

THE SPFD

A QUARTERLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

MARK DUERR

I can't believe it is the new year as I write this. As we move into 2025, I want to reflect on how grateful and proud I am of the men and women of the SPFD and share our excitement for the year ahead. The year 2024 graced the District with many accomplishments, including developing and completing a Master Plan and Strategic Plan. These foundational documents are the blueprint by which we will gauge our successes in service delivery and customer focus. These plans were developed through collaboration with the community and the District membership to prioritize our efforts in the year ahead, which include training, fiscal stability, service delivery, community risk reduction, and community engagement. These initiatives have many goals that will directly and positively impact our service to you. I am inspired by the involvement of our members and their desire to continually improve our ability to meet our mission of providing exceptional service to our community.

Speaking of exceptional service, last quarter was a hive of activity, with structure fire activity ramping up. Fall often sees increases in structure fires as people use their stoves, heaters, and candles for warmth and decoration. Please be careful this time of year and maintain safe practices when heating your home. As much as we would like to see you, we would rather it be at one of our open houses or public events than at an emergency. And speaking of community events, our first one for 2025 will be an open house at Station 16 in March. Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, we will announce some big changes for the District in the next few months. To stay up-to-date, subscribe to our mailing list at www.southplacerfire.org/newsletter/ or use the QR code on the last page of this newsletter. Stay safe, and have a happy new year.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Engineer Brian Bailey has retired after more than 35 years with the District and 33 on the fire suppression side. We wish him the best in retirement.



NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS

Director Flanagan, a resident of Granite Bay for nearly four decades, previously served on the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC).

"Fire service, fuel reduction, emergency response -- it's all so important to our community," said Flanagan. "The Chief would come to our MAC meetings and give updates on the District's financial status. I became increasingly interested and, coupled with my experience in law enforcement, I thought I could add value to the District. I'm honored my fellow Granite Bay neighbors elected me to the Board."

Absolutely no stranger to emergency response and law enforcement, Flanagan served as a Sacramento County Sheriff's Officer for 25 years, as well as an appointed commissioner to the Placer County Fish & Game Commission for nearly a decade. He graduated with a degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento.

An avid conservationist and fly-fishing angler, Flanagan has traveled the world for his beloved sport -- Zihautenejo, Alaska, and Cuba, to name a few locales. Flanagan was one of the founding members of Friends of Auburn Ravine, where he was instrumental in establishing Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout counts that proved the streambed of Auburn Ravine was an active spawning habitat.

Flanagan says he most looks forward to ensuring the District's fiscal sustainability and fostering a positive work environment.



Director Windeshausen previously served as Placer County Treasurer, including treasurer for all fire districts, for nearly 30 years. She has lived in the South Placer Fire Protection District for over 35 years.

"I care deeply about our community and understand South Placer Fire District's success, as well as its challenges,"

wrote Windeshausen in a September 2024 letter to the South Placer Fire District Board. "I have a working knowledge of local fire districts with particular expertise regarding budget and finance matters."

Windeshausen's in-depth 2017 report and analysis were integral to passing funding measures to increase revenue for the Foresthill and Penryn Fire Districts. She is active in the Loomis community and served 16 years on the Citizens' Oversight Committee for SPFD's Loomis Benefit Assessment.



FIRE PREVENTION



Our Fire Prevention Division is the backbone of our community risk reduction efforts. Fire Marshal Jeff Ingolia and Administrative Assistant/Fire Inspector Katrina Hoop work tirelessly to ensure that building projects within the District are safe for our community. Their work includes reviewing commercial building plans for compliance with the District-adopted fire codes. They visit the construction sites numerous times throughout the building process to make sure that fire protection systems (alarms, sprinklers, hood, duct, etc.) and access to the business comply with the current code. Then, they conduct a final inspection and provide a final fire approval. For commercial property, the prevention division or an engine company returns to the site for an annual business inspection, even years after initial construction, to ensure the public is safe. This is just one aspect of community risk reduction, which also includes public outreach, public education, weed abatement, and numerous other efforts to keep our community safe.



PREVENTION STATISTICS

Speaking of prevention, in 2024, the Fire Prevention Division was busy with 115 new construction projects, with nearly 600,000 square feet of building space added to the District. As part of the prevention process, they reviewed more than 800 sets of plans and inspected 570 properties. That's two sets of plan reviews and more than one inspection every day of the year.

CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT

Beginning in February, the regular board meeting of the South Placer Fire District will be held on the **third Tuesday of the month** at 6 pm. For 2025, the schedule is:

February 18	July 15
March 18	August 19
April 15	September 16
May 20	October 21
June 17	November 18
December 16	

DISTRICT UPDATES

SPFD is successful again. The District was recently awarded a \$100k grant from CAL OES to bolster our cybersecurity. Thank you to Captain Donavon Gray, who successfully authored the grant

Santa Toy Drive. Thank you to everyone in our community who donated at the stations and during our annual Santa in the neighborhood events. It is awesome to see you all out having a good time and donating food and toys for those less fortunate. A huge thanks to Captain Mike Long, Engineer Kevin Cooney, and Apprentice Wyatt Stensler for heading this up and to all who showed up to help make this a great event. Finally, thank you to Santa for being here - even in the rain.



Employee Anniversaries

The list below is all SPFD employees with a fourth quarter anniversary date.

Name	Years
Matt Feeley	30
Justin Silva	24
Donavon Gray	22
Josh Green	22
Sean Fuller	20
Martin Ridgeway	19
Nick Paskey	9
Keith Hernandez	6
Jeff Ingolia	5

THIS QUARTER AT SOUTH PLACER FIRE

The District experienced a 5% reduction in call volume, with a decrease in fires and medical calls, but a rise in service calls. This is common in the seasonal transition from the dog days of summer to the cooler weather of fall and the start of winter.

Total Calls - 1038

Fires - **20**

Medical - **674**

Hazardous Condition - 14

Service - **118**

Good Intent - **160**

False Alarm - **52**

Italics = No fire involvement

WANT TO HEAR MORE:

One of our strategic plan goals is to increase our community outreach through communications like this. If you want to be one of the first to find out what the District is doing or you don't want to have to fight for a copy of the newsletter at your local coffee or donut shop, scan the QR code below and get instant access.

