

## **Magnolia VFD has done a great job in improving service**

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### **To the editor:**

More than a year ago, I heard that the Magnolia VFD was being harassed by this man, Pete Geoddertz. Now, you say that he has gone so far as to create a website to advance his agenda (re: "Fire Chief Hopes to Put Out Flames of Defamation," published Wednesday, July 29, 2009). His activities have gone beyond harassment; it has gone to the level of a neurotic obsession.

The Magnolia VFD and Chief Gary Vincent have done a great job in improving service: (1) Their response time is one of the best in the state, (2) The board is a group of professionals who offer their time and trouble for no charge and (3) They have gone so far as to improve our rating of fire protection code from nine to three resulting in an annual savings to the average homeowner of more than \$700 in home insurance cost.

For the taxpayers to have to foot the bill for this length of time for two clerks to respond to his open records requests is exasperating. This is an abuse to a good law that was intended to protect the people from dishonest public officials. Tragically, such abuses as Mr. Geoddertz' can lead to the removal of those protections.

I sincerely hope that the court grants a finding for MVFD Chief Vincent and awards repayment of the accounting costs. Additionally, I hope that the court directs Mr. Geoddertz to perform public service accomplishing something that would truly benefit those in need of services. Perhaps, he can pick up some of the dead animals on the street.

**Kathleen Oates**