

# GRIFFIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

*Greetings,*

*I hope everyone is staying safe and navigating their way through these ever challenging and unprecedented times. We, at the fire department, are continuing the effort to be prepared, proactive and responsive to meet your needs, exceed your expectations and humbly serve you during your time of need. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community with every opportunity and in every interaction afforded to us. We could not adequately serve you or be successful without the strength and support of our community. I want take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing encouragement, kindness and your unwavering support as we carefully find our way through the unique challenges of this pandemic. Thank you and stay safe!*

— COREY A. RUX, FIRE CHIEF



COREY A. RUX

### 2021 LEVY LID LIFT

The Griffin Fire Department has been serving the community with pride since 1962. Today the fire department serves a population of approximately 6,000 residents in a community that covers over 26 square miles. Our Firefighters operate from four neighborhood fire stations to protect your home, property and provide emergency medical services. The Griffin Fire Department is a combination department made up of volunteer and full-time Firefighter/EMTs that support our operation and provide a dedicated response during emergency situations. Currently two of those full-time positions are funded by a FEMA Grant that will expire at the end of 2021.

Due to the expiration of the FEMA grant, along with pending emergency equipment needs, the Griffin Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners adopted a resolution to place a proposition of a multi-year levy lid lift on the August 3, 2021 primary ballot. The department's regular levy has continued to decrease since the last voter measure was approved in 2005, which was set at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. In the 16 years since our last levy, the rate has decreased to \$1.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If approved by voters, the fire levy rate of \$1.06 would be restored to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value and provide critical funding for emergency medical and fire operations.

For more information please visit our website at [griffinfd.org](http://griffinfd.org) and click under levy lid lift facts & information.

### REGIONAL SCBA GRANT

The Griffin Fire Department was a beneficiary of a regional grant awarded by FEMA through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). We were one of five departments that received the award for new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). South Thurston Fire took point on this regional project and submitted the grant request that was ultimately awarded. South East Thurston, Bald Hills, and Bucoda were the other departments to benefit from this effort. In total, Griffin Fire Department was awarded 20 SCBAs and associated accessories that totaled over \$140,000 in federal funding.

These new SCBAs replace our old obsolete equipment that is beyond its service life. The SCBA is a critical piece of equipment that serves as the lifeline for firefighters as it provides breathable air while conducting firefighting efforts, subsequently keeping us safe from ill effects of the harmful heat and toxic smoke. A special thanks to all of the departments, especially our friends from South Thurston Fire Department, for their collective effort in obtaining this grant.



275

183

92

46

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Griffin Fire Department continues to strive to provide exemplary service to our citizens through efficient and effective emergency response, community education and community outreach. It's our mission to be a neighborhood fire department that continually strives to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We could not be successful in this endeavor if it wasn't for the courageous heart and dedication from our volunteer firefighters. Our Volunteer cadre makes up the majority of our department. We currently have 36 Volunteers and could not offer the services or respond to your needs without their selfless commitment. Every year we honor our firefighters for their contributions and achievements during our annual awards ceremony. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to have our annual awards banquet, so we would like to take this opportunity to highlight those volunteers and staff to recognize their achievements.



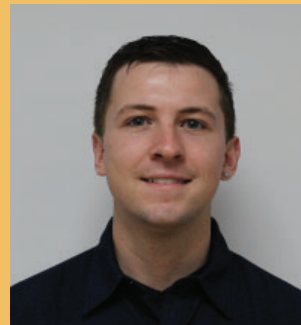
CARA OLDEN

**SANDY SINCLAIR  
AWARD - 'ROOKIE  
OF THE YEAR'**



BERT 'JJ' SHINCKE

**RECOGNITION OF  
EXCELLENCE**



KYLE SHELLEY

**JOHN C. NUNN  
EXCELLENCE IN EMS**



JERIEL PEÑA

**FIREFIGHTER  
OF THE YEAR**

## 2021 THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 13

Corey A. Rux - Fire Chief  
Meredith Hutchins-Chairperson, Commissioner  
Casey Black - Commissioner  
Dave Pearsall - Commissioner

### Contact Us:

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## SEEN US ON FACEBOOK?

Your Griffin Fire Department has been actively improving its web presence in order to better serve you! The internet, and more specifically web based social media outlets, such as Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and our department Website are very useful tools in helping us reach out to you and notifying you of incidents that may affect you.

We pride ourselves on not only being here for you when you call 911, but also being your neighbors and friends. We love to let you know what is happening at the firehouse and keeping you up to date on projects. These web based outlets help us do just that. So if you haven't already, like us on Facebook to see what we're up to! If you see us give an update that might help you or your friends about things like road closures or back up, go ahead and help us out by sharing the post and spreading the word.