



# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 7 Number 2 | Fall 2016

### COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

One primary responsibility of fire commissioners is to protect tax monies collected from taxpayers. Protection begins with the selection of a Treasurer, someone who must possess high ethical standards and a financial background. Equally important is the development of procedures with good checks and balances to ensure the integrity of all expenditures and security of the District's assets.

#### The Process:

- The Treasurer prepares a monthly report listing all bills to be approved for payment.
- Each bill listed is attached and presented for payment.
- Every bill requires a purchase order which requests permission to purchase or contract for services.
- Vendors must prepare and submit the District's voucher and any other documentation required or requested.

Each bill presented must be approved by a majority of the Board before payment is made. After approval, **ALL** commissioners must sign the voucher. The Treasurer then authorizes preparation of a check. The check is then signed by the Treasurer and a Commissioner.



## Member Profiles: Profiles In Courage

Borrowed from John F. Kennedy's famous book, the title *Profiles In Courage* could describe any firefighter in any firehouse. It certainly takes courage and dedication to be a volunteer firefighter, and the rewards like camaraderie, achievement and a deep sense of personal fulfillment are sometimes not readily visible. What do our HFD members feel about their community service? **Read on!**



SCOTT LOECHNER

"I joined the Huntington Fire Department because I wanted to give back to my community. Joining has been an amazing experience. I have received a wealth of knowledge including training at our department facility and observing at fire scenes. Not only is this department comprised of extremely skilled firefighters and officers, but it is also a close brotherhood, and the members have accepted me as a part of their family.

Being a volunteer firefighter is a commitment that is easily fulfilled even with my busy schedule. I own a home, work in NYC, and have a baby on the way. Family and work do come first, but I am able to make scheduled trainings and meetings and, of course, fire calls without stretching myself too thin. The more I participate, the more I receive. I'm privileged to be part of such an outstanding organization."

“The more I participate, the more I receive.”

”

Member since:  
March 2014



MIKE PLANT

"I joined the Department after September 11, 2001, because I felt the call to serve our community, and I became a probationary fireman at age 34. I had a very active life—a wife, two young sons, a 3-year-old daughter, a dog, and a full time job that required me to be on call 24/7.

I quickly accomplished all the qualifications required of a new fireman and also became an Emergency Medical Technician. In 15 years, I have always found the time to balance Department requirements with family obligations. I have served the Hook & Ladder Company as a 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain. I have also been a part of many groups and committees, including chairing events, throughout the entire Department.

My wife and children continue to support me on this journey. Where there is a will, there is a way to volunteer."

“Where there is a will, there is a way to volunteer.”

”

Member since:  
March 2001



CHRIS AMENDOLARE

"I started my fire service career in 2012 as a volunteer firefighter. My father is a firefighter, and he is the reason why I volunteered at such a young age. I have responded to structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and water rescues in the past few years. The brotherhood within the department is truly amazing.

I earned my Associate's Degree while working full time at Cold Spring Harbor School District and part time as an Emergency Medical Technician for the Melville Fire District. Balancing two jobs and going to school was difficult at times, but I found plenty of time to maintain a healthy social life and to attend training sessions and classes at the Suffolk County Fire Academy. In January 2016, I became a Lieutenant in the HFD. The position comes with great responsibilities, and it's an honor to serve and protect the community with such a great group of people who volunteer to help others in need."

“The brotherhood within the department is truly amazing.”

”

Member since:  
March 2012

## KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR!

With winter approaching, we ask all community members to please remove snow from around hydrants. This will provide visibility and accessibility for emergency use.



## SAFETY TIPS

The fire death rate in homes with working smoke alarms is over 50% lower than those with working smoke alarms. The U.S. Fire Administration and the American Red Cross recommend these simple safety steps:

- 1 Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas.
- 2 Test alarms monthly.
- 3 Replace batteries annually or any time you hear a cricket-like 'chirping.'
- 4 Clean smoke alarms so they are dust and debris free by vacuuming over and around them.
- 5 Install smoke alarms away from windows, doors or ducts that could interfere with operation.
- 6 Practice a family home fire escape plan.
- 7 Alarms wear out. Replace them every 10 years.



## Chief's Corner



*Dear Valued Neighbor,*

**T**he Huntington Fire Department is a volunteer organization. We average over 800

calls for help annually, and the volume is increasing. Now more than ever we need your help in the form of more volunteers to answer alarms and to safeguard the community.

There are many benefits to joining.

- Training to become a New York State Class A firefighter, Engine Chauffeur, and other advanced levels of certification.
- LOSAP (Length Of Service Award Program).
- Parades and fire service functions that the entire family can enjoy.
- The satisfaction of helping your neighbors.
- Close bond between members that cannot be equaled.

Our ranks include volunteers from all walks of life: Electricians, accountants, IT professionals, doctors, lawyers, nurses, college students, retired persons, and New York City Firefighters/Police Officers. Anyone physically capable of carrying out the duties of a firefighter can fit in.

The Department survives because of the work and dedication of its volunteers. I personally invite you to reach out to our recruitment committee for more information. Please include your name, phone number, and the most convenient time to contact you. Please email us: [hfdrecruitment@yahoo.com](mailto:hfdrecruitment@yahoo.com).

**Jesse Cukro,**  
**Chief of the**  
**Huntington Fire Department**

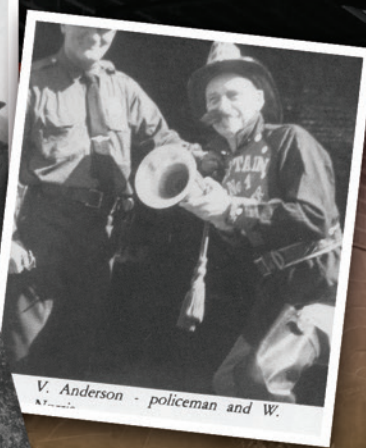
## Did you know?

Dalmatians are perhaps best known for their role as firefighting apparatus escorts and firehouse mascots. Since Dalmatians and horses are very compatible, the dogs were easily trained to run in front of the carriages to help clear a path and quickly guide the horses and firefighters to the fires.





# Back in the Day



V. Anderson - policeman and W.  
H. Smith

Bruce Smith  
descends

## PLEASE HELP HUNTINGTON FOOD PANTRY & TOYS FOR TOTS



The holiday season approaches and families in our community need our support. Please drop off food donations at the Leverich Place Firehouse at any time. Let's pull together and try to help every needy family.

Holidays bring joy and magic to children. Please join the Department and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and bring an unwrapped Christmas gift to Leverich Place this year. The Toys for Tots Program delivers a powerful message to needy youngsters...that somebody cares...to help motivate them to become responsible, patriotic citizens.

Let's do our civic duty and help all those in need this holiday season.



## In Memoriam:

The Huntington Fire District recognizes the contributions of those members who have passed away. We, and the entire community, are grateful for their many years of dedicated service.



### Larry Farrell

A 66-year-member of the Huntington Fire Department, Larry joined the Hose Company on March 7, 1950. Larry was also an honorary Chief and a member of the Fire Police Squad. The owner of a successful local business, Savoy Venetian Blinds, he was often seen driving his green truck around town bearing the saying "A blind man is driving this truck." Larry was also a member of the Huntington Elks.



### Walter R. Kahrs, Jr.

Walter was a Volunteer Fireman for over 53 years and the Chaplain for the Huntington Fire Department. A retired Sergeant with the Lloyd Harbor Police Department, Walter was also a Deacon with Bethany Presbyterian Church and active in the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI) and Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger (MICA).

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### Board of Fire Commissioners

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

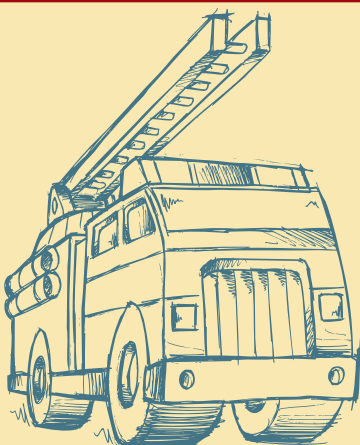
Treasurer: Fred J. Buckholtz  
Deputy Treasurer: Joyce Logan  
Secretary: Karla Wright  
District Manager: Bruce Smith  
District Counsel: Joseph Frank

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



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## CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER



### Hook & Ladder Company Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser

- Sale starts Saturday, December 3
- Monday – Friday: Starting at 4 pm
- Saturday: Starting at 9 am