



A publication of the Huntington Fire District

# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 6, Number 1, Summer 2015



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We're almost done! It started in 2012 with the community's endorsement and the passage of a \$4.5 million, 15-year serial bond in 2012. "Construction began in June 2013," Bruce Smith commented, "and I'm pleased to say that we're on schedule and also on budget. It took some effort to maintain service in a construction environment, but the firefighters stepped up and have done a great job."

The new red doors are arguably the most dramatic change to the facility's appearance, and they also save money. Lightweight, thanks to the three levels of glass, they require less electricity to operate. Better insulation makes the doors more energy efficient, which lowers heating bills in the winter. "They're much easier to maintain than the old 1958 doors," Smith added, "because parts are readily available. And they're hurricane-rated to today's standards."

Most other improvements are more subtle but equally



important for efficient operation. These include lightning and power surge protection for all electronics, upgraded radios that enable integrated communication between different emergency agencies and a better security system throughout.



## BOAT ON THE WATER

We're back! The Department recently held training sessions on marine fires.

## COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

Our purpose with this column has always been to inform the public on pertinent topics. In past issues we have discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Fire Commissioners as outlined in the laws of New York State. In others we have addressed the elections and terms of fire commissioners, as well as the budget process, the oversight of Huntington Fire Department operations and other equally important topics.

Additionally, the New York State Comptroller's Office audit reports are

meticulously reviewed so that we keep abreast of the rules regarding proper fiscal record keeping and administrative policies and procedures. While most people can appreciate the importance of following New York State laws and the directions of the Comptroller, few know the impact of an insurance industry rating company called the Insurance Service Office, Inc. (ISO) on a fire district and its residents. Founded in 1971 through the merger of a group of smaller underwriting service organizations, ISO performs statistical recordkeeping and ratings for the insurance industry. In 1997 the ISO became a private, for profit company, owned by its member insurers.

In this column in our next newsletter, we will discuss how the work of this company affects your fire department and your insurance premiums.



## HELP THE COMMUNITY JOIN US NOW!

Thirty-four U.S. Presidents have served since the Huntington Fire Department started protecting Huntington residents in 1843. As an all-volunteer organization, you can only imagine how many dedicated firefighters and emergency responders have served.



L to R: Nicholas Smyth, Shannon Smith, Steven Capobianco, Carl Ganz

Ever been curious about what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter? Want to be a hero in your own community? Come see what it's like to serve your community and enter a brotherhood and sisterhood unlike any other. Call us at 631-427-3030, drop in at 1 Leverich Place or visit us on the Internet at [www.huntingtonfiredept.com](http://www.huntingtonfiredept.com). See you soon!

## Chief's Corner



As outdoor activities increase this time of year, please follow some safety tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe this summer.

### GRILLS

- Always grill outside
- Always open lid before lighting
- Clean your grill after each use to remove grease
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around all grills
- Dispose of all coals in metal containers only



### SWIMMING POOLS

- Designate a water watcher at all times when children are present
- Teach your children how to swim
- Remove all portable pool ladders when not in use

- Be sure that all pools are properly fenced
- Learn to perform CPR on adults and children



### FIREWORKS

- Never play with fireworks. Leave the lighting to professionals.
- Only attend public fireworks displays

Thank you, and have a safe, enjoyable summer!



**Robert Berry,**  
**Chief Of Department**

# Back In The Day

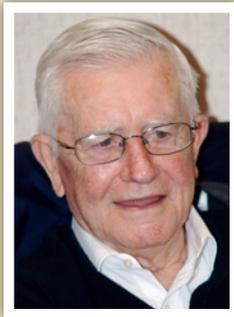


## Milestones



### Andre Sorrentino

In the most recent election, Andre Sorrentino was elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. A lifetime resident of Huntington and owner of Professional Automotive Service and Sorrentino Trucking, his five-year term as Fire Commissioner began on January 1, 2015, and will run through December 31, 2019.



### Thank You Cliff

How do you honor someone who has been a dedicated Fire Commissioner for 25 years and a stalwart member of the HFD since October 8, 1951. How do you say thank you to a Chief Emeritus, a recipient of a heroism award who has given his all to our Fire Department on every level year after year? Words fall short, and accolades can never express our pride. So we will say it with heartfelt gratitude as simply as possible: The Board of Fire Commissioners, The Department and the Huntington community thank Cliff Schwier for a lifetime of service above and beyond the call of duty.



### Trevor Smith Firefighter of the Year

L to R: Robert Conroy, Jesse Cukro, award recipient Trevor Smith, Chief Robert Berry, Brian Keane.



### Nick Ambrosio

Unsung Hero Award

With the Protection Engine Company #1 for 39 years beginning February 4, 1976, Nick is truly deserving of this special award.

### Nicholas Crocco: 50 Years Of Service

Nick has been a faithful member since joining the Protection Engine Company #1 on Valentine's Day, 1965. Aside from his normal activities as a firefighter, he has actively participated in Fire Prevention Program school visitations and in our annual Open House at the firehouse. Nick has been a member long enough to have celebrated some major HFD milestones including our 150th Anniversary, and he also serves in the Fire Police Squad. Congratulations, Nick, on a job well done!

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### Board of Fire Commissioners

Chairman: Thomas Brown  
Vice Chairman: Thomas Collins  
Edmund M. Erickson  
Andrew Kitzen  
Andre Sorrentino

Treasurer: Fred J. Buckholtz  
Deputy Treasurer: Joyce Logan  
Secretary: Karla Wright  
District Manager: Bruce Smith  
District Counsel: Joseph Frank

Questions or Comments? Email us at [hfd230@gmail.com](mailto:hfd230@gmail.com)



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## HUNTINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT **Museum**

### Proud History Comes Alive



The brainchild of Bruce Smith, the new Fire Museum will soon be open to the public thanks to the efforts of many, in particular Museum Committee members George Bodner, Ken Cochrane, Nick Ambrosio and Skip Schwier. Artifacts include vintage fire trumpets, an original hose reel, an original hand pump and our beautiful 1922 American LaFrance pumper. Memorabilia includes old certificates, photos and the framed Engine Company charter. A 1930s era chemical cart is currently under restoration.

Special thanks go to Mary Smith who purchased the old Wall Street firehouse building and encouraged our salvage efforts. Visitors will see the original firehouse flooring dating to 1843 as well as two original windows and original siding. History is coming alive in Huntington!