

March/April 2016

## WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

### What's Coming Up In 2016

The department will be implementing several projects in 2016. The first is a fall prevention and/or prevention of multiple repeat callers. After individuals fall repeatedly or have chronic health problems that require numerous EMS responses for lifting or other assistance we will try to intervene and find the alternate treatment/care for the individual and to assist with fall prevention in the home. The second project is identifying, planning and notifying occupants of the possibility of

wildland fire dangers near their homes especially those who live within the city limits that live near open grass areas or crop fields. The third project is to identify better methods, equipment and preventative measures to enhance the survivability of a cardiac arrest throughout our community.

The public safety building will be outfitted with a new phone system as the existing system was installed in 2000 and needs updates in technology and the replacement of worn out hardware.

We will be waiting on word of a regional grant of more than \$900,000 to purchase self contained breathing apparatus for several fire departments.

We hope through the next two years to increase the number of paramedics on shift to address the increasing EMS call volume by existing staff obtaining paramedic certification.

Other items that need to be addressed are broken chairs, replacement of mattresses and box springs and obtain jet ski's for access to creeks and rivers where boats cannot be launched.

### New Engine/Tender

The department has received a new Engine/Tender which was ordered in 2014. This truck will replace two trucks. An Engine has already been sold and a Tender which will be sold in the near future. The new truck brings capabilities of supplying water in are-

as not supplied by fire hydrants and the functionality of fighting structure and vehicle fires. The cost of the truck was \$481,000 and is expected to serve the citizens of Wellington and surrounding areas for the next 20 years.



#### Inside this issue:

Commendations	2
Severe Weather	2
Department Training	2
City Safety Committee	3
Structure Fire	3
Personnel Spotlight	3
Around the Station	4



## Commendation



On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the department was notified of an emergency transfer from Sumner Regional Medical Center to Kansas Heart Hospital in Wichita. Paramedic Michael Clark and EMT Andrew Pauly began transport of a patient that was suffering an active heart attack. As they approached the Welling-

ton High School the patient become unconscious and pulseless. The patient received three defibrillations and additional medications. Each time a shock was done the patient became conscious and then again unconscious. After the third shock the patient regained a treatable

heart rhythm and remained conscious throughout transport. The patient underwent an immediate heart catheterization procedure at Kansas Heart Hospital. Because of their quick lifesaving actions the patient was dismissed from the hospital several days later and returned to work.

## Severe Weather/Tornado Shelters



April is usually the beginning of storm season for Kansas and the tornado's associated with these storms. As seen in the past several years tornado's can form at any time of the year. The City of Wellington maintains outdoor warning sirens located throughout the city, the

airport and at the Wellington Lake. The sirens can be activated by Sumner County 911 or by the fire and police departments. Sirens are only activated in the event the National Weather Service includes the City of Wellington or lake in the tornado warning, or if a qualified spotter

such as law enforcement or fire personnel observes a tornado or funnel. The public should have a pre-designated place in their home or business to take shelter. Many times there is little to no warning and driving to a public shelter would be dangerous. Public shelters are located at SRMC and the Nursing Home located at 1600 West 8th.



## Department Training

Staff have been busy attending training in house and around the surrounding region. "A" shift attended a Pipeline Emergency class here locally and five members of the department attended a one day class in Wichita sponsored by Kansas University. Our two certified fire investigators attended a three day conference in Wichita to obtain their needed re-certification hours. Two members attended another Kansas University class in Winfield and B shift attended the National Weather Services storm spotter class. In house training in February and March consisted of wildland fire suppression, ice rescue, stroke care, cardiac arrest, hazardous materials decontamination, congestive heart failure, rapid sequence intubation and mass casualty response.

## City Safety Committee

The City of Wellington has a safety committee composed of multi departments which meet every other month. The committee is responsible for maintaining a citywide safety plan and recommending equipment, training, policy and other projects which concern the safety of the employees. The committee's main objective is to reduce the amount of injuries and the costs associated with those injuries. This has to be a

partnership with department heads, city management and the council. Without everyone working together and supporting safety initiatives it will not work. The expense to the city last year for workers compensation insurance was \$121,000. Each year we can reduce our costs related to worker injuries we hope to reduce the workers compensation insurance premium. The city has been awarded the last several years for it's

work on reducing injuries in the work place. City departments conduct safety training within their own departments and each month staff can attend a one hour training on different safety topics at city hall. Departments also inspect their respective facilities for safety violations every three months. A safety newsletter is sent out each month detailing injuries and safety concerns. We invite the public to address a safety concern they may have by calling the fire department at 326-7443.

## Structure Fire

Wellington Fire/EMS responded to a reported structure fire at 406 S. Blaine on February 18th at 8:50 PM. Upon arrival firefighters found a detached garage with smoke and flames visible. Firefighters began fire suppression when they were notified that an individual may be inside the garage. Assistant Chief Mraz im-

mediately began a search of the garage and found an adult male unconscious inside the structure. He was removed and transferred to an ambulance where staff secured an airway and transported to St. Francis Medical Center in Wichita in critical condition with smoke inhalation and burns. Firefighter Pauly re-entered the structure and found an un-

conscious dog. The dog was given oxygen via a mask designed for animals and was resuscitated on scene. The fire loss is estimated at \$10,000. The fire was investigated and is undetermined but started near multiple electrical cords. Our condolences to the family and friends of Wayne Bradford who passed away due to injuries from the fire .

## Personnel Spotlight

Firefighter/EMT-Advanced Sam Pacino has worked with the department since 2009 he was also a volunteer firefighter in Argonia. Sam graduated from Argonia high school where he played football. Sam has a fire science degree from Hutchinson Community College and has several certifications including swift water, ice rescue,

Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I, Fire Inspector I, EMS training officer, Fire Instructor I and Juvenile Fire Setter Specialist. Some of Sam's hobbies are competing in trap shoots, hunting/fishing, camping and basically anything to do with the outdoors. Sam has his own business which guides people on hunts and he volunteers to

take wounded vets and kids that are less fortunate on hunts. Sam also enjoys following politics especially the Republican Party. His most memorable calls were a fatality/injury accident near Oxford with several victims and extrication was needed and a house fire where an elderly man just barely escaped.



## BIRTHDAYS MARCH & APRIL

**MARCH 18 SAM PACINO**

**MARCH 28 KYLE TUTTLE**

**APRIL 15 NATE KELLER**

The Firefighters Association had a successful pancake feed on January 23rd raising over \$1200 dollars to help pay for firefighter expenses, donations, and other activities. Firefighters also raised money by delivering flowers for Valentines Day. This was in cooperation with Dillon's Grocery.

Thank you to Dillon's and the public for their support!

## Upcoming Classes & Events

April 1 Fire class in Wichita

April 9th Burn class at SRMC

April 13th Firehouse Subs awards ceremony

April 21st Sumner County Fire Chiefs meeting

**Visit the Fire/EMS website  
at [cityofwellington.net](http://cityofwellington.net) or  
call 620 326-7443 for more  
information**

## Around the Station

Mark Farley retires on March 22nd after 38 years of service to the Wellington Fire/EMS. Mark will be missed as he was a "class" guy in all respects.

Staff have been working on adding additional EMS protocols and preparing for annual ambulance service re-licensing.

Staff participated in a chili cookoff contest and wheel chair basketball game at Wellington Health and Rehab.

In conjunction with wildland fire training the department burned a portion of the grass-

lands at the old Wastewater Plant. This was not only training but to help with the removal of invasive weeds and to assist the grass re-growth.

Justin Patrick and Chad Francisco attended Firefighter I written and practical certification testing in Rossville, Kansas.

Staff spent numerous hours training and installing equipment on our new apparatus.



Picnic Table Built and Donated by GKN