



*"Neighbors  
Serving Neighbors ..."*

P.O. Box 578, East Olympia, WA 98540

| 360.491.5533

| www.eofd.org

## Captain John A. Meek Retires From East Olympia Fire District 6

Captain John A. Meek was honored for his 30 years of dedicated volunteer public service with East Olympia Fire District 6 at the District's Annual Awards Banquet held on October 2, 2011, at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. He was again honored at a community retirement celebration on November 20th at Station 61 in East Olympia.

The Meeks are long-time residents of East Olympia –you may have bumped into one of them at one time or another as John's father, John E. Meek, began John Meek Logging back in the 1960s which still operates today. Coming from a logging family, John A. Meek continued the tradition, and in 1980 he started John Meek Trucking. Shortly thereafter, John married and started a new family. John and his wife Wilma have been married 40 years and still reside in East Olympia. Together they have two children, Brandi and Christina. Brandi also joined the fire service and volunteered for 5 years.

John began his first public servant role during the 1960s, as a junior fire fighter at Fire District 6. The role of a junior fire fighter was to assist with fire calls. When a fire alarm rang, John, a fifth grader at East Olympia Elementary (what is now Olympia Waldorf School), and other junior fire fighters would run across the street to the fire station and pull the apparatus out of the bays to get them ready for the fire fighters. Once the fire trucks returned, they would re-fill the trucks by use of a garden hose. In those days fire fighters would respond from home or work by driving their

own private vehicle to the fire station to get on a fire truck to respond to an emergency call.

It was apparent that the role of a junior fire fighter was a significant benefit to the District and community, as well as a great opportunity for young adults to be involved in their community. John obviously enjoyed volunteering for his community in the fire service as in 1981 John applied for a volunteer fire fighter position with East Olympia Fire District 6 and was accepted into the training academy later that year. He went on to receive "Rookie of the Year" in 1982. John spent endless hours on required training and as a result received multiple awards for Most Attended Drills and Most Response Calls for several years. In 1997 and 2002, he received Fire Fighter of the Year awards bestowed upon him by his district responder peers. He also received the Chief's Award in 2011.

Among John's accomplishments, he was promoted in 2001 to volunteer lieutenant, and then promoted again in 2004 to volunteer captain. He retires as one of two volunteer captains. John, serving under four fire chiefs during his 30-year service, has seen a lot of growth and change in the department as well as in the community. With those changes and growth, comprehensive plans needed to be developed and facilities and equipment needed to be upgraded. He contributed many more hours on top of all the required training as a member of the department's vehicle replacement committee, equipment committee, building committee, Fire



Fighter First Class committee, and was also a member of the Board of Officers.


Besides the endless dedicated hours of training and staff meetings, he also contributed many hours to the District Firefighters Association functions. This inevitably became a family affair as John, Wilma, and daughter Brandi all stepped in and contributed with the Firefighters Association's Annual Breakfast, picnics, annual Christmas parties, and Santa Visits. Wilma was an association officer and also provided assistance with fire suppression support meals during house burn trainings and at fire response calls.

After serving 30 years, Captain John A. Meek retired on November 23, 2011. We thank you for all your hard work and years of dedicated service to District 6 and your community. Best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. ■

# Life Jacket Loaner Program

East Olympia Fire District 6 has partnered with Safe Kids Thurston County, The Child Care Action Council, The Paris White Foundation, and Thurston County Medic One to place a life jacket loaner board at the Offut Lake Resort. The program is designed to provide life jackets free of charge to the Offut Lake Resort for use by children of all ages during the swimming and fishing seasons. East Olympia Fire District 6 firefighters constructed the board. The Child Care Action Council donated the sign frontage. Lincoln Creek Lumber Ace Hardware donated the construction materials and supplies. The Paris White Foundation supplies initial and replacement life jackets. Please check out [www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org) for more information about the life jacket loaner program. ■






## VIAL of LIFE

**Medical Information for Life Saving Emergencies  
East Olympia Fire District #6**

Visit [www.eofd.org](http://www.eofd.org) to download and print your Vial of Life. Forms are also available at  
Headquarters Station 61, 8047 Normand Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501



## ARE YOU PREPARED? *There are real benefits to being prepared in case of a disaster.*

**D**isasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property. If a disaster occurs in our community, local government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. Local responders may

not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere.

You should know how to respond to a disaster that could occur in our area (earthquakes, flooding, or terrorism) and be ready to be self-sufficient for at least five days.

- ✓ **Update your Emergency Preparedness Kit (water, medications, food, fuel)**

✓ **Create a network of your neighbors** and design a plan to assist those who may require your help. Identify skills and equipment each neighbor has that would be useful in a disaster response.
- ✓ **Natural gas leaks** and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off natural gas. **NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.**
- ✓ **Water quickly becomes a precious resource** following many disasters. **It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.**

✓ **Learn how to use a fire extinguisher.**

✓ **Learn First aid and CPR.**

**Thurston County Emergency Management (360-754-3360) offers an ongoing Map Your Neighborhood program designed to teach you the 9 steps to immediately take following a disaster to protect your neighborhood. ■**

# 2011 - Annual Awards Banquet

On October 1, 2011 we held our annual awards banquet at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club. The banquet is a time to share in the accomplishments of the department, as well as the personal accomplishments of our volunteers and career staff who give so much to make the department a success.



2011  
Fire Chief's Award  
**Capt. John Meek**



2011 EMS Responder  
of the Year Award  
**Michelle Jordan**



2011 Firefighter  
of the Year Award  
**Saeng Pion**

Most Attended  
Drills for  
Monday Night

- A Shift  
**Capt. John Meek**  
**FF Kevin Maltz**
- B Shift  
**Capt. John Ostergard**
- C Shift  
**FF Saeng Pion**

Most Shift  
Training Drills for  
Firefighter

- A Shift  
**Joel Bengtson**
- C Shift  
**Michelle Jordan**
- B Shift  
**Chris Johnson**
- Resident Shift  
**Saeng Pion**

Most Calls  
per Shift

- A Shift (132)  
**Gabe Lakin**
- C Shift (143)  
**Michelle Jordan**
- B Shift (102)  
**Chris Johnson**
- Resident (214)  
**Saeng Pion**

Rookie  
of the Year

- Fall  
Academy  
**Bobby Frye**
- Spring  
Academy  
**Shawn Deskins**

## NEW VOLUNTEERS

The following men are graduates of the 2011 Spring Thurston County Fire Recruit Academy. They join East Olympia Fire District 6 as volunteer responders. We proudly welcome them to our team.

**Shawn Deskins, Firefighter**

Shawn resides in Olympia with wife Tonya, and children Rylee, Taylor, and Colby. He attended South Puget Sound Community College and is a mortgage loan officer for Homestreet Bank.

**Craig Myer, Firefighter**

Craig is the owner of Myer's NW Masonry and Tile. He resides in Olympia with wife Anya, and children Andrew and Harper.

**Chris Miller, Firefighter**

Chris was a former volunteer with Rochester Fire Department. Chris is a job foreman for DLB Earthworks and was formerly in the US Coast Guard. He resides in Olympia with his wife Melony, and children Jaycee and Jesse.

**Ryan Huston, Firefighter/EMT**

Ryan attended Bates Technical College and earned an Associate Degree in Fire Technology. Ryan resides in Bonney Lake.

**Matthew Gerard, EMT**

Matthew resides in Olympia with his wife Jennifer, and daughter Kayla. Matthew attended Washington State University and earned a Bachelor Degree. He is the owner of Gerard Investments and co-owner of Turfect.

**Reid Hamblet, EMT**

Reid resides in Olympia with his wife Samantha, and daughter Locy. He attended Biola University and Judson University where he earned a Bachelor Degree. Reid is a delivery technician with Bellevue Healthcare of Lacey.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

**Kramer Mott**

Kramer, former resident volunteer with District 6, was hired in June 2011 as a part-time firefighter/EMT. Kramer attended Bates Technical College and earned a degree in fire science.

**Matthew Richardson**

Matthew joins Fire District #6 as a part-time firefighter/EMT as of July 2011. Prior to his employment with District #6, he was a volunteer firefighter and also intern firefighter with Thurston County Fire District #8 (South Bay) from 2006 through 2010. He attended South Puget Sound Community College.

## Residential Outdoor Burning

October 15, 2011 - July 14, 2012  
Complete your burn permit on-line at  
[www.eofd.org](http://www.eofd.org)

## FREE Blood Pressure Checks

If you would like your blood pressure checked, please stop by Headquarters Station 61 during normal business hours to obtain your personal blood pressure record.

Systolic	Diastolic
Normal less than 120	Normal less than 80
Pre-hypertension 120 – 139	Pre-hypertension 80 – 89
High 140 – 159	High 90 – 99

This chart reflects blood pressure categories defined by the American Heart Association.

# Santa Claus is Coming to East Olympia Fire District #6

**BACK BY  
POPULAR  
DEMAND!**

**December 6-15 6:00-9:00<sup>PM</sup>**

Santa Claus and his Elves will be making their rounds to the neighborhoods of East Olympia Fire District 6 collecting food and cash to be distributed to adopted Christmas families!

See insert inside  
to find out when  
Santa will be  
visiting your  
neighborhood!

**EAST OLYMPIA FIRE DISTRICT #6**

*Behind the*

# Fireline

**WINTER 2011**

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**Thurston County  
Fire District #6  
Firefighter's Association**

P.O. Box 578  
East Olympia, WA 98540-0578  
Station 61: **360-491-5533**  
Station 64: **360-754-0651**

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