

NOVEMBER 2007

Facing Changes

A story in USA Today reported that Americans were overwhelmingly satisfied with their lives and what their future had in store. The same article said over 80% believed our country was headed for troubled times. Not only did I find it interesting that we were satisfied with ourselves, yet felt our nation as a whole was headed in the wrong direction. I related this to fire protection in our area and to our own department.

Our nation faces some tough decisions that have the potential to upset the American public. Those people seeking public office will be forced to make those decisions, or they will do like too many before them and patch the system, thus delaying the inevitable. As I see the challenge near impossible because of the USA Today article. The American public is content with their own situation, yet aren't willing to tolerate the decisions required to make our nation change directions. The article had a great line from a smart man that said the citizens seek leadership and trust. Well, I see it as the public needs to select a leader they trust with their future and most importantly support the leaders who will make the tough decisions.

We must face the changes ourselves before we can expect the citizens to face them. The time has come for the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department to face some changes. We are facing some tough times with some tough decisions to be made. These decisions will involve some internal changes and some external. These decisions will require the leadership and support so that we all trust in the direction we are headed.

I say all this because we are for sure reflective of the American public. No longer can we be content with our own situation while we wait on someone else to make changes. It will take us all united to get through. We have to understand the situation, educate ourselves, and unite to make the changes necessary to better service to the citizens.

I know, I know, get on with the exact message chief! It is time for us to demand equitable funding from those we serve and provide consistent service. It is time for us to know our service levels and what is provided to the citizens we serve. The time is now for funding that ensures everyone pays for the service received. The time is now for incentives to those who consistently provide services to the community. The time is now to stop over promising and under delivering. The time is now to stop burdening the few to benefit the many.

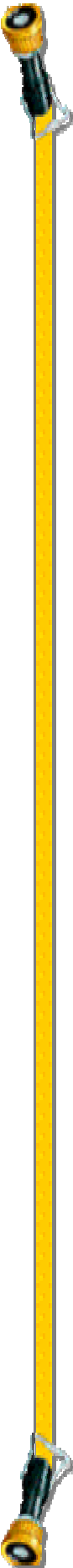
I say all this not to take away anything from the services we are delivering. Every member of this department plays a vital role in the services we deliver and we can't do it without each and every one of us. What I am saying is that I have avoided facing the changes that are required in our changing department, community, and society. This was not an intentional nor a conscious decision to get us in the shape we are in. I have been allowed to operate in the manner we are for years longer than we should because I genuinely thought it was the right thing to do. While maybe it was the right thing to do, it has only allowed our service to be taken advantage of. The Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department, thanks to each of you, has operated so professionally and so well over the years that we have continued to do too much with too little. I know there are some who will say we have had too much. I would argue that and say what we have is great fiscal management and the leadership of dedicated and committed personnel who provide service at a level unprecedented by other volunteers. When you look at the numbers we protect, the responses we make, the coverage we provide, the resources we manage, and so on we should have faced these changes years ago. I spoke with a fire chief from Texas today who protects half of what we do, thus the rest of the numbers indicate the same, yet he is struggling with a career staff of 16 people. He about fell over when I told him we do so much more with volunteers.

I don't have all the answers, but what I know we do have is the capable, committed, and most of all the qualified people to not only face the changes, but also to make the tough decisions. Let us unite and work over the course of the next couple of years to see our vision of not being a "typical" fire department. I pledge to improve communications and share with you the changes we face. What I need from each of you is your continued commitment to service, your communication about what challenges you see, and your support of the decisions to make changes. Remember our slogan, Working, Serving, Learning, and Growing...TOGETHER!

CHIEF RAY 



**Pleasant View
Volunteer Fire
Department
strives to
provide our
communities
the best Life
Safety
Prevention,
Education, and
Response
possible.
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CHAPLAIN'S

Mark Smith graciously serves as our departments Chaplain and is ready to help with any spiritual needs 569-4115

ORDER

For the past couple of months I have focused on your relationship with your wife, husband, or your significant other. I believe that the health of that relationship is the key to unlocking all you were created to be. Now I am moving on to an area that tends to act like a mirror. Our relationship with our kids...There will be a couple of tests that you will use as a measure to see what type of legacy you are leaving for your children. I know, some of you are saying, Chap, I don't have kids, so why should I read this stuff. Well, I thought you would ask that! Read this so that you can begin to identify the things in your life that make you who you are and either support you or hold you back in your life journey. As always let me know what your thoughts are about the things that I am touching on. Let me know how you are growing to be a better person than you were yesterday.

Chap Mark

The Legacy You Want to Give

by J. Otis Ledbetter and Kurt Bruner

We all have good and bad parts to the legacy we have inherited. The key is to move forward from here. For some, taking a closer look at the legacy they've been given helps them assess the legacy they want to pass on. After considering your past, here are some practical tips for the future:

Decide what you'll keep: You probably have things you received that are wonderful and need to be kept and passed on. Other things may need to be thrown out. Or, perhaps you have a weak legacy that needs strengthening. Whatever you received, you can now intentionally pass along the good. This isn't always easy. If you saw hypocrisy in your parents' lives, you may be tempted to throw everything out even though much of what your parents modeled was good. Don't. That would be like burning down the house to get rid of some bugs.

Realize that God can redeem even the "bad stuff" in your legacy. Unfortunately many of us have parts of our legacy that are weak or even awful. Maybe one of your parents was an alcoholic or abusive or didn't provide the nurturing you needed. In today's society, the stories of such families are common. You may be asking, "How do I give something I didn't receive? Nobody modeled this stuff for me."

Hope is not lost. Consider the story of Josiah from the Old Testament in the Bible. His father and grandfather were involved in many wicked things, including idol worship that threatened the entire nation. But after 8-year-old Josiah became king of Judah, he reversed that trend. He sought God and purged Judah of idols, repaired the temple and saved a nation.

Like Josiah, you can choose which things in your legacy are no good and throw them away. It's important to break the cycle of hurt by leaving bad things behind and creating a new legacy. If you don't know God, this is a good time to introduce yourself. Legacies are not easily broken and always benefit from His guidance.

Chart a new course as you begin a positive legacy for yourself and those you love. Research suggests that most fathers will parent the way they were parented. That means only a minority of fathers will change their parenting style — even if their parenting is wrong! Today, you can take positive steps to design a new heritage for yourself and your family.

UPCOMING TRAINING AND MORE

With Captain Trey Nelms
Tennessee's Firefighter of the year

PVVFD members,

I am back from my honeymoon and feeling refreshed. I appreciate all the well wishes, gifts, and attendees to all the functions involved in my marriage to Amy. It hasn't been bad the first 2-1/2 weeks and I appreciate everyone helping me with the transition and for covering things while out of town.

As always, several things are happening during the upcoming months. Let me give you a list of opportunities: .

Nov. 6th- "Live Fire" Practical for FF II (Lebanon)- Since we do not have the ability to host a Firefighter II "Live Burn", we can send our personnel to obtain their required trainings. This opportunity begins at 0900 hrs. at Lebanon's training ground. PPE and SCBA are required. If you are interested, let me know ASAP so we can get the paperwork in. It must be done now to get completed.

Nov. 7th- Firefighter II Hands-On practical (Nashville)- Nashville will host the hands-on skills practical for Firefighter II's only. Six skill stations, 1 extrication, 1 Haz-mat, and 4 fire scenarios. Again, we must get the paperwork in quickly to get you in the test.

Nov. 10th/11th- Advanced Extrication- 0800 hrs. Sycamore HS- Lots of Hands-on opportunities for our members. New techniques, more difficult scenarios, and various challenges should make for a great weekend. A guest Instructor will be coming in to assist and share his knowledge and experiences. There will be several cars, and maybe a van or bus.

Nov. 14th- State written test- PVVFD Station 5- 1830 hrs- Those challenging a written test should be at Station 5 no later than 1815 hrs. with a state issued ID in hand. Please wear your Class "B" uniform and represent us well. Good Luck!

Nov. 20th- Medical training- 1800 hrs.- PVVFD Station 5- Andrew Neill from Robertson EMS and Nashville FD will come lead our classroom/hands-on session. We will go over protocols, skills, and have some scenario based training. CEU's will be available for EMT's and Paramedics. Thanks to all those that have participated in the PVVFD life safety and prevention activities. This is an important part of what we do and it has made an impact on our community. We have been very busy lately, and I am proud of those that have been there to provide the service to those in need.

Thanks for what you do and stay safe.

Capt. Nelms



ANNUAL HOSE TEST



It is time to do our annual hose testing. I would like to have this completed by the 1st of Dec. Some of the 1 3/4 inch hose is already tested on E-401 and E-402. The new orange hose is on the trucks and is ready to go, it has been tested. I would like for each station to do there own. We will all try to knock out the spare hose. For any question on testing the hose, or before this starts please call FF Shane Tomlinson or myself for the proper test pressures and to make sure that were not doing double work. Thanks for all your help.

CAPTAIN MARTIN