

## West Lafayette Fire Department December 2011

Christmas Parade The annual tradition of having a WLFD fire truck in the Christmas Parade was carried on again this year. Our aerial truck participated and was enjoyed by all as it began traveling down the parade route from Main Street in Lafayette to the West Lafayette endpoint in Tapawingo Park.

Shop with a Firefighter Lieutenant Terry Jones did a fine job organizing a Christmas “shop with a firefighter” and he was assisted by several other WL firefighters. Together they were able to spend a Saturday morning and most of the afternoon with about twenty-five appreciative kids and some of their family members “shopping” at the West Lafayette Walmart. Enough money was raised to provide each kid with one-hundred dollars to spend on presents.

Year-End Run Totals The preliminary 2011 year-end total for emergency runs is 1,672 and that is similar to the total for last year. Normally the year-end number is confirmed and then broken down according to the N.F.I.R.S. (Nation Fire Incident Reporting System) in the annual report that is filed in January of each year. The N.F.I.R.S. classifies runs into one of nine major categories: Fire; Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Ensuing Fire); Rescue and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Incidents; Hazardous Condition (No Fire); Service Call; Good Intent Call; False Alarm and False Call; Severe Weather and Nature Disaster; and Special Incident Type.

Station 3 Work on the permanent Station 3 continued in December with the goal still being to break ground in the spring and to complete construction before the end of 2012. The current focus is on gathering additional information that will allow for more precise cost estimates. These are being used to refine the interior design and to continue giving consideration to the various exterior design needs.

Additionally, the more precise cost figures are enabling refinements with regard to specifying what is being included in the alternates bid section. Planning for additional storage space falls within the alternates section as does, the type of heating system that will be in the bay, the bay door design, and outdoor spaces.

The project remains on schedule and within the budget.

Interim Chief As previously announced, beginning January 1, 2012 Assistant Chief Jeff Holder will be serving as the interim fire chief. Assistant Chief Holder has a common sense and no nonsense approach that has allowed him to effectively deal with numerous issues over the course of his thirty plus year firefighting career. His understanding of the fire service and its unique place in protecting the public from fire and other emergencies is well grounded. I have complete confidence in him to serve the public and the Department well as the Interim Chief.

Chief Drew