# Volunteers Needed for Han Woo-Ri Festival

Han Woo-Ri is a five-day festival that will celebrate aspects of contemporary and traditional Korean arts and culture. International and regional participants will showcase dance, music, sports, arts, crafts, films, demonstrations and exhibits.

The event will take place May 11-15, 2005 in Federal Way. English and Korean-speaking volunteers are needed as home-stay hosts and festival assistants. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.hanwoorifestival.org or call 253-835-2652.

This promises to be a fun and exciting way to celebrate the diverse culture we enjoy in Federal Way!

# Child Safety Day May 21, 2005

Federal Way Fire Department is working with State Farm, the Federal Way Helmet Coalition, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Center and Seattle & King County Public Health to help parents keep their children safe by hosting State Farm Child Safety Day.

**Saturday, May 21st**
**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**
**The Commons at Federal Way – North Parking lot**
**320th St., Federal Way**

**Car seat inspections:** Trained technicians will make sure your car seat is installed correctly, the seat is right for your child and your child is properly secured in the seat.



Have you seen our van around town? Cooking is the leading cause of house fires. Stay nearby when you are cooking so you can prevent a fire.

**Helmet fitting and sales:** Get a new custom-fit helmet for you and your child. Bike style are $5 and multi-sport style are $7. Cash only, please. Wearer must be present for custom fit. You can also have your current helmet checked to make sure it fits properly.

**Life jacket fitting and sales:** Life jackets are only $12 and come in sizes Infant to Adult Large.

**Child identification cards:** King County Police Union will be providing Child ID cards free of charge to all children under 16 years of age accompanied by a guardian.

**Blood drive:** Donate blood with Cascade Regional Blood Services. One donation can save up to three lives.

Emergency vehicles will also be there!

# Help Your Neighborhood Prepare for an Emergency

Following a major disaster, emergency responders will be overwhelmed and may take up to three days to reach your neighborhood with emergency aid.

Chances are your neighbors will spontaneously come together and help each other in any way they can; however, you would be more effective together by participating in disaster preparedness training. The City of Federal Way and the Federal Way AmeriCorps Team are offering free training for your neighborhood to create a Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET).

The NET training process involves a series of four meetings, usually held in a resident's home or a nearby community center. The meetings are about an hour and a half each and will cover personal preparedness and neighborhood disaster planning. Learn ways to account for your neighbors and organize your neighborhood while waiting for professional responders to arrive. Discover the best place to stage your response from, where to set up a first aid station, how to care for injured or those whose homes have become uninhabitable. Learn what resources and skills your neighbors have that will be of assistance in the hours and days following a disaster.

To learn more about creating a Neighborhood Emergency Team, please contact AmeriCorps Director Monda Holsinger at 253-945-2282 or Jennifer Teeler, the City of Federal Way Volunteer and Neighborhood Program Coordinator, at (253) 835-2652.

# Prevent Summer Fires

The fire department is getting ready for more bark, grass and brush fires this summer. You can do a lot to prevent these fires and extinguish small fires when you find them.

**Smoking:**
Do not extinguish or leave your cigarette in landscaping, especially beauty bark or play chips. Cigarettes, even ones you think are out, can smolder in the bark starting a fire hours later.

When smoking is permitted in an outdoor recreation area, safe practices require at least a 3-foot clearing around the smoker. Grind out your cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco in the dirt. Never grind it on a stump or log. It is unsafe to smoke while walking or riding a horse or trail bike. Use your ashtray while in your car.

**Charcoal Briquettes:**
After burning charcoal briquettes, "dunk 'em!" Don't sprinkle. Soak the coals with lots of water; stir them and soak again. Be sure they are out—cold! Carefully feel the coals with your bare hands to be sure.

**Yard Waste:**
It is illegal to burn debris in King County, including yard waste. These fires have been known to spread to nearby vegetation and structures.

**Put It Out:**
If you see smoke or small flames in grass or bark, often used in landscaping around businesses, use water to extinguish the fire. If the fire is small and no lives or property are in immediate danger, you may be able to extinguish the fire with a pitcher of water or a garden hose. If the fire is large, spreading, or your attempts to extinguish the fire fail, call 911 immediately.




# Federal Way Fire Department

31617 1st Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003

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# Child Safety Day May 21



State Farm Child Safety Day is May 21 at The Commons at Federal Way, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm There will be free car seat inspections, a helmet fit and sale, life jacket fit and sale, child ID cards and emergency vehicles to tour. See article on page 4, **Child Safety Day**, for more details.

# Federal Way Starts Fire Corps

The Federal Way Fire Department is seeking volunteers for our newly formed Fire Corps. We are looking for ten Fire Corps advocates who are interested in helping make the community a safer place and love working with people. We need people who enjoy teaching others, interacting with a variety of people and have time to dedicate to learning new skills and teaching others. We want some of our advocates to be bilingual and comfortable interpreting and translating in Spanish, Korean or Ukrainian. Most desirable is someone who has access to a computer where they are comfortable producing a translated document.

Fire Corps advocates will learn about fire safety, injury prevention and disaster preparedness. Advocates will become trained helmet fitters, CPR and First Aid instructors, Community Emergency Response Team instructors, and will have a strong awareness of child car seat and seat belt use.

Fire Corps advocates will mainly be responsible for reaching out to the community at special events such as Child Safety Day, Federal Way Festival Days and Fire Prevention Week. They will also tackle projects each year. This year's focus is emergency preparedness. Fire Corps will meet with the community showing how to make a plan and make a kit to use in case of an emergency. There will be ten classes, two taught in English, two in Ukrainian, three in Korean and three in Spanish.

Fire Corps is the newest part of Citizen Corps, a grass-roots effort that actively involves everyone in making communities across America safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies of all kinds. Fire Corps advocates are not volunteer firefighters but provide essential non-suppression related activities.

Citizen Corps and its programs are coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Interested in becoming a part of our Fire Corps?
Volunteer applications can be downloaded at www.federalwayfire.org, picked up at our headquarters station, 31617 1st Ave S, or you may call 253-839-6234.

Applications need to be received by 4:30 pm on Monday, May 16.

During interviews, applicants will make a short presentation on a subject of their choice demonstrating their teaching ability. Qualified applicants must pass a background check.

Are you a member of a group that would like a presentation about creating an emergency plan and kit? Please invite us by calling 253-946-7247 or write to:

FWFD Public Education
31617 1st Ave S
Federal Way, WA 98003.

We look forward to meeting with your group!

# Fire District Merger

This September, residents of the greater Federal Way community will know whether the services of Federal Way Fire Department will be combined with King County Fire District #26/Des Moines.

For the past few years, Federal Way Fire Department has been involved in discussions with its neighboring fire districts in Des Moines, Burien/Normandy Park and North Highline, looking at the possibility of creating one fire department.

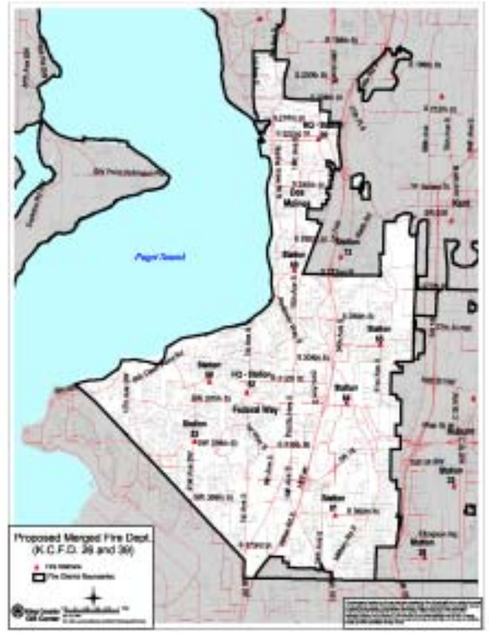
Much discussion and examination led fire officials to determine that smaller mergers, known as "2 by 2" mergers, establishes a workable framework for future mergers to take place.

Merging two fire districts requires a ballot measure for voter approval. The current proposal is for Fire District 26 to merge into Federal Way Fire Department. In September, the citizens in Des Moines will vote, the citizens in Federal Way will not.

The Federal Way and Des Moines fire districts share similarities in several areas:

- Both are special service districts governed by elected Boards of Fire Commissioners. If the merger is approved, the five commissioners from Federal Way would combine with the three commissioners from District 26 to create a new board of eight commissioners. During the next six years the board would reduce back to five commissioners.
- Both provide fire protection and emergency medical services to their City and unincorporated King County residents. Emergency and non-emergency services to the Federal Way and Des Moines area will stay the same or be increased.
- Both use Valley Communications Center for dispatch service. Federal Way and Des Moines Police Departments also use Valley Communications. When an emergency call is placed to 911, the same people in the same place will process the call. The same firefighters and King County Medic One paramedics will be dispatched to provide service.
- Both have maintained the same voter-approved tax rate of $1.50 per $1000 of assessed valuation for the past four years. "Economies of scale" gained by merging include reduced overhead costs by combining the business and administrative functions, elimination of some positions through retirements and attrition, and reduced vehicle costs by selling or not replacing duplicate apparatus. These economy of scale items would not raise the existing tax rate.

Between now and September, fire representatives from both districts will be presenting information to residents and organizations throughout their communities. If approved, integration of services for the merged district begins in September, with the merger becoming effective in January of 2006.




| | FEDERAL WAY | FIRE DISTRICT 26 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of Stations | 7 | 1 |
| Square Miles | 34 | 5.5 |
| Population | 120,000 | 30,000 |
| 2003 Alarm Responses | 11,163 | 3096 |
| 2003 Assessed Value | $ 8,311,781,685 | $ 2,084,794,839 |
| 2004 Operating Budget | $ 13,293,856 | $ 3,579,670 |
| 2004 Funds in Reserve | $ 3 million | $ 1 million |
| Total Employees | 131 | 21 |
| Firefighters and Officers | 106 | 15 |
| Chief Officers | 9 | 4 |

For additional information, please contact:

Federal Way Fire Department
Fire Chief Al Church
Phone: 253-946-7258
E-mail: allen.church@federalwayfire.org

King County Fire District #26
Fire Chief Jim Polhamus
Phone: 206-878-2210
E-mail: polhamus@kcfd26.org

# A Senior Moment

Many of you have known about or participated in Federal Way Fire Department's long-running fire and fall prevention program, "Remembering When," done in partnership with St. Francis hospital. The two-hour workshop is designed for adults 65 and older. It is presented in Federal Way twice a year at one of several locations throughout the community.

What you may not have heard is that the fire department presented the program for the first-time ever in Korean, thanks to another partnership with the City of Federal Way and Kim Hensley, their Korean Community Liaison. Program participants that day said they'd like to see more programs like this presented to the Korean community.

"Reaching audiences in different languages has been one of the biggest challenges for the fire department in the past few years," said Debbie Goetz, Public Education Officer and "Remembering When" program manager. "Our goal is to expand our services and teach a number of safety topics in different languages." (If you are bilingual and want to become a presenter for the fire department, see separate story on becoming a Fire Corps volunteer on the front page.)

"Remembering When" is presented monthly throughout the South King/North Pierce County region, thanks to continuing support from the Franciscan Health System and local fire departments. In addition to St. Francis and Federal Way Fire Department, the program is presented by fire educators in Auburn, Tacoma, Gig Harbor, Lakewood and University Place in conjunction with St. Joseph Medical Center and St. Clare Hospital.

If you have questions or would like to host a "Remembering When" program at your location, contact the fire department's Public Education Division at 253-839-6234. The next regularly scheduled presentation in Federal Way will be in November.



# Improved Insurance Rating

The Federal Way Fire Department is pleased to announce that effective April 1, 2005, its fire protection classification will improve from Class 3 to Class 2. For businesses in Federal Way, the new classification means fire insurance rates once available only in major municipalities like Seattle and Bellevue will now be available in the greater Federal Way area. Federal Way Fire Department is the first and only *fire district* in Washington to have achieved this classification. The only other fire departments currently rated Class 2 for fire protection are the cities of Seattle and Bellevue.

"We are extremely proud to have achieved this milestone for our citizens within the greater Federal Way community. Our citizens' ongoing support by maintaining our property tax levy rate through passage of our annual ballot measures (lid lifts) has allowed our department members to provide a level of service our community desires and deserves. I am extremely proud of our department members and their ongoing efforts. We are humbled and pleased to give something back to our community in the form of reduced insurance rates via our Class 2 rating," said Fire Chief/Administrator Allen D. Church.

The new lower insurance rating is the result of years of effort by fire department members, other public agencies such as Lakehaven Utility District (for water supply), and citizens who are involved with in the department's planning efforts. The new rating is part of the fire department's goal of providing quality service to its citizens.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau completed the re-rating as part of their normal process. The last time the department was evaluated was 1986 when it achieved a Class 3 rating. The Rating Bureau evaluates fire departments on several factors such as staffing levels, fire prevention programs, record keeping, and water supply. Equipment and training are also considered.

Federal Way Fire Department is an independent fire district that provides fire protection services to the city of Federal Way as well as the unincorporated King County area to the east of the city. The department protects about 120,000 people in an area of about 34 square miles.

If your business is protected by the Federal Way Fire Department, please check with your insurance provider to see if you are eligible for the new lower rates. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the fire department at 253-839-6234.

# Fire Station Day 2005
# Rain and Shine



Girl Scouts leading songs and cheers.

It is 5:00 pm April 13 and the first scouts are beginning to arrive to the annual Fire Station Day when the dark threatening cloud releases a downpour of rain. Over 40 volunteers and employees brave the elements or adjust plans to greet, educate and feed their guests.

Though the rain let up, the evening remained dark and cold. This didn't stop over 300 youth, their leaders and their parents from enjoying the various educational and entertaining stations the fire department had to offer.



Boy Scouts teaching fire safety and first aid.

Guests toured a fire engine, aid car, and fire station. They learned about bike safety, water safety, home hazards, and HAM radio. They raced in relays, received ID cards and were served hotdogs by firefighters. Boy Scouts taught about fire safety and Girl Scouts assisted in many venues and led singing.

Fire Station Day 2005 was a huge success. Thank you to all of the leaders and youth who braved the weather and attended and thank you to the over 40 volunteers and employees who made the evening possible. A special thank you to the 13 Boy and Girl Scouts, and representatives from the City of Federal Way, Federal Way Police Department, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and the King County Police Union.



Scouts waiting to tour the fire engine.

## Tell us what you think!

Please send any comments or questions to:

Public Education Division
Federal Way Fire Department
31617 1st Ave S
Federal Way, WA 98003

Or send an e-mail through the question and comment link on the contact page of our website:
**www.federalwayfire.org**