

One in a Vermillion

Draper speaks internationally on behalf of Vermillion Fire Department

By Katie Clausen
For the Plain Talk

Vermillion Fire Chief Shannon Draper has been around the block a few times. Actually, he's been around the world.

"The first place I was at speaking on firefighting was Turkey with airport firefighters," Draper said.

Draper will be headed to Iwakuni, Japan Oct. 15th and will be speaking on fire prevention and fire inspection to Department of Defense US military personnel that are located throughout Japan.

"I used to do it a lot, but now my commitment is in Vermillion," Draper,

father of three, said. "I've gone from several trips a year down to just one."

While Draper enjoys traveling, he is also focused on the fire department here at home. Originally from Kansas City, Draper has been all over the globe and the United States as part of his firefighting career. He is looking to make a difference in the realm of fire and rescue.

"Usually I speak about leadership" said Draper.

"What I get out of it is being in a room with people who want to be there, who are professionals. We feed off of each other and I get energy out of that

group," Draper said of speaking to firefighters.

"I have lectured about fire service topics at fire chief conferences," Draper said. "Working with senior fire chiefs and senior fire inspectors helps give us ideas so we can constantly be improving."

Being able to bring that experience back to Vermillion has helped Draper manage the 45 firefighters on the Vermillion crew.

Draper has spent a significant amount of time in South Korea, and has been to all of the continents except Antarctica. Draper's favorite topic is advanced

leadership.

While Draper enjoys traveling, he is also focused on the fire department here at home.

"I try to be a steward of our assets," Draper said.

The department currently has a newer and larger rescue truck on order.

"The department was in a great place before I got here, and had great potential," said Draper.

Members of the Vermillion Fire Department meet each Wednesday for a meeting and trainings. Two training sessions per month is normal.



Airport fire response drills like this one in Turkey is just an example of the type of settings Shannon Draper, Vermillion's Fire Chief, works on when he travels the world to talk about the profession. Draper is set for a trip to Japan on Oct. 15 and will speak on fire prevention and inspection.

(Courtesy Photo)

"Vermillion has a very professional department. It speaks volumes for the type of people we have on the department" Draper said.

As part of Draper's personal initiative to constantly improve the department, he has committed to a state-wide training course.

"In January we will be hosting a fire inspector class, the first class of its kind to be held in the State of South Dakota. All departments from across the state are invited," Draper said.

Several people from across the state have already signed up for the course.

Beyond training and equipment, Draper noted that one of his goals is to improve community interaction with the fire department.

"We have the support of the City Manager, which really helps," said Draper. "We are focusing heavily on fire prevention by engaging the business community of Vermillion. We want to be here to help our businesses and schools improve their safety as well."

Draper's goals are simple "We will continue to grow our professional development, increase training, and have a succession plan."

DINING

entertaining & celebrations

Fall Festival
Sunday, October 19, 2013
Dinner served from 11 am to 1:30 pm
Raffles begins at 1 pm
Roast Turkey Dinner • Raffles • Many fun kids' games • Silent Auction
\$8 adults and \$4 for kids 10 & under Kids 2 & under free
St. Agnes Catholic School, Lewis & Walker Streets, Vermillion, SD

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ELVIS LIVES!
Tribute Artist from Branson, MO
Featuring Joseph Hall, from Lincoln, NE as "Elvis". 6th place contestant in 2008 on America's Got Talent, awarded Male Entertainer Of The Year in Branson, MO 2014
Our Local Talent, The Outback Band Will Be Opening and Playing For Elvis
Saturday, October 18 • 7:30PM
Bow Valley Dance Hall, Bow Valley, NE
Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door
Charge by phone 402-667-6557
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Lions' PANCAKE DAYS
OCT. 15-16
At the National Guard Armory next to Lions Park
Serving 11:30am-1pm & 5pm-7pm
\$5 Pre-sale \$6 at the door
Kids 5 & under eat free!
e-clubhouse.org/sites/vermillion
Vermillion Lions Club

SOUP KITCHEN
Sunday, October 19
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lesterville Community Hall
Menu Includes: Chicken Noodle Soup, Vegetable Soup, Chili Soup, Hot Dogs, Taverns, Chicken Salad Sandwiches, Kolaches, Pie & Desserts
Raffles • Cake Walk • Fish Pond • Bingo
Sponsored by St. John's Catholic Church

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Candidate Forum
District 17 State Senator – one open position
Michelle Maloney
Arthur Rusch
District 17 State Representative – two open positions
Sheri Kaufman
Nancy Rasmussen
Ray Ring
Marion Sorlien
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014 • 7:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers • 25 Center Street
The public is welcome and encouraged to submit written questions to the candidates
The forum will be televised live on local channel 3
Sponsored by the VCDC Legislative Affairs Committee

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October 18, 2014
OZ with Orchestra
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Orpheum Theatre • 7:30 pm
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