

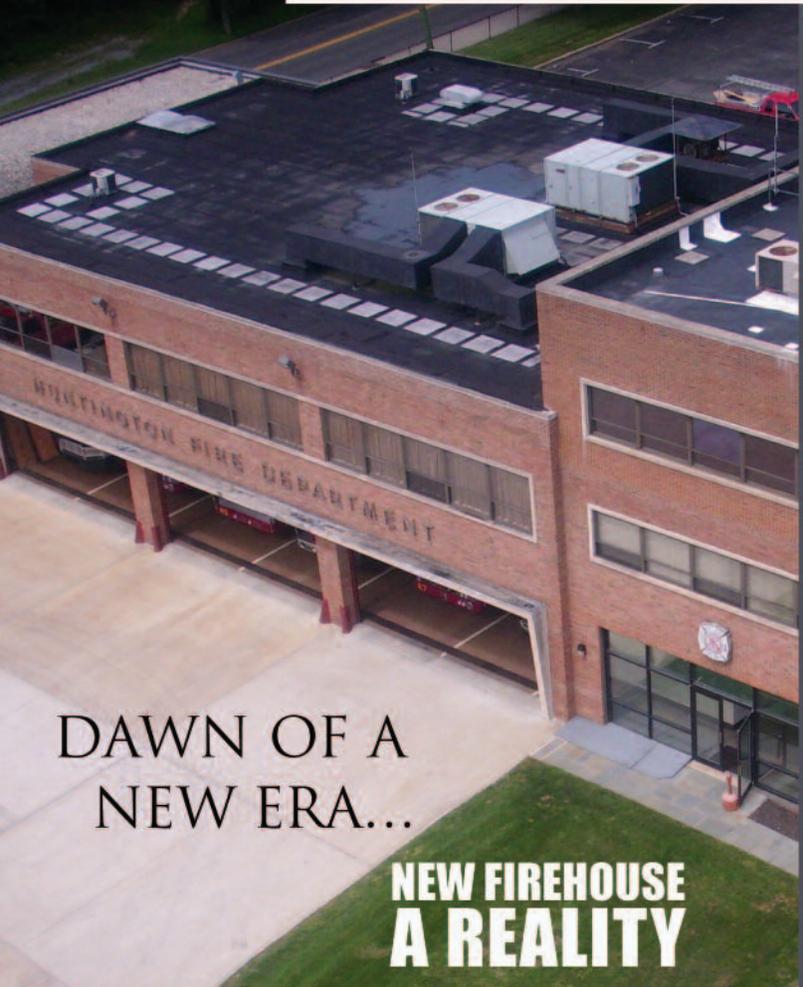


# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 4, Number 1, Spring 2013



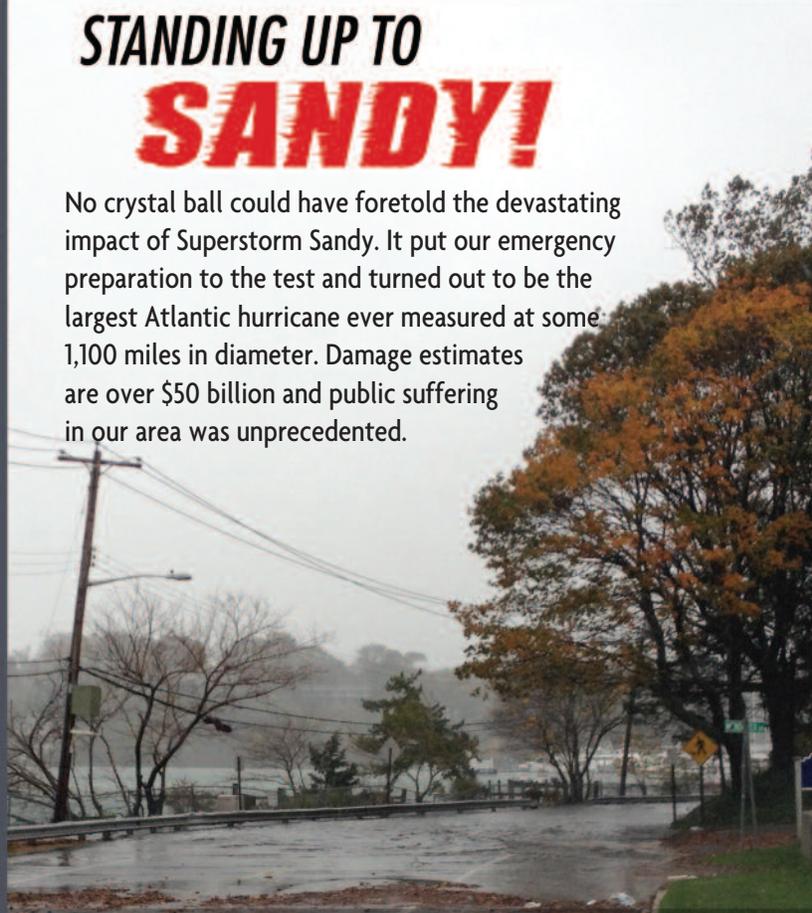
### DAWN OF A NEW ERA...

### NEW FIREHOUSE A REALITY

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Huntington Fire District and the Chief, Assistant Chiefs and the members of our fire companies are grateful to the Huntington community voters for the passage of the 2012 bond.

Eleven presidents have sat in The White House since the Leverich Place Fire Station was erected, and now the 55-year old structure will be rebuilt and fast forwarded into the 21st century with new capabilities for even greater community service. The \$4.5 million bond issue approved by voters will be achieved with a 15-year serial bond and the construction is scheduled to begin in June 2013.

Continued on page 3.



## STANDING UP TO SANDY!

No crystal ball could have foretold the devastating impact of Superstorm Sandy. It put our emergency preparation to the test and turned out to be the largest Atlantic hurricane ever measured at some 1,100 miles in diameter. Damage estimates are over \$50 billion and public suffering in our area was unprecedented.

Through it all, the HFD was prepared, responded quickly and professionally and persevered. We are proud of our men and women whose brave and unselfish actions aided all the victims of Superstorm Sandy.

### SAFE NOT SORRY Monday, October 22, 2012

"The week began much the same as usual with no major issues, but we recognized the potential for a big storm. Preparations for the storm started long before Sandy approached the area," District Manager, Bruce Smith stated. Parts of our district are very low and close to the water, so even rainstorms or unusual moon tides can wreak havoc with residents and our emergency responders. That's why the HFD regularly monitors potential tropical storms as well as all weather and tide conditions.

Continued on page 2.

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS!



1. Install smoke alarms. Your chances of dying in a fire will be reduced by 50%.
2. Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
3. Review escape plans with your family, especially with children.



**Standing Up to Sandy** - continued from front page.

*Damaged "roadside" boat. Part of the aftermath of Sandy.*

**Tuesday, October 23, 2012**

The HFD began reviewing our emergency preparedness plan, making sure everything on our checklist was in perfect running order:

- Portable pumps, chain saws and generators
- Fuel supplies
- Food and water supplies

Our communications system was double- and triple-checked. Further, our Evacuation Plans and Procedures were reviewed.

**Tuesday, October 23, 2012 – Monday, October 29, 2012**

As the storm's projected track became more certain, we met with officials from the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County and New York State to review emergency response plans.

**Monday, October 29, 2012 – 09:15 a.m.**

A manpower standby at Leverich Place Fire Station headquarters was instituted.

**Monday, October 29, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.**

Weather related calls for help were pouring in and increased rapidly as the storm raged. The HFD fielded over 100 calls for assistance, including 80 calls in just a 3-hour period.

Superstorm Sandy's impact was surpassing every prediction. The calls ranged from simple wires down to trees crashing into homes with residents trapped inside. There were numerous electrical fires and high-pressure gas leaks.

"Getting to the emergencies was a nightmare," Chief Cochrane stated. "Our access was impeded by downed trees and wires, debris and in some places, water, but we persevered."

**Monday, October 29, 2012 – 11:00 p.m.**

With floodwaters rising rapidly, the prevailing northerly winds changed direction and started blowing from the south. This saved us from more devastation because the water being pushed down the Sound and into Huntington Harbor began to subside just when the moored boats started to break free.

**Lloyd Harbor and Lloyd Neck**

The Lloyd Harbor causeway is low and floods under normal circumstances, let alone a superstorm like Sandy. The HFD stationed a crew and apparatus on the Neck. They too

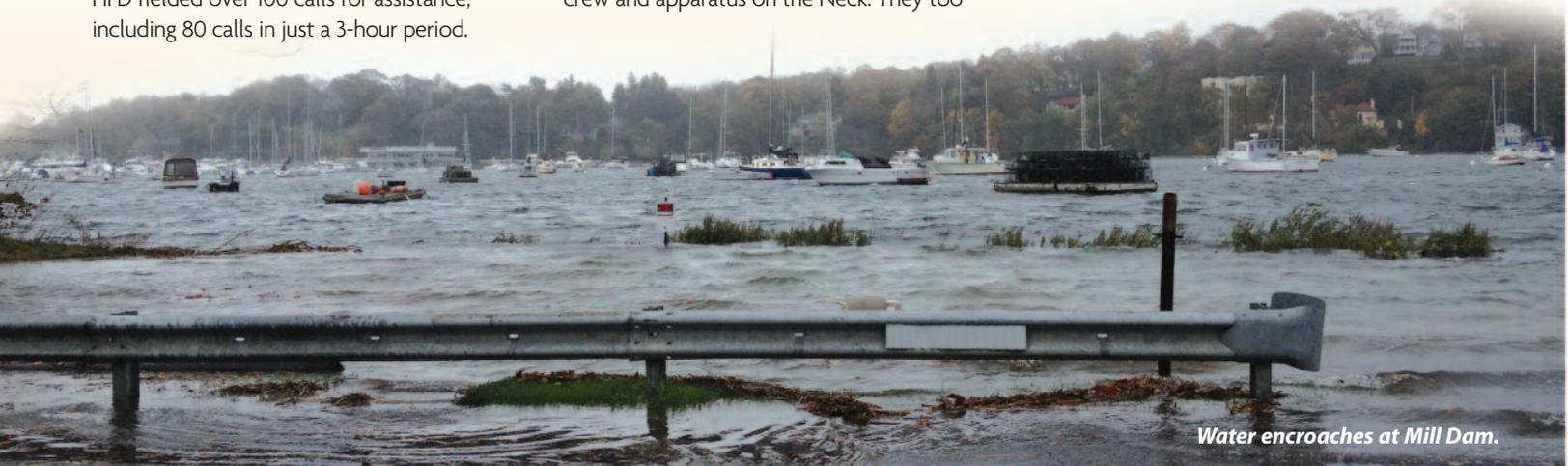
were cut off from the mainland by high waters and responded to numerous calls for help.

**Aftermath**

In the days that followed Superstorm Sandy, standby crews remained on duty handling emergencies of all types:

- Running generators created a number of Carbon Monoxide (CO) emergencies
- Road clearing of downed trees and debris removals
- Downed wires
- Gas leaks
- House fires
- Vehicle fires
- General miscellaneous assists

The Leverich Place firehouse was put to great use as a storage depot for medicines, supplies and dialysis machines. It also served as temporary shelter for displaced residents. Dozens of out-of-town utility workers called it home for weeks.



*Water encroaches at Mill Dam.*

# DAWN OF A NEW ERA: NEW FIREHOUSE A REALITY



DAWN OF A NEW ERA - continued from front page.

**M**arty Sendlewski of Martin F. Sendlewski A.I.A., project Architect, specializes in firehouse design. Marty can call more than 80 fire districts his clients throughout Long Island, Westchester and Rockland Counties and will personally head the project. "The redesign will bring upgrades, expand and modernize the Leverich Place firehouse," he stated. "We will bring it into compliance with ISO and OSHA, repurpose wasted space within the existing footprint and add new space that will make it a much more efficient facility."

One of the many important upgrades is in the Dispatch Office. "Just upgrading the communications system alone is a huge plus," District Manager, Bruce Smith said. "Keep in mind that when this building was built (1958), there were no cell phones, no iPads, no iPods, virtually no cable TV and no Internet. Communications were slow and cumbersome. The HFD currently responds to over 750 emergencies annually, and an upgraded communications center will potentially save lives, property and better protect our firefighters."

Superstorm Sandy and the Blizzard of 2013 are recent events that show the importance of the firehouse as an emergency response center and as a mission control node. Improvements will include the addition of added space through alterations and modernization, including new HVAC air handling



**Thank you...**  
 for your support  
 and concern for the needs  
 of our community.  
**Thank you...**  
 for enabling the modernization  
 of our firehouse.  
**Thank you...**  
 for showing your faith in the  
 Huntington Fire Department.

systems as well as a new generator and handicap restrooms. Electrical, plumbing, heating and security upgrades throughout the facility are included as is the replacement of the front overhead doors, something long overdue.

"The training facility will also be replaced and sleeping quarters will be added," stated Commissioner Collins. "There were none previously and firefighters slept on couches or on the floor when necessary."

It's also important to note that there will be female bathroom facilities on the first floor where there were none before. There was a different mindset in 1958. This is a testimony to how times have changed.

The funding also allows the HFD to move a generator to higher ground. "There's a shallow water table here," District Manager, Bruce Smith said, "and problems arising from storm waters will be eliminated or greatly reduced."

"Additional space also makes it easier for us to help with special events like blood drives, scout fundraisers, food pantry, Toys For Tots, educational seminars and boater safety classes."



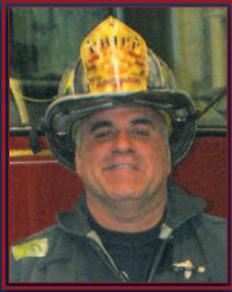
Another positive is that the cost of the refurbishment amounts to pennies a day. Most important of all, the Huntington community will be safer and better protected than ever before.

If you would like to review the plans for the new facility, simply stop by the firehouse.



Current Leverich Place Dispatch Office.





## From The Chief Chief Kenneth Cochrane

**Sandy was a formidable storm** that the Town of Huntington and Long Island hasn't seen in years. Unlike Hurricane Irene (2011), the wind was our foremost enemy, creating a multitude of calls for help from the Huntington Fire Department.

During the storm our membership remained in a constant state of readiness. We had a standby crew in the firehouse from the beginning of the storm until approximately 4:00 p.m. the next day. We also dispatched a crew to Lloyd Neck before the causeway flooded to protect that area.

The Huntington Fire Department responded to over one hundred storm-related calls before, during and after the event, including trees falling on roads and houses, flooding conditions, electrical emergencies and rubbish fires. There were numerous carbon monoxide emergencies, minor and major gas leaks and a house fire caused by a portable generator being operated inappropriately.

The Chiefs cannot express how truly proud we are of our members. They operated professionally in extremely hazardous conditions including 90+ mph winds and falling trees. Some members spent over 24 hours responding to calls for help, leaving their families at home. Many helped even after sustaining damage to their own homes and property.

After the storm many electrical linemen crews from out-of-state were sleeping in their trucks because there was no lodging available. We opened our doors to a Michigan crew so they could have a hot shower and a few hours rest before going back out to help restore power to the storm-ravaged town.

The town of Huntington was very fortunate compared to some south shore neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

The Huntington Fire  
Department Chief's Office  
Chief Kenneth Cochrane

## Commissioners' Corner

Each year, during the budget process, the Board of Fire Commissioners is confronted with planning capital expenditures and how to pay for them. For example, expenditures can be the purchase of fire apparatus or major repairs to a facility for the present or the near future.

General Municipal Law 6-g, Item 4 stipulates that Fire Districts can establish Capital Reserve Accounts where funds can be set aside annually and accumulate in a reserve account until ready for allocation. The Board believes this is the most fiscally responsible method to pay for most capital expenditures as it incurs no debt.

However, when potential needs are large and exceed what can be prudently set aside, as in the case of our Fire Headquarters renovation, the second option is the issuance of a Bond. The authority to do so is given to Fire Districts under Local Finance Law 30.00 but requires a public hearing and taxpayer vote. This process gives District taxpayers a voice and a forum regarding the proposal, which made a Bond the most logical choice.

*The Board, Officers and Firefighters of the Huntington Fire Department thank the fire district taxpayers for approving our \$4.5 million bond for the much needed renovations and construction at Fire Headquarters. Please be assured that we will keep you abreast of this project's progress.*



**“The Chiefs cannot express how truly proud we are of our members.”**



# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

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DAWN OF A NEW ERA.



**See Inside.**

## ELECTION RESULTS

In the December 2012 election, Ed Erickson was re-elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Erickson began the new five-year term, effective January 1, 2013.

