



Lake Stevens Fire Dispatch

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Touching Lives Today – Planning for Tomorrow



It's a Whole New World

Article by Chief Gary Faucett

America's First Line Defenders. Our local firefighters play an important part in creating a safer tomorrow for America. Indeed your local fire department does have a new mandate. We've been tasked to defend our community far beyond our state charter of just fighting fires. The expectation of today's fire service is to perform complex rescues, perform advanced life saving efforts, coordinate terrorism preparedness programs, and mitigate biochemical and hazardous materials events, as well as upholding our chartered duty of protecting our community from the ravages of fires.

We are faced with the new challenge of how to prepare, respond, and coordinate disaster incidents, which strategies we execute, and what tactics we employ. We must ensure our firefighters are highly trained in these new areas of responsibility and are provided the types of equipment required when responding to a catastrophic attack, and more readily identify potential threats in our community. This calls for us to consider new ways to perform our new role of defending our community. It requires your local fire department to form strong coalitions with law enforcement. It forces us to share our resources and coordinate our training and responses in a coordinated effort with all emergency response agencies.

Today's Challenges. Even after stretching the dollar as far as it could go, we have had to make the following reductions:

Firefighter staffing was reduced by over 22,000 hours. This equates to one less aid car in operation each day, not to mention the inability to handle the projected growth over the next five years. We lost our Fire Marshal in 2005. It is the Fire Marshal that keeps our public schools, businesses, day cares, senior living and many other commercial buildings safe and in compliance with state and federal codes. We also lost our Training Officer who retired last year. The training officer in a fire department watches for issues facing our community and delivers specialized firefighter and paramedic training to ensure they are certified to handle complex situations on the emergency scenes. We have not been able to keep up with our facility maintenance program and we have critically outgrown our facilities to point that we have no more room for our firefighters.

A Plan for the Future. We recently called a group of citizens together to help us update our Strategic Plan. The citizen based visioning process began with a vision for tomorrow. Future generations of this community will become accustomed to what we in the present generation choose to make available to them. In this way, we have a responsibility for leading future generations to the kinds of community environments we judge good for people.

Continued on page 2

Teamwork Saves Lives!

Article by Paramedic/Firefighter Patrick Terry

The morning of September 12, 2005 a local homeowner set out to clear some land he had lived on for several years. He was using an old farm tractor with a front loader that he had used on numerous occasions with no problems. He has operated heavy equipment for 25 years, so his experience was extensive. However, on this day one wrong turn changed his life forever. When backing down a hill he hit a small area of loose dirt causing his tractor to roll over a small embankment. The tractor, weighing 4000 pounds, flipped over and trapped him underneath. He laid there trapped for almost two hours before his wife returned home to find him barely breathing and clinging to his last breaths. She immediately called 911.

The call came out and I knew I was in charge, it was my turn to run the call. The dispatch information was vague and not very descriptive except that we knew we had a trapped victim. We had the engine company responding with us; it took us nine minutes to get on scene. While enroute a million scenarios played out in my head. I knew our victim was trapped, but was unsure what part of his body was being affected. Being newly out of medic school, I welcomed this opportunity to help, and at the same time I was concerned for all the possible injuries that this poor man could be enduring. While enroute to the scene I called for Airlift Northwest placing them on standby. When we arrived on scene we found our patient with the tractor directly on his chest. He was in severe respiratory distress; the color of his head was so purple that he didn't even look real to me. He was barely breathing and obviously needed immediate rescue.

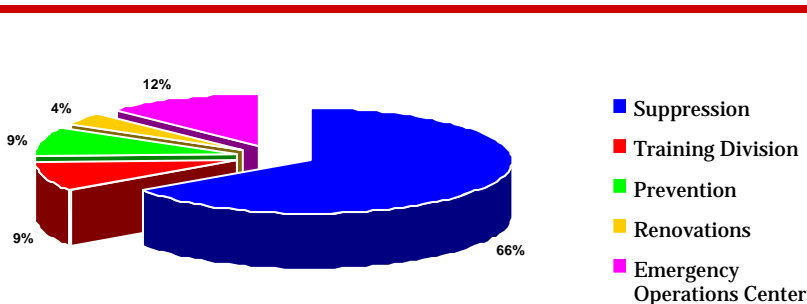
The engine crew and command unit that day were the best in the business. They chose to deploy our airbags to lift the tractor off the patient. I contemplated starting an IV on the victim while he was under the tractor (in case of an internal bleed), but with his respiratory effort so diminished I didn't want to take the chance of losing his airway. We chose to extricate and work rapidly. This engine crew was so precise and so quick it seemed like only seconds before I was able to pull him out from under the tractor. Knowing our patient needed a lot of interventions, I had an additional aid crew respond to assist us. Again, this crew was extremely efficient in setting up our medic unit for intubation and multiple IV lines.

Once in the back of the medic unit, our patient's condition worsened. He had no movement to his right extremities, his chest wall was completely deformed and his respirations were all but gone. He then lost consciousness. I couldn't help but think that we were going to lose him. I chose to immediately intubate him to control his airway. While at the same time my partner established IV access, another medic on scene set up for darting the patients chest to remove air trapped outside of his lungs. Once I was done intubating, and the darts were placed, I established another IV in case his blood pressure started to drop.

We transported him to a local school where Airlift Northwest landed and was waiting to take him to Harborview Medical Center. After the helicopter took off, I looked around at my crew who performed true miracles on this call. I then looked at my watch to see how long the whole event took to complete. I discovered that from the time we arrived on scene to the time Airlift Northwest took off was 14 minutes. We all know in trauma that timing is everything. After realizing how fast the rescue went, I thought to myself, "this guy may have a chance".

Continued on page 4

Levy Contribution over Five Years



Lake Stevens Fire is presenting a fire levy to the voters through a mail-in ballot on Thursday, April 27, 2006. This levy would restore our funding to \$1.45 per thousand.

The requested fire levy funding is based on current and projected community growth over the next five years according to the Snohomish County and City of Lake Stevens demographers. The chart above identifies where the fire levy funding will be used in order to restore lost services and maintain current levels of service over the next five years based on projected growth. The chart also shows the specific percentages of each category.

LAKE STEVENS FIRE

Serving People • Saving Life • Protecting Property

Vision Statements:

- To embrace change as the community evolves
- To be a leader in emergency services and community care
- To be an active resource for an informed and safer community
- To be a financially stable and fiscally responsible organization
- To promote employee safety and wellness
- To facilitate professional development
- To develop a unified labor and management relationship

2006 Fire Levy One Vote Equals a Five-Year Fire Levy

This Fire Levy will be presented to the voters through a mail-in ballot on Thursday, April 27, 2006. The proposed Fire Levy will provide the following through the year 2011:

☑ **Maintain Current Response Times**

Due to financial constraints firefighter staffing was reduced by 22,464 hours in 2005. These firefighter hours need to be restored as well as a firefighter added to each shift to our daily staffing for four consecutive years to meet projected response time needs.

☑ **Ensure Community Safety**

Due to reduced funding our community lost its Fire Marshal in 2005. This important position will restore our prevention priority and ensure a safer community in code compliance and Homeland Security.

☑ **Restore Training**

Restore our Training Officer position that was cut in 2006 due to reduced funding. This position will provide training for our firefighters/paramedics so they are well trained in the areas of advanced life saving efforts and disaster preparedness.

☑ **Improve Working Space**

We've outgrown our fire stations. Development of additional space is needed to meet the needs of our growing fire district.

*This levy will restore our funding to \$1.45 per thousand.
This is an estimated increase of less than \$10 per month to what is currently being paid on a home assessed at \$200,000.
An estimated increase of 55¢ per thousand of assessed value to what you are currently paying.*

It's a Whole New World continued from page 1

We have redefined our vision for the future. Our citizen based Strategic Plan has realistic and achievable goals which will make our new vision a reality. Each goal has an action plan which incorporates the types of resources that will be needed. The Strategic Plan was an important part of preparing for our community's future regarding fire service levels.

If It's Predictable, It's Preventable. The future has a continuous relationship with both the past and present. No matter how focused we may be on the present, the actual development of a fire department takes place over years of planning, involvement and development. The citizens involved in our Strategic Plan helped shape our future based on the new challenges and threats your fire department faces today and most assuredly will face tomorrow. Additionally, the officers and staff of the department did research with the assistance of many consultants and future projections. The decisions we make today based on projections regarding the level of fire service we desire will live on for decades into the future. As a community it is our responsibility to establish a foundational continuity between the past, present and future if we want to effectively shape the future.

A Means to an End. To ensure we didn't overlook this, references to the future abound in our citizen based Strategic Plan, particularly those pertaining to our 20-Year Capital Projects Plan. We also ensured our Strategic Plan was more than fact finding. The plan is both visionary as well as practical. Properly implemented, it will not only accommodate change, but affects it; bringing projections, forecasts and vision together in a resolute call to action. It sets forth a sound navigational chart for our future and identifies the *means* to bring our future to realization.

It is the *means* part of our updated Strategic Plan that we address throughout this edition of our quarterly newsletter. The outcome of the Strategic Plan identified the expectations from the community. The citizens wanted to ensure that they received the shortest possible response times, highly trained first responders, a good working relationship with the community, a proactive effort in the community regarding fire prevention & disaster preparedness and most importantly that your fire department has planned for community growth.

Lake Stevens Fire wants to meet your expectations. On April 27, 2006, we are reminding the citizens of this community to vote with your mail-in ballot based on factual information throughout this newsletter.

From the desk of President Putnam...

"This levy has a sound foundation. It is justifiable. The plan for the revenue is clear and concise. The funds collected will directly benefit this community. It provides for needed training for firefighters. This levy will help us to assist the community with disasters, both natural and man-made. There is a plan for capital projects. This levy will help us get to you faster and with the training and equipment needed to help. It will allow us to maintain current services, and restore services that have been cut. This levy allows us to plan for the growth of this community."

Perry Putnam, Local 3235 President

Saving Life & Protecting Property

Article by
Deputy Chief Adkins



Like many fire agencies across the state of Washington, Lake Stevens Fire also continues to seek stabilized funding for the future needs of our fire department. As we continue to face increasing upward growth in the Lake Stevens area, we continue short and long-range planning for tomorrow. Lake Stevens Fire must grow as the Lake Stevens community grows to maintain emergency service response expectations.

Lake Stevens Fire responds to many types of fire, rescue, and medical emergencies every day. In the Operations Division our job is to mitigate fire, rescue, medical, and other emergencies day-to-day in a safe, efficient, effective, and professional manner. In order to accomplish our day-to-day mission we need to have well-trained firefighters/paramedics, vehicles, and equipment. We need to keep our emergency services in balance with our community growth.

Emergency service agencies including police, fire, and medical are expensive to operate because of the "specialized services" we provide. It is imperative to have long-range capital expense plans for the acquisition of emergency vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

Federal grants provide the most cost savings but are rarely available for emergency response vehicles. Washington State Procurement and the private industry also provide some cost relief, however the discounts are usually minimal. Lake Stevens Fire is always seeking out new grants, cost sharing, regional programs, and other opportunities to save our tax payers money.

Here are some estimates as to what fire & rescue vehicles cost today. An ambulance costs \$125,000, a rescue truck \$250,000, a fire engine \$450,000, and a ladder truck \$750,000. It also costs several thousand dollars to equip emergency vehicles with the necessary fire and rescue tools and equipment. The personal protective clothing and safety equipment firefighters wear during fire combat operations also costs several thousand dollars per firefighter. A lot of research, budgeting, and consideration are put forth when purchasing emergency vehicles and equipment for our fire department.

No matter how we look at emergency services, it takes well-trained firefighters/paramedics, vehicles and equipment, and stabilized funding to save life and protect property. Lake Stevens Fire is your fire department. What we have become today is because of how our community has invested in Lake Stevens Fire over the many years. We are proud of our department and our community support since 1947!

From the desk of President Olsen...

"When I started working for Lake Stevens Fire in 1999, training was all I knew. From day one it is pounded into a firefighter's head that training not only saves the lives of the community we serve but the lives of firefighters as well. Unfortunately, due to necessary budget cuts, we have been without a training officer for almost a year. Lake Stevens Fire has an excellent training record and has never lost a firefighter to an on-scene accident. The Association wants to continue this safety record with a training officer in place to ensure that firefighters are trained to handle all types of emergencies.

We are passionate about serving this community and look forward to building relationships through quality service."

Josh Olsen, Association President

Scholarship Available for High School Seniors!

This scholarship is provided by the
Lake Stevens Firefighter Union & Association

Applications can be picked up at the
high school counselor's office May 10-23

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000
Applications Due: May 24th
Qualifications: Graduating Senior and a 3.0 GPA

Preference will be given to those applicants with family members in fire service (not a requirement to apply)

Lake Stevens Fire 2006 Fire Levy

Visit our website for
Frequently Asked Questions!

www.lakestevensfire.org

Building a Safer Community

Article by Deputy Chief Lingenfelter

Flashing lights, sirens, big red trucks and red and white emergency vehicles. These are the images that generally come to mind when people think about the fire department. Emergency responses are certainly the most visible activity the fire department is responsible for. What if there were a way to decrease the number of fires and fire related injuries and deaths that occur annually. There is. For over a decade Lake Stevens Fire has worked diligently to provide community education and resources in the area of fire prevention and safety. Training children to be fire safe through the Risk Watch program, providing CPR training to middle school students, providing address signs and over 1,000 smoke alarms through State Fire Prevention Grant funding in our community are just a few of the ongoing activities Lake Stevens Fire is involved with. All prevention activities are overseen by our Fire Prevention Specialist, Robert Marshall. Robert has been a tireless advocate for fire prevention education during his entire career with Lake Stevens Fire.

In 2004 it became necessary to divert some of Robert's efforts from his primary role in prevention to assist with daily staffing due to manpower shortages. This has had an impact on our prevention program. As we plan for the future of the department it is apparent how much more we need to accomplish with our prevention program. While current staffing levels do not support our additional goals and objectives, we believe in the very near future we need to increase our efforts to make this a safer community. Planned additional and increased prevention programs include, expansion of the Risk Watch program, implementation of a Disaster Preparedness program, expansion of the smoke alarm and address sign program, greater involvement and presence in the Lake Stevens schools, fire inspections, building plan review, code compliance, fire and arson investigation, first aid, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and much more. In order to achieve our goal it will be necessary to commit the required resources to a full time Fire Prevention Fire Marshal position.

Our fire prevention program is an important investment in the future of our community. The time and effort it takes now to train children of all ages to practice fire safety will reap huge rewards in the future. It is our desire to take a leadership role in our community to make this a safer place to live and work.

Connecting with Our Community!



Above: The Lake Stevens Family Center **Share Fair** was yet another opportunity to connect with our community on March 9, 2006. We offered smoke detectors to those who needed them, fire hats and badges, a glimpse at our Risk Watch program and offered blood pressure checks. We met with over 200 community members!



Above: Lake Stevens Fire participated in the Chamber's **Business Fair** on March 18, 2006. We offered smoke detectors, a look at our Risk Watch program, and answered general questions. It was a great chance to meet with our community and business leaders!



Left: Lake Stevens Fire takes time to instruct the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association on current first aid techniques.

**Serving People
Saving Life
Protecting Property**

Commissioner Comments

Planning for Today and Tomorrow

Article by Commissioner Elmore



You may have seen or read recent media reports on how local government entities are struggling to cope with our regions rapid growth coupled with initiative limitations. This is a very real problem facing just about every major governing body in the county. An increasing demand for service, rising operating costs, and a fixed income has changed the way most of us do business. I'm not so sure this is entirely a bad thing. A higher level of accountability has emerged within taxing entities, which has replaced the old ways of doing business. Ongoing evaluation of current business practices, planning for the future, and communicating that plan to the voter has become an essential operating tool for every organization.

Since the passage of property tax initiative 747, Lake Stevens Fire has been conducting an ongoing evaluation into all facets of our operation. The staff has done an outstanding job of identifying areas where we can simply do business better. As a direct result of their creativity and willingness to adapt to change, many cost saving measures have been identified and operational costs reduced. We have also recently adopted an update to our customer centered Strategic Plan. This planning process involved various members of the community as well as personnel from every division within our organization. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and have provided us with a clear direction for the future.

You may have already noticed our staff out in the community but never really considered talking with them. If you have the time, spend a few minutes to ask them about what we've been up to and share any questions or concerns that you may have. We have a mission and a Strategic Plan that we are very proud of and would love an opportunity to share it with you. Thank you for your support and we look forward to talking with you soon.

Public Safety is Our Business

Article by Commissioner Lorentzen



As our community continues to grow, we are facing challenges in the fire department that affect us all. While the term "fire department" only partially describes the multiple services provided by Lake Stevens Fire, we are truly in the business of "public safety." This is reflected in the way we do business and is reflected in our mission statement: *"Serving People, Saving Life, Protecting Property."*

Today, Lake Stevens Fire responds to increased demands for service in all aspects of the public safety field. In 2005, we responded to over 4,000 calls for service and we see those demands for service continuing to grow in the future. Our professionals are cross-trained to perform a wide range of services from technical rescue, basic and advanced medical care, hazardous materials response, and of course fire suppression. As we continue to meet the emerging challenges, our personnel continue to rededicate themselves to the fire service and evolve with the changing demands.

As we look to the future, we will continue to re-evaluate the needs of our growing community. It is your trust and support that we hold in the highest honor. We will continue to make informed decisions based on our vision statements and guiding principles. In closing I want to thank you for all the support, past and present, which you have given to us here at Lake Stevens Fire.

Know the Facts

Article by Commissioner Peters



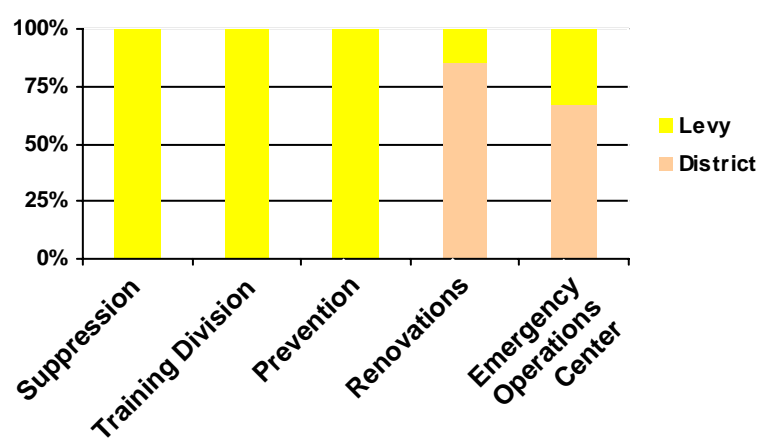
Lake Stevens Fire is proposing a levy increase. In the coming weeks, you will be seeing a great deal of information about the proposed rate, the purposes of the funding request and our collective vision for the future of Lake Stevens Fire.

The community should consider, "What level of service do we want?" Lake Stevens Fire has made many cuts in the last several years to try to live within their available funds. With inflation running at 2% to 5% and the department limited to an increase of 1%, we have been losing ground every year. Staffing cuts have been made while trying to maintain response times. Some difficult decisions have been made.

This levy lid increase will provide Lake Stevens Fire with the ability to meet current and future needs over the next five years.

Remember to Vote!

Joint Contributions over Five Years



The chart above identifies the amount of joint contributions which will be shared between the fire levy and the District's existing funding sources over the next five years. Staffing will be funded with 100% levy funds. The Fire District will help fund the renovations and Emergency Operations Center using existing capital funds.

Lake Stevens Fire Receives Clean Audit

Article by Linda Divers, District Secretary

In November 2005, the Washington State Auditor's Office conducted a two-year audit of our Fire District for 2003-2004. They reviewed the District's safeguarding of higher risk assets and stewardship of public resources. They also tested compliance with applicable laws and regulations as well as the District's own policies and procedures. In conjunction with the audit work, they performed supplemental procedures necessary to provide an opinion on the financial statements and compliance with federal programs.

As a result of this audit, Lake Stevens Fire was given high marks and showed compliance in our financial reporting and accountability. We are audited every two years. We are proud to say the State Auditor's Office has reported no findings in the last six audit reports.

Our citizens demand and deserve accountability of public programs. Public programs must continuously improve in quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in order to increase public trust. We receive your tax dollars and we continually improve the way we operate and deliver services, so as our customer, you, receive maximum value for your tax dollars.

Our Board of Commissioners has utilized your tax dollars to hire firefighters, purchase fire engines, provide the necessary safety equipment and protective clothing to each firefighter, purchase the "Jaws of Life", and fund the day-to-day operations of our department. They have consistently operated within the funding available, even when faced with escalating costs.

Our Board of Commissioners has had to make some tough decisions over the years to assure the citizens were provided with the best quality of service while maintaining a balanced budget. As the years pass, things change, costs go up and revenues received don't cover all the costs. As you know, the costs of homes are increasing, as well as fuel, electricity, and vehicle costs. Likewise, Fire District costs are increasing. The Board of Commissioners has managed the funds to allow Lake Stevens Fire to continue to provide a high level of service to our community.

If you are interested in reviewing our financial report and our accountability report just go to the Washington State Auditor's website (www.sao.wa.gov). Thank you to our past and present Commissioners, they have been great stewards of your money!

Cost of Living Chart

Tax Year	% of Budget for NC*	% of Budget for Fire/EMS	Total NC+AV*	CPI*	CPI vs. AV+NC
2005	0.32%	1.00%	1.32%	3.00%	-1.68%
2004	0.59%	1.00%	1.59%	3.88%	-2.29%
2003	0.44%	1.00%	1.44%	1.21%	0.23%
2002	0.66%	1.00%	1.66%	1.66%	0.00%
2001	0.73%	1.00%	1.73%	4.00%	-2.27%

*NC=New Construction, AV=Assessed Valuation, CPI=Consumer Price Index

With our priorities set and our historical facts gathered, it quickly became evident that the means to deliver the priority expectations were not available for the future, or for today. The Cost of Living Chart above reveals the disparity between what the department has received over the past five years versus what the cost of living was during those same years. As long as the cost of living continues to out pace our revenues, continued cuts in services will occur.

Teamwork Saves Lives! continued from page 1

I went home that night thinking a lot about the call and how efficient we all performed. I knew we did all we could for our patient, but the reality hit me and I thought it was unlikely he was going to recover. I barely slept that night, and the next day I decided to call and check on his condition. I found out that his injuries included six broken ribs, a fractured sternum, tension pneumothorax, both lungs were punctured, his clavicle was broken in two spots, and he had compressed his thoracic spine causing paralysis to his right side. However, he was expected to live. I was elated.

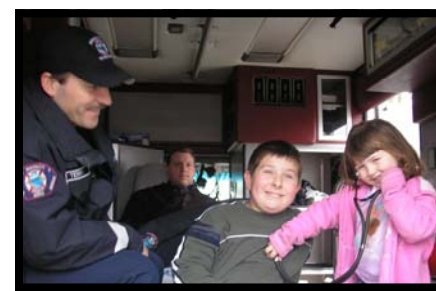
I write this today (March 8, 2006) because this gentleman stopped by Station 82 to personally shake my hand and thank our crew for the tremendous effort we put forth on this call. Even though it causes him great pain to shake hands with his right hand, he put it out for me to shake. He wanted to show me he could now use his right arm for the first time in six months. He then said to me, "You guys saved my life! I thought I died. I saw bright lights and my last thought was, I'm dead. My mind froze, I had given up. Then several days later I woke up in the hospital. Sore but alive."

He and his family want to extend their thanks to Lake Stevens Fire. They are all very grateful to have their Dad/Husband/Grandpa alive. Our teamwork made a difference!

Lake Stevens Fire Safety Fair!



A chance to tour the medic unit.



Listening to brother's heart beat!



Learning the tools of the trade!



A chance to ask questions.

Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow

Lake Stevens Fire Facts

- Population served is 35,644
- Projected growth according to Snohomish County is 9.2% through 2012
- Boundaries encompass 41.8 square miles
- Serves the area north to Lake Cassidy, west to Everett, south to Snohomish and east to Forest Glade
- Responded to over 4,000 emergency calls in 2005
- Average response time in 2005 was just under six minutes
- Lake Stevens Fire has a new Fire Chief with a vision for the future

We're Preserving Essential Services

- Paramedics are highly trained in advanced life support services
- 85% of the work firefighters and paramedics perform is for emergency medical and rescue responses

We're Maximizing Our Resources

- Lake Stevens Fire has adopted a new Strategic Plan, which includes a 5-Year Financial Operations Plan and a 20-Year Capital Projects Plan
- Began a billing process for ambulance services January 2003
- Lake Stevens Fire has not had a fire levy increase for **24 years!**

One Vote Equals a Five-Year Fire Levy
An all mail-in ballot will go out to the voters on
Thursday, April 27, 2006.

If you have questions about your ballot, call the auditor's office at phone # 425 388 3444.