



Treynor Volunteer Fire Department



Russ Maguire, the fire Captain, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on February 23. He has been fire captain since 1994. They have elections every two years. He has been on the department for 26 years.

There are 28 members on the Treynor fire department. They have 8 or 9 EMTs, 4 paramedics, and 4 paid

trainees from Council Bluffs.

The fire department is funded through tax levies. They do no charge for fire calls, but do charge for rescue calls. They use an EMS billing service, which takes 10% of the fees for their service. That brings in about \$18,000 a year. With a budget of \$120,000, they receive \$80,000 from taxes, \$19,000 from fundraisers, and get \$3,000-\$4,000 from grants.

The fire department receives about 130 calls each year. 75% are ambulance calls. Treynor and Lewis Township have a mutual aid agreement to help with calls.

They are having a lot of technology improvements. The new 900 MHz communication system is a big improvement.

There is a lot of training involved in being a volunteer for the fire department. They hold monthly training. The fire department has for the equipment needed, so

Calendar

- Feb 23 – Regional Optimist meeting, St. John United Church of Christ, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb 27 – Can Kennel Sorting, 4:00 p.m.

Birthdays

- Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann (recognized)
- Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser (recognized)

Anniversaries

- Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen (recognized)

Programs

- Feb - Jon Jacobsen (2nd two weeks)
- Mar - Dale Willenborg
- Apr - Chad Guttau

the volunteers only cost is their time. A full set of equipment weighs about 50 pounds. People have to be 18 to join the department.

Daytime calls are difficult. A minimum of an EMT and a driver are needed to respond to a call. Russ carries a pager and also gets a text on his phone. The system allows people to call in and Russ can see who is responding to the call. An ambulance laptop will show the route to the call location.

Large equipment is expensive. A new ambulance costs \$120,000. A 2000 gallon pumper truck costs \$160,000. The best piece of equipment for field fires is a farmer's tractor and disk.

The fire department has some fire extinguishers that they sell for cost.

Meeting Minutes

Ken Graham opened the meeting on February 23 and provided a joke followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Gary Gutttau offered the opening prayer.

Richard Vorthmann celebrated his 69th wedding anniversary. Gary Gutttau recognized Richard for his contributions to the Treynor community with a donation to the Youth Fund. Kirk Vorthmann liked the jokes in the Treynor Optimist Newsletter. Dale Willenborg celebrated a new granddaughter, his 7th grandchild. Steve Irvin recognized his son who had argued a case before the Iowa Supreme Court and won his case.

Can sorting will be Feb 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Dale Willenborg won the 50/50. Ward Chambers won the attendance award, but did not collect. There were 17 members and 1 guest at the meeting.

- May - Gary Funkhouser
- Jun - Gary Gutttau

Speakers

Prayers

- March 2– Dennis White
- March 9-Gary Funkhouser
- March 16-Richard Vorthmann
- March 23-Chuck Nielsen
- March 30 -
- April 6 - Chad Gutttau
- April 13- Dale Willenborg

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One dark night outside a small town, a fire started inside the local chemical plant. Before long it exploded into flames and an alarm went out to fire departments from miles around.

After fighting the fire for over an hour, the chemical company president approached the fire chief and said, "All of our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved! I will give \$50,000 to the engine company that brings them out safely!"

As soon as the chief heard this, he ordered the firemen to strengthen their attack on the blaze. After two more hours of attacking the fire, the president of the company offered \$100,000 to the engine company that could bring out the company's secret files.

From the distance a long siren was heard and another fire truck came into sight. It was a local volunteer fire company composed entirely of men over 65. To everyone's amazement the little fire engine raced through the Chemical plant gates and drove straight into the middle of the inferno. In the distance the other firemen watched as the old timers hopped off of their rig and began to fight the fire with an effort that they had never seen before.

After an hour of intense fighting the volunteer company had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas. Joyous, the chemical company president announced that he would double the reward to \$200,000 and walked over to personally thank each of the volunteers. After thanking each of the old men individually, the president asked the group what they intended to do with the reward money.

The fire truck driver looked him right in the eye and said, "The first thing we're going to do is fix the dang brakes on that truck!"