



The HHFD Response Times

The official newsletter of the Howlett Hill Fire Department

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October 23, 2003



From the Chief's Office

Chief James Harris

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. There is no doubt that the Fire Department is on the move! As I was vacationing 2 weeks ago in Cranberry Lake I ran into a member of the Moyers Corners Fire Department and he was telling me all about the Howlett Hill Fire Department. He commented on how good life was and asked what was the secret?

If any of you get on the Internet and read the Signal 99 Fire Department forums; there is someone from Lyn-court asking the question of what are we doing (the West) as he hears E-94 in service just about all the time especially on Tuesday and Thursday. I would like to thank the 94 regulars that keep it in service. This includes Mr. Fisher from Marcellus.

Remember not only are we being talked about, we are being watched.

I would like to thank Frank and all of the people involved in getting the calendar project off the ground. Donation Money is rolling in.

We as a whole group are falling short in the area of cleaning. We need to keep our end of the fire station neat and clean from clutter. The bottom line is: we need to pick up after ourselves, make sure the TV, coffee pot, etc. is turned off when we leave the building.

The lower end of the building is 99% complete. We failed our Codes inspection last week. The building committee is working to get things resolved so that we can get our occupancy certificate.

Red and John have spent countless hours trying to get this building finished up. The owner of Haynor Hoyt, Gary Thurston, lives on Cedarvale Road in our fire district. If anyone should see him out and about you should thank him for stepping up to the plate for helping us get through this situation. Gary and Company has done a fine job.

To the "Fireman of the Year Wanna-Be" Kurt Kraus, for those that don't know, Kurt has donated his time and materials and has beat up the rest of the community for donations to landscape the Fire Station. The landscaping around the building looks excellent. It is certainly appreciated and a big THANK YOU is in order to Kurt!

Winter is upon us it was really snowing this morning! Remember to dress appropriately for cold weather and use caution when responding to the Station for alarms.

The next training session will be taught by Scott McClurg, a retired Lt. from the City. He will be teaching fire ground search techniques. McClurg is highly decorated and recommended. He retired at a young age due to an injury. Everyone please make a point to be there as it will be worthwhile training.

Everyone has been contributing all year long. For the members that have been lax in this area we would like to see you. For the rest of you that are constantly participating you are the ones that make this place run. On behalf of the Officers we Thank You.

Chief Jim Harris

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The HHFD Response Times

An informal newsletter for the Howlett Hill Fire Department members and their families and for the residents of the community we serve. The Times is published six times a year. Copies are available at the Howlett Hill Fire Station, or via email by request to: fvalls@hhfd.org

Check out our website:

www.hhfd.org

Frank Valls, Editor

The Chaplain's Corner

by Rev. Michael Delaney

I was checking around other Fire Department web sites a couple of weeks ago and came upon an interesting article out of a Colorado department. It sums up the heart of a Firefighter/EMS person. As I read it, something was missing. As I thought about it, I finally found the missing ingredients. Our spouses, our children, and other loved ones who we so often forget as we run out the door, answering another call. So, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for letting us serve our communities, putting up with all those drills we attend and other functions. May the Lord Bless each family member for all we put you through. God Bless.

CALLED BY THE FLAME

Water spilled from the uncoupled hose as the sun spilled over Mt. Blanca. Florescent stripes on soot-covered suits glowed through the dawning. Awakened by pre-dawn sirens, neighbors scattered back to their homes and another hour of sleep. Fire turned to smoke. Night turned to day. The excitement on South Bell Avenue was over.

But the work was not over for the volunteer firefighters who responded to this predawn call. They would continue to investigate the source of the fire, make sure no opportunity remained for a flare up, take the equipment back to the fire station and get it ready for the next call.

These men and women, called by the flame, spend their free time training, practicing, drilling..

These men and women, called by the flame, respond quickly, enthusiastically, selflessly, always.

These men and women, caked by the flame, leave their sleep, their dinner table, their work, to perform their volunteer duty to community.

These men and women, called by the flame, forge friendships in the fire, bounded in brotherhood through each blaze.

These men and women, called by the flame, love the thrill, the excitement, the gratifying passion of service, the occasional moment of gratitude.

These men and women, called by the flame.....possess a heart made radiant through burning.

By Ruth Heide of Alamosa, CO.

Fire Prevention Week and the Community **by Frank Valls**

On Monday evening, October 6th, members of the HHFD began delivering complimentary HHFD Fire Prevention Calendars to each residence in our Fire District. Our goal was to meet as many residents in person and present them with a package containing an HHFD calendar complete with a color photo of Engine 1 and Engine 3 coming out of the bays of the new station. The calendar also contains key Non-Emergency phone numbers useful to our residents. The calendar has a fire prevention theme and each day contains some reminder about fire prevention and runs from October 2003 through September 2004. We hope to make this an annual event. This also gives us an opportunity to remind our residents to change the batteries in smoke detectors, call us to schedule a time to help them change their batteries, and to remind them of the importance of visible house numbers visible from the street. A letter from the Chief outlining key events of the past year, an update on the building and future happenings is included in the package. A self-addressed envelope is included for any residents wishing to donate to our equipment fund raiser.

Next year HHFD will add a feature of limited advertising to the 2004-2005 calendar. Local professionals and businesses wishing to advertise on the calendar for a nominal fee were urged to contact the Fire Station. This advertising provides great exposure to at least a 1,000 home population.

Photos right: Some of the volunteers who spent the good part of a Saturday on the assembly line packaging calendars and inserts to be handed to HHFD District residents. Thank You to all who participated in this event both pictured and not pictured!!



HHFD Family Picnic recognizes the sacrifices of our families at home

Scattered showers couldn't dampen the spirits of the HHFD Family as we got together on Saturday, Sept. 13th to recognize our families for their sacrifice while we're busy with duties at the fire station. We feasted on a full Bar-B-Que dinner of BBQ chicken, clams, shrimp, corn-on-the-cob and salt potatoes. There were plenty of appetizers to satisfy ones "sugar-high" with the cotton candy machine working overtime, the snow cone machine, two huge sheets of frosted brownies and sodas. The kids got to play in a huge bouncing structure, play laser tag inside a saucer, take pony or horse rides, and hunt treasures in a pinatta. Older kids shot horse shoes. A magician entertained young and old throughout the picnic with his magic antics and all those balloons!!

We want to recognize and thank Deputy Chief John Harris Jr. for coordinating this event once again. A lot of time, effort, skillful planning and patience is needed to pull off such a large scale event as this. We all had a great time, thanks Chief !!

Community leaders and key members of neighboring Fire Districts attended the picnic.

Baby Bealer and Baby Alfreds made their first HHFD debuts at the picnic.

We all had a great time sharing stories and fellowship among our extended HHFD Family. Find more pictures of the Family Picnic on our website www.hhfd.org under the link called "Family Picnic Pix"



Fred Isgar honored for valor

On the afternoon of October 12, 2002, Fire Fighter Fred Isgar was working the second handline on the first floor of a Signal 99, structure fire on North Street in Camillus. When the call came there was a Fairmount fire fighter down on the second floor, Fred and his two partners on the line reacted without hesitation and made their way to the top of the staircase. They immediately found the downed brother who was unconscious and motionless. Fred began pulling the fire fighter out of the area, down the front stairs and out the front door to safety. Awaiting EMS personnel revived the fire fighter at the scene and transported him to a local hospital. Due to the quick actions of Fred Isgar and his partners, the downed fire fighter was able to regain consciousness without further injury.

For his actions, Fred Isgar is recognized for his valor by the following organizations.

Fairmont Fire Department presented Fred with the St. Florian Award for valor on Saturday, April 5th during their awards banquet. The Award is named after St. Florian, who lived during the late third century, and is the patron saint of fire fighters.

The Onondaga County Fireman's Association awarded Fred the Medal of Valor on Saturday, September 27, 2003.

The Onondaga County Western Section Fire District presented Fred with the Award of Valor on Saturday, October 4, 2003.

Fred's partners that day were also awarded these most deserved awards.

At the time of the incident, Fred was a member of the Fairmount Fire Department. He since has transferred to the Howlett Hill Fire Department where he began his fire service career. Fred lives in the Howlett Hill fire district with his wife Kristel who also is a fire fighter with the Howlett Hill Fire Department. The HHFD congratulates Fred on his courage and recognizes his commitment to the community and to his fellow brothers. We are fortunate to have Fred leading by example in the department. Fred currently serves as Lieutenant of Fire at Howlett Hill, and has conducted numerous in-house training classes at Howlett Hill. Congratulations Fred, we're proud of you!



Left and Right: Lt. Fred Isgar receives the Medal of Valor for rescuing a downed fire fighter during a fire in Camillus.

Fred received this honor from the Onondaga County Fireman's Association in recognition of his life saving actions.



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Published by the membership of the Howlett Hill Fire Dept.

3884 Howlett Hill Road
Syracuse, NY 13215
Phone: 315-673-1817
Web: www.hhfd.org
Email: fvalls@hhfd.org



From the Captains:

Mike Gosson
Paul Doner

Training is a key element in running a successful Fire Department. Certain training is mandated by governing bodies and other training provides skills to enable us to perform our jobs **effectively, efficiently and safely.**

We provide a mix of Fire, Rescue and EMS related training throughout the month. Keep your focus on the importance of these classes and attendance is critical. Take training and drills seriously: remember; Perfect practice makes perfect!

The Capt's.

Howlett Hill Fire Department Training and Drill Schedule October - November 2003

Date	Event	Location	Time	Comments
Monday, Oct 06, 2003	Distribute HHFD Calendars to District Residents	HHFD	18:00	
Tuesday, Oct 07, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Sunday, Oct 12, 2003	Driver Training	HHFD	09:00	Engine 1 Pump Operations
Monday, Oct 13, 2003	Chief Mits on SCBA Maze Course	Town Training Tower	18:30*	
Tuesday, Oct 14, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Monday, Oct 20, 2003	HHFD Business Meeting	HHFD	18:30	
Tuesday, Oct 21, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Monday, Oct 27, 2003	Chief Mits on Search & Rescue Course	HHFD	19:00	Arrive early
Tuesday, Oct 28, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Friday, Oct 31, 2003	Halloween Candy Drive-by	Selected HHFD apparatus	**	See sign-up sheet in Radio Room or Lt. Isgar
Monday, Nov 03, 2003	EMS Course	HHFD	19:00	
Tuesday, Nov 04, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Monday, Nov 10, 2003	Chief Mits on Ladders & Ventilation Course	HHFD	18:30	
Tuesday, Nov 11, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Monday, Sept 17, 2003	HHFD Business Meeting	HHFD	19:00	
Tuesday, Sept 18, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times
Monday, Sept 24, 2003	Chief Mits on Ropes and Fire Review Course	HHFD	18:30	
Tuesday, Sept 25, 2003	Staff Engine 94	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for shift times

Event Dates and Times are subject to change as necessary. Consult messages in HHFD Radio Room for changes.

Welcome to HHFD !

The Fire Department welcomes a "new" member Valerie Kraus. "New" is in quotes as Valerie has been a member of the HHFD Auxiliary for many years. Val's husband, Kurt, is a long time member of the Department. Valerie is currently enrolled in the CFR class finishing up in mid December. She begins her Essentials of Fire Fighting class in 2004.

Valerie, Welcome to the Fire-side! Stay safe!

Late Breaking news update: Longtime LIFE member Dick Farrell is back on active status in HHFD. Dick announced his plans at the Oct. 20 Business Meeting. He was promptly outfitted with gear. Dick will start off providing Fire Police services! Congrats!



Photo above: Valerie Kraus (right) tries on an airpack during a recent Training Session. Husband Kurt (left) provides expert guidance.