

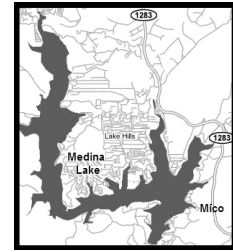


MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MVFD NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Best Little Fire House in Texas ... by a Dam Site!



From the desk of the President

James M. Wilbourn

FROM THE PRESIDENT: For 46 years we have had an annual BBQ. Why, you ask? Our founding volunteers sold BBQ to raise the funds needed to purchase firefighting necessities and trucks. Is it any different today? The answer is no. Even though we receive tax monies to help with the day to day operations of our Volunteer Fire Department, it is certainly not enough to cover what the MFVD really needs to operate.

We use your donated funds and membership fees to supplement fire fighter training, buy parts for our trucks and maintain our firehouse to name a few. As you may have heard, your tax dollars are going to pay for a **brand new firehouse** to replace our ageing building. However, the MVFD must buy all the interior necessities for the administrative offices, firefighting storage facilities, a commercial type laundry and many other items needed to operate our first rate Fire Department. Your donations are needed to help in this endeavor – embrace and help this entity formed to keep you and yours safe.

Let us not forget that the annual BBQ is a great community event bringing us all together to see old friends and neighbors and meet the newcomers from the outlying, quickly developing, areas of Mico. All of these events are successful because of YOU our fantastic Members and Volunteers. I look forward to seeing both old and new Members at our Business Meetings to provide input, opinions and ideas. See you all on the second Tuesday of each month.

Let's all enjoy a day of friendship, a great meal and, most of all, support for the Mico Volunteer Fire Department.

"Jim"

Chief's Circle

Mico VFD Chief ~ Gerald Dyson

Finally, spring has arrived, and the winter cold has moved on. This brings us into much warmer days and a significant increase in fire potential. Have you taken the steps to protect your home and property from wildfire? Every year millions of acres across the United States are burned by fire. Check out the United States Fire Administration website (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/wildfire.shtm>) for some valuable information focusing on fire safety.

Another big activity is Spring Clean-up. It's time to rally the troops, grab the tools and head out into the yard to get rid any remaining brush and debris that may have accumulated over the winter. The safest way to get rid of all that waste is to either compost it or to bag it and have it hauled away with the trash. The burn ban is lifted so if you decide to burn your brush, remember to call the Sheriff's Dispatcher (830-741-6153) and let them know in advance of lighting the fire so the fire department doesn't get called out for your controlled burn.

Did you know the six out of seven home grill fires involve a gas grill and the leading cause was a leak in the hose or other equipment? The leading cause of fires from charcoal grills was because something that could burn was too close to the grill. The last thing anyone wants when they are grilling is to create a hazard that ends up burning down their home or property. Take the steps to keep children, pets and flammable objects like branches, deck rails and overhangs a safe distance from your grill – it will help prevent home fires and injuries caused by grilling.

Be safe. Did you remember to change your smoke alarm batteries when the time changed? I hope to see everyone at our Annual Barbeque on May 8th.

Respectfully Submitted,

"Jerry"

How is the ESD (EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT) Funded?

By Dorothy Ahr

The Medina County Emergency Service District #1(MCESD#1) is funded by a maximum tax rate of 10 cents per hundred dollars of your property evaluation. The current rate is .095 cents and is subject to change each year. The rate is set by the ESD Board during budgeting. The board takes into consideration any new projects and/or equipment the district will need in the coming year. Truck rotation and buildings are a vital part of this planning process.

Mico History

By John and Ann Dale

Where is Mico? Do you often get that question when you give your address? The settlement of MICO is quite small and, relative to most other Texas towns, quite young. A little over 100 years ago, it didn't exist. So, what happened? Before the Medina Lake Dam was built (completed in 1912) there were only a handful of residents in this area. They were all farmers, who grew their crops in the land which is now covered by Medina Lake. Some lived in Rio Medina, traveling the road from Rio Medina to Bandera along the Medina River Valley to tend their crops – others lived in homes which are now under the lake water.

Then the idea for an irrigation system was born. A private company gained the right of eminent domain over the territory which was to be flooded for the reservoir. The owners of the land to be thus covered were paid damages and the dam was built. Three hundred and fifty acres of good farmland several miles below the reservoir were purchased by the company to be sold to those desiring to farm it. Each farm purchase would include the right to purchase irrigation water from the company. A series of canals were built leading from the diversion lake below the dam to deliver this water. The name of the company was the Medina Irrigation Company. The village containing homes for the supervisors and workers who built the dam in 1911 was thus called MICO, an acronym for the company name. The farmers and ranchers who had lived in the plain that had now been flooded either moved away or moved up along the sides of the lake. Those close to the dam began to form recreational businesses. Some subdivisions were platted on the East side of the dam. That was the beginning of the village of MICO. Hotels and cabins were available and quite a few people traveled from San Antonio to spend weekends at the lake. Some built their own weekend cabins.

There is a nucleus of homes on both sides of the dam which resembles a town of sorts and several newer subdivisions or farmlands close by the little lakeside community of MICO have the Mico, Texas 78056 address.

Past, Present & Future

The Lakeplex area has recently undergone some major changes. We now have our second "Dollar" store being built on FM 1283 just past the 37/1283 intersection. Our four major Mico subdivisions are seeing progressive home building. Wow, we're moving on up! All of this has brought to light the need for a new fire station. With the help of the Emergency Services District, we have been blessed to forge ahead to build a new Fire Station. So the 2010 BBQ will be a double celebration. Let's bid farewell to the ORIGINAL Historic Firehouse building because soon it won't be there! Then plan on being here for the Grand Opening of the new, much larger and improved firehouse, where we will have the best community events ever!

If you are not a MVFD member or sponsor SIGN UP NOW – your Community NEEDS you. Don't miss being a part of Mico's history. See you at the Barbeque!

Mico VFD Calendar of Events for 2010

Unless otherwise noted, ALL meetings & events are to be held at the
MICO VFD Base Station, 7121 CR 271, Mico TX

Firefighter Training 1 st & 3 rd Tuesday (7 – 10 PM) 3 rd Saturday (8 AM – 4 PM)

Monthly Business Meeting 2 nd Tuesday (7:30 – 830 PM) Mico VFD Firehouse

***OUTDOOR BURNING RULES
BEFORE BURNING – Call it in!***

(830) 741-6153 it's the Law!

Mico VFD BBQ

Silent Auction
10:00 – 3:00

Live Auction
w/auctioneer
1:00`

May 8, 2010
11:00 to 4:00



1st Prize



Other prizes



Raffle
3:00

Bake Sale
All Day

Tons of
Fun

BBQ Chicken

Original Crafts

Games

BBQ Beef

Potato Salad

Home cooked
beans

Come and support your Mico Volunteer Fire Department

MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
PO BOX 6383
MICO, TEXAS 78056



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**EMAIL Communications and
Mico VFD Online Information**

NEWS FLASH! Take a moment to check out to website for Mico VFD at www.micovfd.org. You will find meeting agendas, newsletters, an updated calendar, downloadable membership and donation forms, current news and info about Mico VFD and The Median Lake area burn info and tips – and lots more!

Do you have a new neighbor? Please share this newsletter with them, invite them to become a member of the Mico VFD and attend our monthly business meetings.

Mark Your Calendar

**46th Annual BBQ
May 8, 2010**