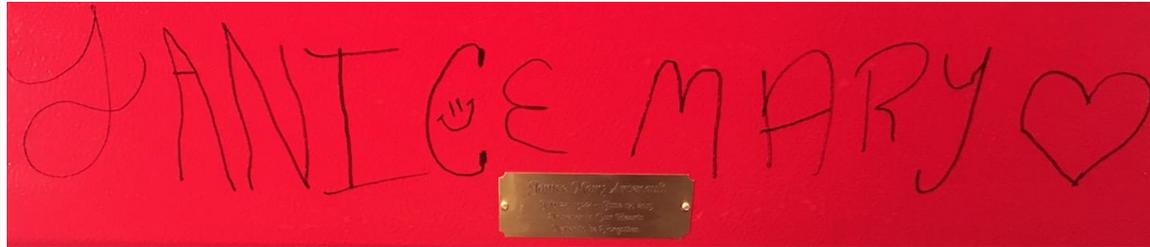


# Chief's Corner

These last few months have been quite challenging for our the agency as a whole and for me personally as Chief. We've experienced both tragedy and heartbreak alongside our many achievements.

In June we lost a fellow firefighter, Janice Arsenault, in an off-duty tragic event. This shook not only our department but our community. We are all still reeling from this and trying to cope, each of us in our own way. While we have lost Janice, she will never be forgotten and will always be riding along with us. Her family wrote her name above the officer's seat of her favorite apparatus – Engine 11. We love and miss you Janice.



On a more positive note, we accomplished another goal of mine which was to implement our own Resident Intern (RI) program. Garron and Preston moved into our station in McNary in August and our the first inaugural participants of the program. They will begin classes at Blue Mountain Community College next month to pursue a degree in Fire Science. Please join us in welcoming them into our family and community. We wish them a long and successful career in the fire service.



Since my last report, we have run 205 total calls, 122 EMS, 49 Fire, and 24 Other type calls. We are still significantly below are last few years average however. I attribute that to several things:

- We have conducted 13 business inspections.

- We have worked with the City of Umatilla Code Enforcement to reduce weeds around town and residences.

- We have been providing education to the community through in-person visits and social media on fire safety, safe spaces around residences, and burning restrictions during the heat of the summer.

- Support of the community paramedic program (implemented by Umatilla County Fire District #1 and Good Shepherd Hospital) in which a paramedic visits those in need of finding assistance through other programs versus calling 911 for an ambulance. I believe this has reduced EMS calls significantly in our area.

We are seeing a lot of growth in terms of new homes. There's a lot in the works for new business. Both of which will increase the demand for service. We will do our best to continue to provide those services with the resources we have available. But, considering we rely on volunteers and volunteerism is dying, it gets more and more difficult to fill the call at times.

If you are someone that would like to give back, likes a little excitement and the satisfaction of helping others, in decent shape and has some extra time, please visit [www.umatillafire.org](http://www.umatillafire.org) and apply today.



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