



# GF&R

## VOLUNTEER

# TIMES

CERT | Fire Corps | Community Assistance

### Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda  
 Gilbert Fire & Rescue  
 Volunteer Coordinator

Last month on a Saturday evening, Gilbert Fire & Rescue activated our volunteers for assistance during and after the Civic Center Fire. Volunteers were assigned a variety of roles, ranging from Assistance under Occupant Service Sector, Transportation, Evacuee Center, Screening, Emotional Support and much more. Reflecting back on the activation, I was reminded me of an Irish Proverb, "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." Thank you to all of our volunteers who were able to respond to the

activation. That evening at the Evacuee Center I would periodically glance over the area to assure the needs of everyone were being met as best as possible under the circumstances.... And they were. This is because of the teamwork of all departments, divisions, other entities, employees and volunteers.

Many times it is the small differences we make for each other every day that truly make our community shine. The volunteers this evening made those differences, from taking blood pressure checks, transporting families who needed their medications or a ride back to their home later, helping walk families' pets, locating a quiet room to place a family show on for families to watch, or providing comfy blankets. Then there was all the conversations where I would see a volunteer pull up a chair next to someone and have a conversation, listening about their cat who may still be at home or the story about their dog who they were able to evacuate with, or hearing about their adventures from a family who earlier attended the Diamondbacks game. Simply caring and listening to each other, it's those small moments that make the difference.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who give what they are every day during emergencies and non-emergencies, you are changing the world because you care!

## COM251 in Action: Civic Center Fire

by Dianna Erickson & Megan Neibauer

COM251 heard E257 get dispatched to a fire, not a surprise volunteering with the Gilbert Fire & Rescue Department. We decided to head towards the scene and safely scope out this potential fire. Upon leaving the station dark smoke could be seen to the east. Over the radio we heard “this is a working fire”. Things were getting serious. As we got closer to the fire the heat and smoke became almost overwhelming. In a matter of minutes there were engines everywhere. Normally COM251 is assigned to the Occupant Services sector, however there was no immediate need at this point; the need was established when the surrounding evacuations started. Multiple departments were on scene, providing assistance with fighting the fire and with establishing a rehab sector. In the first few minutes on scene we would stop for a second and look at the fire and its magnitude. “Command” was focused on the enormosity of the fire so we assisted wherever there was a need. We helped set up the fire line tape; assisted the police units with crowd control; and assisted the rehab sector by continuously refilling ice for the coolers. We also assisted Utility 251 with distributing water to various locations around the perimeter of the fire. That’s when we noticed how well the different Fire and Police departments were working together. Seeing the different departments working together like they do it on a daily basis was incredible. This is what the Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid systems working at its finest looks like. Communication between units was constant. Different sectors to fight the fire were established. There was a level of teamwork that was taking place that cannot be beat.



GF&RD Photo

## Old Chemical Engines used by the Lincoln, New Mexico Fire Department

Submitted by CERT Volunteers: Nancy & Joe Briggs

The town of Lincoln, Lincoln County, New Mexico are the stomping grounds of notorious Billy The Kid, Pat Garrett, John Chisum, John Tunstall, Susan McSween and many other names listed in history. And the home of the Lincoln County War.

While visiting the Tunstall store we came across this interesting horse drawn fire truck.



The Plaque reads:

Obenchain-Boyer Company

CHEMICAL ENGINE/CHEMICAL CART

BUILT BETWEEN 1890-1920

These rigs were popular with VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, which did not need a first line expensive FIRE ENGINE. OBENCHAIN-BOYER built this very popular CHEMICAL CART, which was probably the BEST of all CHEMICAL CARTS made by companies like WATEROUS, PIRSCH, AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER MANUFACTURING CO. They were also popular as equipment for industrial Fire Brigades.

**GF&RD Volunteer VIP**  
submitted by Judy Slack

Jon Switzer is a regular around GFR&D. He has been volunteering with the fire department for 12 years through CERT and the Operations Committee.

Early in life, Jon worked his way through college with Phelps Dodge, Standard Oil and Catalina Operations. During his 36-year career, he held various sales positions with the Johns Manville Corporation. Jon is also a veteran of the United States Naval Reserves.

Jon has lived in Gilbert since 1996. His wife, Johnna, also a committed volunteer, is a retired nurse/teacher. Their daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter live in the State of Washington.

Previous to his commitment to GFR&D, Jon volunteered with the Riparian Institute of Gilbert—including being a charter member. He was also a founding member of Los Amigos Lions Club in Scottsdale. Jon has been a member of the Ajo Masonic Lodge #36, and served two terms as a member of the U of A Phoenix Alumni Club as well as one term for the East Valley Club. (Go Wildcats!)

Jon loves volunteering. His volunteer philosophy is: It's my goal to do whatever I can in whatever way to support the GF&R Volunteer Program in making it the best and most effective program possible.



GF&RD Photo



GF&RD Photo

Ann O'Neill is a Chandler resident who has been volunteering with GFRD for three years. She also volunteers at the Banner Desert Hospital Gift Shop. She volunteers on a regular basis because she enjoys giving back to the communities her efforts support.

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Ann has lived most of her life in Arizona. The biggest challenge she has faced was raising three children as a single parent. She understands how challenging life can be. And to tie in with that, her biggest accomplishment is that those children have achieved adulthood successfully.

Ann is passionate about the great friends she has in her life. When not volunteering she likes to garden, cook, and read.

**Special Welcome to our new  
Volunteers:**

**Alex Castillo**

**Matt Freeman**



Who put that flower on the Community Assistance desk, you ask? I did.

I am sure it is ready to be thrown out, but there is a story behind that flower.

Dianna and I did a car seat install for an expectant mother. Her 3 year old daughter was with her and it wasn't long before the little girl was giving Dianna her life story. She did let us know we could call her Princess and as a thank you for installing her new brother's car seat she picked us flowers. Dianna put hers in her hair, I put mine in that plastic glass on the desk.

Thanks Princess. I hope you are as happy about your new brother after he is born as you are while you are waiting for him to arrive.

- Larry MacDonald



## WHAT'S APP?



### **What is Tunity?**

Tunity allows you to scan a muted Live TV and get the audio streamed directly to your phone.

### **What do I do?**

Simply scan any Live TV for one second and the app will identify the channel and stream the synchronized audio.

### **Where can I use it?**

It's perfect to use at a sports grill, gym, airport, waiting room, and even at home. The audio will only work if you are in close proximity to the TV.

**Shared by Gayle Schmidt**

**CERT Volunteer**

information from: [www.tunity.com](http://www.tunity.com), photo credit: <http://images.clipartpanda.com/iphone-cell-phone-clipart-jcxEzM5yi.png>

# Mark Your Calendars

## May 30th Fire Admin Closed for Memorial Day

<b>June 2nd</b>	Advanced Storm Spotter	7pm-9pm	Amphitheater	Open to Public (must have attended Basic Class)
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<b>June 7th</b>	Call Center Exercise	9:30-11:30am		CERT, Fire Corps
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<b>June 8th</b>	Thanks Chief Connor Lunch	11am	Joe's BBQ	
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<b>June 22nd</b>	Crime Scene Prevention	6-9pm	Amphitheater	CERT, Fire Corps, VIPS
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## July 4th Fire Admin Closed for Independence Day

<b>July 16th</b>	Animal Rescue Class	9am-4pm	Amphitheater	
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