

Fire Commissioners Column.....

Bill Madison

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in helping the fire district educate our citizens on the issues surrounding the fire levy lid lift. The voters approved Proposition 1 by 56%. This was truly a crossroads for the district as we will now be able to continue our current level of service without moving backwards and keep all eight of our fire stations open!

Thanks to many of our citizens who took the time to come to the forums, read the articles and information packets and make an informed decision. Thanks also to those who took the issue to their neighbors and discussed the consequences of the budget crises we faced.

A special thank you to the media representatives who assisted the fire district in presenting the pros and cons of this complicated issue. The various newspapers who printed the letters to the editor in support of and in opposition to provided an essential sounding board for the community. I'd like to especially thank Dana Michie and the staff of the Outpost for their efforts to educate the public.

Our career and most of our volunteer staff deserve a pat on the back also for their work to inform the citizens about the need for the levy lid lift. Many hours were invested in discussions with their friends and neighbors on the importance of this issue to the entire fire district.

Thanks also to those citizens who are not directly associated with the fire district who stepped up and contributed their time and efforts to help us get the word out.

The commissioners now embark on the task of establishing the operating budget for 2010. October is always budget month. Those who are interested in being a part of the process should plan on attending our October commissioners meetings and giving us your suggestions. As always, all deliberations are open to the public. About mid November we will advertise and hold a public hearing on the budget proposal. After hearing the input from the public we will adopt the budget for next year.