



HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 5, Number 2, Fall 2014

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

In 2006 Newsday printed a series of articles examining the administration of all Nassau and Suffolk Fire Districts. The extensive review included a few incidences that Newsday considered poor management and a lack of interaction between elected officials responsible for overseeing volunteer fire departments and the public.

Newsday suggested legislation to resolve these perceived problems, and the New York State Legislature swiftly enacted seven (7) pieces of legislation. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Huntington Fire District already had several mandates in place and quickly implemented the rest.

One piece of legislation mandated that Fire Districts hold public budget hearings on the third Tuesday in October and that the public be advised of such by legal notices in newspapers, the Fire Districts' exterior bulletin board signs, Fire District websites (if existing) and on the appropriate Town's website. The public was also given the right to receive and review proposed budgets at the Town Clerk's office and from the Fire District's Secretary before the hearing.

At the hearing, the District's Treasurer presents the proposed budget for the upcoming year, which is followed by a public portion. At the 2014 hearing, the Treasurer announced that the Huntington Fire District's 2015 budget will increase by 1.56 percent, once again remaining below the recently enacted State 2 percent tax increase cap.



American LaFrance



Return Of The Native?

Return Of The Native was a classic novel by Thomas Hardy (1878), but the title applies here. The HFD's American LaFrance* pumper, built in 1921 in Elmira, NY, was in service at nearly every fire and emergency from 1922 until the late 1940s. And now it's back home in Huntington!

As the story goes, the pumper was even used as a prop by a movie production company and then disappeared. Eventually, it was acquired by a private collector in Hamburg, NY (Erie County), Tom Sarach, who in March 2014 contacted the HFD about the truck.

On October 15, thanks to the diligent efforts of Bruce Smith, George Bodnar, Skip Schwier and Nick Ambrosio, the pumper was donated back to the HFD and made its proud reappearance. Away from Huntington since the Truman administration, will the nonagenarian vehicle be seeing any duty?

"No, it's a living museum piece," Bruce Smith commented, "and it has certainly seen a lot of history. Plans are for casual use. We will have it available for parades and special occasions as well as a memoir of Huntington's past."

* American LaFrance, since 1832 perhaps the most famous maker of hand drawn, horse drawn, steam powered and gasoline powered vehicles, closed in 2014.





Construction status: Getting there!



Light at the end of the tunnel! Progress on the new building continues on schedule. Electrical service has been upgraded, first and second floor bathrooms are operating, the security system is in place and the new 300kW generator is humming along just fine.

Bruce Smith commented, "It has been an adventure running the firehouse and responding to calls amid the disarray of a construction site. The annex is now 99% complete, and the first training class was recently held in the facility. We're almost done!"



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 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, at 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 Chief Robert Berry at (631) 427-3030.



SNOW & HYDRANTS DON'T MIX

With winter just around the corner, can snowfall be far behind? When clearing your driveway or walkway, please don't overlook your local neighborhood fire hydrant. A visible, accessible hydrant can save precious seconds in a fire emergency!



Chief's Corner



What a year! The Huntington Fire Department has had an extremely busy 2014. Eleven working fires, five of which were in

Huntington Village, and we are on track to answer over 700 emergency calls. I would like to thank and to applaud our Officers and Members, who once again have shown their true dedication and professionalism.

As we approach the winter season, I would like to remind the residents of our District to exercise caution when using extension cords, portable heaters, holiday lighting and generators. I cannot stress enough the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. They can and do save lives.

**Robert Berry,
Chief Of Department**

Fire Prevention Night Draws Hundreds



An important educational event for children and adults alike, our annual Fire Prevention Night was a big success drawing over 200 attendees to Leverich Place. Crews discussed and demonstrated emergency vehicle rescues, how to douse kitchen fires and the proper use of fire extinguishers. Tours were given of the kids safety house, discussions were held and informative literature was provided for all.





CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES AT LEVERICH PLACE.



SINCE 1838, NOBODY COVERS HUNTINGTON NEWS BETTER THAN THE LONG-ISLANDER.

The Long-Islander

Founded by Walt Whitman

Online at www.LongIslanderNews.com

Let's Party Like it is 1873

Ticket for 19th-century event found during Wall St. demo

It's a night on the town that's over 141 years in the making.

Huntington Fire Department officials are now in the possession of a ticket for a May 15, 1873 event hosted by the fire department, which District Manager Bruce Smith said was discovered as a demolition crew prepared to tear down the former firehouse at 10 Wall St., which was most recently the Black Lantern sushi den/lounge.

"With all the stuff being moved around...I think they found it on the floor when they started taking the floorboards up," Smith said. "It was along the edge of the wall and the floor."

The ticket, which Smith said appears to have been damaged after being "water-washed" or having something stuck to it, promises an "amateur dramatic performance" hosted at the Huntington Fire Department's Assembly Rooms. Also visible on the ticket is a bit of French – l'on parle Francais is all that's visible and below that, the price, a princely sum of \$1.

"Which, to me, is expensive for 1873," Smith said with a laugh. Run a circa 1873 dollar through an inflation calculator, and that \$1 is worth about 19 bucks today.

It's been a good month for history in the Huntington Fire District - the district is putting the finishing touches on a new museum, where the ticket and

other artifacts recovered from 10 Wall St. will be displayed and incorporated. The old firehouse building was torn down to make way for a three-story, 8,000 square-foot building with a restaurant proposed for the first floor and two apartments each in the second and third floors above.

Huntington's Mary Smith, who is erecting the new structure, will incorporate a tribute to the Huntington Fire Department into the interior design, she told Long Islander News in an interview last week.

"We got wood frames, rafters and some flooring, siding and windows that we're going to reclaim and display," Smith said.

She plans to have shovels in the ground by April 2015. Demolition crews were still pulling out the final pieces of building as of Wednesday, after spending much of the week clearing demolition debris.

—By Danny Schrafel



FIRE FACTS & SAFETY:

CHECK YOUR BURNERS & INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

In winter, heating equipment is the biggest fire culprit. Proper installation, maintenance, fueling and operation of heating equipment, including portable and space heaters, greatly reduces risk. Common mistakes that can turn deadly:

- Failing to clean chimneys
- Placing space heaters too close to furniture, bedding or clothing
- Improper fueling and venting of fueled heating devices



Carbon monoxide (CO) is called the invisible killer because it is colorless and odorless. Heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel and vehicles or generators running in a garage can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Install CO alarms because the life you save may be your own!

HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

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



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A Look Back:

Look what's back at the Huntington Fire District!



PLEASE HELP: TOYS FOR TOTS AND HUNTINGTON FOOD PANTRY



This is our ninth consecutive year supporting Toys For Tots in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The goal is to deliver a message of hope to needy youngsters through a new toy at Christmas, to motivate them to grow into responsible, patriotic citizens. Please bring an unwrapped gift to the firehouse.

We are also asking for support to assist the Huntington Food Pantry. We will collect all food donations at the Leverich Place firehouse for distribution to needy families in the Huntington area.



Thanks to all and Season's Greetings!