

Volume 12, Issue 6

June, 2019



#### **Feature Stories**

- Member Bio
- EMTs Graduate
- Bike Rally
- Teen Screen Update
- Retirement BBQ

#### 2019 STATISTICS

May 1 — May 31

#### District Average Response Time:

8 min. 31 sec.

## Responses by Type:

Fire: 19

EMS: 300

Other: 81

Total: 400

## Like Us On facebook

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

"Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community"

## Division Chief / Fire Marshal



The love of the Fire Service has always been at the center of my life. As many boys start life out, I was a huge fan of visiting fire stations throughout my child-hood, which grew to my current passion. But, let's start at the beginning.

My mother came to Seattle from Baltimore, Maryland, in pursuit of job opportunities. I grew up with her as a single parent living in the housing projects until age seven. This time was a bit bumpy with all of the competing factors of jobs, finances, school, and social implications. At age seven, I started my construction career.

We bought an abandoned house for the property value and did a very fast remodel project to save it. When they came to throw us out of the abandoned house, they could no longer find any reason for it to be abandoned and we called it home for the next ten years — clearly the beginning of a Fire Marshal career.

My favorite activity over the years was to visit fire stations. I think I saw every station in the Seattle area and in every city we visited. My mom tells a story of a time when we visited a fire station. They were so gracious to spend an enormous amount of time with me, providing a complete and thorough tour. After seeing everything, the obvious question came up. "Where is your Sparky dog?" When they explained that they didn't have a dog, I asked that my mom take me to a "Good Fire Station." Hopefully, my manors have improved a bit.

My mother spent many years working for the school system, which provided free summers for us. Every year we traveled across the US to visit family in Baltimore. We took a different route each time and stretched it out to months so we could thoroughly enjoy the My love of camping, fishing, and nature grew from that. We lived in the Seward Park, Rainier Beach, and Skyway area throughout that time. In 1989 I got married and later experienced the best part of my life; becoming a father.

There has been no greater joy for me. My daughter Leah and I share a love of soccer. She played from age six up through last year when she played for Whatcom Community College. It is such a joy to watch your kids surpass anything you could have accomplished and do it with such excitement. Throughout those years, we coached together and refereed side by side. Our bond is close for the things we share, and



the time she spent living with me after I got divorced.

My actual career in the fire service started in 1992 when I started as a volunteer fire-fighter EMT in Skyway for King County Fire District 20. These are some of the finest firefighters I have ever worked with. I still see many of them today in my fire service travels. I was heavily involved with recruit training and taught Co-Op classes at the State Fire Academy. I was honored continued on pg. 2

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







### Member Bio cont.

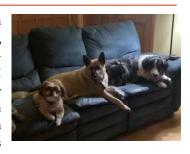
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when they sent me to the National Fire Academy to learn about training management. I was hired in 1996 by the Mercer Island Fire Department and served there until last month. I was involved in many aspects of the department in addition to firefighting and EMS. Over the years, I managed the fire inspection program, pre-incident planning, mapping, and was involved in many committees.

In addition to shift work I was assigned as the Assistant Fire Marshal for 15 years and in 2015 moved into the Fire Marshal position full time.

I now live in Custer, a mere seven minute drive to work. A monumental improvement from my daily four hour commute of the past. Living on the south end of Whidbey Island for the last eight years made the transition to Whatcom County a painless and logical move for me. I met the most wonderful person in my

world, and she has shared with me her love of nature, animals, and farming. I am forever enlightened by being by her side. I love the area and the community up here as it reminds me of South Whidbey in so many ways. I am honored to have been chosen as your Fire Marshal.





## NWFR Volunteers Complete EMT Class

Congratulations to Volunteer Firefighters Noah Silverman and Benjamin Segura for completing the EMT Class at Bellingham Technical College.

For the past 3 months, both have learned how to manage people in the time of need for medical and traumatic emergencies. Both have graduated at the top of their class and are now eligible to take their Na-

tional Registry EMT Written Exam and then become Washington certified.

We wish them both the best of luck!





## Healthy Youth Coalition Initiates Bike Rally

## healthy YOUTH COALITION

On Wednesday, May 1, NWFR participated in a bicycle program at the Blaine School District football field sponsored by the North County Healthy Youth Coalition.

During the event, children had the opportunity to test their skills as they rode through an obstacle course.

Middle School students could also join the Blue Beat Bicycle Program. This program plans to host Wednesday afternoon rides led by community members.

Partners in the event included American Legion Riders, Blaine Police, NWFR, WC Sheriff, Customs and Border Protection.













# Events to Celebrate June Birthdays 2 — Mike Nelson

8 — John Geleynse

8 — Delanie Warne

10 — Joel Nielsen

15 — Jason Donnelly

17 — D.J. Riehl

12 — Blake Scott

28 — Kelly Freemen

**Flag Day** June 14



Fathers Day
[une 16

Blaine Food Bank #75

#### Fire Commissioner Meetings NWFR

Thurs. June 20 9408 Odell St 61 Blaine — 1:00 p.m.

#### District 4

Wed. June 12 4142 Britton Loop St 12 Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.



### Teen Screen Follow-Up



On Thursday, March 21, Blaine High School in conjunction with Peace Health and multiple other agencies, offered free teen heart screening to all Whatcom County students ages 14 to 24 years of age.

223 students were screened, (107 female, 116 male)

55 students were found to have positive findings - All 55

Students have been notified along with their parents and primary care physicians

- 4 students with significant findings (required more immediate follow-up)
- ♦ 51 general positive findings
- 20 students with generalized hypertension (all BP's were re-checked)
- \$\delta\$ 13 students with dyspnea, shortness of breath or chest pain on exertion

- 8 students with persistent symptoms
- 4 students with significant family history
- ♦ 3 students with Sinus tachycardia
- ♦ 2 students with syncope with exercise



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4142 Britton Loop Rd. Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for a safe community



#### Free Friends and Family CPR Classes 2019

Class will be held from 6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. at various fire stations around the district. Check out www.nwfrs.com for more information and to reserve your spot.

March 27 April 24 May 29 June 15 CPR and First Aid June 26 July 31 August 21 September 21 September 25 October 30 November 20 December 18

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

## Chief Hollander's Retirement BBQ



On Thursday, May 30 the NWFR staff along with members from the community showed up for a barbeque to thank Chief Hollander for his 26 years of fire service.

Fitting with Chief Hollander's laid back style, the event began with a barbeque, with over 100 family, community and district members attending.

Piper John Geleynse signaled the start of the program where Chief Hollander's son, Chris was master of ceremonies. Speakers included NWFR Commissioner Rich Bosman, City of Blaine Mayor Bonnie Onyon, District 7 Chief Dean Crosswhite, New Westminster Fire Chief Tim Armstrong, Union representative Kenneth Cunningham and Chief Noonchester.

Chief Hollander has been involved with the fire service since 1993.

"You will always be remembered for your accomplishments. Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to our team, and congrats on your retirement!













