



Schell-Vista Fire Protection District NEWSLETTER

November 2022 Issue

\$780,000+ in Grants Awarded

Schell-Vista Fire has received funds and equipment worth \$780,000 thanks to the successful grant writing of Captain Matt Gardner and Special Project Manager Jim Galli, with assistance from Assistant Chief Mike Mulas.

"Their dedicated efforts have resulted in huge gains in the ability to safeguard our community and firefighters without a corresponding drain on the budget."

Ernie Loveless

Director of Schell-Vista Fire Department



30 Self-contained breathing apparatus
\$250,000 **FEMA**



Reimbursement of staffing costs during the 2020 fires and wind events
\$229,000 **FEMA/CalOES**



Exhaust removal systems
\$124,000 **FEMA**



69 portable and mobile radios
\$152,000 **Manitou Fund**



9 pallets of rehab canned water
\$5,000 **Anheuser-Busch**



45 pairs of dual-purpose wildland pants
\$15,200 **Schell Vista Volunteer Firefighters Association**



50 Streamlight model 90541 Survivor flashlights with batteries
\$5,000 **Landmark Vineyards**

Schell-Vista Fire Protection District's Role in Homeowners' Insurance Rates

How our improved ISO ratings could lower insurance rates for you.

Excellence in fire prevention has a statistically proven relationship with low fire losses. So insurance companies use a Public Protection

Classification (PPC), based on nationally recognized standards, to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance.

In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade.

Here's How It Works

ISO, an independent company, collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. The data is analyzed and then a PPC grade of Class 1 to 10 is assigned

to the community, with Class 1 representing an exemplary fire suppression program.

Schell-Vista improved scores will be factored into your insurance underwriting as follows:

Improved from a Class 5 to a Class 3 - Property within 5 road miles of a fire station and 1000' feet of a fire hydrant

Improved from a Class 8 to a Class 5 - Property within 5 road miles of a fire station but beyond 1000' of a fire hydrant

There will be no rating change for properties over 5 miles from a station.

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Meet the Board

Our Board of Directors is dedicated to serving its community, and they value hearing from residents. The BOD holds open meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in Fire Station #1 at 22950 Broadway in Sonoma. You may also email any of them with feedback or questions. For more on each member, visit our website:

[www.schellvistafire.org/
board-of-directors.html](http://www.schellvistafire.org/board-of-directors.html)

Bob Kruljac bkruljac@schellvistafire.org

Board Member since 2011 & with Schell-Vista FPD since 2012

Ernie Loveless ernieloveless@schellvistafire.org

Board Member and Director of Schell-Vista FPD since 2012

Hal Stober hstober@schellvistafire.org

Board Member since 2015

Ken Finn kfinn@schellvistafire.org

Board Member since 2014

Mindy Neves mendyneves@schellvistafire.org

Board Member since 2022

Joe Petersen Retires

After 26 years of distinguished service on our Board

With gratitude and sadness we accepted Joe Petersen's retirement resignation from our Board of Directors after nearly three decades of distinguished service.

"It is my regret that after 26 years on the Board of Directors I am not able to continue. I will miss my association with all of you—past and present—who I have served with, including administrative staff Robin and Stacey!"

Joe Petersen

Joe's calm demeanor and his recall of the board's history will be sorely missed. Recalling his time with Schell Vista, Joe says:

"I've been serving on the Board of Directors for Schell Vista since 1996, when Mitch Mulas was Chief and we were meeting in a small cement block building that served the district. After the County agreed that we needed a new firehouse to meet the growth of the community. So an architect and a contractor were hired to start the building. Chief Mulas asked me to meet with the contractor weekly during construction. Next, a storage building was constructed and—a few years after that—the housing units were built. It was my privilege to continue to be involved with these projects."



Joe was born in San Francisco in 1927 and attended grade school and graduated from Mission High School. He enlisted in the US Navy and served during World War II until the war was over. After attending trade school, Joe became a custom cabinet maker and finished carpenter his retirement in 1997. He looks forward to spending time with Faye, his wife of 75 years with whom he raised three children Judy, Larry, and Mark and have 9 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 2 great, great grandchildren!

Our Volunteer Backbone

How was Schell-Vista able to respond with at least 3 staff to nearly 700 calls last year when it only has six full-time professional staff?

“Even though we have paid staff, our volunteers are the backbone of the department.”

Ernie Loveless

Director of Schell-Vista Fire Department

Totaling 41, the volunteer force includes the Chief and Assistant Chief, two Battalion Chiefs, three Captains, 4 resident firefighters, and 30 community firefighters.

Volunteers, who are paid stipends based on shifts worked, are fully integrated with full-time staff in managing operations, responding to calls, caring for facilities and equipment, and raising funds for district needs (see grants article).

Working as one, the team at Schell-Vista has raised the level of protection for its residents (see insurance rating article). They hope that the renewed parcel tax will enable them to sustain or improve such high quality service into the future.

Volunteer Spotlight!

In this issue, we salute two volunteers who have a total of 100 years between them! We are grateful for and honor the individual and collective contributions they make to our team and to the health and safety of our community.



Norm Yenni

Joined Schell-Vista in 1973

Norm Yenni is the owner of Sears Point Farming Company, where they farm more than 2,000 acres for hay and grain. He joined Schell-Vista 49 years ago, when his father was also a volunteer in the Department.

“As a full time farmer, the last thing I needed was a bigger workload, but I’m a great believer in group efforts for the common good. That’s what the fire service is all about.”

A native of Sonoma and graduate of Sonoma High and Santa Rosa Junior College, Norm earned his Bachelor Degree in Agronomy from CSU Fresno. He has been heavily involved for many years with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau at the local and state levels.

Norm and his wife Nadine have been married for 33 years and have one son, Andrew. In his spare time, he enjoys downhill skiing.



Jack Todeschini

Joined Schell-Vista in 1971

Jack Todeschini has a 51-year history with the Schell-Vista Fire Department, part of a longstanding family tradition.

Jack retired after 42 years at Beringer Vineyards, having started there after studying viticulture at Napa Valley College. He is a

Sonoma native and graduate of Sonoma Valley schools.

He and his wife of 46 years, Lorna, have two grandchildren from son Robert and his wife Laurel. Jack has many hobbies including fly fishing.

“My father, uncle, brother, and son were all members of Schell-Vista Fire Protection District over the years. This is a special group who give back to the community,” he says. His son Robert is now a Cal Fire Captain.





Schell Vista Fire Protection District

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Vote Yes on Measure O

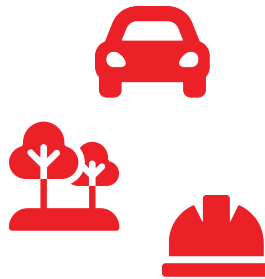
Please re-approve Measure O on November's ballot so we can continue to keep protection levels high for you and your family and insurance rates low. A positive vote on the parcel tax in 2018 helped us meet many goals for improving health and safety, including staffing. We ask for your vote on November 8 to keep Measure O funding for the next four years.



Fire Prevention Tips!

CLEAR & REPLACE

- Clear debris from gutters and roof
- Replace roofing & siding with nonflammable materials
- Clear & replace flammable vegetation

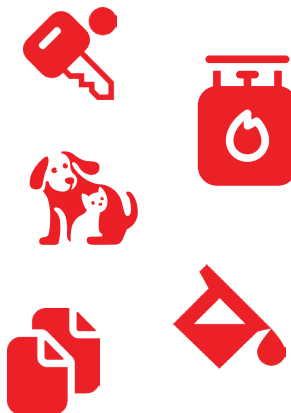


IF WILDFIRE IS APPROACHING

- Park your vehicle facing out
- Move Grab & Go items to car
- Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, preferably 100% cotton
- Take goggles or glasses, a baseball cap and a bandana to cover face

PREPARE TO GRAB & GO

- Keys in known space
- Pet transport with food, litter, etc.
- Valuables, medications, and personal needs
- Copies of legal documents and computer files
- Contact info of other homeowners



PREP HOUSE

- Turn off:** Gas at meter or propane tank
- Leave On:** Electricity, outside & some inside lights
- Close:** Shutters and heavy drapes.
- Remove:** thin drapes and flammables by windows
- Place:** Garden hose & buckets of water around house

For more on fire preparedness go to our website: <http://www.schellvistafire.org/page55.html>
And to the CalFire website: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org>