



August 16, 2011

Dear Neighbor:

As a neighbor, stakeholder, or interested party, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the planned relocation of Fire Station 68.

TVF&R has completed the required land use process, and Washington County has approved the Land Use Development Application to relocate the station. The approval was made with strong support by both the Washington County Planning Department and the Hearings Officer for the public hearing. With that approval in place, we are now working to take advantage of cost-savings by coupling construction activities with another fire station being rebuilt at this time.

Over the next couple months, we will begin getting the property ready for construction. This will include removing the existing building; installing underground utilities including storm drains, building and site electrical, and plumbing; and grading and preparing the ground for the foundation, driveway, curbs, and footings. The site will then be winterized from November through February, with construction expected to resume in the spring.

It is our understanding that a small number of neighbors have filed an appeal with the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Unless reversed by LUBA, the Washington County Land Use approval stands. A ruling may take up to six months.

TVF&R appreciates that the land-use process ensures that decisions are fair and reasonable, and is an important means for citizens to be heard. Concerns expressed by the citizens who filed the appeal are centered on noise and property values. Outreach efforts have been ongoing since the project's inception in 2010 and our goal is to continue to provide factual information on the reality of living near a fire station (see back of letter). With over half of our 21 fire stations located in neighborhoods, TVF&R has a longstanding history of being a good neighbor.

As a regional provider of fire protection and emergency medical services, Fire Station 68 plays a critical part in protecting not only the local neighborhood but the northwest corner of TVF&R's service area. Building a cost-effective and efficient fire station will serve the citizens of this region for decades to come.

For more information, please visit our website at www.tvfr.com or contact TVF&R Construction Project Manager Siobhan Kirk at 503-259-1219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Duyck".

Michael R. Duyck
Fire Chief

TVF&R Fire Station 68



Living Near a Neighborhood Fire Station

Visit Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's YouTube site to hear firsthand from residents who live near a fire station:
www.youtube.com/user/TualatinValleyFire

Fire stations are considered by many to be a good value

- When fire breaks out or a medical emergency occurs, time is of the essence. Having a fire station in your neighborhood means firefighters are closer in your time of need.
- The process of building a fire station includes creating a building that is functional as a fire station, yet complimentary to the surrounding neighborhood. Station 68 will have a community room available for non-profit organizations to use free-of-charge.
- Many residents, realtors, and contractors believe that having a fire station in a neighborhood increases the value of nearby homes.
- At least one home adjacent to the site of the new station recently sold for more than \$500,000.
- Since 2004 Washington County Taxation & Assessment is not aware of a home's assessed value being decreased due to a fire station.

Firefighters are sensitive to noise

- **At this site, there is no legal requirement to sound the fire engine's siren on a Code 3 call** when leaving the station and exiting onto Evergreen Road.
- Not all calls are Code 3 (lights and sirens) emergencies.
- Although safely exiting the station is a priority, our firefighters recognize that the siren can be a disturbance to neighbors and they use it with discretion. This is especially true at night when there are fewer vehicles on the road and no need to clear traffic.
- Drive-through apparatus bays at this station eliminate the need for backing engines into the station, therefore, eliminating the need to use rear back-up warning systems.

Firefighters are good neighbors

- Firefighters enjoy getting to know their neighbors and play an active role in helping increase preparedness and safety for families.
- A fire station is home-away-from-home for our firefighters who are on duty for 24 hours, every third day. They take great pride in keeping their stations and landscaping in excellent condition.
- Fire stations can be involved in neighborhood watch activities.