

April 1, 2007

Dear Howlett Hill Fire Protection District resident,

As we break from an interesting winter into a long anticipated Spring, it's our pleasure to provide you with this state of your Fire Department. We've been very busy here at the fire station. We ended the year 2006 responding to a total of 406 alarms, that's up from 356 the year before. The fast pace continued in 2007, and we have already responded to 161 alarms in the first quarter.

Please understand that we're always on call to respond to you at a time of need be it fire, medical emergency, motor vehicle accident or response to a natural disaster. We are a group of emergency service professionals all of whom are volunteers dedicated to providing the very best in emergency services to our community. Our members continually train to prepare ourselves to respond effectively to this wide variety of emergency situations.

What's new at the Howlett Hill Fire Department (HHFD)?

Our new sign and flagpole mall project is completed. With the help of Eagle Scout candidate John Henry Harris III, we completed the brick paver mall and installed two new flagpoles. A new department sign and an announcement of event signs are installed. New lighting illuminates the American, NY State and Fire Dept. flags within the mall.

Look for announcements of various department and Auxiliary events to be posted on the announcement sign.



This year we will continue to press for all possible grants available to us. We will be requesting funds from the US Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new engine. A new engine will replace the pumper we purchased used four years ago. The new engine will compliment our primary engine which is undergoing a major overhaul this year. We earmarked funds for the overhaul which will extend the useful life of this key piece of apparatus.

We also are looking for grant or any funding to purchase and install a generator to power the electricity in the station. We are on a long list of organizations hoping to obtain a generator from Verizon as they obsolete their rural switching stations which were equipped with backup generators. Not knowing if or when a generator would come available, we're planning for alternative funding sources.

We feel having a station generator installed will assist the community in case of a natural disaster like that of the ice storm or the wind sheer storms of several years ago. The station would become a warming center for residents without power. We think this dream is a worthy initiative.

We've already begun the planning work for our annual KING's FEAST and \$10,000 Raffle. So far over 28 tickets have been sold. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for more details about this important and fun event at HHFD.

We are working to improve the loudspeaker system for the King's Feast. A design for speakers and an amplifier for the apparatus bays is completed and we are looking for a funding source to purchase and install the system in time for the Feast. Anyone interested in donating funds towards the speaker system, please contact Dick Farrell or the station at 673-1817.

Look for your Howlett Hill Fire Department who will be marching in the Camillus Memorial Day Parade. Stop "down the hill" cheer on the department, enjoy the parade and remember the memory of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Watch our website for more details as these initiatives move along, and for information about fire prevention and storm preparation information. Information on our website is kept current, so check us out at: [www.hhfd.org](http://www.hhfd.org)

On behalf of the Officers, our Members and the Auxiliary of the Howlett Hill Fire Department, we wish you a wonderful Spring and we look forward to seeing you within the community. Be safe.

Sincerely,

Frank Valls  
President

John Harris Jr  
Chief