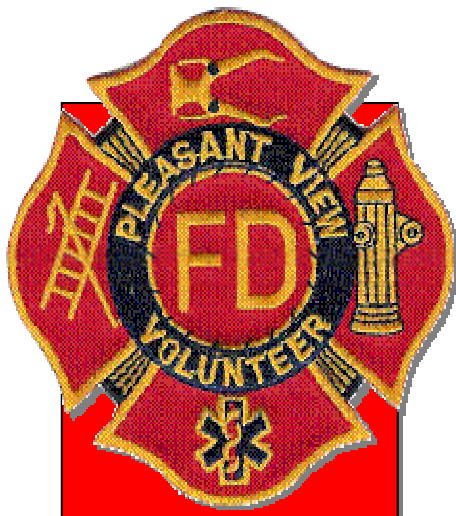


## JANUARY 2008



**Pleasant View  
Volunteer Fire  
Department  
strives to  
provide our  
communities  
the best Life  
Safety  
Prevention,  
Education, and  
Response  
possible.  
We will achieve  
this through  
WORKING,  
SERVING,  
LEARNING, AND  
GROWING,  
TOGETHER!**

The end of a year calls for reflection and the beginning of a new year calls for vision. What a contrast, reflection and vision. I guess it is all about seeing. What happened that was positive in 2007? What did you accomplish in 2007? Did you and our department grow in 2007? What do you see for yourself in 2008? What do you see for the organization in 2008? I have some of the answers, but you really have the answers. The key is that if they are all positive, we will grow individually and organizationally – thus fulfilling our vision and mission.

In keeping with the spirit of this Chief's Focus, I will share some of the things to look for in 2008.

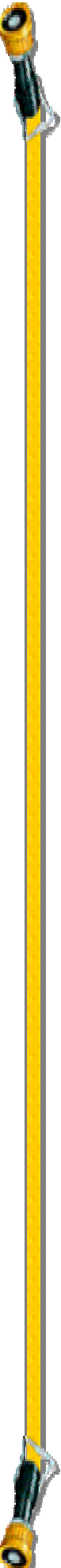
- New Rescue Tools – We will be adding rescue tools to Station 2 and Station 5 as well as S-431. This isn't the first time we have had tools on engines. Back in the early 90's we had tools on E-408, yes that was station 2's engine. Oh, how times change, this was when part of our vision was the more apparatus we had the better and more bragging rights we had. We can laugh now because back then our most valuable fire engine didn't cost as much as these rescue tools.
- New Quarters at Station 1 – I know, I know, we have been building a new station since 2001. Well, we are going to complete the project in 2008, minus a change in plans of course. As they say, everything happens for a reason. In the past year our vision has progressed as to what the future of the PVVFD will look like. In an every changing world I am proud that our organization can transition for the better. As a result of your feedback and enhanced learning as to what the future of our community and fire department will look like, I believe we are at a decision that will be beneficial for the community and for the department.
- New Fire Engine – I am not sure we will be able to take delivery in 2008 but we aren't sure what type of engine we will purchase or where its home will finally be. As a department, we will work together to make a decision that is best for the communities we serve and the department. Your input will be valuable so don't be scared to share with me any ideas you have.
- Incentive Program – I am excited that for the first time in department history we will be able to offer a comprehensive incentive program for all members meeting the criteria. This program is still in conceptual form, but we have budgeted funding to ensure it will be delivered in 2008.

While it's always important to look ahead, it's always enjoyable to reflect upon the past. As I looked back at past chief's focuses and material it is rewarding to see the things we have accomplished. YOU are key to our success. Providing the valuable services we do to the community couldn't happen without each of us fulfilling our roles. While we look back and see how we have accomplished what we have, I want us to be positive in 2008 and accentuate the positives in people. We have managed to keep pace with another year of an increased call volume as well as an increase in the programs we offer the community. This has happened because we have fulfilled our roles. Yes, there have been some challenging times but we have always been fortunate to have people step up and fill in. While we graduated our third "Booter" class, we lost some good people during the year as well. However, we have picked up some people that have filled the gaps and I expect that this year's joint "Booter" class will bring new committed firefighters. 2007 allowed us to add Allen Nicholson to a full-time position in the department and we kept Chief Duncan on the department. Many of you advanced your certification and some obtained their EMT license, which makes me sure we have more certified firefighters than anyone in the two counties we serve. Our call data is better than ever and I feel like we have reduced risks to ourselves and the community.

There have been many people step up their commitment to the department and most of all the community we serve. 2008 will require much of the same and I feel sure we will fulfill our mission again. I challenge each of us to grow and step outside our comfort zone. Let's make progress individually and organizationally in training and safety. We were successful in 2007 ensuring "Everyone Goes Home" – let's do it again in 2008 and better than that, let's be injury and accident free.

On behalf of the community, the Board of Directors, and myself, thank you for your service and commitment. May God bless you, your family, this community, and this department. Have a safe and happy 2008.

Respectfully Submitted, Chief *Shane Ray* 



## O Tis the Season to Enter God's Rest

**R** *"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest .." (Hebrews 4:8b-11NIV)*

**N** *God invites us to enter the rest of his healing grace, trusting in his power and purpose for our lives. We rest in our Father's arms, knowing he goes before and goes behind, knowing that his plans for us are good and not evil. (Jeremiah 29:11)* We enter this "let go and let God" rest through faith, where we cease to work and live independently of God ("Anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work."). Instead, we're to focus our efforts toward entering this Sabbath-trust in God, a restful certainty that God's got a handle on it all, and that he's got our best interests in mind. One writer illustrates this point by telling the story of a man walking down a dusty rural road on a hot, humid day. The man is loaded down with a heavy backpack and carries a duffle bag in each hand. A pick-up truck comes along, and the driver offers the man a ride, telling him to hop in the back. The driver heads down the road, but when he looks in the rear-view mirror he sees that his new passenger is standing in the bed of the truck – still holding both duffle bags, still wearing the backpack. The thing is: We stand in the truck of faith, still carrying our burdens, thinking they are independent of the ride we're taking. Perhaps we think God can carry us, but not our burdens, that we have to keep bearing them ourselves.

What does this mean? Rest in God, Rest in God's power and grace, and work toward confidence (faith) that he is looking out for your best interests. "I believe; Lord, help my unbelief." Rest requires dependence - If you're working independently of God, then you're not at rest in God. Possible signs that you're working independently: worry, a need to control, a crammed-full schedule. Our Father's heart encourages rest - Next time you feel overwhelmed by life, settle in a chair and "be still and know that he is God." Give him your burdens - your backpack and duffels... Faith leads to rest Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:28-29, NIV)

As you consider your "New Year resolutions", I want to encourage each of you to re-evaluate your faith object. What is it that you are trusting in? We all have faith, the issue is, what do we have faith in? As you "drill down" a little, what are you finding? Is the foundation of your faith a sandy, unstable foundation, or is it rock solid. The problem with our lives many times is that we have this great shell built, but it is on sand, and it can't stand. Happy New Year, and God Bless each one of these men and women and their family!

How do you let go of the old a grab onto the new life?  
Just ask me.

*Chaplain Mark*

2006 Chairman's Club Award Winner  
Mobile# 615-569-4115



**PVVFD members,**

As we begin 2008, we have many things on the horizon. As we tell 2007 goodbye, think of all the accomplishments that were made. The PVVFD made an impact in many area and many of you had individual improvements. I congratulate you all on your successes, and commend you for making the PVVFD what it is today. Saying this, it's up to you to continue the rate of success we have had for many years. January gets it all started and here are some things that are coming at you quick

**January 14th- Thermal Imaging- 1800 hrs at PVVFD Station 1:** We will begin our monthly trainings with a class to raise awareness to a very valuable tool we have in our possession. I was given Thermal Imaging as my subject for my Fire Instructor II class in 2005. I have been so busy with doing things for others; I'd had to put my own progress on the back burner. I will however, get it done with your help. I know the subject of Thermal Imaging is sometimes puzzling, but hopefully we can open all of our eyes to this wonderful tool...Together.

**January 19th- BOOTER class begins-0800 hrs:** The annual BOOTER class will begin on Jan. 19th. This will be the first county wide class, and we are hoping for success. We have applicants from Ashland City, Pegram, Pleasant View, etc. so we will begin the process of getting members all across the county trained the same. Class will run for 4-1/2 months with graduation being on May 24th. There will be many opportunities for you to come in contact these BOOTERS. They will attend most of our department trainings from February through May. Be mindful that YOU are there example and they will look to you for guidance, reinforcement, knowledge, etc. It is up to you to insure this contact is a positive one. We were all new at one time, so remember how you felt back then.

**January 26th- PVVFD Training- Firefighter Survival-0800 hrs- PVVFD Station 1:** We will have a short class room session and then challenge you physically and mentally with PLENTY of hands on scenarios. The "New and Improved" mask confidence trailer, ladder bails, wall breaches, SCBA low profile maneuvers, wire entanglements, confined areas, SCBA familiarization and disorientation drills will be the plan of the day. Preparing for a Firefighter emergency is extremely important. Prevention is the MAIN objective and training for these situations fills in the gaps. It will be a good day for us all.

If you have not received your Job Shirt, see me. They were purchased by the PVVFD and passed out at the December Operations meeting. With colder weather coming on, you may need them. There will be plenty of opportunities for make up training as BOOTER class begins. The minimum 82 hour standard is still in effect and some of you need to get some hours in. I will try to get with you soon on an individual basis and get something mapped out. We will begin our 2008 personnel goals soon. The members of the PVVFD Training Committee will be interviewing each of you to ask about goals, personal growth, future plans, etc. in the near future. This helps us map out a plan for you to succeed and lets us know where you want to grow. I hope you and yours have a very Happy New Year. I expect great thing from you all again in 2008. Thanks again for your contributions in 2007. You truly make a difference everyday.

Stay safe.

*Captain Nelms*

*Christmas, New Years, families, traditions. It's the time of year when we traditionally give gifts to family and friends and look to a new year of opportunities to continue our traditions and perhaps start new ones.*

*One tradition my family created by my wife's orchestration is our Christmas morning order of events. We get up and call the kids down stairs and let them open up their Christmas stocking gifts. Then its homemade strudel and scrambled eggs for breakfast followed by the reading of Christ's birth found in the Gospel of Luke. This year I asked the kids about what they recalled hearing the pastor of my sister's church talk about in the Christmas Eve service and then to reflect on what our pastor had shared the Sunday before Christmas. Both preachers had pointed to the true gift of Christmas being the birth of God's Son, which made it possible for the red color in our Christmas wreaths and candy canes. They both talked about how many do not want to think about the shed blood of Christ at Christmas for the sins of mankind. I then asked them about what I believe is fast becoming a new American tradition; gift cards. My kids had either received a gift card or given a gift card so I thought it was good for a current day analogy. I told them God's free gift of salvation is like Him giving us the gift card of eternal life when we accept His dying for us and cleansing our sins. We keep His gift card for life and then when God chooses to call us home to heaven, we turn in our gift card for His promise of eternal life with Him. We then continued with our Christmas morning tradition and exchanged gifts. When the last gift was opened, I told the kids I had one more thing to add about the gift card analogy. I told them their grandmother had called early Christmas morning to say Gramps turned in his gift card and received the best gift of any of us as he went to be with his Lord on the birthday of His Son (this had been an answer to prayer as my dad's health was failing and I wanted the Lord to spare his suffering and allow him to go in his sleep).*

*Many of you have extended your thoughts and prayers and offers for help to my family and me with my dad's passing. I will always be thankful for your love and support as it means so much to me. I cannot begin to understand the sorrow of those who do not believe in the Lord when they lose a loved one and do not have the love and support of family and friends like all of you.*

*Perhaps you will start a new tradition this year. I hope it will include a personal relationship with Christ Jesus. May the Lord bless us this New Year with the strength for all the opportunities that will befall us!*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

*With much thanks, Dave*