the fire
- Don’t delay calling 911 if the fire gets out of control

**Know When to Extinguish the Fire**
- If it starts getting windy
- Before you leave
- Before it gets dark

Three new Firefighters graduated in a ceremony following their eight-week training academy and orientation. The November 2016 ceremony was the catalyst for the firefighters to begin responding to calls for service. During the ceremony the firefighters received their station and crew assignments, which is always an exciting time. The three new firefighters will continue as probationary employees for the remainder of their first full-year with the department. They will have many more hours of training to complete.

Medford Fire Rescue encourages personnel to be life-long learners of their chosen profession. The training continues on firefighting tactics, emergency medical skills, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, and many others subjects related to their new jobs. In addition to the formal training, they will spend many hours of self-study to prepare themselves for the written examinations and practical skills evaluations.

We welcome them to the Medford firefighting family and expect them to adhere to the high standards we set for our organization in order to serve our community the best way possible.
2017 Burn Permit Enclosed