



HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 2012

Leverich Place Firehouse Showing its Age



For those fortunate enough to remember it, the Eisenhower administration was an era of poodle skirts, cars with fins and rock & roll. Cuba was still free. Germany was still divided. Vietnam was unknown to virtually all Americans.

Walking on the moon was science fiction. The Internet, cell phones and even zip codes were things of the future. And it was the era when our firehouse at 1 Leverich Place was built (1958).

Since 1958 Huntington town has grown with a 62% population increase to 203,000* people. And like all things, the firehouse that has served the community so well for so long has aged. That's why the Board of Fire Commissioners will be asking Huntington residents to approve plans to renovate portions of the half-century-old facility.

"There are some obvious problems and some not-so-obvious ones," Chairman Erickson stated. "The building was constructed before present day computer, communication and technological advances. Among other things, the dispatcher's office needs renovation to handle the computers and communications equipment that are essential to our fire operations."

The building, located between New York Avenue and Wall Street, has not had any significant upgrading since its construction apart from wings added to accommodate the increased size of fire apparatus and additional equipment.

Visitors to the firehouse can readily see that the façade on the building is weathered and cracking. It's more difficult to see that the 1950s plumbing is in need of repair with the shower area so deteriorated that the showers cannot be used. Further, there are no bathroom facilities on the first floor for women. Also unseen is the fact that parts for the 54-year old apparatus bay doors are no longer available.

*SOURCE: US CENSUS

1958



Commissioner Schwier added, "Currently, firefighters on long-term standbys have no sleeping facilities. That happened with Hurricane Irene and needs to be addressed."

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Honoring A Lifetime Of Dedicated Service



Chief Cochrane congratulating Cliff Schwier.

How do you thank a man who has given 61 years of dedicated service to the Huntington Fire Department?

Cliff Schwier, currently a member of the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, has served in just about every capacity since joining the HFD in October 1951 and won a heroism award in the process.

Recently, Cliff became only the fourth member in the HFD's 169-year history to be honored with the title Chief Emeritus.

Being a firefighter is in Cliff's blood. His family has almost a century of service as volunteer firefighters. Cliff is a second-generation member. His father, John Schwier, and his uncle, Henry Schwier, were both members for 60 years. Both of Cliff's sons followed in his footsteps. Cliff Jr. is an ex-captain of the Hook & Ladder Company and a retired FDNY Lieutenant, and Gary served as chief from 1997 to 1999.

Two of Cliff's grandsons are also members currently serving as officers. Jesse Cukro is 2nd Deputy Chief and Sean Schwier is Hook & Ladder Company 2nd Lieutenant.

Cliff has unselfishly given his time and efforts with dedication, courage and dignity. We salute Cliff Schwier for his unceasing service to the HFD and to the Huntington community.

- 1960 2nd Lieutenant Hook & Ladder Company
- 1961 1st Lieutenant
- 1963 Captain Hook & Ladder Company
- 1964 3rd Deputy Chief
- 1967 2nd Deputy
- 1969 Assistant Chief
- 1972 Chief of Department
- Fleet chauffeur
- Fire Police Squad 2009 to the present
- Board of Fire Commissioners 1984 to the present

2011 ELECTION RESULTS

In the December 2011 election, Tom Collins was re-elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. A resident of Huntington since 1939 and proprietor of Collins Electrical Contracting, Inc. Tom's new 5-year term began on January 1, 2012.



From The Chief

Meet New Chief Kenneth Cochrane

As the new Chief of the Huntington Fire Department,

I would like to extend the Department's appreciation to ex-Chief Brian Riggs for all he has accomplished. We are proud to have served the residents of our community and the Huntington Fire Department alongside Brian.

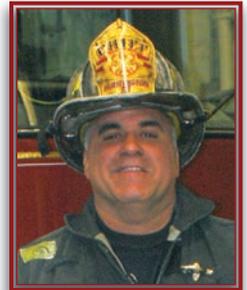
While firefighting equipment has improved through the years, the danger never goes away. Consequently, a great deal is required of the Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters of the Huntington Fire Department. We spend countless hours training to meet the qualifications required to provide protection to the residents and businesses of the Huntington Fire District. As a probationary firefighter, a member must go through extensive training courses at the Suffolk County Fire Academy in Yaphank. These courses enable the firefighter to become accredited in Suffolk County and most importantly, a well-trained firefighter for our residents.

The next step is hands on training, meaning actual exposure to fire fighting conditions. And today there are many man-made products that burn hotter and release deadly gases.

The Huntington Fire Department has an elite training committee comprised of 2nd Assistant Chief Jesse Cukro and Lieutenants, Anthony Smalling, Michael Plant and Matthew Getter.

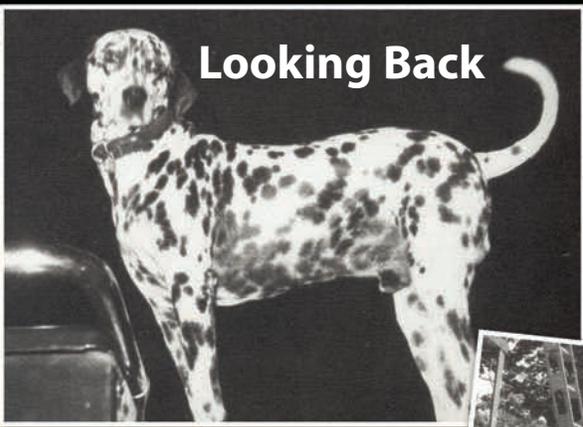
At any given time our firefighters are ready to assist their community in many different capacities, including structure fires, brush fires, vehicle extrication and carbon monoxide emergencies to name a few. Our firefighters come from all walks of life and volunteer their time to their hometown with pride and dedication. As Chief of the Department I am proud to lead the members of the Huntington Fire Department with Assistant Chief Robert Berry, 2nd Assistant Chief Jesse Cukro and our newest addition, 3rd Assistant Chief Robert Conroy.

Kenneth Cochrane
Chief of Department



L to R: Bob Berry, Chief Kenneth Cochrane, Jesse Cukro and Rob Conroy.



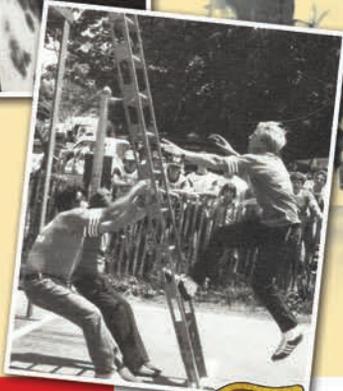


Looking Back

"Buttons" Huntington Fire District Mascot from 1948 to 1959.



Firefighters participating in a Firematic Tournament.



American LaFrance Fire Engine 1947.



Fireman of the Year Ryan Doyle



Join Up! Help Us Help The Community



Huntington is a wonderful place to live and joining the Huntington Fire Department is a great way to be of service and to give back to the community. And you'll become part of an organization with a proud history that dates back to 1843.

You will be thoroughly trained to become a New York State certified firefighter including mastering a host of fire tools, apparatus and equipment. You will participate in assorted exercises and drills. All training is free; no cost to you. The all-volunteer HFD supports a Length of Service Awards Program and scholarships, and there are even some property tax breaks.

So why not experience the pride and camaraderie as you serve our great community? Please contact Assistant Chief Berry at 631-427-3030.



L to R: Chief Kenneth Cochrane, Jesse Cukro, Ryan Doyle, Rob Conroy and Bob Berry.

Leverich Place Firehouse Showing its Age - continued

Aside from the necessary improvements to the interior of the building, the proposal would include an annex building to replace the deteriorated hoop house (Quonset hut). "Well, we certainly got our money's worth," stated Commissioners Collins and Brown. "It was supposed to be a temporary fix but has been housing the fire prevention trailer, maintenance equipment and our fireboat for over ten years."

The new annex would do double duty as a training facility for Huntington firefighters.

The Board of Commissioners has hired an architect and a consultant to supply concept drawings and cost estimates. Once these have been established, the renovation proposal will be completed in detail and made available at a public meeting at the firehouse.

We will keep you posted.

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Questions or Comments? Email us at hfd230@gmail.com



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HUNTINGTON FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Fire Facts AND SAFETY TIPS

Fire is a devastating event. Each year, more than 25,000 Americans are injured in fires. Over 4,000 people are killed annually including more than 100 firefighters on duty. Direct loss due to fires is estimated at nearly \$9 billion annually. Intentionally set structure fires alone result in an estimated \$700 million in property damage every year. **And the majority of these tragedies could have been prevented by observing the following:**

1. Install smoke alarms. Your chances of dying in a fire will be reduced by 50%.
2. Review escape plans with your family, especially with children.
3. Never smoke in bed.
4. Never assume someone else has called the fire department. Call us immediately at (631) 423-3131.
5. Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
6. Never overload extension cords or outlets.
7. Never put space heaters near combustible or flammable materials.



The Huntington Fire Department regularly supports quite a few charitable efforts in Huntington. We are proud to report that our efforts with the Toys For Tots program, in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, resulted in nearly 2,000 toys for needy children in Nassau and Suffolk. Similarly, we were able to assist the Huntington Food Pantry by receiving donations of nearly 500 pounds of food.

We thank all the individuals and families who made these good deeds possible.



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