



A publication of the Huntington Fire District

# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 12 Number 1 | Winter 2021

### COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

2020 will go down in history as a year plagued by multiple problems and disasters. In our last edition (Volume 11, Number 1), we discussed the dedication of the Huntington Fire Department volunteers who responded to emergency calls despite the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also noted the diligent efforts of Huntington Fire District employees in keeping the Leverich Place headquarters and firefighting equipment clean, hygienic and safe for firefighters. Little did we suspect that the Department, its officers and its members would face another major challenge while still dealing with the pandemic.



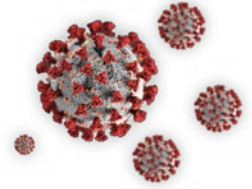
In August, Hurricane Isaias, the ninth storm of the 2020 season, hammered Long Island. Raging winds caused hundreds of thousands to lose electricity and significantly damaged homes and structures. The Huntington area was particularly hard hit. Firefighters form the first line of defense in such emergencies. Huntington Fire Department members answered the needs of District residents, responding to over 100 emergency calls from August 11th to August 14th alone, while still fighting the pandemic. Once again we thank our brave volunteers for their selfless action and dedication to the community. Another job well done!

Sincerely,  
**Edmund M. Erickson**  
Fire Commissioner



## COVID-19 UPDATE

### COVID-19 continuing safety measures



The year 2020 continued with virus-related and other unwelcome surprises right through the end of the year. As surges continued, the Huntington Fire Department responded by re-deploying our March/April protocol for response to alarms and by sanitizing equipment out of an abundance of caution.

We remind all our residents to observe Best Practices at all times during this COVID-19 Pandemic. We must never be complacent. In the interest of the health, safety and well-being of all, the public, our membership and our families, we, the men and women of the HFD are following these suggested guidelines. We urge the community to observe them fully.

**Always maintain appropriate Social Distancing practices, a minimum of six feet**

**Always wear a mask or approved face covering around other individuals**

**Always wash hands and use sanitizers**

In addition to those rules, our firefighters and emergency responders also follow these important alarm response guidelines:

**Wear appropriate masks or face coverings:**

- When entering the Leverich Place firehouse
- When social distancing cannot be maintained
- During meetings and trainings
- While using the gym
- While riding on the apparatus

**Always be hygienic:**

- Wash hands and use sanitizers
- Regularly disinfect work spaces

**During Alarm Response:**

- Protect ourselves and others by using proper PPE
- Adhere to CDC guidelines when dealing with the public
- Ask if anyone is sick before entering an occupancy
- Limit personnel exposure risk
- Ventilate truck cabs/crack windows for air circulation
- Disinfect our PPE

**Self-Monitor Flu-like Symptoms:**

- If symptomatic we will notify our Chief and self-quarantine as per CDC guidelines

By continuing to be respectful of others, and by observing Best Practices, the Huntington Fire Department and the Huntington community will get through this pandemic together.



## Commissioner Election Results

On December 8, 2020, Commissioner Thomas Brown was re-elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. A longtime resident of Lloyd Harbor and a former Lloyd Harbor police officer, Mr. Brown began his five-year term effective January 1, 2021. It will run through December 31, 2025. Congratulations, and welcome back Commissioner Brown!





## Congratulations to Chief Brian Keane

The Board of Fire Commissioners extends congratulations to Chief of the Department Brian Keane, who with the help of his Assistant Chiefs, Scott Dodge, Sean Schwier, and Paul Smith, did an outstanding job during his term in office. Chief Keane's initial year in office, 2019, was filled with typical duties. In addition to overseeing fire operations he spent about 10 to 20 hours a week overseeing the Department and handling the innumerable administrative duties.



However, 2020 was an unprecedented year to say the least. Chief Keane not only had to handle the routine tasks of Department Chief, but he also had to address the COVID-19 pandemic and all its dangers as well as the equally unexpected challenges of Hurricane Isaias. Chief Keane handled all admirably. We thank you for a job especially well done.

-The Board of Fire Commissioners

## Chief's Corner



*Hello Neighbors,*

It has been a great honor to serve as Chief of the Huntington Fire Department these past two years. I applaud the entire membership for all their dedication and hard work in providing fire protection to the residents and business owners within our district.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Department had to make many adjustments and readjustments to the way we go about our business. I am proud to say that the membership did a stand up, professional job in adapting to these changes, thereby protecting the community, each other, as well as our families. I am truly grateful for all they continue to do in the face of this unprecedented adversity.

I wish all the new Chiefs the best of luck in 2021, and I am confident that the Huntington Fire Department will be in capable hands as we continue to faithfully serve our great community.

*Yours truly,*  
**Brian Keane**  
**Ex-Chief of the**  
**Huntington Fire Department**

## Milestones

### Firefighter of the Year: Connor Riggs



Connor Riggs is the recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award. A member of the Huntington Fire Department Hook & Ladder Company since November 2013 and a 1st Lieutenant of the Hook & Ladder Company, Connor

has been instrumental in our probationary member development program. He is responsible for scheduling and conducting training to ensure that all new members are well prepared to complete the NYS FF1 course. He is also a qualified chauffeur on all of our apparatus which makes him invaluable given his level of activity. Congratulations Connor on a job well done!

### Pop Schwier Award: Paul Smith



Paul's dedicated service has been an inspiration to all, and he received the Clifford "Pop" Schwier award in recognition of his efforts. Paul started with the Engine Company

on May 6, 1985, was elected 2nd Lieutenant of Engine Co. in 1987, and Captain of the Engine Co. in 1991. He served as Safety Officer (2002), Assistant Chaplain (2017), 3rd Asst. Chief (2019) and 2nd Assistant Chief (2021). Congratulations on being named the recipient of this prestigious award.

### In Memoriam

#### Robert E. LaMay, 1927-2020



A longtime local businessman and a member of the Huntington Fire Department for thirty years, Robert "Bob" LaMay has passed away. Bob served the Huntington community as a

member of the Hose Company, as Chief of the Huntington Fire Department (1967 – 1969) and as Fire Commissioner from 1984-2004. Bob was 92 years old.



# ELECTION RESULTS

## DEPARTMENT ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2021



Chief of Department  
**Scott Dodge**



1st Deputy Chief  
**Sean Schwier**



2nd Deputy Chief  
**Paul Smith**



3rd Deputy Chief  
**Matthew Getter**



Secretary  
**Jason Sandvik**



Treasurer  
**Edmund M. Erickson**



Financial Secretary  
**Neil Getter**



Chaplin  
**Richard Fernandez**



Asst. Chaplin  
**Matthew Kennaugh**

## COMPANY ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2021

### ENGINE COMPANY



Captain  
**Ryan Doyle**



1st Lieutenant  
**Ben Kitzen**



2nd Lieutenant  
**John Canino Jr**



Treasurer  
**Edmund M. Erickson**



Secretary  
**Andrew Kitzen**

### HOOK & LADDER COMPANY



Captain  
**Matt Mohlenhoff**



1st Lieutenant  
**Connor Riggs**



2nd Lieutenant  
**Matthew Kennaugh**



Treasurer  
**Fred Buckholtz**



Secretary  
**John Mohlenhoff**

### HOSE COMPANY



Captain  
**Justin Bodnar**



1st Lieutenant  
**Mike Friel**



Treasurer  
**George Bodnar**



Secretary  
**Jason Sandvik**

# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

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[www.huntingtonfiredept.org](http://www.huntingtonfiredept.org)

### Board of Fire Commissioners

Chairman: Thomas Collins  
Vice Chairman: Edmund M. Erickson  
Commissioner: Michael F. Plant  
Commissioner: Andre Sorrentino  
Chairman: Thomas Brown

**District Manager:** Bruce Smith

**Treasurer:** Fred J. Buckholtz, Jr.

**Secretary/Deputy Treasurer:** Karla Wright

**Account Clerk:** Marie Caputo

**District Counsel:** Joseph Frank

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



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## HFD Needs Volunteers



As a decorated organization that averages over 800 help calls annually, the Huntington Fire Department needs volunteers in 2021 more than ever. Please consider joining us! You'll be trained to become a New York State Class A Firefighter and an Engine Chauffeur. It's an unselfish and personally rewarding way for qualified men and women to give back to the Huntington community. The bonds between members last a lifetime and cannot be equaled. Due to the pandemic, simply call us at (631) 427-3030 to inquire.



## 178 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY... AND YOURS!



The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the premiere of our Huntington Fire Department Museum, but we will announce the opening as soon as we are able to do so.

