



A publication of the Huntington Fire District

HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 5, Number 1, Spring 2014

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

By the time you receive this edition of the Huntington Fire District News, the freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and high winds will be all but forgotten. However, the Board of Fire Commissioners will never forget the outstanding efforts of the volunteer members of the Huntington Fire Department during these extraordinarily harsh weather conditions in the first two months of 2014. We believe it is vital that the residents of the Huntington Fire District, whom we serve, are made aware of their efforts.

In 2011 and 2012 the Department members were called upon to be on standby at fire headquarters to respond to the numerous calls for help with the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, respectively. As has been well documented, the efforts of the Huntington Fire Department volunteers during these two natural disasters were exemplary. However, those efforts pale in comparison to the demands made on the volunteer firefighters during the first sixty days of 2014.

During this period the members responded to 129 emergencies and participated in five standbys. Then on day sixty, the Department responded to an alarm at 425 New York Avenue and spent fifteen hours fighting a fast spreading fire. It destroyed a two-story building containing several retail businesses and professional offices.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Huntington Fire District, applaud the volunteers for another job well done.



This winter will be remembered for many years to come as the winter that wouldn't quit. Never-ending snowstorms, a blizzard, ice everywhere, record cold temperatures, and snow on March 31st. Despite a brief concession to Mother Nature's wrath, the construction at Leverich Place is back on schedule. In fact, the exterior should be completed by late spring.

Main Building:

Although changes to it are not as noticeable from outside appearances, the main building is progressing on schedule. Inside, the second floor bathrooms have been gutted, reconfigured, and are back in service. Upgrades to the electrical service and security system are nearing completion. All the drainage around the building has been installed, and the exterior is being transformed with the addition of the stone façade and mansard roofs.

Making It Happen: Building Progress Report



The Dispatcher's first floor office is now dramatically larger. The roof is slated to be installed soon, which will close in the front of the building.

So progress is being made despite some weather-related problems. We are on schedule, and we will keep it moving along until completion. Thanks once again to the Huntington community for bond issue approval and for all your ensuing support and good wishes. Our new firehouse will enable us to serve the entire community better than ever.

The Annex:

Significant progress has been made on the annex, which provides a dedicated area for training as well as much needed storage space. The masonry walls are virtually complete, the roofs are on, and the large windows are in place. In addition, the new fire hydrant has been installed, and all the drainage and the sewer lines have been hooked up. The concrete floors are ready to be poured which will enable the construction of the interior walls.

New Generator

The severity of Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy convinced many residents of the value of backup generators. Since the HFD cannot risk service interruptions, we've long had generators in place. Our new 300 kW diesel generator was recently installed to further ensure emergency preparedness under any conditions.

"The new generator is very powerful and completely self-contained," District Manager Bruce Smith stated. "It is weather-resistant and in a sound-attenuated enclosure to help eliminate operating noise."





New Chiefs At The Helm

Left to right:

Jesse Cukro, Assistant Chief

Robert Berry, Chief of Department

Robert Conroy, 2nd Deputy Chief

Brian Keane, 3rd Deputy Chief



JOIN US & BE A HERO

Is helping others important to you? Can you devote some of your precious time to help friends and neighbors? Would you support an extremely worthy cause? Would you like to give back to your community?

Then become a hero. Join the Huntington firefighters and help your community now. You'll become part of a proud legacy of bravery and service with a history that dates to 1843.

Join us, and we will train you to become a New York State certified firefighter. You will learn to master a host of fire tools, apparatus, and equipment. You will participate in a wide assortment of exercises and drills. All training is free with no cost to you.

The Huntington Fire Department is an all-volunteer force that supports a Length of Service Awards Program and scholarships. 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. Or stop in at the Leverich Place Firehouse and fill out an application to become a hero in your community.



Chief's Corner



The first three months of being Chief of the Huntington Fire Department have been nothing short of insane with multiple snow standbys...mutual aid to Huntington Manor, Halesite, and Centerport Fire Departments... three house fires...a huge fire in Huntington Village...plus over 200 service calls! While this is a tremendous workload in a very short period of time, it is also at the core of why firefighters volunteer. There is nothing more gratifying than helping someone in need.

Thankfully, there are over 100 professional and caring members in the HFD ready to serve residents at a moment's notice. This unselfish dedication to service is why I am proud to be Chief of the Huntington Fire Department.

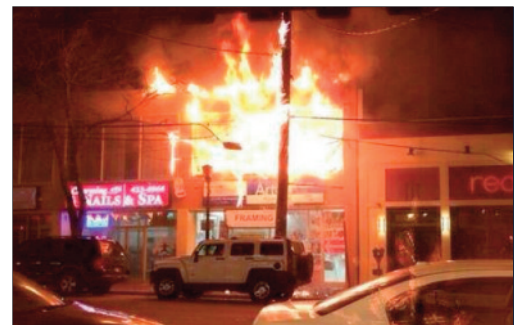
I thank outgoing Chief Ken Cochrane for all he has done to help me prepare for this job. His knowledge, leadership, and teaching abilities have proven to be a tremendous aid.

To the members and residents of the District, I thank you for the opportunity to work together with you to keep Huntington the wonderful place it is to live, work, and volunteer.

Robert Berry
Chief Of Department

Make Sure To Call 911 First!

The March fire at 425 New York Avenue was extremely destructive and could have been deadly. To all bystanders at this fire (and any fire), the HFD offers this advice. While smartphones are wonderful devices to text and tweet or to snap and post, putting the fire out and potentially saving lives and buildings should be everyone's first and immediate concern. Never assume that someone else has notified the HFD. Always call the HFD emergency number at (631) 423-3131 or call 911.





Construction Progress At Leverich Place

Honoring Two For A Half-Century Of Service.

Amid the turmoil of the 1960s, the Huntington Fire Department added two members who would spend over 50 years serving the Department and the community. Walter Kahrs (left) and Bob Archer (right), we salute you for all your efforts on our behalf.



A lifetime Huntington resident, Bob Archer came on board in November 1963 at a time of national mourning for President John F. Kennedy. Bob has been active in the Department ever since, attaining the rank of Captain. He also worked for the Huntington Fire

District as the District's Mechanic for 31 years.

Just three months later, Walter Kahrs joined the HFD. Walter has served as Chaplain for the past 4 years and was the Assistant Chaplain for 2 years prior. A Lloyd Harbor Police Officer for 24 years, Walter has been a Huntington resident for 51 years.

An honorary dinner will be held on July 12, 2014, to celebrate Walter and Bob's contributions and service.

The 50-year honorees request that donations of non-perishable food be dropped off at the Leverich Place Firehouse to help support food pantries.

10 Fire Facts & Safety Tips

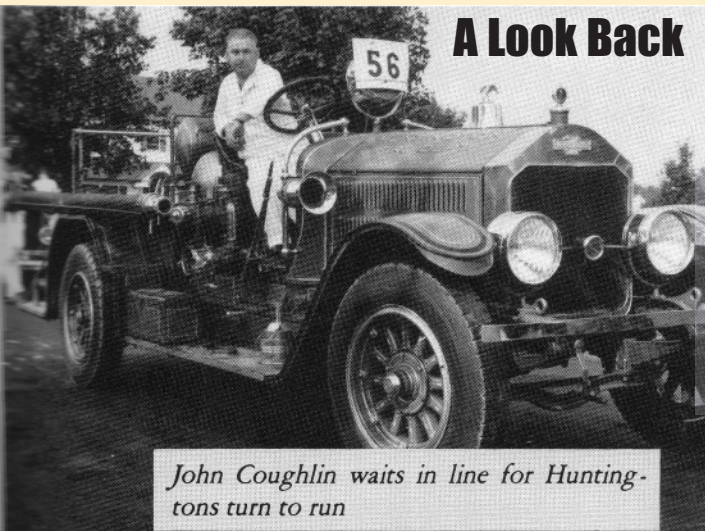
Any fire can be a devastating and deadly event. Each year in the USA, some 4,000 people are killed and more than 25,000 people are injured in fires. Eighty-one firefighters were killed in the line of duty in 2012 and in 2013. Nineteen alone were killed trying to control the Arizona wildfires.

Fire devastation costs approximately \$9 billion annually, and the majority of these tragedies could have been prevented by observing the following:

1. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and test them monthly.
2. Have a fire escape plan and practice evacuation.
3. Always call the fire department immediately! Never assume someone else has called.
4. Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
5. Do not overload electrical extension cords or outlets.
6. Never use space heaters near combustible or flammable materials.
7. Never smoke in bed.
8. Be careful when cooking.
9. Always clean the filter in your dryer after each use.
10. Never use a barbecue or store propane indoors.

Medal of Valor

In January 2014, outgoing Chief Ken Cochrane was honored for his heroism by the Vocational Education And Extension Board Of The County Of Suffolk. Chief Cochrane, who was also voted Suffolk County Firefighter of the Year, received the Bronze Medal Of Valor at a ceremony hosted by the Southampton Fire Department.



A Look Back

John Coughlin waits in line for Hunting-tons turn to run



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1 Leverich Place
Huntington, NY 11743-7803
Emergency Tel: (631) 423-3131
Tel: (631) 427-3030
Fax: (631) 673-0684

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**PLEASE HELP
FEED THE HUNGRY**

HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

The Huntington Fire Department actively supports a number of charitable efforts. Our Christmas food drive provided nearly 500 pounds of food for the Huntington Food Pantry, and we are most grateful. But the need for food donations to this most worthy cause continues year round, and the Pantry needs your support. All non-perishable food donations are welcome as well as diapers and personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, shampoo, paper towels, and cleaning products. Your contributions will go a long way to helping your Huntington neighbors.

And thank you for your support of the Toys For Tots Program which resulted in nearly 2,000 toys for needy children in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Many thanks to all the individuals, families, and businesses who made these good deeds possible.



2013 ELECTION RESULTS

In the December 2013 election, Andrew Kitzen was reelected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. A resident of Huntington for 35 years, Andy's five-year term began on January 1, 2014.

