



Volume 14 Issue 8

Aug, 2021



### Feature Stories

- Levy Lid Lift Info
- Semiahmoo Station
- Captain Retirement
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### 2021 STATISTICS

July 1 — July 31

#### District Average Response Time:

9 min. 28 sec.

#### Responses by Type:

Fire: 35

EMS: 365

Other: 154

**Total: 554**



*Proudly serving the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham*

*“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”*

## Special Message from your Fire Chief – Jason Van der Veen Please VOTE!



It’s nearly here – the primary election is RIGHT around the corner! Elections matter. We are fortunate to live where citizens govern themselves. But that comes with an awesome responsibility: voting. Please vote on or before August 3 if you haven’t already!

An important measure on the ballot is **Prop. 2021-3, the Fire Levy Lid Lift**. Your NWFR Board unanimously placed this measure on the ballot so voters can decide if they want to provide funds to maintain and enhance current levels of fire and emergency medical service. NWFR has not asked its voters for a levy rate increase in 12 years.

Providing our community with reliable emergency response services is our highest priority and I believe it’s also a top priority for our community. But delivering these critical services at our current standard is becoming more difficult. **Population growth is increasing service demand every year**, with our calls for service rising approximately 52 percent since 2011. And **state law caps total property tax receipts** collected by local governments to 1% more each year plus the value of new construction. Even with careful budget management and firefighters foregoing salary increases in recent years, **our current service levels cannot be maintained without additional revenues.**

Prop. 2021-3 would maintain and enhance services levels and improve response reliability by:  
**Adding four battalion chiefs**—battalion chiefs are working, supervisory firefighters (not administrative positions) who are on shift with their crews, 24/7. Their additional training and experience ensures they can manage safe, quick and effective responses to complex emergency service calls.

**Adding four firefighters to staff a peak transport unit**—to meet the significant increase in service calls, especially during peak times when NWFR is receiving multiple calls in both populated and rural areas.

**Replacing aging fire engines, a ladder truck, water tenders and firefighter equipment**—most of our vehicles—critical for 911 response—have exceeded their planned useful lives.

An important question, of course, is **what will this cost?** If Prop 2021-3 is approved, NWFR’s levy will be raised from \$1.15 per \$1,000 assessed value in 2021, to \$1.45 beginning in 2022. That increase would cost the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$400,000 an additional \$10.13 per month in 2022 for these public safety services. A homeowner with an assessed value of \$600,000 would pay \$15.20 more per month in 2022.

*continued on pg. 2*

## Message from your Fire Chief cont.

*Please remember to keep the district up to date with any changes including your contact information.*

*All changes should be directed to Kelly.*

*These changes may include:*

*Phone*

*Address*

*Email*

*Family Additions*

*Name changes*

*continued from pg. 1*

NWFR is committed to providing quality fire and EMS services. But current services levels cannot be maintained, and replacement of aging vehicles is not possible, with revenues currently available to us. Only the voters can decide if they want to increase funds to meet existing needs.

We are not alone. To address similar financial challenges, several of our neighboring fire districts are also seeking voter approval of levy lid lifts on the August 3 election. If Prop. 2021-3 fails, NWFR will assess why voters rejected the measure and is planning to go back to voters on the November 2021 ballot.

My entire focus is to build your fire district to be administratively lean and efficient, while putting maximum resources into the services—fire and emergency medical response—that we are here to provide to our citizens.

Please learn about the fire levy lid lift at [www.nwfrs.net/levy-lid-lift/](http://www.nwfrs.net/levy-lid-lift/) and/or in your [Voter's Pamphlet](#). Most importantly, remember to vote on or before August 3.

# VOTE Aug. 3, 2021

## Semiahmoo Station 62 Beautification Project

On Saturday, July 17, 2021 North Whatcom Fire and Rescue members along with family members met at Semiahmoo Station 62 to spruce up the grounds.

Dependent upon the outcome of the upcoming election, the hope is to house a peak hour's transport unit, staffed with two emt/firefighters at Station 62. This will shorten times that Odell Station 61 and Birch Bay Station 63 may be out of service transporting patients to the hospital.

The work party participants convened to complete tasks including mowing, weeding, pruning, cleaning gutters, pressure washing sidewalks, and parking lots and redefining flower beds.

Community members and neighbors passing by Semiahmoo Station 62 on Saturday, paused to convey their appreciation for the hard work focused on rejuvenating the station.



# Captain Davidson Retires From NWFR



After over 29 years with NWFR, Captain Ray Davidson completed his last shift at 0800 on Wednesday, June 30. Ray has been a mentor, friend and valued member of the department as well as the community.



Your NWFR family wishes you and your family much happiness and look forward to hearing about your new adventures in your much deserved retirement.



## Events to Celebrate August Birthdays

- 2 — Troy Freeman
- 6 — Mike Lysbol
- 19 — Tony Esser
- 23 — Kevin Biery
- 24 — Mark Wohlrab
- 25 — Cody Bowen
- 28 — David Comp
- 31 — Kris Jorgensen

## NWFR Board Meetings may be conducted in person and via Zoom

Thurs. August 19  
9408 Odell St 61  
Blaine — 1:00 p.m.





1507 E. Badger Rd.  
PO Box 286  
Lynden, WA 98264

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a safe community



### CPR / AED Classes 2021

Class will be held at various fire stations around the district. Check out <https://www.nwfrs.net/resources/classes/> for more information and to reserve your spot.

*Donations of nonperishable food items are encouraged but not mandatory. All food donations will be forwarded to local area food banks.*



FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY, ALL CPR CLASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

## NWFR Volunteer to Career Firefighter

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) is proud to announce that volunteer Noah Silverman has been hired as a career firefighter effective, August 2, 2021.

Noah was born and raised in Bellingham.

Noah joined NWFR as a vol-

unteer in 2018 and has been pulling shifts on a regular basis at Laurel Station 69.

Noah will be attending the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend for three months beginning mid August.

**Welcome to NWFR**



## NWFR Firefighter Retires from National Guard



*by Rob Mulrooney*

Many of you may have heard the rumor that my Military Service has come to an end. Yes, this Chapter of my life is now finally closed.

My journey started back in 1986 when I shipped out for Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama and spent the next 5 ½ years on Active Duty as a military policeman. While on Active Duty I have experienced many different cultures, overseas as well as here in the US. I had a 14-year break in Service between Active Duty and the National Guard and during that time I earned a college degree and worked for the County. In 2006, I joined the National Guard as a Combat Medic. I truly enjoyed being a Medic and am honored to have served my Country during Peace and a time of

War. Some of the units I served in as a Medic are: 1-161 Infantry Battalion 2006-2009, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion 2009-2013, 303rd Cavalry 2013-2015 and 81st Brigade Engineer Battalion 2015-2021.

Now, I need to figure out what to do with that free one week-end a month and the two weeks in the summer. I am sure I will think of something.

Thank you everyone at North Whatcom for your support for me and my family.

