



NEWS



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County to annex Hesperia Fire Protection District with no additional taxes for residents

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

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HESPERIA — The Local Agency Formation Committee has approved the annexation of one High Desert city into the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District-North Desert Service Zone.

The Hesperia Fire Protection District will soon relinquish control of all fire and emergency services to County Fire after LAFCO approved the move on Wednesday, according to Hesperia City Manager Nils Bentsen.

“The city is pleased with the vote by the LAFCO board to approve our application to annex the Hesperia Fire Protection District,” Bentsen said. “We are thankful for all of the work done by San Bernardino County Fire, the CAO’s office, and both LAFCO and city staff during this lengthy process.”

Over the past four years, the city of Hesperia has worked to identify solutions to funding shortfalls in the fire district by examining its options closely, Bentsen said.

The annexation does not include the expansion of Special Fire District 941, which would have meant an additional fire tax for citizens, something the Council has opposed since submitting an application to LAFCO in March 2017.

“The county and fire district both objected to LAFCO’s recommendation to expand District 941,” Councilman Paul Russ told the Daily Press. “LAFCO approved the annexation 5-0 and the decision is a big win for the city, the county and the residents of Hesperia.”

County Fire has adequate revenue to provide existing services to over 42,000 properties in 73.2 square miles, said Russ, who’d like to see the annexation completed by this summer.

The annexation will increase the city’s general tax revenue from 1.59 percent to 3.50 percent, with the bump in funds paying the “pension legacy cost” that comes from the current Hesperia Fire District, Russ said.

County Fire estimates that in addition to the \$3.5 million in property tax revenue transfers from the city, revenues of just over \$5.3 million will be available to fund services beginning in the next fiscal year. The cost of providing services to Hesperia will be approximately \$11.2 million.

Upon the effective date of the reorganization, the appropriation limit of the successor county fire district shall be increased by \$8.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018-19 to recognize the anticipated first-year proceeds of taxes

for the provision of fire protection, emergency medical response, and ambulance services, according to a LAFCO document.

“With the transfer of our capital, the county will reopen Fire Station 301, which is located on 9th Avenue,” Russ said. “Only ambulance services have been run out of that station since it was closed.”

Several residents said Hesperia’s budget woes come from the more than 80 percent of voters shooting down Measure F, which was designed to help fund the HFPD with a new \$85 parcel tax.

One resident who objected to the annexation said the city would be giving away taxpayer money by handing over millions of dollars in assets to the county. The Council replied by saying taxpayer dollars are simply being transferred from one government agency to another.

“The county just annexed San Bernardino and Upland and is expected to annex even more cities,” Russ said. “With pensions today, owning a Fire Department is not efficient.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180517/county-to-annex-hesperia-fire-protection-district-with-no-additional-taxes-for-residents>

Bystander Saves Man’s Life

Tracey Martinez, PIO

Posted: May 16, 2018

It’s a well-known fact that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can save lives, however it is the quick actions of the administrator who is the true hero. **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig said it was a privilege to honor a special individual such as Kelly Collier for her bravery and courage with the Lifesaving Award. “Her swift actions in saving the life of another is nothing less of heroic” said Chief Hartwig.

Two complete strangers, Kirk Kennedy and Kelly Collier, started the morning of April 16, 2018 like many others across the United States, by going to their neighborhood gym. While using the treadmill, Kirk began to feel dizzy and eventually went unconscious. Working out nearby, Kelly noticed Kirk go unconscious, turn blue and breathing abnormally. 911 was called and firefighter paramedics from nearby Fire Station 161 responded.

Meanwhile, Kelly had retrieved 24-Hour Fitness’ AED and started administering resuscitation measures. Kelly followed the AED’s prompts and started CPR. At one point the AED advised Kelly the patient needed a defibrillation “shock”. Immediately after delivering the shock utilizing the AED paddles, Kirk recovered consciousness and became relieved of his symptoms.

When Medic Truck 161 arrived on scene, the patient was conscious, symptomless and unaware of the life-threatening predicament he was just in. While gathering information about the medical emergency, crews became aware of the life-threatening emergency, quick thinking and lifesaving actions that took place prior to their arrival. Crews completed an assessment of Kirk’s vital signs and transported him to San Antonio Regional Medical Center for further treatment.

Automated External Defibrillators are lightweight, battery-operated, portable devices that are easy to use. Sticky pads with sensors (called electrodes) are attached to the chest of the person who is having sudden

cardiac arrest (SCA). The electrodes send information about the person's heart rhythm to a computer in the AED. The computer analyzes the heart rhythm to find out whether an electric shock is needed. If a shock is needed, the AED uses voice prompts to tell you when to give the shock, and the electrodes deliver it.

Using an AED to shock the heart within minutes of the start of SCA may restore a normal heart rhythm. Every minute counts. Each minute of SCA leads to a 10% reduction in survival.

Cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States. Seventy percent of cardiac arrests occur in homes. If you are called on to give CPR in an emergency, you will most likely be trying to save the life of someone you love: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby. About 46 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims receive CPR from a bystander. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

According to the American Heart Association, about 90% of people who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest die. Don't be afraid to perform CPR for fear of unintentionally causing injury! It is much to better to act than to do nothing at all.

Without Kelly's quick recognition and actions, Kirk's odds of survival would have been drastically lower. This positive patient outcome is one example of great bystander CPR & AED use.

For information on finding a CPR class, visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

<http://sanbernardino.citynewsgroup.com/articles/bystander-saves-mans-life>

WDAD returns to its “home” venue

Terri Hill, Mountaineer Progress News

Posted: May 17, 2018



Wildfire and Disaster Awareness Day (WDAD), sponsored by the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) came “home” to Mountain Hardware’s parking lot Saturday. In recent years the event had been held in the parking lot at the Community Building, but this year, with the blessings and encouragement of local hardware store owner Mike Troeger, WDAD, and its many supporting agencies, returned to its original venue. Many participants and visitors agreed it, “felt right” to be back.

Devastating wildfires threaten California every year, and to ensure residents in the State are ready, California’s Governor proclaims the first full week of May as “Wildfire Awareness Week,” when California highlights the importance of wildfire prevention and preparedness. WDAD is the culmination of this special week in the Tri-Community.

Saturday’s event was attended by hundreds of people, including residents of Wrightwood and the Tri-Community, and an international presence, thanks to the Pacific Crest Trail hikers who stopped by. Attendees were treated to free popcorn and water courtesy of the WFSC, as well as hot dogs, chips, and sodas provided by the Explorer Scouts. Donations were accepted by both organizations, toward operating expenses.

Explorer Scouts of **San Bernardino County Fire** (SBCF) in Phelan also conducted two demonstration exercises for children. The Jr. Firefighter Challenge is a popular activity each year. Explorers stage a “house fire” and assist youngsters with the handling of a real fire hose to douse the flames. Another activity hosted by the Explorers is the Safety Trailer. The special RV is equipped to simulate a house fire. Children are first taught to recognize signs of danger, like smoke under a door, or the door itself feeling hot to the touch. They are reminded of kitchen safety and the importance of calling 911. In the next room, as smoke billows above their heads, each child is taught to stay low, and to climb out the window safely. Both activities give the adolescents respect for the danger of fire, and the Safety Trailer gives them knowledge to avoid becoming a victim.

San Bernardino and Angeles National Forest representatives were on hand to greet visitors and distribute Smokey Bear-related toys and literature. They also escorted Smokey himself who, along with SBCF’s Sparky, posed for photos with children, and not a few grown-ups.

L.A. County Agricultural Commission and San Bernardino County Code Enforcement had displays and literature about weed abatement and regulations for fire-safe clearing around residences. Kathy Smith, WFSC Board member, hosted a fire-resistant plant booth, where she instructed visitors about proper water-saving

techniques for watering landscapes and the best plants for local gardens, based on fire resistance and drought tolerance. Plants were available to take home.

Local agencies and partners included San Bernardino County Sheriff Search and Rescue, Mountain High, Citizen Emergency Response Team, and Golden State Water. Also represented were the National Weather Service and San Bernardino County Emergency communications Services.

WFSC's next event is the annual Tri-Community Green Waste Recycling Days, June 2 through June 9. Take pine needles and other green waste (No rocks, dirt, cement, trash, Joshua, or Palm trees) to the County Yard on SR-2 in Wrightwood for free drop-off, Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues., Fri., and Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Wed., Thurs. from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. County Code Enforcement has again agreed to begin inspections after the Green Waste event, to allow residents the opportunity to comply and avoid being cited.

<http://mtprogress.net/home/may2018.html>