



# PLEASANT VALLEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

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*Fire Chief Mark Kidd*

## **Why does Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District need a levy?**

- The reason voters see our levy on the ballot in November is because the current one is **expiring** at the end of 2019. A new levy is needed to **replace** the old one in order to assure funding for the department. The Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District has operated on a 5 year levy since its inception in 1993. At that time, voters were asked to approve 10 mills to fund the fire department. In 1994, voters were asked to replace the original levy when Unionville Center and a portion of Darby Township in Union County joined the original members of Plain City, Canaan Township, & Darby Township – Madison County to make up the fire district. PVJFD has operated on the same millage since that time, asking voters to replace the expiring 5 year levy in 1999, 2004, 2009, & 2014.

## **What services does PVJFD provide?**

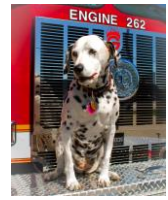
- Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District provides emergency medical services and fire suppression to the residents of the District. Additionally, we also are the primary response agency for patient extrication at vehicle accidents, water rescue on Darby Creek and other surrounding bodies of water, fire inspections for local businesses and residences, as well as fire prevention education and public interaction at numerous other community related events.

## **Will this increase my taxes?**

- This is a replacement levy, which means that we are asking for the same millage as the current levy, but the cost is based on the current value of your property. That means there will be a slight increase in the cost of our levy to the tax payer. Just as we have done the 5 previous times, we ask that our voters bring the levy back to the original 10 mill value. By replacing our levy every 5 years, it allows the Fire District to capture the increase in property value without over burdening our residents. The owner of a residence should expect to see an **additional cost of \$22.05 annually for every \$100,000 of market value** of their property. The cost of the increase is due to the increase in property values as determined by the updated reappraisals.

## **What expenses does the levy cover?**

- The replacement levy is the main source of funding for the Fire District. While we do have a small levy that was voted on in 1997 to help with the cost of our new building and other purchases, the November levy constitutes almost all of the monies available to operate PVJFD. Manpower costs, utilities, fuel, vehicle maintenance, training, capital expenses, and all other costs that are necessary to operate the department come from the funds provided by this levy.



## What other monies does the fire district receive?

- The department has three other sources of income for the District. We utilize funds from EMS billing; state, local, and federal grants; and generous donations from residents and businesses to help defray the cost of operating the department. We work very hard to secure these funds so that we do not have to ask our voters to pay any more than the current millage.

## What changes/improvements have been made since the last levy?

- The District has worked hard to provide the public with the best possible life saving equipment available. Since 2014, we have been able to purchase numerous pieces of equipment which make our employees safer and more efficient, while maintaining our fiscally responsible mindset. As the District has grown, we have increased the on duty manpower accordingly. We have added two additional full-time members per day over the last 3 years and are now able to have three staffed apparatus available 24/7. This staffing level insures the proper manning of emergency vehicles as recognized by national standards and also provides for an on-duty Incident Commander at all fires, auto accidents, and complex emergency responses. The Firefighters have also made a concerted effort to maintain a high level of involvement with the community and have worked tirelessly to care for our residents. You will see them interacting with the public daily. Perhaps the biggest change to the organization is the addition of our first full-time Fire Marshal. This person is responsible for the oversight of a comprehensive Community Risk Reduction plan. His tasks include administration of Public Safety Education programs, completion of Fire Safety Inspections, enforcement of the Ohio Fire Code, and investigation of all fires that occur within the District. By adopting a proactive approach to our business over the last 5 years, we have made the community safer and have insured that help is there when it is needed most.

## How do I know that my money is being spent wisely?

- The tireless efforts of our Fiscal Officer have allowed the Fire District to receive glowing reviews of our financial records during the biennial State of Ohio Audit. Two key statistics stand out when looking for the answer to this question. First and foremost is the fact that Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District still operates on the same millage it did when it was first formed over 26 years ago. The leadership of the District has worked very hard to live within the means provided to it by you the voter. PVJFD is always cost conscious with its finances. This flows to the second point. Few government entities can say that they have been able to pay for their purchases as they were made. The District has budgeted the funds made available by its residents and has paid for any improvements as they were made. The organization has improved not only the different services available, but also has improved the equipment that is used to provide these services. All of this has occurred while staying within the means provided to us...which speaks volumes about the commitment we have made to being wise with the funds entrusted to the Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District.

*"Keepers of the Valley"*

*Thank you for your continued support!*