



# The Responder



Volume 12, Issue 5

## Feature Stories

- Fire Marshal Retires
- Dispatcher's Week
- Firefighter Honored
- Fire Extinguisher Disposal
- Scholarships Awarded
- Recipe



## 2019 STATISTICS

April 1— April 30

### Average

### Response Time:

8 min. 43 sec.

### Responses by Type:

Fire: 14

EMS: 278

Other: 86

**Total: 377**

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

*"Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community"*

## Fire Marshal Hollander to Retire May 31



My story begins on a cold raining night in November 1953 in Hilversum Holland, where I entered this world at home. With parents looking for a better life, we immigrated to Lethbridge Alberta, where we spent the next 5 years.

Getting tired of the cold weather and looking for something a little warmer, we again immigrated to Santa Barbara California. I completed my public education and graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1971. Competing in water polo and swimming, I studied business education at Santa Barbara City College until my sports eligibility ran out.

While growing up, there was very little slack time, as my family ran a refrigeration business and my father kept me very busy.

Wanting to "Make it on my own" I got married and moved to Eureka California and for the next five years managed the service department for a large HVAC and steel fabrication company.

While driving in Eureka, I did a

lot of sand car racing as well as honed my hunting skills. Around this same time, my father was interested in retiring from the family business and we made an agreement from me to take it over. This required a move back to Santa Barbara. I now owned and managed our refrigeration business and also constructed a few commercial buildings in my spare time.

I had my first child - a healthy, boisterous bouncing baby boy by the name of Christopher. I'm not sure, but I do not believe he had an iPhone at this time. As with a lot of folks, some marriages aren't a good match and we divorced. The good news - 5 years later I found and married my current and favorite wife, Cathy!



Out of the blue I received an offer to sell the refrigeration business. Following the sale, Cathy and I decided to move to Blaine WA, with our 3 month old son Cody, hoping to enjoy a quiet and less expensive life. Since we already had a few pets i.e. two horses, two goats, a dog, cat and bird, the move was very exciting! We

were able to find a nice old farm house on H Street Rd., where we moved along with all our myriad of critters. Two years later we had our daughter Heidi and our family was blessed and complete.



Soon after moving into Blaine I read in the Blaine Banner Newspaper (*now the Northern Light*) that the Fire Department was looking for volunteers. This sounded intriguing to me!

A short time later I attended my first meeting / training. Talk about one event that was life changing, this was the one!!

I was welcomed with open arms and they laughed at my jokes. (*This was great*)

Those days nearly all the fire departments in Whatcom County were volunteer. Departments gave us flashing green lights to place on the dash of our vehicles to help clear the road for us to respond from home! For the next six years I volunteered with the City of Blaine Fire Department and worked for my neighbor's heavy construction company. If I had more

*continued on pg. 2*

# NWFR Recognizes Area Dispatchers

*continued from pg. 1*

*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*



room, I could fill a page of stories with the things John Swobody and I did during this time, some good and some maybe not so good. In 1998, things began to change and Fire District 13 and the City of Blaine Fire Departments merged under contract and the first nine career firefighters were hired. I was offered a job on "A" shift with two of my good friends - Murray Folk and John Swobody. Once again there are many more stories that go along with that crew!

As the fire service continued to grow, District 13 joined with District 3 and we began to hire

additional firefighters to help handle the demand. In 2002, the name of the department officially changed to North Whatcom Fire and Rescue.

In 2004, twenty firefighters were hired and I was offered and accepted the job of assistant chief of operations and have worked as an assistant / division / chief and Fire Marshal ever since.

Some of the highlights of my career include the delivery of a baby in the back of the City of Blaine ambulance. While working for Kenyan International I had two deployments to Thailand to assist with mortuary operations after the tsunami ; aided in body recovery after hurricane Katrina; and worked with family assistance after the Helios Airline crash in Greece on Cypress Island.



I have enjoyed serving as the treasurer for the Whatcom County Chiefs Association and working along with the Whatcom County FARS group, co-chairing with Chief Armstrong for the annual 9-11 memorial each September 11 at the Peace Arch Park and have served as president of our union local IAFF L-3867.



Barbershop singing has been a large part of our family's life and I have performed in many areas of this country, Canada, two trips to Finland and a great tour of New Zealand. I have served as two-time president of the Mount Baker Toppers Barbershop.

I did have a short career in the movie industry as an extra in the movie "Deal of the Century" with Chevy Chase and Sigourney Weaver.

Cathy and I have just completed construction of our second (*retirement*) home in Blaine and hope to enjoy retirement there with our small herd of Nubian goats. I am extremely thankful for the time I was able to serve our community.

I want to thank all the Fire Commissioners I served, as well as the nine fire chiefs that have put up with me during my career. I will not miss getting up in the middle of the night or all the responsibilities of car duty, but will for sure miss the relationships that have developed over these years.



# NWFR Recognizes Area Dispatchers

April 14-20 is designated to recognize those Public Safety Telecommunicators who serve the public in countless ways without due recognition by the beneficiaries of their services.

Telecommunicators are all those people who utilize telephones, radios, computers and technical skills to provide support to Law Enforcement, Fire

Services, Emergency Medical Services and other governmental field personnel. As the first person contacted by citizens on nearly every crime, fire and medical emergency, the 911 dispatcher continues to be an invaluable resource for agencies of all sizes.

*North Whatcom Fire and Rescue would like to take*

*this opportunity to recognize those who serve our communities in a vital capacity.*



*Events to Celebrate May Birthdays*

- 2 — Mike Peetoom
- 25 — Melissa Van Cleve
- 29 — Commissioner Neal
- 31 — Noah Silverman

# Firefighter John Swobody to be Recognized



**Washington State  
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service**  
June 2, 2018, 1:00PM  
Washington State Capitol Rotunda - Olympia

Seattle Fire Department Firefighter Marvin Larry March 20, 2018	North Whatcom Fire Firefighter John Swobody June 1, 2018
South County Fire FF/Paramedic Walter Busas June 11, 2018	East Olympia Fire Dist. 6 Battalion Chief John Ostergard December 16, 2018
Spokane Valley Fire Captain Tere Cogger December 24, 2018	

Honoring Their Sacrifice ~ Upholding Our Traditions

Fire: Uphold the Tradition. Rescue: Uphold the Honor.  
P.O. Box 411611 | Olympia, WA 98541 | Phone: 360-355-1220



*Food Bank Donations #285*

*Fire Commissioner Meetings*

**NWFR**  
Thurs. May 16  
9408 Odell St 61 Blaine —  
1:00 p.m.

**District 4**  
Wed. May 15  
4142 Britton Loop St 12  
Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.

# Proper Disposal of Old Fire Extinguishers

Do you have old fire extinguishers lurking around your home or business? It's important to dispose of expired fire extinguishers once they are no longer usable.

Disposable fire extinguishers need to be replaced every 12 years, even if they are not technically expired. Disposable fire extinguishers are those that are typically smaller in size and have a gauge on top that reads full/empty. Over time, disposable fire extinguishers lose air pressure and need to be replaced.

Rechargeable fire extinguishers

last for even longer, providing that you don't skip your yearly or monthly inspections. Professional servicing will keep rechargeable extinguishers in good condition and ready to use (NWFR does not provide this service).

Even if your fire extinguisher is not technically expired, it may not be ready to use or operate during an emergency and could actually harm anyone trying to use it.

Take your empty fire extinguisher to a hazardous waste facility. The workers there will be able to recycle both the

canister and the agent inside of the fire extinguisher.

NWFR accepts expired fire extinguishers provided that they are still full. These fire extinguishers are used for training purposes.

NWFR will also provide fire extinguisher training when requested.

By learning the proper way to use a fire extinguisher, individuals will feel more confident and react quickly during an emergency.





4142 Britton Loop Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for  
a safe community



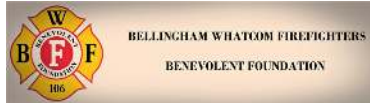
**Free Friends and  
Family CPR Classes  
2019**

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

- March 27
- April 24
- May 29
- June 15 CPR and First Aid
- June 26
- July 31
- August 11
- September 21
- September 25
- October 30
- November 20
- December 18

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

# Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship



Six students were awarded \$500 scholarships during the Thursday, April 13, 2019, IAFF Local 106 union meeting.

The scholarship program, Bellingham-Whatcom County Professional Firefighters IAFF Local-106 Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship originally began in 1996 by the Blaine Volunteer Firefighters Association. It was renamed in Jason's honor in 2015.

Jason worked for Bellingham Fire and was with the Tukwila Fire Department as a firefighter paramedic until 2014, when he died tragically in a motorcycle accident.

Donations to the registered 501c3 make it all possible. Learn more about how we give back to our community @ <http://www.benevolent106.org>



## Spiced Breakfast Popovers with Orange Cream



*courtesy of Diabetic Living Magazine*

**Ingredients**

**Orange Cream**

- 1/2 cup fat-free dairy sour cream
- 1 TBS brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp finely shredded orange peel
- 1 TBS orange juice
- Dash ground cinnamon

**Popovers**

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup fat-free milk
- 1 tsp cooking oil
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- Dash salt
- 1 cup halved or quartered strawberries

**Serves: 2**

Prep: 15 min Ready in 50 min

**Directions**

1. Prepare Orange Cream: In a small bowl combine sour cream, brown sugar, orange peel, orange juice and ground cinnamon. Cover and refrigerate up to 24 hours or until ready to serve.
2. Prepare Spiced Breakfast Popovers: Generously coat the bottoms and sides of two 6-ounce custard cups with cooking spray. Place the custard cups in a shallow baking pan; set aside
3. In a small bowl use a wire whisk or rotary beater to beat together the egg, milk and oil. Add flour and salt; beat until smooth. Fill prepared cups half full with batter. Bake in a 400° F oven about 35 min. or until popovers are firm.
4. Remove popovers from oven and immediately prick each popover with a fork to let steam escape. Turn off the oven. (For crispier popovers, return to the oven for 5-10 min. or until desired crispness is reached.) Remove popovers from cups.
5. To serve, split warm popovers in half crosswise and top with Orange Cream and strawberries.

“Popovers are quite simple to make so its surprising that most people think they are complicated! The batter for these light, hollow rolls whips up in no time at all and you'll love spreading the orange-flavored cream on each bite of the finished popovers.”

Per serving: 236 calories; 5 g fat(1 g sat); 2 g fiber; 38 g carbohydrates; 9 g protein; 113 mg cholesterol; 11 g sugars