



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore is full of selfless people who dedicate their time and energy to make our community the great place it is to live in. Without a doubt, right at the top of the list of those who deserve our thanks are the members of the volunteer fire department!

Volunteer fire fighters give a large chunk of their private lives to protecting our town and its residents. Twenty-four hours of everyday, they carry their radios and are ready when it goes off, to rush to the aid of the people of Fillmore. Many of the group have spent years in this capacity. Their wives and families are also to be commended for the sacrifices they make as well, when Dad isn't there for birthdays or other family occasions because his radio has told him he is needed at a fire or other emergency.

The danger involved in fighting fires goes without saying and at times these volunteers are injured and risk their lives.

Many man-hours are spent in other activities to help out the department. During 2020, there were a total of 1,136-man hours donated by the volunteer fire fighters to maintain and improve the fire station.

The Fillmore Fire Department was officially organized in 1944. While history shows a number of significant building fires before that date, the firefighting must have been done by Fillmore residents who were close-by at the time of the fires.

Several men have served as Fillmore Fire Chief over the span of the ensuing 77 years. The first was Robert McIntosh (1944-1949), Fauv Bennett (1950-1955), Vernon Peterson (1956-1967), Thomas Reeve (1968-1971), Max Day (1972-1976), Lynn Williams (1980-1985), Denny Brunson (1985-1995), Montee Brunson (1995 Honorary), Mike Engstrom (1995-2005), Chad Imlay (2005-2010), Darren Brunson (2010-2019), and Shane Brunson (2019 – the present).

Present Chief Shane Brunson explained that these chiefs are nothing without the great guys who do all of the work. They are just the one who oversees what is happening.

The fire crew is a group of usually 23 to 25 men who are ready and willing to answer the calls for help.



The first group of firemen in front of their new engine which was kept in the National Guard Armory



One of the first groups of firemen in Fillmore

The Brunson family has a long legacy of fire volunteers beginning with LaMar Brunson, grandfather of the current chief. Denny Brunson, who was the eighth fire chief, is the father of three more chiefs after him: Montee who was awarded the honorary title of Fire Chief after his death at an early age, Darren who is the most recent past fire chief and Shane who is presently serving in that capacity. This will certainly be a great example for generations to come.

While the station appears quite large from the outside, all of that space (and more) is needed to house the 10 engines and one large equipment trailer. The west side of the station contains wildland fire fighting trucks while the east side is home to those used within the city and answering the calls to wrecks along the highways.

Funds for the fire department come from the fire district and from Fillmore City. Trainings and incentive money come from the city. Chief Brunson complimented Fillmore Mayor and City Council for their support, saying what great people they are to work with and to thank them for all of their support of the fire department.

I am certain I speak for the entire community in offering our sincere thanks to this great group of men – The Fillmore City Fire Department.



Fire station west of the old city building on first south just off Main Street



Fillmore current fire chief - Shane Brunson



Current fire station 25 E 100 S