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A very brief history of Sherwood Forest Estates and the Sherwood Forest Estates Volunteer Fire Department:

Sometime in the early part of 1960 a developer secured title to one section, (640 acres), of land located about 8 miles east of Williams, Arizona and about 3 miles south of the proposed Interstate 40.

The developer divided one-half this parcel (320 acres) into 282 lots of approximately one acre each. There is a hill located near the south edge of this new subdivision so he placed a large water tank upon it and ran water lines down to some of the properties. Buyers were told that he would drill a well and everyone would have water within a year, but in the meantime they would be serviced by the tank on the hill.

A sales office was built, (what is today Bob Smith's home, the first house on the left at the entrance), and the lots were put up for sale at prices ranging from \$1795.00 to \$2450.00 per acre. Sales were brisk, but then the first winter the water pipe froze, buckled, and broke, and the new owners found out that there was no point in drilling for water because there was none! Buyers wanted their money back and the developer went bankrupt.

There was a company by the name of Diversified Properties, under the leadership of Mr. Carl Wolfswinkel, who was asked by the bankruptcy court to take over and sell the lots. Diversified Properties traded the south half of the original section to the Arizona State Land Department for some land located near Payson because they believed that sales would be slow without water, but sales were instead very good. Most all the lots sold out the first year.

In fact, sales were so good that after Sherwood Forest Estates sold out, Diversified Properties developed Sherwood Forest Parks, both one and two, and then Sherwood Forest the Woods.

The Coconino County zoning was R-43 which was a rural zoning, but in the 1980s some of the residents got together and asked the county to change the zoning to R-35 which would allow some farm animals, but eliminates trailers and campers on undeveloped properties.

Let's fast forward to the 1990s. Williams Fire Department was sending trucks out in case they were needed for a fire, but they elected to stop all support to the area. A small group of full time residents got together and took on what seemed the impossible task of getting fifty per cent plus one of all the property owners signatures, but they did and the fire district was formed. Money from the tax levy was collected and a fire station was built. The Arizona State Land Department loaned the fire district a brush truck and a water tender was purchased from Sedona Fire Department. The Department also purchased a 1954 fire truck which took two

men to steer, but it could pump water. At the same time a 10,000 gallon water tank was secured and thru the efforts of many in the community a trained force of firefighters were available in case they were needed.

In the early 2000s the department was able to secure a fire district rating of 8 which greatly reduced fire insurance rates for the residents. At about the same time the District elected to build an additional fire house which would house four more trucks and since then they have purchased more trucks bringing the total to 8 including water tenders, structure trucks and brush trucks. This may seem like a large number of trucks for such a small area, but fighting house fires in the forest and forest fires where there are houses can be very specialized and each type of truck is designed for a different type of fire. They have also added other storage tanks for a total of 24,000 gallons plus what is in the trucks. Another 10,000 tank will be added soon. The Department now has 20 trained volunteers, a top notch communication system and most all the safety equipment needed to help defend the area and an extremely well educated and trained Fire Chief.

There are about 120 homes now in Sherwood Forest Estates and about 80 of those are year round residents.

Sherwood Forest Estates Volunteer Fire Department has become the model for other volunteer fire departments in the area. The thanks for this can go to all the men and women who have given of themselves to make this happen and it all goes back to those few who walked the streets and called and called the property owners to get this fire district formed.

This narative was written by Jack Hadley, a long time resident and Fire Department member.