

Menlo Park has been my home since 1986; it's a great community. I started my career as a firefighter and paramedic in the Memphis TN area and have continued my service in this area becoming a Fire District Director in 1999.

Menlo Park Fire provides quality services to our communities every day. The fire service, like most industries, is evolving, and we are planning for those changes. Looking forward, in anticipation and preparation for these challenges includes financial responsibility.

Throughout my time on the Board, we have maintained a balanced budget and ensured financial stability. However, given the ever-changing economic state, it is worth revisiting all District costs in order to maintain sustainability. Firefighter wage and benefits have recently occupied center stage. The District and union started negotiations about 3 years ago. The union walked away from the negotiating table and, despite multiple invitations to return, has asserted not to come back until after the election. Given current economic conditions and foreseeable financial forecasts and given that other agencies have been forced to reduce their workforce, sought concessions, imposed contracts, and more, enabling ways to reduce Fire District costs seems the prudent action to take. While I value the quality of care the District staff provides the community every day, I also value sound fiscal management.

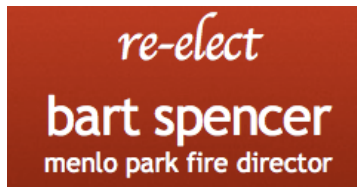
During my first tenure as the Board's President, I implemented standing committees to capitalize on the Board's efficiency. As a member of the strategic planning committee, I have promoted development and preparedness efforts giving the organization a purposeful direction. Most recently, I assisted in advancing EMS delivery. Currently, I serve as the vice chairman of the countywide pre-hospital EMS group. This group works to improve EMS efficiency and effectiveness throughout San Mateo County. In addition to financial care, the Board has championed ways to be more effective and efficient by looking at shared services, alternative response vehicles, modified work schedules, in/out sourcing and consolidation.

My work in emergency services is representative of more than 25 years experience and provides me with a qualified understanding of, and ability in, industry dynamics. My education, which includes public safety, emergency service, and management courses that complement my experience, continues to prepare me for this position.

Menlo Park Fire District is committed to principles of maintaining high industry standards. My commitment is to ensure that these principles are upheld. When re-elected, I will continue my support of improved resource collaboration through partnerships and more. I commit to being a good steward of our financial resources and will maintain the quality of service we have come to trust and rely on for our future needs.

Bart Spencer

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proposed

strategic direction

proposednt

highlight accomplishments include pdf

priorities; maintaining a process that's collaborative from various areas

revisiting benchmarking of wage and benefit packages – open to looking more broad