



Jim Grant

For thirty-six hours Ron Albini, Gary Watts and Christoph Zbinden spelled each other behind the wheel of the new, very red Bodega fire Engine, as they drove home from North Dakota where for the past year the new 8782 had been assembled to the specifications of the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department. They said that it drove like a dream through all kinds of weather. According to the terms of the FEMA grant the Engine had to be built and delivered within a specific time frame. It was the end of several years of requests to FEMA for a new Engine Grant. Each time the forms were filled out with a little more savvy regarding the wording and what strings needed to be pulled and finally through the effort of a number of people the matching grant was made and the negotiations were begun by a group of Bodega Volunteer Firefighters who knew what we needed and were not going to settle for anything less. When they arrived back in town a band of waving Bodegians greeted them. Then on Sunday February 17th the BVFD Firefighters held an open house for the town at McCaughey Hall for an Appreciation BBQ with eats and rides in the new Engine. The new 8782 is now in service. Our firefighters have been training with it and have finished outfitting and polishing it for its special Bodega tasks. Acquiring the engine was one more chapter in the story of Bodega.

A dream is a reflection of a state of mind and it has been a common dream of many people to have a new fire house, with a new main Engine to better meet the needs of Bodega and the larger community. A dream must be coupled with hard work to become an actuality. Property has been acquired, building plans developed, land cleared, a new Engine bought, bureaucracies met, money raised and the dream kept alive. The numbers of people who have made this happen is amazing. The Bodega Volunteer Fire Department is all those who stand behind the women and men in uniform who answer calls at any hour of the day or night. It's the people who make the meals, stir the pots, put food on plates, pick up the garbage, put on the events, go to meetings, make quilt squares, write letters, send in their dues and a little extra --- and have a good time doing the thousand and one things it takes to make the department happen. We're all "members" of the BVFD.



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(A personal reflection) When people ask you where you are from and you say "Bodega" and then add, "you know where 'The Birds' was filmed" you often add, "it's the most wonderful place in the world." When I came here a scant 35 or so years ago I felt I had come home. Not only was the land incredible but also there was the feeling of a unique community. Over the years I have become impressed with its acceptance of diversity rooted in its history of independence and the ethic of caring which I feel is rooted in the large and extended families coupled with an awareness of our basic commonality. The BVFD is an expression of these values we hold for both the land and the community and forms the heart of this great town. Our new Engine, plans for a new fire house and the great group of volunteer firefighters and the support of the whole community should make us proud to be Bodegians. ...LS

OUR NEW BUILDING

On the building site next to the Post Office it may seem like nothing much is happening, but like ducks on a pond, there is a lot of furious paddling going on below the surface. The Building Committee has been meeting about every month for over two years, and with the help of many volunteers and much effort, we now have a detailed plan to present to PRMD for building permits.

The size and layout of the building has been revised and refined to fit the site and to best serve the foreseeable needs of the community while keeping within a reasonable budget. The concerns of the Historic Landmarks Commission have been satisfied and we now have their approval for the appearance of the new building and the removal of the old red barn. Many thanks to Will Morris for taking the lead on this!

As of now we have spent over \$20k of our own money on fees and permits. We estimate that this cost will more than double before we're done. The BVFD is an essential public service organization for the County and this new station will be a great benefit and a great bargain for the county, therefore we have requested a waiver of *all* County fees. Mike Reilly has agreed to ask the Board of Supervisors for \$35k at their meeting on April 15th. at 8:45 am. Even this much will be a big help. We can show support by attending this hearing. Our next hurdle will be with Design Review at PRMD and we are waiting for a date to be set. **We hope to get all the permits and break ground sometime this summer.** This should be a cause for celebration.

The Fundraising Thermometer is being revised to show our current budget and how far along we are. The Funding Committee is actively pursuing grants, loans and other funding sources. Anyone with suggestions or connections for funding should contact Gary Watts at 876 3385. The sale of commemorative bricks has raised over \$6,000 so far. Another future source of income is the renewed lease on the Post Office. We have negotiated a substantial increase in the rent beginning in October 2009, JG

For more details and pictures of the proposed new building, please have a look at our web site < www.bodegafire.org/ >

OLD FASHIONED COMMUNITY DANCE



AND TRIBUTE TO
RUTH MCCAUGHEY BURKE
AND HER NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK

"AN INTIMATE HISTORY OF
BODEGA COUNTRY
AND THE MCCAUGHEY FAMILY"



Book Signing • Refreshments

Sunday, April 20
2 - 5 pm

McCaughey Hall
Downtown Bodega

DONATIONS TO BENEFIT THE
BODEGA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE HOUSE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

On Sunday April 23rd there will be a birthday party for Ruth Burke at the Fire Hall. Ruth will be 93 years old and has completed her massive History of Bodega book, which we all look forward to reading. Ruth wants to dance on a "wooden floor" which will be provided especially for her. Set this date aside for a grand time.

WATER CATCHMENTS

Through the efforts of Karl Anderson, the Nature Conservancy has made a grant to the Bodega Water Department for system of water catchments, a portion of which will be for the new Fire Hall.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fisherman's Festival April 12th and 13th
Board of Supervisors, Tues., April 15th -- 8:45 am
Ruth's Birthday, Sun., April 20th -- 93!!
Pancake Breakfast, Sun., May 18 -- 8am to 1pm
Big Event, Sun., August 17 -- 10am to 5pm
Polenta Dinner, Sat., October 11 -- 5-8pm