

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

The Pana Fire Department has been chosen as our Volunteers of the Quarter. Our community is very fortunate to have a fire department and EMS personnel as competent and caring as we have. All the members are dedicated to providing the best performance and care to all they serve.

The Pana Fire Department is composed of 30 to 34 Firefighters and an additional 6 to 8 non-fire EMS personnel, all dedicated to serving the citizens of Pana and their protection area. In 2013 Pana Fire and EMS responded to 665 calls. Last year they responded to 808 calls. They are currently at 394 for this year. Besides emergency calls, PFD is active in other community events such as Health Fairs, School Fire Prevention education, Traffic control for 5 K runs, Ball team escorts, CPR classes, Fire extinguisher training, washing down park pavilions, and many other details. The responders train two nights a month on fire and 1 night on medical at a minimum and routinely have a couple special trainings over the month. Being a responder requires tremendous time and dedication.

Because of the high risk occupation, fire and EMS equipment is very expensive. Along with support from the City and the Pana Rural Fire Association, firefighters are continuously doing fundraisers such as the Krispie Kreme donut sales on the first Saturday of each month to obtain the funds to keep equipment updated and safe.

Responder's safety and the safety of the community is PFD's ultimate goal. Pana Fire Dept. has currently teamed up with the American Red Cross to offer every home in Pana the opportunity to have working smoke detectors in them. The Home Fire Campaign "Sound the Alarm" allows the Red Cross to provide the detectors with a 10 year battery and the Pana Fire Dept has partnered to do the installation. Firefighter teams have been responding to the request for the detectors. While in the homes installing the detectors, they will check placement of any current ones, check batteries and provide fire prevention and escape information to the occupants. They feel the volunteered time donated to this program is well worth it to help insure the proven, that Smoke Detectors Save Lives.

In honor of their volunteer services, Peoples Bank will make a donation to Pana Fire Department and their name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.