

Putting the “fun” in fundraising

Smiling, dancing, and running were among the driving forces behind two successful fundraising events for the Fire Station & Community Center Project.



On May 16 a group of our firefighters held a “Boot Day” to give motorists on Highway 36 a chance to support the Project by putting donations into rubber boots held by uniformed firefighters. A series of signs ala the old Burma Shave advertising campaigns were set up along Highway 36 to attract donors. The signs read: “We’re Saving Lives” – “And We’re Cute” – “Get Out Your Dollars” – “And Fill Our Boot.” Over the course of about 5 hours, over \$2,100 was collected.

“The Boot Day was a hoot,” recalls John Bologna, a member of the Fire Station Project Committee. “We danced, sang, and waved at westbound cars from late morning ‘til mid-afternoon. It was great to see such generosity and enthusiasm from people outside of our community.”

The Second Annual Pinewood Springs’ Spring RunOff, which featured a 5k run and a 1-mile fun walk, was held on May 30. Attendance more than doubled from the 2014 event with about 125 runners and walkers participating.

Thanks to the number of entrants, donations from a range of sponsors including Polar Gas, Stingray Electric, Villa Tatra, and the Colorado Cherry Company, the event not only brought lots of people together in the spirit of fun and fitness – it also brought in about \$2,600 toward the Project Fund.

The use of a professional timing company was among the new features of this year’s event, as was the addition of an obstacle course as part of the fun walk. Walk participants had to navigate a range of challenges such as a giant spider web, a crawl-through tunnel, and limbo sticks.

The Project Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated to, and participated in both of these tremendously successful events. They both have carried us significantly closer to our goal!

PROJECT FUNDING STATUS – July 2015

\$188,344.83 (↑ \$8,653.87 since June 2015)

Why Give?

Generous donations from many members of our fantastic community carry us ever closer to the Fire Station & Community Project’s fundraising goal. We reached out to some of our donors to ask them why they donate and why they love being part of Pinewood Springs.

This month’s featured donors are Bob and Laurel Shaw. Here’s what they had to say:

“Living in Pinewood Springs gives us the best of two worlds. It allows us to live in the mountains while still being close to “civilization.” Once we arrived here, we found a big bonus: the great folks who live here. We were a close community before the flood of 2013, and that experience made us even closer. There is a great deal of caring and support for one another, and this is rare in today’s high-speed world.”



Bob and Laurel Shaw at Denali National Park in Alaska.

Regarding why he feels it’s important to support the Fire Station Project, Bob says: “Having served on the Board of Directors of our Fire Protection District, I am keenly aware of the limitations imposed by the existing fire station. Our volunteer firefighters give so much of themselves to this community. The least we can do is provide them with a facility that meets their needs.”

Laurel, an active member of the Brigade, says: “You need the right tools and facilities to do any job effectively. In the case of our volunteer firefighters, that job is protecting us and saving lives. We all experienced that during the flood – and as summer traffic increases and accidents happen, we see them always at the ready to respond and help. While they do an excellent job with the space and tools they have, it’s very apparent that the fire station is overdue for an upgrade.”

Valuing our volunteers

We all recognize the contributions made by those who volunteer to serve our community. But if we saw them on the street, would we recognize them? To make sure we do, Springboard will profile a different community volunteer each month.

Ross Swanson, Firefighter 1



While Ross became a full-fledged member of the Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District (PSFPD) in 2012, like all of our brave volunteers, his training is an ongoing process.

He recently completed the State Firefighter 1 course in Boulder Country through the Colorado State Firefighter Academy.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Andy Lucas, the PSFPD usually sends one or two firefighters to the Academy each year to earn a number of different federal certifications including various wildland fire skills and general command levels.

“The most challenging part of the course,” says Ross, “was crawling on my belly in a pitch-black room through a small, tight box on the stairs wearing full self-contained breathing apparatus gear with dangling wires getting tangled in the gear while following a charged hose line.”

He says some of the best things he got out of the course were lessons regarding what not to do, including “don’t freelance, don’t go alone, don’t work traffic without a vest, and know the risk reward trade-off.”

An electrical engineer originally from Morton Grove, IL, Ross moved to Pinewood Springs in 1997 so his family could live in the mountains. He joined the PSFPD so he could give back to the community, and finds helping remove patients from car wrecks to be the most satisfying part of the job.

Ross’ most vivid memory of the flood was the realization that with all the debris in the river “if you fell in you wouldn’t drown, but be crushed to death.” Like the majority of his fellow volunteers, he feels our community needs a new fire station because the lack of space in the existing facility seriously hinders their ability to work on the fire vehicles.

Ross lives with his wife, Elizabeth. They have two daughters, Molly, 23, and Honna, 19.

Pinewood Springs is really COOKIN’ now!

The PS cookbook, “Pinewood Springs is still Cookin’,” has gone to press and will be available mid-September. There will only be a single printing of the book, so please order your copies now.

The books are \$21 (including tax), and can be ordered by emailing your contact information and the number of books you’d like to recipe@pinewoodspringsfire.org. Payment will be due at the time you pickup your books. All proceeds go to the Fire Station & Community Center Project Fund.

The first opportunity to pick up the books will be at a special potluck dinner on Saturday, September 12 to mark the second anniversary of our Mountain Strong experience. So SAVE THE DATE! Updates on the book and the potluck dinner will follow in upcoming issues of Springboard and via social media.

New head of the Project’s PR committee

As of this month, Jen Rivas is replacing Larry Shaw as the chairman of the Fire Station & Community Center Project’s Public Relations Committee. Jen, her husband, Joe, and her mom, Irene, have moved from Denver to Pinewood Springs – and Jen is eager to get settled in and involved with our community.

“Everything about moving to Pinewood Springs has exceeded our expectations!” says Jen. “The community has been so welcoming, and I am excited to support the Project.”

Larry relocated to Seattle in June to seek new employment opportunities. He is excited about his new adventure, but was definitely sad to leave family and friends in Pinewood Springs.

“It was a very tough decision to leave this amazing community,” Larry says. “I can’t thank everyone enough for the friendship, support, and fun you’ve shared during my time here.”

To reach Jen regarding PR Committee business, please email her at PRC@pinewoodspringsfire.org.

Ways to donate to the Project Fund

1. Drop a check (no cash, please!) in the water payment drop box at the Fire Station
2. Use a credit card to donate through the flood book website at www.coloradofloodbook.org/fire-station-community-center/
3. Via PayPal through the Fire Protection District website at www.pinewoodspringsfire.org/new-fire-station-fund-raising/
4. Become a monthly donor by picking up a Donation and Pledge Form at the fire station or the Colorado Cherry Company, filling it out, and dropping it in the water payment drop box