

# Don't forget to join us!

## Holiday dinner & new engine rollout!

Saturday Dec 12, 4-5pm  
(eat in or to-go)

### Menu

Chef's Amouse Bouche  
Fall in Love Heart Beet Salad with  
Blood Orange Vinaigrette  
Braised Brisket in Pomegranate  
Walnut Sauce  
or  
Persian Pilaf Stuffed Kabocha  
Squash  
Roasted Winter Roots and Shoots  
Pickled Fennel and Red Cabbage  
Chocolate Almond Buche du Noel

You gotta pre-order by Dec 5<sup>th</sup>  
Don't delay: email us at  
[info@mayacamasVFD.org](mailto:info@mayacamasVFD.org)  
with your menu choice and  
whether you want food to-go  
or eat at the station

**\$50**

# MAYACAMAS

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



NOVEMBER  
2020

## A Word from the President

- Mayacamas Olds

The year 2020 has brought so much change to our community – and has been a challenge for the entire planet. That said, we have seen more and more communities coming together to support each other. The recent fires here in Napa and Sonoma have shown us the strength we have as a community to work together and make us safer and better able to tackle adversity.

While our new partnership with Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue Authority (SVFRA) has brought much needed support to our department, we must remember that we are a remote community and need to ensure that we have the tools and equipment here for our beloved firefighters to be able to address whatever emergency comes up. The purchase of our new Type-6 fire engine, coupled with the cancellation of this year's Starlight Dinner and Auction (our biggest annual fundraiser), has left our accounts less robust than expected. Station 8 (formerly Station 1) needs a partial new roof and we need to begin to save for our next new engine.

We are so proud of what this community has built, and we are hoping you will be able to continue to donate, online at [www.mayacamasVFD.org](http://www.mayacamasVFD.org) or by returning the enclosed envelope. Alternatively, if you are unable to donate cash, we are always in need of help on the board, our fire safe council and, of course, more firefighters. Please send us an email at [info@mayacamasvfd.org](mailto:info@mayacamasvfd.org) to learn more.

In other news, we have two new board members to welcome: Carly Wood, our new Public Information Officer, and Suzi Molofsky, our new Secretary. A huge thank you to Ellen Scarr, who retired from the board but who will continue as Medical Officer for the department; Carrie Castro, who has moved out to the coast; and David Lapiques, who has also retired, leaving one seat currently open. If you're interested in joining, please email me at [info@mayacamasVFD.org](mailto:info@mayacamasVFD.org).

While we weren't able to have our traditional Starlight Dinner and Auction, we will be hosting a socially distanced Holiday Engine Rollout & Dinner to bring the community together and celebrate our new fire engine. We will be at Station 8 on December 12th from 4-5pm. There are three ways to join us:

1. Eat in your car or outside (we'll provide tables & chairs)
2. Pick-up your catered meal to go
3. Just drop by to see the new engine and thank your firefighters!

So that we know how much food to order, meals must be pre-ordered by December 5th by emailing [info@mayacamasvfd.org](mailto:info@mayacamasvfd.org). The cost for a five-course catered meal (choice of brisket or vegetarian entrée) is \$50/person. Email us for more details and to reserve your meal. Drop by on December 12th to wave, see the new engine and thank your firefighters. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Board Members

Mayacamas Olds - President  
Pete Stewart - Vice President  
Jenny Apgar - Treasurer  
Suzi Molofsky - Secretary  
Carly Wood - Public Information Officer  
Michael Jablonowski - Director/Division Chief  
Open - Fire Safe Council/Liaison

To reach MVFD for any emergency dial  
9-1-1

Website: [www.mayacamasvfd.org](http://www.mayacamasvfd.org)  
Email: [info@mayacamasvfd.org](mailto:info@mayacamasvfd.org)  
Instagram: @mayacamasvfd  
Twitter: @MayacamasVFD

#### Inside...

- A word from our fire chief
- Firefighter spotlight
- ... and more!



Volunteer firefighters shown here with the new fire engine. From left to right — Scott Palkoski, Brian Cyr, Jeremy Apgar, Michael Jablonowski, Jerry Apgar, Jimmy Drummond, Matthew Larson, Peter Stewart, Jesse Apgar.

# MAYACAMAS

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT







# A Word from our Fire Chief

By: Steve Akre



This new Type 6 fire engine is built specifically for remote mountains and was paid for by the MVFD community.

## Meet Chief Akre

Steve Akre has been the Sonoma Valley Fire Chief since January 2017 and recently taken a lead role in supporting the Mayacamas Department. He is a 50-year resident of Sonoma Valley and has 3 teenage kids who are growing up here in the Valley. After attending local schools and graduating from SVHS, he attained a BS Degree in Fire Service Management from Sac State. Chief Akre currently serves on the County's Fire Service Working Group (formerly the Fire Advisory Council). He is also President of the REDOM Board of Directors, Vice President of the Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association, and a board member for FASIS (Workers comp) and FDAC-EBA (Health benefits) JPAs.

The new Sonoma Valley Fire District officially began on July 1, 2020 after more than a year of efforts from Board members, firefighters, community and staff. The new District combines the former Glen Ellen and Valley of the Moon Fire Districts as well as the Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). This formation took us through a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) re-organization process that included many legal and public noticing steps. We also continue to provide service to the City of Sonoma through a contract for service. The new District has formalized our special partnerships that we have had for many decades here in the Valley.

In the past few years, we have been taking many additional steps to provide improved service, support, and coordination to the Mayacamas Community and volunteers through a contract for service with the County and supporting training and operations of the volunteers, as well as the Fire Safe Council. This partnership has already provided many mutual benefits. We now have the ability to staff the two stations in Mayacamas when we have Red Flag Fire Weather or storm events. The volunteers continue to be an extremely dedicated group!

Another highlight of this new partnership is the delivery last week of a new fire engine for the Trinity Road Fire Station (now designated Station 8)! This new engine was paid for entirely with funds raised by the Mayacamas Board through community generosity at the Starlight Auction events. The new engine cost was \$283,000. This engine is much smaller in size in order to access the narrow roads and driveways of Trinity and Cavedale, but it has all the capability of bigger engines and still meets ISO requirements for insurance. Join us December 12th for the Holiday Engine Rollout and Dinner to celebrate (details in the President's update). This engine was ordered over a year ago and is the result of the partnership that existed between Sonoma Valley Fire and Mayacamas VFD even before a contract or consolidation formally occurred. This engine will serve the Mayacamas Community for at least the next 25 years.

Recently, we have made some much-needed improvements to the water storage and delivery system at the Trinity Station and made repairs to the Cavedale Station (now designated Station 9). Water system improvements included installing an automated fill system for the tanks, improved piping for accessing water from the tanks, and a water filtration and softener system. The Cavedale Station repairs included exterior sealing, repair of the power weather head, and removing old interior storage that had become a pest attractant. The Fire District used facilities funding to make these improvements and repairs.

The Sonoma Valley Fire District is proud to provide exceptional service to all of our communities that we serve and we look forward to continuing to find opportunities to serve!

# Firefighter Spotlight: Jerry Apgar

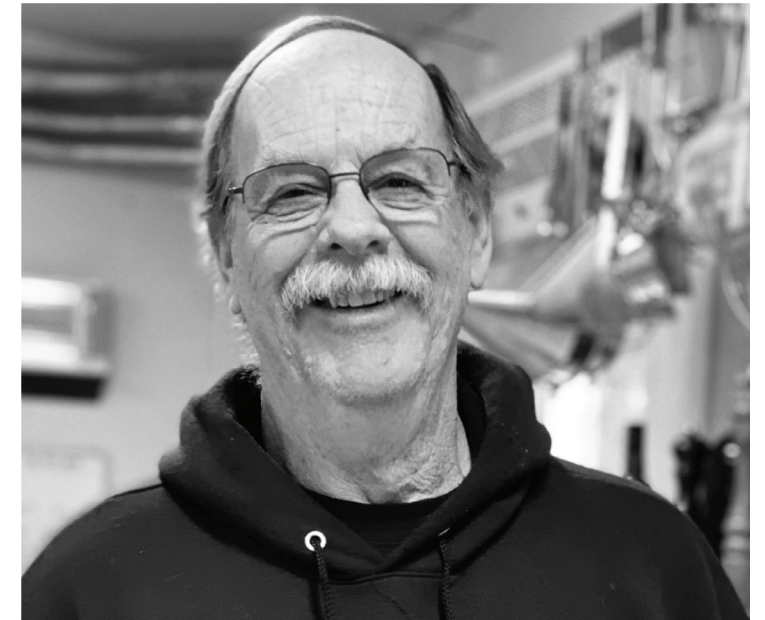
By: Mayacamas Olds

As you know, all donations support our local Firefighters and their efforts to protect our community. Jerry Apgar, or CJ as some know him, is our longest serving firefighter. Full disclosure: Jerry is my uncle, and during this interview I discovered that, as his niece, I am the third generation, along with my sister Skyla, and Jerry's sons Jesse and Jeremy, to have volunteered with the Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department! I did a "quick" interview with Jerry to see what has driven him to be so involved for so long in protecting our community.

*When did you move to the mountain?* 1977

*When did you join the fire department?* 1987ish – 1989 was our first call.

*Do you remember what made you first join the fire department?*



Jerry Apgar

My father (Charles Apgar) passed away in 1986, and he was a founding board member, and my mother (Bette Apgar) was also involved; she created the (MVFD) mountain lion logo, I felt strongly I needed to keep the family name involved in our community.

*What is your favorite thing about the fire department?*

I am so very happy with the board in how they are supporting the firefighters and keeping us going, through fundraising and new equipment vs. what we had 30 years ago. The comradery and people have always been there, and things have always been changing for the better. It helps me be happy living up here.

*What is your favorite firetruck?*

Our 3388 – Type 1: It is clunky and old, like the mountain, and has been with us since the early days, even though the 3359 - Type 6 is better at getting things done.

*You have seen a lot of things over the years and worked tirelessly to protect our community in 2017. What keeps you inspired and able to continue to answer the call?*

I have been happily willing to do for so many what I can't do on my own – using my knowledge and knowhow of the neighborhood and unique community, from clearing the trees to digging ditches to answering calls. Easier to do it for the community than myself. It is a blessing to be able to do what I do with the fire department – helping and doing what is necessary – it is a lot of what helps to keep me happy.

*What is your advice to younger people wanting to get involved with their communities?*

So many in our community (and any community) need help. If you are looking for a medical or firefighting career, you can use your volunteer work as a stepping-stone while helping the community. Also, the personal gratification of doing things for others is a huge driver and necessary in this world – at a little level or grand level – so get involved. It keeps the world moving forward.

Thank you for your support and stay safe!