

WLLVFD NEWS

After all the Fish are Fried

A recap of the October 19th Fish Fry Event



This year's Annual Fish Fry was a huge success! We are so thankful to all the community members who showed up to share in this feast of food. Lieutenant Jerry Germany provided some entertainment for the kids with his



homemade "Nick's Express" barrel train. The local Young Marines volunteered to lend a helping hand, as did a number of women from our community. We also had help from the Keaton Kids who put in

lots of work both in preparing for the event and in working it. Additionally, neighbor Vernon Davis donated all the fish and helped to fry it up! We couldn't have done the job we did without them all. The food was hot, the people flow was steady, and all could feel the camaraderie.



Young Marines



Fry Chef's



Participants



Ticket Takers

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*All WLLVFD business meetings are on the first
Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at
Fire Station 1 located at 6614 FM 937.*

Events Calendar 2024

Nov. 16th Saturday – Paint Party

\$30.00 per person. 11 x 17 Canvas and all painting supplies are included.

Two sessions available: 1p.m. - 3p.m. painting is Angel or Magical Tree

6p.m – 8p.m painting is Santa or Reindeer

Seating is limited to 30 per session. Call 409-925-8038 for more information.

Party is at WLLVFD Station 1 @ 6614 FM 937



One of the four pictures you can choose from to paint

Dec. 7th Saturday 9a.m. – 11a.m.

Breakfast with Santa

FREE – Pancakes and Sausage & FREE Picture with Santa

Breakfast is at WLLVFD Station 1 @ 6614 FM 937

WLLVFD Annual Breakfast With Santa



When: Saturday, December 7th, 2024
9:00am – 11:00am

Where: WLLVFD Station 1 - 6614 FM 937

Cost: Free! Compliments of West Lake Limestone VFD

Events: Enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast
Have your picture taken with Santa
Kids get a 'goody bag' compliments of Mrs. Claus
Meet your local First Responders
Meet various Limestone Co. representatives



What happens when you dial or text 911 in our area?

In layman's terms



When you call or text 911 be prepared to answer some questions right off like who you are, where you are, and why are you calling.

Then the dispatcher will enter the information you have given them into a computer that helps them to figure out the priority of your call.

Next the dispatcher will radio the information to first responders like the police, paramedics, or firefighters.

If West Lake Limestone gets a “fire call” then we first check for an address sent by dispatch. We then find out who is available to take the “call” and what trucks are needed. Our rehab vehicle is also dispatched to help with providing water and more to any responder who needs it.

If it is a “medical call” then one of our qualified members will usually take their personal vehicles to get to the scene faster. These responders will have medical kits to start aid when an ambulance is coming from town. Other members of WLLVFD may provide additional help.

Team Work Makes the Dream Work



During September members of the West Lake Limestone VFD went through a series of classroom lessons and practical application labs learning about Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) usage. Classroom work took members through material inspections, assembly of the SCBA, safety protocols, and general usage of the device. Each classroom session was followed then by practical hands-on application and demonstration of the lessons learned.

Taking the classroom learning, participants applied that information and verified their equipment set up, practiced donning (putting on) their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and going through Buddy Checks to ensure everything was properly and safely set up. With their equipment in place, each Firefighter (FF) then practiced breathing from the SCBA while wearing their full complement of PPE. After a few minutes of adjusting to their gear, FF's then doffed (systematically removed) their SCBA and PPE. Everyone participated, including our Support Members who helped with Buddy Checks, changing out air tanks, and learning how to help the team clean and reset gear for its next usage.

Each FF wears Bunker gear that weighs approximately 35lbs, and the SCBA with its equipment adds another 25 lbs. That's 60lbs of gear before anyone starts moving hoses or using tools. There is also the stress of having the facemask on, which in some cases causes claustrophobia. Training with full gear is a test physically and mentally.

Each training session the members go over the safety protocols and requirements to don and doff the SCBA to develop muscle memory. Our standard is for everyone to have the same information and procedures, that way our team operates seamlessly and we can complement each other's actions and move faster when speed of action is needed. Every day we strive to better our capabilities and services provided to our District.



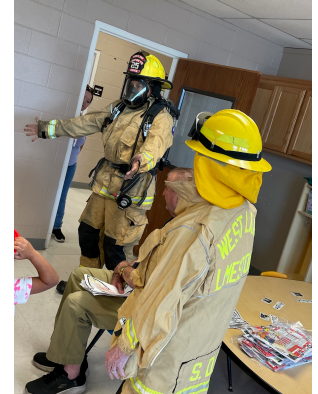
East Lake Limestone VFD Donates to Rehab Unit



On August 26, 2024, East Lake Limestone Volunteer Fire Department, ELLVFD, donated a wealth of supplies for our Rehab vehicle. They said they appreciated our unit being on the scene of fires and that the services we offered were always welcomed. ELLVFD did not want us to carry the burden alone of stocking the Rehab unit. We greatly appreciate their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Fire Prevention Week at Groesbeck KinderCare

Four members of WLLVFD met with the teachers and students of KinderCare to discuss fire prevention and safety on Tuesday, October 8th. The children watched a Fire Safety video, talked with the firefighters, and practiced egressing from their classroom on their hands and knees to the outside of the building. There they got to see up close a fire engine which sparked many questions along the line of “Why do you have a ladder?” and “Why is that light flashing?” Altogether our firefighters had as much fun teaching these bright students about fire prevention as the students had “getting out of classwork!”



Pictured Clockwise L-R: Assistant Chief, Adam Collett helps students exit the room properly (egressing). J. “Griff” Griffin and Sheryl Davis demonstrate full bunker gear with “Griff” in added SCBA. KinderCare students line up for a photo op with “Griff” and Sheryl. The fourth team member, Jeff Chavers, did not want to be in any pictures but was more than happy to drive the engine to the event!

Member Spotlight

Assistant Chief Adam Collett

Including a brief history of West Lake Limestone VFD



You can't spotlight member Adam Collett without including a brief history of West Lake Limestone VFD itself – the two go hand in hand. Adam started his career in fire service in Houston in 1972 at the age of 19. In 1991 he made the rank of Captain. He moved from Houston to the Box Church area in that same year and continued to commute to Houston until 2004.

Meanwhile, in 1995 he, Carl Sadler, and some other men organized the WLLVFD. Mr. Sadler donated money for the department along with a lot on LCR 750 where currently Station 2 is located. Adam said, "At first there was no equipment or central place to meet so we met at various living rooms of members. We had around 10 members to begin with. We used shovels and whatever else we could find to fight fires and we communicated through landline phone calls. Dispatch would call two guys and they would call two more, etc."

Eventually they bought used radios and got an old army truck from the Forest Service which Adam's father was able to turn into a tender. They purchased a brush truck from Canyon Lake Fire Dept. and built the first station at the LCR 750 site. In the early 2000's, mainly through an effort spearheaded by Chief David Nobles, they were finally able to organize an Emergency Services District (ESD), by knocking on doors and asking people to vote. With the support of the ESD, West Lake has since grown into the quality fire service/emergency response provider that it is today.

Throughout the years, Adam has worked as a firefighter for Groesbeck VFD, WLLVFD, and Houston where he retired from after 32 years. He served with Limestone and Leon County for 10 years with Emergency Medical Services (EMS); was an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for Limestone Medical Center from 2014 until 2020; and was a Boy Scout leader from 1998 until 2020.



Adam and his wife, Sue, have four children, 7 grandchildren, 3 dogs, and four cats. He loves spending time with his grandchildren and listening to his Classic Rock music of which he is a connoisseur. Through his many roles at West Lake, Adam has continued to stay true to his nature of "wanting to be of service." He currently serves as the Assistant Chief and provides guidance to all members of the department. One of his favorite quotes is "The only thing constant in life is change." Adam has certainly been through many changes and continues to 'roll with the flow.'



Chief's Message



Hello and a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, from the West Lake Limestone Volunteer Fire Department. We wish each of you a happy and safe remainder of the year.

Wow, what a year it has been! During the 2024 fiscal year the department made a total of 189 emergency calls. This consists of 112 EMS First Responder Calls and 77 Fire Calls. The average time on the scene per all calls was 67:22 minutes. What this means is our members have spent 12,704.52 minutes or 212 hours on emergency scenes this year. They also attended meetings and training, which totaled 4,320 minutes or 72 hours. As you can see our members are giving a lot of time to the department and community to be better prepared to provide great public service for those in need.

This time of year, we see an increase in medical/fire calls. There are things you can do to help prevent both.

Fires: As temperatures start cooling down, please make sure your heating systems have been inspected before use. This time of year, we see an increase in structure fires due to faulty heating systems. These inspections are extremely important, especially for those weekenders who choose to leave their heating systems on when they are away.

Health: Many people become less active during the winter, which leads to more medical issues. Try to maintain an active lifestyle by exercising such as walking (outside or indoors on a treadmill) and simple stretching exercises.

Recently, I have received reports of a few people questioning why are we requesting donations even though we have funding from the Limestone County Emergency Services District #2 (ESD)? Both our operational and capital expenditure budgets are funded by the ESD, through both property and sales taxes within the ESD. The ESD brings in around \$240K yearly, which sounds like a lot of money, but really isn't when you take into consideration the needs of the ESD and our fire department to provide great public service.

The fire department's annual budget for 2025 is around \$90K. This is for operating the fire department and goes towards things like fuel, personal protective equipment, fleet maintenance, medical supplies, required equipment re-certification inspections, insurance for members, etc. The ESD's annual operating budget is approximately \$45K and includes legal and auditing fees, insurance, etc. The remaining \$105K of annual ESD funds is designated for the fire department's capital expenditure budget.

Some of our fleet of vehicles (fire trucks) are aged and outdated and require plenty of maintenance and repair, so we have to plan ahead and save money to replace them. Most of you are aware we have a new Fire Engine (\$485K) ordered that should arrive in March to replace an old, unreliable fire engine which cost more to keep in service. The donations we ask for are put into an account to purchase all new equipment for this Engine. We also have other equipment that needs replacement as well. Once this is complete we will start the replacement process for the next vehicle, currently estimated at \$200 to \$300K.

As you can see there is a considerable expense outside of the normal operating budget that must be adequately planned for in advance. Any donations we receive help us reach our replacement goals sooner. I hope this helps everyone understand why we request donations and please remember **it's a request not a required donation**. If you choose not to donate we understand and will still provide the same great service for which we are known.

As always, thank you for your support and know that we will always be there for you in your time of need.