

Auxiliary Charts Course for 2024

By Susan Schiff

As I write this, members of the BMFPD Auxiliary leadership team are preparing for Auxiliary's January organizing meeting, where we look back at our 2023 work and set priorities for 2024. Because there will be a number of new faces at this meeting, we prepare background information so all attending know the Auxiliary's role in Boulder Mountain Fire. This quarter, rather than share information about what the Auxiliary has been up to, I'm sharing that background information with my Pine Brook neighbors.

We live within the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD). BMFPD consists of firefighters, emergency medical responders and support personnel who respond to 911 calls in the fire district. Most of the responders are volunteers and live in the community. The department includes our Fire Chief John Benson, the Wildfire Mitigation crew led by Mike Palamara, the Auxiliary and an elected Board of Directors who work together to keep things running smoothly.



Member Maryanne Kurtinaitis leading New Resident Welcome



Member Judy Tupy replenishing treats at Boulder Mountain Handmade

THE AUXILIARY'S MISSION IS FOURFOLD:

- Fundraising
- Outreach and Education
- Recognition
- Provisioning

FUNDRAISING: Boulder Mountain Handmade Market is an art and craft fair held at Boulder's Elks Lodge over Veterans Day weekend that brings together 50+ Colorado-based artists who sell their wares. The Auxiliary's markets-within-the-market sell donated homemade baked goods and craft and gift items created and donated by residents of the fire district. The proceeds from the event support all of the Auxiliary's programs and fund life-safety equipment for the responders.

RECOGNITION: Volunteers are the beating heart of our department, over 60 neighbors who commit to dozens of training hours, and 24/7 response for fire, medical and accident calls. The Auxiliary recognizes their work – and their families' support – through social events and other forms of thanks throughout the year.



Learning how to use a fire extinguisher at Community Safety Fair

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Community resilience in the face of fire, weather and other emergencies is built on the collective knowledge and preparedness of our residents. The Auxiliary's New Resident Welcome program aims to jumpstart that process for newcomers, through information and semi-annual briefings from Chief Benson. The Auxiliary hosts a Community

Safety Fair each spring so residents can learn new skills (how to use a fire extinguisher, for example) and update home safety gear. Volunteers deliver new reflective address signs, carbon monoxide

alarms, extinguishers and other safety items year-round when residents order from the online Community Safety Store.

PROVISIONING: Structure fires, wildland fires, downed power lines and road accidents can keep responders on-scene and working for hours at a time, in any weather. A team of trained Auxiliary volunteers is on-call to furnish hot and cold beverages and nutritious meals to responders 24/7. We take pride in insuring that our provisioning is timely and complete, so responders can focus on the critical job at hand.



Safety Fair is a team effort with responders and Auxiliary



Member Jane Glotzer with a young visitor to the Safety Fair



Sheriff Curtis Johnson addressing BMFPD Celebration Dinner

HOW DOES THE AUXILIARY DO IT ALL?

Many hands make light work: with the commitment of 60+ active members and dozens of casual event volunteers, and great collaborations with other department volunteers.

It has been my pleasure to lead the Auxiliary for the past two years. I made many new friends and learned some new skills, made a difference in the work of fellow department volunteers and did a small part in keeping my community safe. How many volunteer jobs offer rewards like these?

I welcome you to join this terrific group of folks – whether with a small commitment that fits a busy family’s schedule, or a larger role post-retirement, a one-time volunteer slot or an ongoing responsibility. Many hands make light work, and the more residents we have working on our mission, the greater our success.

**Please feel free to contact us
and we can help you find a role.**

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This will be the last article in the Pine Brook Press by Susan, as she is moving away from Pine Brook. Many thanks to her for her service to the community.

Mark, Editor