North Syracuse Fire Department



1913 - 2013

Honoring our active members who have either died while active in the fire department or those who are a life member, our organization has taken each name and inscribed it on a memorial plaque on display in our station. The following is a listing of those members and the year of their death;

Wilfred F. Down	1939	Clyde Martineau	1975	Leo Wood	1990
Louis Holtzheimer	1944	Leroy Thompson	1975	James R. Kenny	1990
Walter J. Fergerson	1946	Charles Lavin	1977	Burton English	1991
William Benecke	1947	John Maloney	1977	Robert Davis	1991
Carlton N. Fergerson	1947	Arthur L. Harvey	1977	William Willenbrock	1994
Palmer T. Shaver	1950	Allen Tyrell	1977	Richard Erhardt	1996
Victor Ford	1952	Father Thomas Murphy	1978	Foster G. Sponable	1996
Frank Graboski	1953	Harry Perrine	1978	William Fasce	1996
Joseph Steckel	1953	Donald Sheely	1978	Fred B. Boshane	1996
Melvin Gaffey	1954	Joseph Falise	1980	Jerrold Finger	1996
Lewis Leonard	1954	James Landers	1981	Walter P. Fergerson	1997
George Thompson	1957	Leslie Potter	1982	Richard Blaisdell	1997
Harry Niepling	1957	Robert Aicher	1983	Lyman G. Crosby	1997
Edward Letterman	1960	Elmer Verstreet	1984	Joseph Cali Sr.	1998
Floyd Francisco	1961	J. Paul Shepardson	1985	James C. Cali	1998
Clarence Fraser Sr.	1962	Doug Goettel	1985	Alton L. Lewis	1999
Fletcher Palmer	1963	W. LaClair Down	1986	Arthur P. Appel	2000
Ernest Conway	1964	William Wager	1986	Arthur Dunham	2000
Oliver Crowell	1965	Francis Baldrini	1987	Adrian Shippers	2002
Hubert Fay	1965	William Gimbel	1987	Charles Homeward	2003
Otto Ruesseau	1966	Christopher Bilger	1987	Myron W. Pepperman	2004
George Down	1967	John Miller	1987	Robert Crandall	2005
Edward Fowler	1967	John Bolton	1987	Harold Rogers	2006
Carl Towsley	1968	George Wentworth	1987	Dominic Giordano	2006
Colberne Barkley	1968	John F. Behnke	1988	Daniel Ingersol	2006
Stewart Darling	1969	Frances Mickey Letterman	1988	Kevin Thomas	2007
Arthur Amerman	1969	Ernest Hepp	1988	Timothy Huppmann	2008
Robert Haberer	1969	Edgar Moxam	1988	Michael Grillo	2009
Walter Anderson	1969	Arthur LaFlair	1988	Robert Deyo	2010
Charles Mayer	1972	John E. Tooley	1989	Charles Mason	2010
Frederick Mueller	1972	Roland N. Ward	1989	Richard Jones	2013
Charles Gross	1972	Robert Hepp Sr.	1989		
Kenneth Stanton	1972	Curtis R. Millard	1990		

A Fireman's Prayer



Although the exact date of composition is unknown, "A Fireman's Prayer" expresses the emotions and religious beliefs that a member may feel. Reciting this prayer is often used to honor a deceased fellow firefighter, reminding ourselves and others of the inner drive and motivation of our calling.

It is believed A.W. "Smokey" Linn wrote "A Fireman's Prayer" after he had been at a call involving children trapped in a burning apartment building. The firefighters could see the children in the windows, but could not rescue them due to the iron bars over the windows that the apartment owner had installed. All they could do was try to contain the fire. While sitting at the station's kitchen table around 1 am, "Smokey" found himself dealing with a flurry of intense emotions. He put into words the emotions inside of him from that evening. The following words are one man's prayer to his Lord and Savior, from a man who was more than just a fireman. He was a husband, father, and a son who knew how precious and short life can be. This was his prayer:

A FIREMAN'S PRAYER

When I am called to duty, God, whenever flames may rage;
Give me strength to save some life, whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.
And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life;
Please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife.

~ Author A.W. "Smokey" Linn





North Syracuse Fire Department

1913 - 2013

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
Patrick J. Brennan

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North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department

I would like to present to you the 100th anniversary yearbook of the North Syracuse Fire Department. As the Fire Chief during our Centennial celebration, I am proud to lead us into the beginning of our next century of service. The fire department is proud to publish this timeless treasure of our prestigious history. This yearbook reflects our excellent service and history, while serving as a centennial memoir reminding us of the triumphs and sacrifices our organization has made.

The Village of North Syracuse Fire Department provides fire protection and rescue services to the residents and visitors of the North Syracuse community. Primarily, the fire district includes the Village of North Syracuse, and portions of the Towns of Cicero and Clay. The district is comprised of fifteen square miles, providing protection to 25,000 residents, two interstate highways, fourteen schools and day care centers, along with many commercial and industrial facilities, senior living centers, a five story medical center and other medical facilities. The department responds from two stations utilizing four engines, one aerial truck, one heavy rescue, two light rescues, one squad and three chiefs cars.

Since its inception in 1913, the North Syracuse Fire Department has been known as a distinguished and progressive organization. We have celebrated many great accomplishments that were achieved through the hard work and dedication of our members. History has demonstrated that the founders and Past Chiefs had the forethought and wisdom to pass on the very fundamental skills that promote dedication, courage, teamwork, and perseverance, resulting in our success. With over 100 years of service and counting, the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department answers its emergency calls with a professional presence, helping our community daily and often resulting in acts of bravery and heroism.

Please enjoy this tribute to the North Syracuse Fire Department.

Sincerely,

Patrick J Brennan

Patrick J. Brennan
Chief of Fire


NORTH
SYRACUSE
FIRE
DEPARTMENT
1913


47
T1


Suburban Living
EXCLUSIVE
Impala


2013



Traditions

Dalmatians

One of the most recognized symbols of the fire service is the Dalmatian dog. The origins of the breed are unknown, and it is unknown how old the breed is. They were thought to have come from Dalmatia, but recent evidence shows Dalmatians clearly painted in Egyptian tombs. In more recent times, the Dalmatian, because of its poor hunting abilities, was relegated to the stable area of fine manor homes. It was in these stables that the Dalmatian became acquainted with the horses. It was quite common to keep dogs around stables to keep high-strung horses calm.

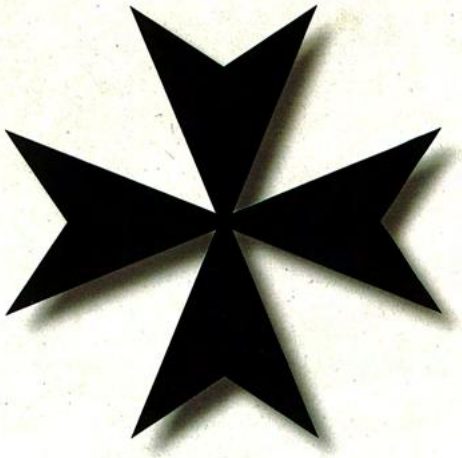
In the early days of firefighting, fire departments were volunteer and insurance companies would pay only the department that was hooked up to a hydrant. This led to competition and some sabotage between rival fire companies, which led to the use of guard dogs to protect the equipment. The Dalmatian, with its superior agility and endurance, could also run out in front of the horses and clear the streets for the approaching fire engine. Therefore, the fire engine would not have to slow down for traffic, which made the horse tire early. When the horses were replaced by gasoline driven fire engines, many fire departments kept their Dalmatians in tradition not only as a mascot, but also a companion. In many areas you can still see the Dalmatian standing proudly on top of a fire engine.











The Maltese Cross

The badge of a fireman is the Maltese Cross, a symbol of protection, a badge of honor, and its story and tradition is hundreds of years old. During the Crusades, a courageous band of men, known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land. In battle, the Knights, encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible device of war, it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave Knights fighting for the Cross. The Saracen's weapon was fire.

As the Knights advanced on the walls of the Saracens' city, they were struck by glass bombs containing naphtha. When they became saturated with this highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst. Hundreds of Knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful fiery deaths. These men became the first firefighters, and the first in a long list of courageous firefighters and first aiders. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Knights, who awarded each hero a badge of honor, a cross similar to the one firefighters wear today.

In 1530, the Island of Malta was given to the courageous Knights. The symbol on their flag, the eight-point cross, became known as the "Maltese Cross." The cross, which had originally helped the Knights distinguish between friend and foe, became the ultimate symbol of heroism and service. The cross, which is considered sacred, represents the principles of charity, loyalty, chivalry, gallantry, generosity to friend and foe, protection of the weak and dexterity in service.

The Maltese Cross is our symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his or her life for others, just as the Knights sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese Cross is a firefighter's badge of honor, signifying that he or she works in courage, pride and honor - a ladder rung away from death.



Gallantry
Perseverance
Sympathy
Loyalty



Tact
Dexterity
Observation
Explicitness



St. Florian

Born in Austria in the 4th century, Florian was an officer of the Roman army. He joined the Roman Army as a youth, and through hard work and determination, advanced through the ranks. He advanced in the ranks and occupied a high administrative post. The Emperor Diocletian liked Florian because of his abilities to solve problems and work with people. He saw Florian as a man capable of handling heavy responsibilities. However, Florian suffered "Death for the Faith" in the days of Diocletian. Although he was an officer of the Roman army, he didn't observe a "don't ask, don't tell" policy and confessed to his Christianity in anti-Christian times.

The Emperor sent an assistant to find out why Florian was not following his orders, to punish and kill all the Christians in his area. This punishment included burning Christian churches and books, firing all Christians from their jobs, putting them in prison without good reason, and forcing them to sacrifice to the Roman gods. When the assistant finally met Florian, he asked why he refused to persecute the Christians, Florian replied, "Tell the Emperor that I am a Christian and will suffer the same fate as the Christians." The assistant then offered him a raise and promotion if he would change his mind. Florian refused. The assistant was outraged and had his soldiers beat him with whips, yet Florian stood steadfast. Florian told the assistant that he had suffered many wounds for the Emperor - why not a few scratches for his own beliefs? Florian's courage scared the assistant, who feared that Florian would lead others to rebel.

The Emperor was shocked when informed why Florian was not carrying out his orders, and subsequently, Florian was sentenced to death by fire.

His legend states that he gave himself up to the Roman soldiers, when they were rounding up the Christians. Standing on the funeral pyre, Florian is reputed to have challenged the Roman soldiers to light the fire, saying "If you do, I will climb to heaven on the flames." Apprehensive to his words, instead of burning Florian, he was flogged and flayed after making the bold confession. Not willing to take a chance, the Romans decided to drown Florian by tying a giant stone around his neck and throwing him into the river Enns. He was twice flogged, half-flayed alive, set on fire, and finally thrown into the river Enns with a stone around his neck. His body was later recovered by a pious woman, and he was buried honorably.

About 600 years later, between 900-955 AD, a monastery was erected near Florian's tomb, and subsequently the village of St. Florian grew up around it. His body was eventually moved to the Augustinian Abbey of St. Florian. St. Florian was adopted as patron saint of Poland after Pope Lucius III, in 1138, consented to the request of King Casimir of Poland and to the Bishop of Cracow, to send relics of Florian to that country. Since that time, St. Florian has been regarded as a patron of Poland as well as of Linz, Upper Austria and of firemen. Soon after, a person was saved from a fire by invoking St. Florian's name. Since then, Florian has been invoked against fire and has generally been regarded in most countries as the patron saint of the fire service.

Because of his stand and resistance to death by fire, St. Florian became the protector of firefighters all over the world.



Patches, Insignia & Awards

A departmental patch is often used to identity a fire department and its members, setting the wearer apart from the crowd. It can be used to further individualize a department, commemorate a part of departmental history or display a mascot of a particular unit of the agency.

The first official recorded patch for the department was a simple design in the shape of a blue half-moon with No. Syracuse F.D. in orange letters.



First patch.

In the mid 1970's, the fire department decided a patch change was in order, with a focus on using the traditional shape of the Maltese Cross. The background of the Maltese Cross was orange with blue lettering. This orange colored background was designed to match the coloring of the pant leg stripe on our dress uniforms.

In the years following, there were several other individual patches that were used on our jackets to set apart members with special training. The first was a round patch with a red background, black lettering and the Red Cross emblem that was used to identify members who had First Aid and CPR training.



Mid 1970's patch.



Specialty patch.

In the late 1970's to build camaraderie amongst our competitive sports team members, they had designed various sports team hats and jackets and emblazoned them with a larger patch to further display their pride in this organization. With members displaying tenacity in their team performance and play, they eventually designed a patch using a wildcat as their mascot.









Late 1970's patches.

In 1979, the fire department started the FireVision video unit. They designed a patch that was worn by members of the production crew for identifying their extra commitment to another part of our great organization.



Fire Vision patch.

A mascot, either unofficial or official, sometimes included on a patch or artwork, is chosen to represent our "Type A" personalities in the fire service. With the high intensity level and physical work it takes to be a truck firefighter or "Truckie", a mascot was adopted for our Truck 1, beginning with our Snorkel in the early 1970's. "Animal" from the Muppets was chosen for this vehicle, and each subsequent one, as it represents the type of person and physical traits needed to accomplish the missions of a truck crew. Here is the first, designed and hand painted by Bill Patchett in 1984, as well as our most current rendering of "Animal" in 2007.

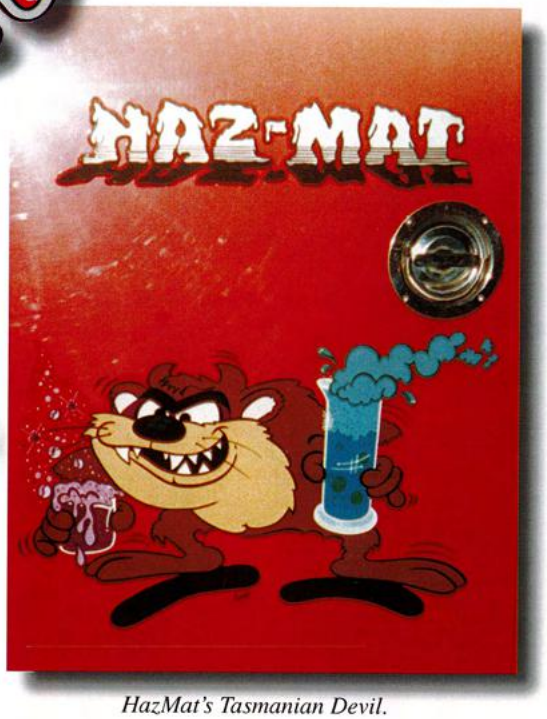


"Animal" design 1984.



"Animal" design 2007.

In following with our mascot trend, our inclusion in the founding of and participation in the Onondaga County Hazardous Materials Team, Chief Eric Smeltz had another cartoon caricature designed to embody the "crazy spirit" of the members of the Haz-Mat team. The Tasmanian Devil from the Looney Tunes cartoons embodied these members and was only fitting when depicted holding bubbling chemicals in hand, ready to mix them.



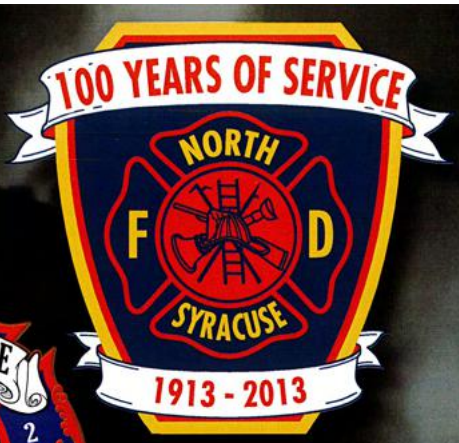
HazMat's Tasmanian Devil.



Late 1990's re-design.

In the late 1990's the next re-design of our departmental patches was to take what we have been using since the 1970's and develop it into a newer and more refined design. With the availability of newer style patchwork machines, this patch produced was a bolder and cleaner final product.

Honoring our centennial celebration, the 100 year committee worked to develop and design a patch that would commemorate our organizational service to the community. Our current departmental patch started in the overall shape of a shield, with a top and bottom banner outlining our centennial years of service. In the center of the shield is a smaller version of our older, traditionally styled Maltese Cross patch.



100 Year Patch.

To further recognize our Centennial year, our 100 year committee also designed a commemorative keepsake patch. This patch not only identifies our department and our years of service, but also incorporates an image of one of our first pieces of apparatus, a hand drawn hose cart. This hose cart is pictured on a plank road, as the Village of North Syracuse was where the very first plank road was built in New York State. Also on the patch is a pair of crossed axes, which signifies resolution and extreme bravery. The patch is in the overall shape of the Maltese Cross.



100 Year Commemorative Patch.

In formally honoring our members for their actions and accomplishments, there are several different awards that recipients are authorized to wear on our uniforms. At our annual Installation dinner, members are presented with these awards and pins in recognition for their service.

Recognizing a member for their years of service in the Fire Department, the Fire Chief will present eligible members with an engraved service award pin in the shape of a Maltese Cross for every five years of service.



Service Award pins.



In recognition of our members and their years of service to our Fireman's Association, the President presents eligible members with a green and white service award breast bar imprinted with the years of service, in five year increments.

Fireman's Association service pins.

The Firefighter of the Year award is presented in honor of Firefighter Christopher A. Bilger and given to a member for their dedicated service to the department and one who wholly supports this organization. This award consists of an engraved plaque and a red and white uniform breast bar with the word MERIT in gold.



Firefighter of the Year pin.

The Officer of the Year award is presented in honor of Past Chief of Fire Eric K. Smeltz and is given to an active and committed officer level member for their forward and progressive thinking. This award consists of an engraved plaque and a white uniform breast bar with a gold star in the middle.



Officer of the Year pin.

A Life Saving CPR Award is given to a member for actions taken that directly result in the saving of a person's life while operating at an emergency scene.



Life Saving CPR pin.

When a member is directly involved in the delivery of a baby, the Chief will award either a blue or pink "stork" pin for the delivery of a boy or girl. The hole in the center of the CPR or Stork bar is used to insert a number indicating the number of times the recipient has been commended.



Assisting in Delivery of Baby pins.

Other formal commendations that our fire department uses to recognize a member for their actions are listed below;

A Departmental Commendation is written by the Chief and presented to any fire department member for a commendable performance of duties.

A written Merit Award is presented by the Chief to a fire department member who has performed in an outstanding and superior manner, worthy of recognition.

An Individual Citation or a Unit Citation is awarded to any fire department member, or any group of two or more fire department members who make up a company, sector, team or work group that has performed in an outstanding manner under hazardous conditions that are worthy of recognition and for exemplary performance of duties by the individual or unit in overcoming difficulties or obstacles under unusual or adverse conditions in the completion of a task or duty. The Individual and Unit Citation recipients are presented with a written commendation as well as a gold bordered breast bar that is white in color in the center with navy blue accents on each end.





Individual or Unit Citation pin.

The Medal of Valor is awarded to a member who, under especially hazardous conditions at great personal risk, has exhibited personal courage in an effort to rescue or protect another in an act that clearly shows bravery.

The Medal of Honor is awarded only in those events where a member has, under life threatening conditions under extreme personal risk, courageously saved or protected another in an act that is clearly above and beyond the call of duty.



Medal of Valor.



Medal of Honor.

THE CHALLENGE COIN

Is a coin really just a coin?

When it comes to a challenge coin, there is some history behind one and why it is carried with you.

The challenge medallion or coin began during World War I when American war volunteers from all parts of the country filled positions in newly formed flying squadrons. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallion, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire and he was forced to land behind enemy lines, and was captured by a German patrol. They took all of his personal identification, except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front lines, which sustained a bombardment that night and he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He avoided German patrols and reached the front lines, eventually stumbling onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. The French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accompanied through challenge in the following manner- a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged member could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

Over the years, this tradition was adopted by other branches of the military and even public service agencies, but morphed from a medallion into a coin with a common goal, to build camaraderie and esprit de corps amongst fellow members. Generally, each challenge coin is different from any others, as members want to make this a unique design. Often times a mascot, patch or other unique symbol of a department or company is the focal point of the design. Meaningful words that holds significance or important dates are added to further specialize and brand this challenge coin for one specific agency, unit or division.

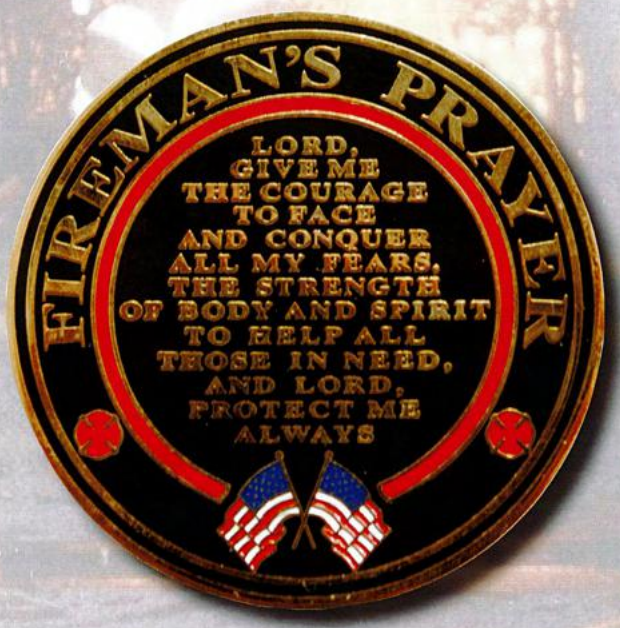
At the North Syracuse Fire Department in honor of our 100 year history, Chief Patrick Brennan ordered a challenge coin be struck.

Our design features a scaled down version of our 100 year anniversary patch. This patch contains an image of our first piece of apparatus, a hand drawn hose cart. This hose cart is pictured on a plank road, as the Village of North Syracuse was where the very first plank road was built in New York State. Also on the challenge coin is a pair of crossed axes, which signifies resolution and extreme bravery. The patch is in the overall shape of the Maltese Cross. On the reverse side of the coin is a Fireman's Prayer, reflecting a prayer that helps give us our direction and course in our duties as a firefighter.

In 2013, this 100 year challenge coin was issued to every member of this organization to thank and recognize them for their contributions and personal sacrifices made to their families, the fire department and the citizens that we protect each and every day.



Front



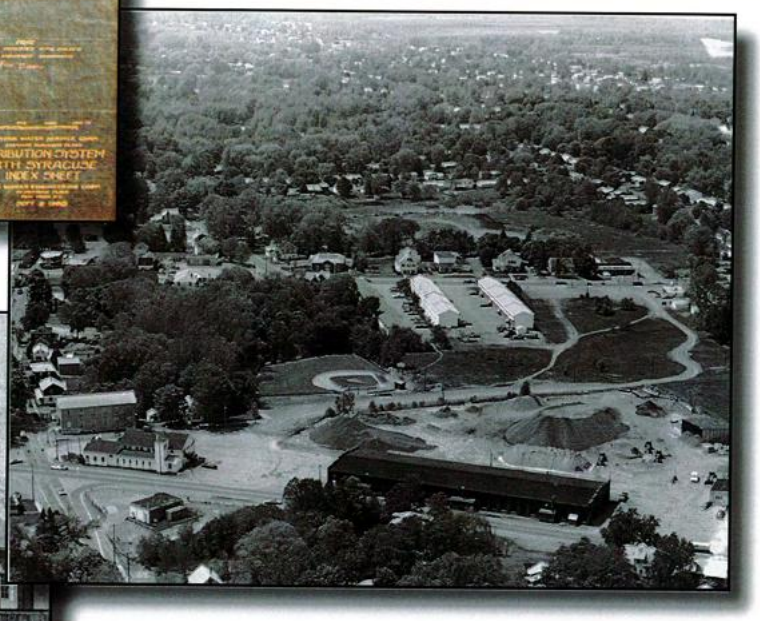
Back

District Map

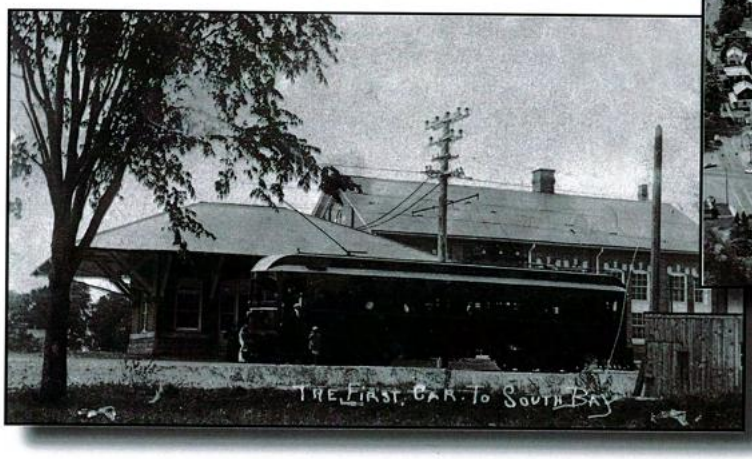
When the North Syracuse Chemical Company was founded in 1913, those charter members would not have believed that in 100 years this organization would grow into a district containing 25,000 people. What was originally little more than an intersection, grew to be a service area of 15 square miles containing 2 major highways, 14 schools, 3000 houses, 7 apartment complexes, several medical facilities and numerous commercial establishments, and 6 senior living centers. In addition to providing protection to the Village of North Syracuse, our district coverage extends into the Towns of Clay and Cicero. Over the years in support of this growth, the North Syracuse Fire Department has expanded into 2 stations, 8 pieces of fire apparatus, and over 45 members.



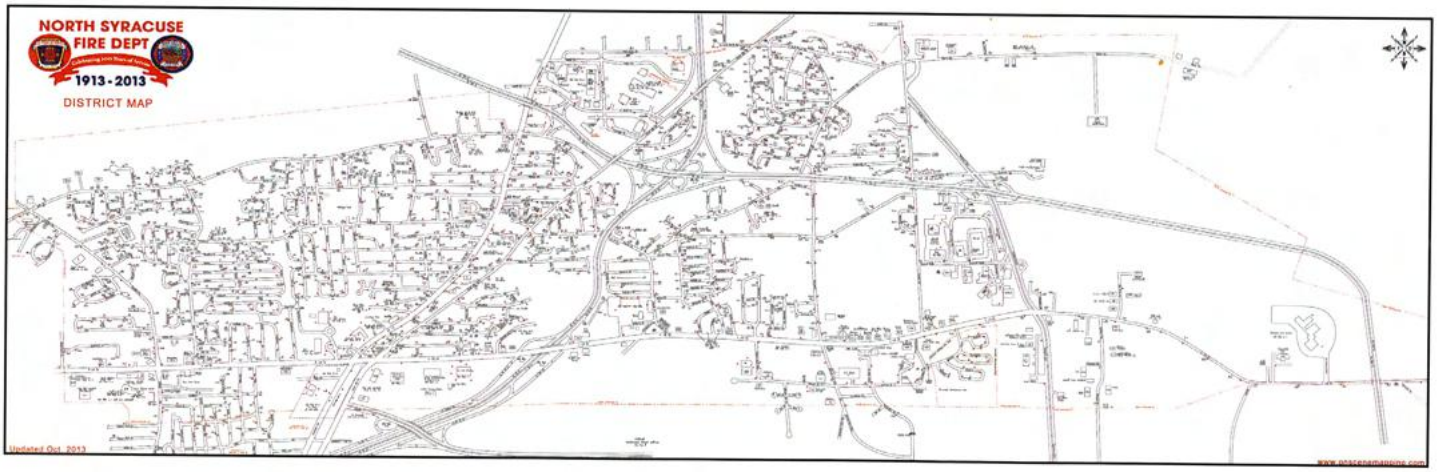
A North Syracuse district map from 1930.



An aerial view of the Village of North Syracuse in the late 1960's.



One of the first trolley cars at South Bay Road and Church Street in front of the trolley ticket booth and trolley powerhouse, which years later would be remodeled into the North Syracuse Fire Station.



The North Syracuse Fire Department district map from 2013.

Founding Members

The North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department began its history in the winter of 1912-1913, when a law was passed by the New York State Legislature giving unincorporated communities the right to establish districts for the purpose of fire protection. Soon thereafter, a group of citizens living in the Village of North Syracuse presented a petition to the Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County, asking that a fire district be established in North Syracuse. It was granted and North Syracuse was the first village in New York State to take advantage of the law.

In the fall of 1913, the Board of Fire Commissioners were George Fergerson, George Milback, William Conway, Hubert Fay and A.S. Lewis. They were able to purchase two hand drawn chemical fire "engines", which led to the fire department being named the North Syracuse Chemical Company 1 and 2. This name is shown in early photographs of the members and the fireman's band in front of the station. As the years progressed, the official name of the department was changed to just the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department.

The Charter members of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department are; Floyd Baxter, L.L. Baxter, E.F. Conway, W.J. Conway, Alfred Fergerson, George Fergerson, Walter Fergerson, T.D. Garrett, Robert Hepp, C.L. Jackson, Melville Jackson, Michael Lees, L.J. Lewis, George Milback, J.H. Morse, Frank Reese, Dr. E.S. Sampson, B. Shaver, Palmer Shaver, Smith Soule, Fred Stokes, Irving VanAlstine, and Marten Woodard.



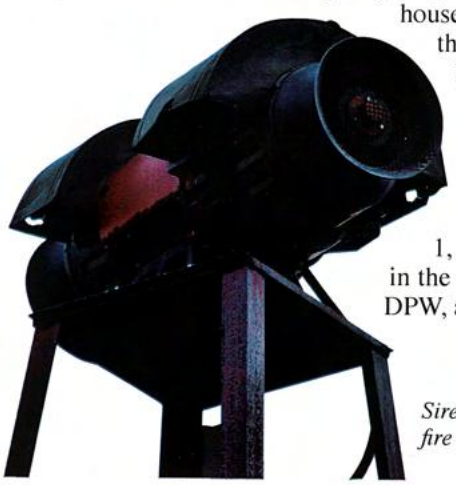
From Left to Right, First row – W.J. Conway, C.L. Jackson, Smith Soule, Walter Fergerson, E.F. Conway, Frank Reese.
Second Row – L.J. Lewis, T.D. Garrett, B. Shaver, Fred Stokes, Robert Hepp, George Fergerson, J.H. Morse, Marten Woodard.
Third Row – L.L. Baxter, Alfred Fergerson, George Milback, Dr. E.S. Sampson, Melville Jackson, Michael Lees, Palmer Shaver.
Top Row – Floyd Baxter, Irving VanAlstine.

Call Notifications

"We Got One !!!"

To assist neighbors in their time of need, firefighters have to know that help is needed. When the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department began in 1913, a group of citizens got together and legally established a fire district in North Syracuse. This was followed by the Board of Fire Commissioners purchasing two hand drawn chemical fire engines. Now that there were firefighters and equipment, there was a need to alert those responders to the "Call for Help". As the Village of North Syracuse was on a direct train line, members had access to old locomotives. Putting their heads together, members decided to put those locomotive parts to good use. As such, the first fire signal alerting firefighters of an emergency, was a large steel wheel off a locomotive and a sledge hammer to strike it with.

This early alerting device continued for many years, and with the advent of newer technology, fire sirens or whistles were strategically added in different parts of the district. The early phone system in the village had multiple locations where the fire department phone number (458-6420) could be answered. These locations were, Wards Shell Gas Station (located at South Bay Rd & Church St), the Old Station 1 (now the Village Community Center), the old County Highway Garage, and each Chief's house. Each location where the Fire Phone would ring, had the ability to activate the fire whistles or sirens located throughout the village. These sirens were located at Grove St, Fire Station 1, George St, Melrose Dr, in the public parking lot by the DPW, and on Helen St.



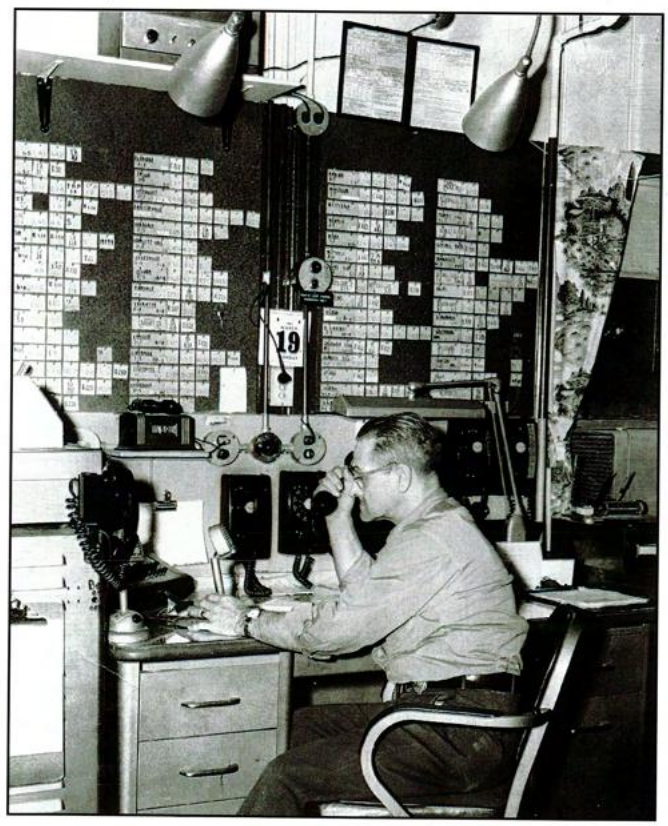
Siren on top of the "old DPW" fire station on Fergerson Ave.

Typically, Wards Gas Station answered the phone during the day and the County Highway Garage answered it at night. The County Highway Garage became unreliable, as at times the phones didn't get always answered by the Highway crew. To address this, the Chiefs asked firefighters to man the station during the evening hours to answer the emergency phone. The Chiefs could also listen to the emergency phone calls at home, get the address and activate the fire sirens. Also, after hearing the siren activation, the first member responding into the fire station could pick up the phone, speak with the caller and get the details of the emergency.

The fire department then contracted with an answering service, Caroline's Answering Service, who would answer the "fire phone" at any time of the day or night. From their answering site, the service could also activate the sirens throughout the district. The Chiefs homes still had their phones, but eventually the other "fire phones" at the other sites were removed. Soon, a need was realized to have a central point within the county to answer emergency calls. The County Control Center started in 1952 and was built into a part of the Mattydale fire station and had the ability to use radio tones to activate an "alert light" in the station. They could also trip the village fire sirens. In response to the siren activation, the first firefighter that arrived at the station and saw the light illuminated would have to call the County Control Center, which later was to be called the Mutual Aid Center, on the station radio to get the alarm information.

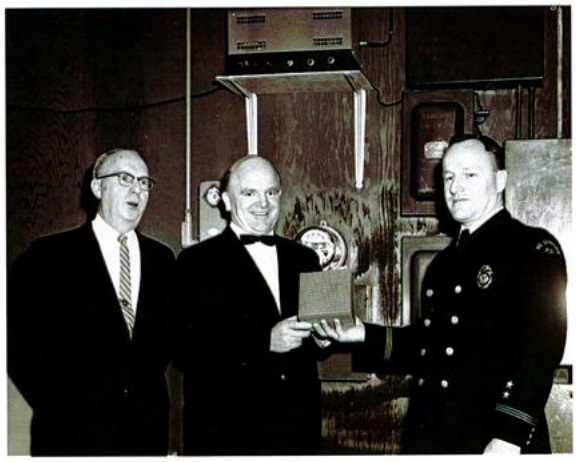


A photo of the Cape May Court House Fire Company Chief John Ross and Chief Burton Carson standing next to their steel locomotive rim that was used to alert firefighters.



Ken Benson at the County Control Center/Mutual Aid Center at Mattydale Firehouse in 1962.

Eventually the emergency number was fully transitioned into answering at the Mutual Aid Center, receiving another name change and being referred to as "Fire Control", who took over answering all North Syracuse emergency calls. We then transferred the responsibility of answering of our emergency number to City Fire Control (425-3333). We continued to maintain our emergency number for years to come, but after several years of no calls on this number, and with Mattydale Fire Control first moving up to the "old vacant" Hillbrook Detention Center and eventually to the new and present Onondaga County 911 Center on Onondaga Hill, our individual emergency number was disconnected. With the advent of newer phone technology, the countywide emergency number (425-3333) would eventually be changed to the current 911 emergency number.



Chief Don Amerman showing the Fire Call home alerting device to Mayor James Barry, while Village Trustee John O'Reilly looks on.



The Fire Call home alerting device.

In one of our early first methods to create some redundancy in the siren based alerting system, a home electronic alerting box was developed and installed in firefighters' houses. Some members had old Hallicrafters 30 to 50MHz, tube operated receivers in their homes that were tuned in to one frequency (46.14) to alert members to emergency calls. In each members home, there was a box that would receive a signal and would then activate a buzzer on the side of the unit, thus alerting the member of an alarm. There was no voice transmitted, just a buzzer to alert the members. This buzzer eventually transitioned to a wooden speaker that emitted a tone to give the alert, which eventually transitioned into the "Plectron" radio receiving unit.

This Plectron unit would not only activate by radio tones sent out by the County Control center, but could also monitor the main dispatch channel to hear what was happening in the county. The members could also have the option of switching to "alert" mode, which would emit a tone to notify the member of a call and then "open up" the receiving circuit to allow the member to now hear the nature of the alarm for North Syracuse. Members would also sometimes take their Plectron to a local restaurant, find an electrical outlet inside and plug it in, awaiting any emergency calls. If the Plectron was activated for a North Syracuse emergency incident, the firefighter would be able to leave and respond to the emergency. Often times, the families could stay behind to finish their dinner, and when the alarm was over, the member would come back to get their dinner warmed up and finish their meal.


North Syracuse firemen get home 'buzz' alarms

THE CALL TO DUTY for North Syracuse Volunteer Firemen can come at any time around the clock. So that all may hear this call, radio activated alarms have been installed in firemen's homes as shown (with arrow) in the home of Bob Crandall at 212 Pleasant Ave. The horn of the receiver unit will awaken the soundest sleeper . . . as Bob will verify. Captain Crandal has been with the department for eight years.

April 23, 1965

Fire Captain Robert Crandall "hits the deck" after being alerted by new alarm system of North Syracuse Fire Department

Aug 6, 1965
NORTH SYRACUSE STAR
Grass Fires Top List of Six Calls



Plectron home alerting device.



Early version of Citizen's Band "CB" mobile radio.



An early version of the mobile fire radio.



General Electric monitor home alerting device.

In one of the early North Syracuse Fire Department airwave trials for "mobile" alerting, a CB transmitter located at Station 1 was used to activate a relay closure anytime our siren was activated. This relay closing would send out a signal on CB radio channel 23. Firefighters could now drive around our district, with a 102" whip antenna on the bumper and monitor the CB radio. When you heard a high pitched squeal on channel 23, the member knew to head to the fire station for a call.

The fire department also experimented with mobile radios. Original units were only 6 volt 2 channel units that were very large and had tubes in them. These radios were susceptible to vibrations and needed to change DC to AC voltage in order to work. Eventually mobile radios changed over to 12 volt when transistors came into effect and reduced the size of the radios, still allowing for 2 channels.



An early version of the General Electric portable radio.

With continued progress in the field of radio technologies, radios advanced, becoming smaller and more powerful. The newest radios would incorporate more than 50 channels and also allow radio talk between city and county agencies, as well as the different disciplines of emergency responders.

The first portable radios weighed about 30 pounds and were carried over your shoulder on a strap. The bulk of this weight was the battery pack attached to the radio. This radio was about 5 times the size of a current portable radio.

Again, our technology changes incorporated a smaller, lighter radio with enhanced computer technologies and many radio channels, mirroring what our new mobile radios can communicate on.

Once it was established that firefighters needed a light to alert other motorists that they were responding to an emergency in the district, the blue light was designated as that warning light.



A cast metal plaque that members mounted to the front of their vehicles, which provided for easy identification of a firefighters personal vehicle.



The current mobile radio.



Current portable radio.


April 29, 1967

Instant Identification

Volunteer fireman Bill Mowat mounts flashing blue light on front bumper of his car. A law permitting volunteer firefighters to use the blue light went into effect in 1958, but surprisingly few people know that its purpose is to identify firemen answering an alarm so that motorists can give the lighted vehicles the courtesy of the road.

A news article mentioning firefighters now utilizing blue lights to respond to emergencies.

Scanners

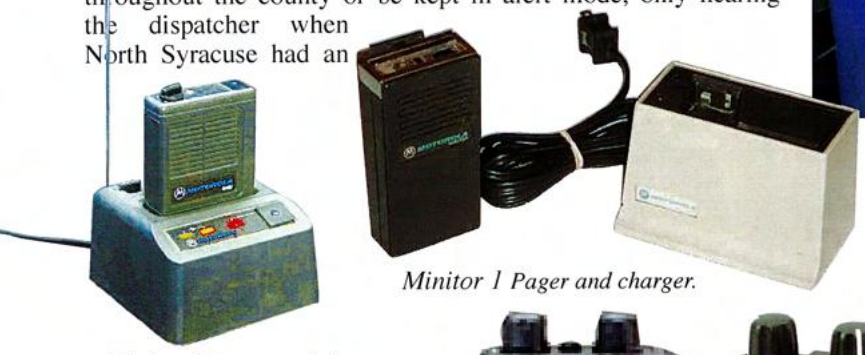
Technology continued to develop and moved into the area of scanners. The first units had fixed frequency crystals in them, and would eventually transition into programmable scanners. They also moved from tabletop units into portable and handheld models. Firefighters could now listen to dispatch and operations channels, as well as ambulance and police transmissions. This opened up communications into our homes for the entire county and allowed our members to hear what is going on at any moment.

In 1981, due to advances in technology, Onondaga County moved from the Mattydale County Control Center to the Onondaga County Emergency Communications Center on Onondaga Hill. This new center allowed for one central receiving point for all types of emergency incidents. Within these advances was a switch from the 7 digit emergency telephone number to the current 911 emergency number. The 911 center keeps pace with advances in technology that improve interoperability and accessibility to our



emergency services. This, coupled with our radio infrastructure advances, allows all disciplines of emergency services the availability to talk to one another on the same radio channels.

The first "personal size" portable alerting device that allowed our members to leave their house and still be able to respond to an emergency at a moment's notice was the Motorola Minitor 1 pager. This portable paging device used crystals for programming a set channel and had rechargeable batteries. This was generally worn on your belt and when not in use, would be placed in a special cradle at home to charge the batteries. It could be put in monitor so that a firefighter could listen to dispatches happening throughout the county or be kept in alert mode, only hearing the dispatcher when North Syracuse had an emergency. It was activated by "tones" sent from the Emergency Communications Center over radio waves, similar to how the home Plectron units worked.



Minitor 1 Pager and charger.

Minitor 2 Pager and charger.

As technology progressed over time, the Motorola Minitor pagers also changed. The Minitor 2 pager was very similar to the Minitor 1, but was a little smaller and added the option of having a vibrate alert, in addition to the audible alert tone.

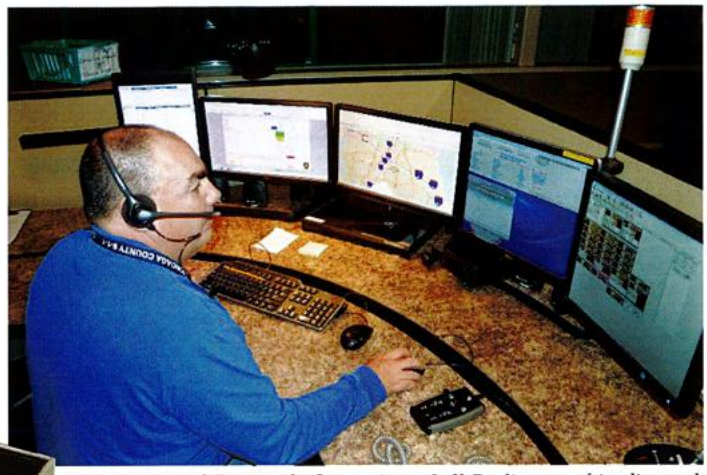


Minitor 3 Pager.



Minitor 4 Pager.

Progress with pagers continued to the Minitor 3, 4, 5 and 6 units. Over the years, these devices added computer based programming of channels, "stored voice playback" capability, extended duration battery packs, and greater frequency/channel programming capabilities.



Supervisor of Dispatch Operations Jeff Rudiger at his dispatch console at the current Onondaga County Emergency Communications 911 Center



Minitor 5 Pager.



Minitor 6 Pager.

Our alerting devices have become more advanced and convenient. Most everyone now carries a cell phone or smart phone with them at all times. Now we have a computer program that allows for our members to receive a text message alerting them to an emergency, displaying the address and type of call. This method of alerting is a supplement to our voice pagers for notifications. There are even internet based smart phone scanner applications that also allow our members to listen to radio broadcasts of Onondaga County emergencies over their phone.







From Left to Right: image of a fire alarm call on a firefighters cell phone; image of a pole fire call on a firefighters cell phone; and an image of a firefighters Cell phone scanner app.

Our Stations, Our House



North Syracuse "Chemical Company" band at the Fergerson Ave fire station in 1913.

In the fall of 1913, the Board of Fire Commissioners purchased two hand drawn chemical fire engines, under the direction of Fire Chief Hubert Fay. A building owned by Hattie Flower on Church Street, across from the current Andrews Memorial church was where these first two chemical fire engines were kept.

In 1921, a barn was purchased and put onto a lot on Fergerson Ave to house the apparatus. The first motorized fire equipment put in this new "firehouse" was a Model T Ford truck, which carried the firefighters and equipment.

In 1944, the population of the village was approximately 2,000 residents and was continuing to grow. To more fully support the fire department, the North Syracuse Volunteer Fireman's Association was incorporated under New York State law in 1947. The Fireman's Association and its members were all part of the fire department, and they supported events and organizations in the community to foster a better "esprit de corps" amongst the members and residents. Around that same time, they even worked with the North Syracuse Police PBA in sponsoring the Firemen and Police Junior Guards. The Junior Guards gave children in the community between the ages of 11-17 the opportunity to participate in parades and other events throughout local communities.

In 1950, the Village of North Syracuse remodeled the "old trolley power station", located at the corner of South Bay Road and Church Street, and converted it into a fire station. Although it was re-purposed, this was the first "modern" fire station that the North Syracuse Fire Department had ever operated from, and cost the village over $50,000 dollars to complete. Initially, the Village Board thought this was a considerable amount of money and the new station was not needed, however, after many years of hard campaigning by fire department members, it was agreed upon with the village and eventually completed.

Fergerson Ave. fire station in 1947.



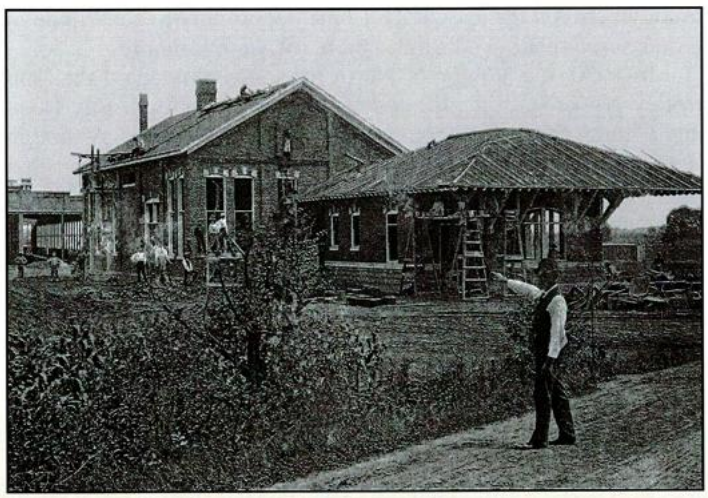
Over the years following, other buildings were acquired to house the fire department apparatus. In 1969, to accommodate larger apparatus, two bays were built onto the existing DPW building on Fergerson Ave and dedicated as Station 2. In 1970, we took delivery of our first aerial device which was an American LaFrance, 80' articulating platform to be known as Truck 1. Squeezing this long aerial truck into the old bays of the DPW building was a difficult task, as it was a two-bay station with four pieces of apparatus housed within.



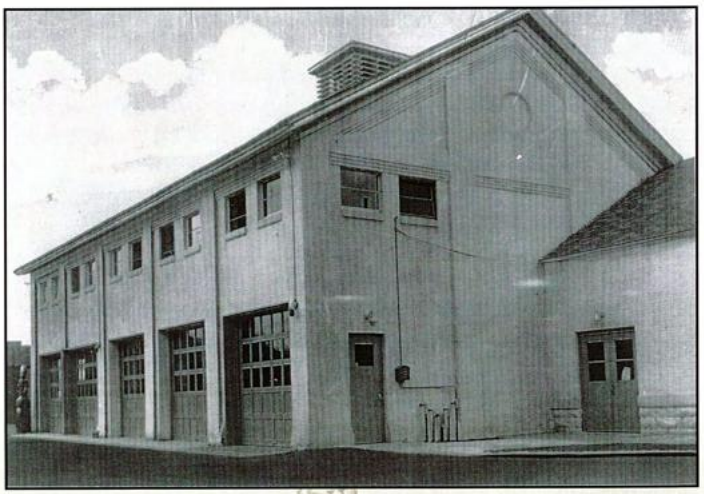
North Syracuse Station 1 in the 1960's.



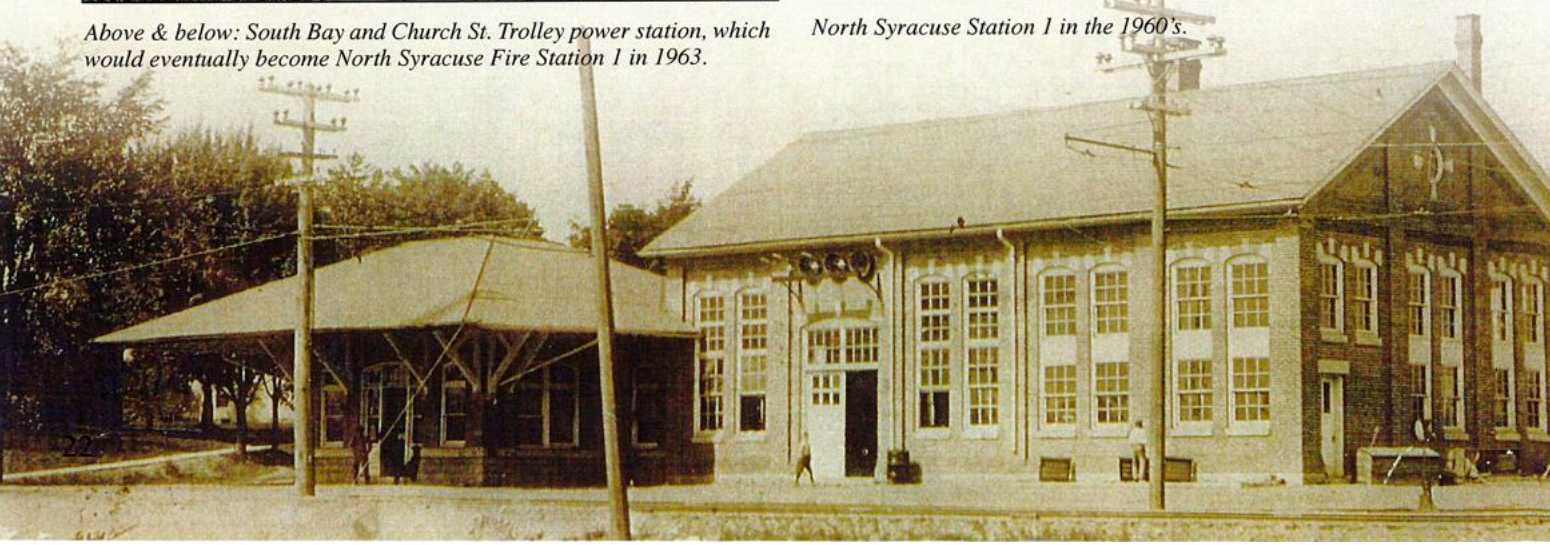
North Syracuse Station 1 in the 1960's.



Above & below: South Bay and Church St. Trolley power station, which would eventually become North Syracuse Fire Station 1 in 1963.



North Syracuse Station 1 in the 1960's.







Newly built Station 2 attached to the DPW building on Fergerson Ave.





Station 1, located at South Bay Road and Church Street, was utilized until February of 1983. At that time, the first "purpose built" fire station was opened and dedicated at its present location, 109 Chestnut Street. To continue in our progressive method of firefighting and to ensure that we provide the very best service within a justifiable budget, the Chiefs studied our apparatus and our district, and developed our first long range budget plan. This plan would drive important decisions made for the future that would include the incorporation of newer and more modern apparatus as well as the need and possible locations for a second station more strategically situated in our district. This method of planning included when large expenses such as apparatus refurbishing or replacements were forecast to be included in a particular budget year and would work to keep any budget increases to a minimum, by spacing those expenses out over different years.

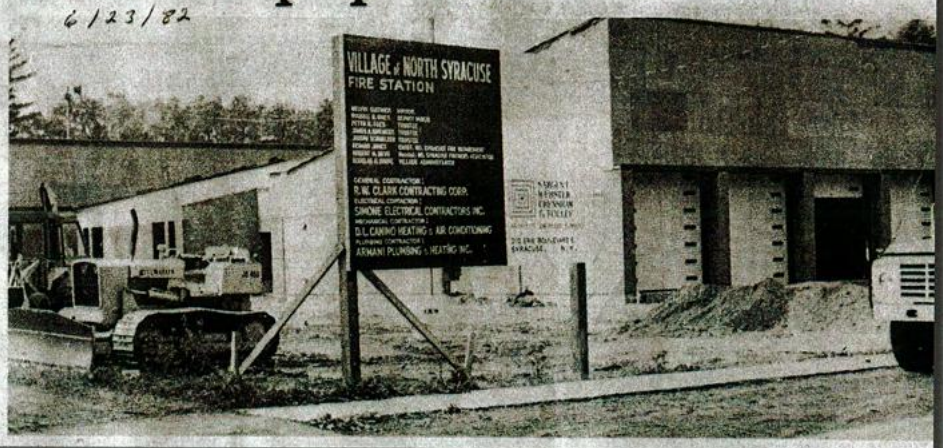
Fund drive would equip new firehouse

6/23/82

As the new fire station nears completion, the North Syracuse Fire Department has launched a fund drive aimed at equipping the new facility. The fund drive has a goal of $34,000.

Among the items the fund drive would provide: a complete kitchen facility to serve the areas available for public use and for special department community events; tables and chairs; the expanded fire training center will need chalk boards and audio-visual facilities; the new "ready room" for volunteers will need lockers and other furnishings; the television and videotape studio must be moved from fire station one, which will soon be closed.

The department is sending appeals in the mail, but if you do not get one and wish to contribute, contact the North Syracuse Volunteer Firefighters Assn., 109 Chetnut Street, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212.



A 1982 news article on the construction and fund drive to equip the new Station 1.



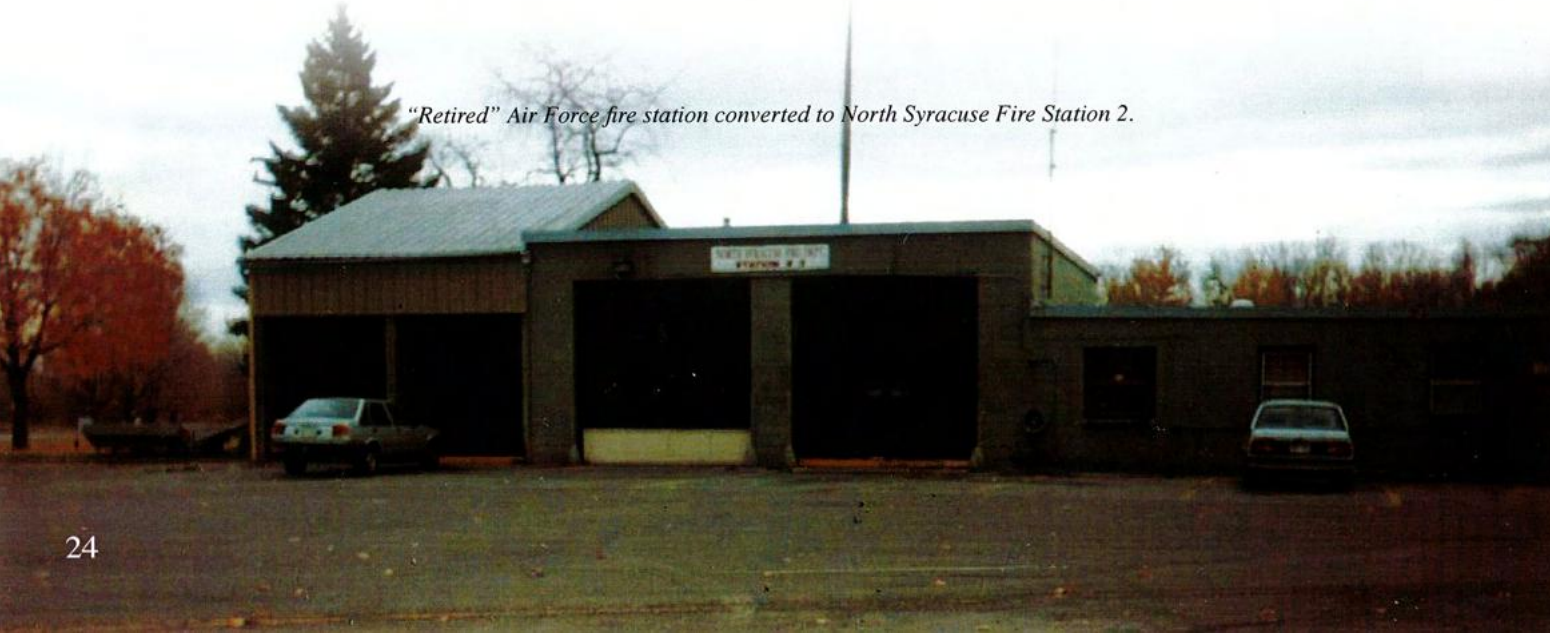
Photos during the construction phase of Station 1 our first "purpose-built" fire station located at 109 Chestnut Street.

With the closing and decommissioning of the United States Air Force base property at East Taft and Thompson Road, the fire department decided to acquire the old Air Force fire station. This station could provide better coverage for the Eastern section of our district. In 1987, this task was accomplished and found to be only a temporary solution as maintaining the outdated building was becoming a burden.

Another evaluation of possible station locations was performed, and in continuing to provide a valuable service, a second fire station was built and dedicated in August of 1995. This new station 2 is on the revitalized air force base now called the Hancock Business Park, located at 70 General Irwin Boulevard.

Today, the Village of North Syracuse Fire Department is still an all-volunteer fire department, led by Chief of Fire Patrick J. Brennan. Our department is made up of "neighbors helping neighbors." Our departmental members have careers that include; police officers, 911 dispatchers, firefighters, guidance counselor, plumber, laboratory technician, computer technician, corporate trainer, investment brokers, truck driver, custodian, and many others. Our careers have our members working various hours or shifts and having different days off.

Our department is one of only 205 in New York State that holds an I.S.O. Public Protection Class 3 rating for providing fire protection services. We respond to emergencies in the Village of



"Retired" Air Force fire station converted to North Syracuse Fire Station 2.





The ground breaking photos of the new Station 2 in 1994.

North Syracuse and parts of the Towns of Cicero and Clay. Our fire district is about fifteen square miles with a property breakdown of sixty percent residential and forty percent industrial/commercial. We protect approximately 25,000 residents. Our district borders the Syracuse Hancock International Airport and as such we are in the glide path for commercial and military aircraft. We have two interstate highways running through our district, Route 81 and Route 481.

We provide various fire and rescue services to the residents, workers and visitors in our district. Our average number of calls for service usually exceeds 1,000 annually. In addition to the "regular" calls for service, we are one of the few fire departments in Onondaga County that respond as a New York State Certified Advanced Life Support rescue. We currently have 45 members in our fire department and we respond out of two stations utilizing four engines, one aerial truck, one heavy rescue, and two light rescue vehicles. Our Station 1 is located at 109 Chestnut Street and Station 2 is located at 70 General Irwin Blvd.



Chief Paul Linnertz and local politicians at the Station 2 dedication and opening in 1995.



Current Station 2 at 70 General Irwin Blvd.



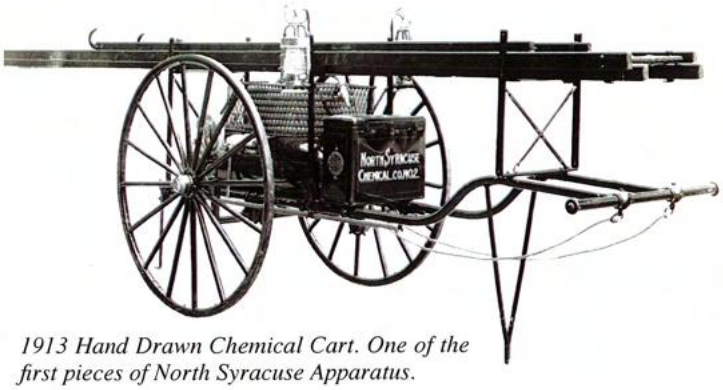
Current Station 1 at 109 Chestnut St.





Fire Apparatus Through The Years

In 1913, the Board of Fire Commissioners purchased two hand drawn chemical fire engines. One of the first large fires that the department responded to was at the home of a resident who voted against establishing the fire department and it just so happened that the roof burned off his home.



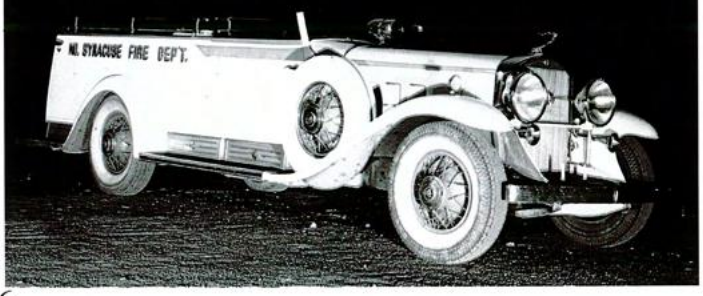
1913 Hand Drawn Chemical Cart. One of the first pieces of North Syracuse Apparatus.

In 1921 to house the apparatus, a barn was purchased and put onto a lot on Fergerson Ave. The first motorized fire equipment to be put in this new "firehouse" was a Model T Ford truck, which carried firefighters and chemical extinguishing firefighting equipment.



1921 Ford Model T Chemical Truck. The chemical truck held two 75 gallon tanks.

1928 American LaFrance – Squad. This was previously an ex-Senator's personal vehicle and was quite fast as it had a 16 cylinder engine sitting under the hood.





Another early piece of hand drawn apparatus is our original-restored Hose Cart.

In 1933 at the request of the Fire Department, the Village Board approved the purchase of a motorized Buffalo brand fire engine for $1,800 dollars.



1933 Sanford "Buffalo" – Engine 1 was the department's first motorized pumper.



1933 Sanford "Buffalo" responding to a call.

1933 Sanford "Buffalo" returning from a call.





1942 Chevy – Engine 2. Called the "The Deuce", it was a former US Navy Surplus and was picked up from Scotia, NY.



1953 GMC – Engine 3. This was the first Civil Defense Engine built, and about $16,000 of that cost was reimbursed by the state.

In 1944, the population of the village was approximately 2,000 residents and was continuing to grow. Other motorized and more modern apparatus was purchased throughout the years including Engine 2 which was purchased in 1942.

In 1954, Engine 3 was purchased followed several years later by Engine 1 in 1958. Engine 1 was purchased for $17,000 dollars and had a 520 gallon tank that could pump 750 gallons per minute through three stages of increasing pressure and it could use its pump to push water through 1300 feet of 2 ½ inch hose line and 1000 feet of 1 ½ inch hose line.

Continuing to add more versatile firefighting equipment to the fleet, in 1953 the department purchased a used 1947 Lynn utility vehicle that was used to carry firefighters and more specialized equipment.



1958 GMC Sanford – Engine 1.

1947 Lynn Utility Vehicle.



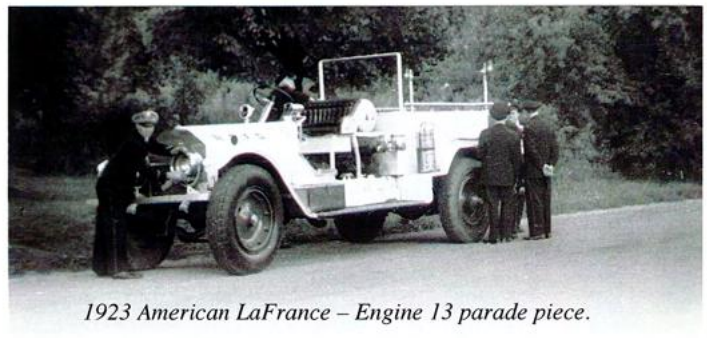
In the mid-1950's North Syracuse Firemans Association purchased this old 1923 American LaFrance pumper from the Syracuse Fire Department.

In looking for additional water carrying capacity, a deal was struck with a local construction company in 1958 to purchase a used 1949 Ford tanker truck that was used during construction and roadway projects. The Fire Department took advantage of this tanker for its ability to carry large amounts of water to areas of our district that didn't have any hydrants.

In 1959 the department purchased a utility box style vehicle that was used to carry extra firefighters and specialized rescue equipment.

North Syracuse added a 4-wheel drive vehicle for use as a dedicated Rescue in 1961.

With advances in firefighting tactics and apparatus technology, along with ever growing commercial businesses and population growth, in 1962 our fire department was able to draw up plans for and purchase our first "Tanker Pumper" that cost $18,000 dollars. This was an important step, as hydrants weren't yet prevalent at that time period and this vehicle carried more water than any other apparatus in our fleet.



1923 American LaFrance – Engine 13 parade piece.



A 1949 Ford Tanker 5.



1961 GMC – Rescue 6.



1959 GMC Rescue.



1962 GMC Sanford – Tanker Pumper 5.

In 1970, North Syracuse took delivery of our first aerial device. This was an American LaFrance Aero Chief 80' articulating platform to be known as Truck 1 for $63,000 dollars.

A new pumper, Engine 2, was added to the fleet in 1972. This pumper had an increased pumping capacity of 1250 GPM.



1972 GMC Sanford – Engine 2.



1970 American LaFrance Aero Chief 80' articulating platform – Truck 1.



Chevrolet Rescue (Ambulance style body).



1976 Mack CF-600 – Engine 4.

In taking our medical responses to a different level, in the mid-70's Chief Erv Dolasinski worked out an agreement to purchase a Chevrolet ambulance style vehicle to be used as a rescue.

Working towards developing a dedicated, first-line structure fire piece of apparatus, in 1976 the department added a Mack CF-600 pumper called Engine 4.

Responding to our community's growth and needs while continuing our progressive service, in 1982 the fire department purchased a diesel powered 1500 GPM pumper that carried 1000 gallons of water.

To continue in our progressive method of firefighting and to ensure that we provide the very best service within a justifiable budget, in the late 1970's the Chiefs studied our apparatus, and our district and developed our first 10 year long range budget plan. This plan would drive important decisions made for the future that would include the incorporation of newer and more modern apparatus



1982 Tanker Pumper Engine 8.

In 1986, with the much needed replacement of the aging Snorkel Truck 1 aerial platform, our fleet became more robust for the protection of our larger residential and commercial properties by replacing the Snorkel with an Emergency One 80' Ladder with an integrated pump and tank.

Also in 1986, we added a four wheel drive Emergency One Engine 6, which supported specialty incidents including Hazardous Materials. For better response capabilities and in support of motor vehicle accidents an Emergency One 16' walk-in bodied Heavy Rescue 7 was purchased. This unit carried our Hurst heavy extrication equipment that were pre-connected into the on board power unit.



1986 E-One – Truck 1.

1986 GMC – Engine 6.





1986 GMC - Rescue 7.



1989 E-One – Engine 10. This later became Engine 6.

Continuing to update our apparatus fleet and working each into our long range financial plans, in 1989 we added an Emergency One pumper known as Engine 10.

Upon examining our increasing medical responses and the extra toll it was taking on our Heavy Rescue, it was necessary to add a smaller "light rescue" to handle those calls. So, a 1989 Ford 4 door pickup truck with a box cover on it housing all our medical gear was added to our fleet.



1989 Ford – Rescue 3.

In 1991 an Emergency One Engine 2 with a 50' Tele-Boom elevated master stream was added to our station 2 fleet in the support of upgrading our ISO classification rating.



1991 E-One – Engine 2.



1995 Saulsbury – Engine 4.

In 1995 we had to replace our aging Engine 4 with a new stainless steel bodied Saulsbury pumper. The stainless steel vehicle body, although costing more to incorporate into apparatus design, was used to help thwart corrosion from the winter salt used on our roadways which was taking its toll on the fleet.



1996 Chevy – Rescue 5.



1980 International – Squad 2.

In 1996, seeing an increase of Hazardous Materials incidents in our county, our department was one of the founding members of forming a County-wide HazMat Team. To address our expanding role in Hazardous Materials responses in the county, it was necessary that our team obtain a vehicle that would better support our new county-wide mission. To carry what equipment was needed to support that role and coupling that idea with budgetary constraints, the Chiefs Office approached the school district asking for their assistance in the form of an older bus that was destined for de-commission. The school district was willing to help and donated a 1980 International bus. This bus was refurbished, painted and had HazMat equipment and electronics added to it, eventually putting it in service as Squad 2.

Also in 1996, a Chevrolet quad cab pickup truck with a modular box, was added to respond to medical calls in the Station 2 area and was designated as Rescue 5.

Being prudent in our expenses and following our financial planning, coupled with our fleet maintenance and district needs, a new larger Heavy Rescue was required. As such, in 1998 a fully and intricately designed Saulsbury stainless steel heavy rescue (Rescue 7) was incorporated into our fleet.



1998 Saulsbury – Rescue 7.



2003 Dodge – Rescue 3.



2004 Saulsbury – Engine 8.



2007 E-One – Truck 1.



2009 Seagrave – Engine 6.



2013 Ford Expedition – Rescue 3.



2003 Dodge – that was "re-bodied" in 2013 from Rescue 3 and changed to Rescue 5.

Following our long range plan, a 2003 Dodge light rescue (Rescue 3) was rotated into the fleet to replace its aging predecessor.

Since the stainless steel bodied vehicles were holding up much better than our previous aluminum apparatus, in 2004 Engine 8 was replaced with a new stainless steel Saulsbury pumper. A unique design of this vehicle, was incorporating a larger 1000 gallon water tank and 5" supply line into it for response to highway incidents and for "non-hydranted" areas of our district.

In continuing with our prudent long range fiscal and maintenance plan, along with changes in our district responses and needs led us to upgrading and replacing our Truck 1 with a newer, larger aerial which is a 2007 E-One 95' ladder with a platform on the end of it and an integrated pump and tank also were made a part of the unit.

Our attention to detail and continuing evaluation of our responses, coupled with our financial plans, allowed us to replace Engine 6 with a 2009 Seagrave stainless steel pumper.

The most recent part of the apparatus replacement plan was purchasing a 2013 Ford Expedition SUV as our light Rescue 3.

The Chiefs also incorporated a vehicle body swap of Rescue 5 into this plan, which would update the drivetrain on Rescue 5 while re-using the existing body as it was still in very good condition.

It is important to understand that although the cost of a new piece of fire apparatus becomes more expensive, this is due in part to the incorporation of newer and more modern operational and safety systems. For example Truck 1, the 1970 Snorkel cost $63,000 to build compared to the current Truck 1, a 2007 Emergency One which cost almost $900,000 dollars. In 1953 Engine 3 which was a GMC Civil Defense spec unit, cost $16,000 while our 2009 Seagrave Engine 6 came to us at a cost of $560,000 dollars. To ensure that our fire department is fiscally responsible, our long-range financial plan was developed and designed to assist the Chiefs office with plotting out these large expenses to reduce the impact on any one year of a budget and ultimately the taxpayers. This type of planning also allows us to demonstrate where vehicle rehabilitation projects and replacement plans will fall in line with annual budgets. The Chiefs are always dedicated to providing a top notch service to our community and balancing our budgetary impact on our community.

Our department is one of only 205 in New York State that holds an I.S.O. Public Protection Class 3 rating for providing fire protection services. We respond to emergencies in the Village of North Syracuse and parts of the Towns of Cicero and Clay. Our fire district size is about fifteen square miles with a property breakdown of sixty percent residential and forty percent industrial/commercial. The population we protect is about 25,000 residents. Our district borders the Syracuse Hancock International Airport and as such we are in the glide path for commercial and military aircraft. We have two interstate highways running through our district, Route 81 and Route 481.

We provide various fire and rescue services to the residents, workers and visitors in our district. Our average number of calls for service usually exceeds 1,000 annually. In addition to the "regular" calls for service, we are one of the few fire departments in Onondaga County that respond as a New York State Certified Advanced Life Support rescue. We currently have 45 members in our fire department and we respond out of two stations utilizing four engines, one aerial truck, one heavy rescue, and two light rescue vehicles. Our Station 1 is located at 109 Chestnut Street and Station 2 is located at 70 General Irwin Blvd.

Chief of Fire



In the North Syracuse Fire Department, the Chief of Fire, sometimes referred to as "Fire Chief" or just "Chief", is the commanding officer elected annually by the membership and is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day tasks of running the organization. Such tasks include supervising other officers and firefighters at an emergency scene and overseeing other priorities such as recruiting, training, and equipping them for their respective duties. The Chief is charged with ensuring our department accomplishes fire prevention, fire inspection, disaster preparedness, emergency medical services, and related disciplines, as well as administrative duties such as budgets and personnel issues, research into safety and regulations, and liaison with other agencies.

Over the years, the length of service of the Chief has been varied by our Rules and Regulations. In the beginning, the Chief had no limit on time of service as the Chief. Many years ago, that was changed to only being able to serve in that position for two years. Now, our Fire Chief has a five-year consecutive term limit. The Chief is assisted by a Deputy and Assistant Fire Chief, and sometimes an appointed District Chief. Collectively, these are known as chief officers, to distinguish them from company officers, such as Captains and Lieutenants.

A valuable chief will have many years of experience at all levels of firefighting, as well as superior management skills, especially under the stress of emergency situations. Chiefs have held not only the top position in leading the fire department, but professional careers including: Shoe Cobbler, Electrician, Milkman, Gas Station Owner & Mechanic, Oil Truck Delivery Driver, Management with General Electric, Maintenance Workers, Laborers, Bowling Alley Installer, Telephone Engineer, Welder, Veterinary Technician, Funeral Director, Accountant, Career Firefighter, Nuclear Safety Officer, and Law Enforcement Supervisor.



Fire Chief Hubert Fay sitting at his kitchen table.

Image of a Chiefs "speaking trumpet" or "bugle" that was used in the early days to call out orders to firefighters on an incident scene.



The first Fire Chief Hubert Fay sitting on his motorcycle next to his house on Baum Ave.

Fire Chief Charles Mayer (L) in front of Engine 3 with Village Mayor William Baker (C) and Village Trustee James Barry (R).

Below: Past Chief of Fire Arthur Amerman (L) with his son Chief of Fire Donald Amerman (R) in 1961.

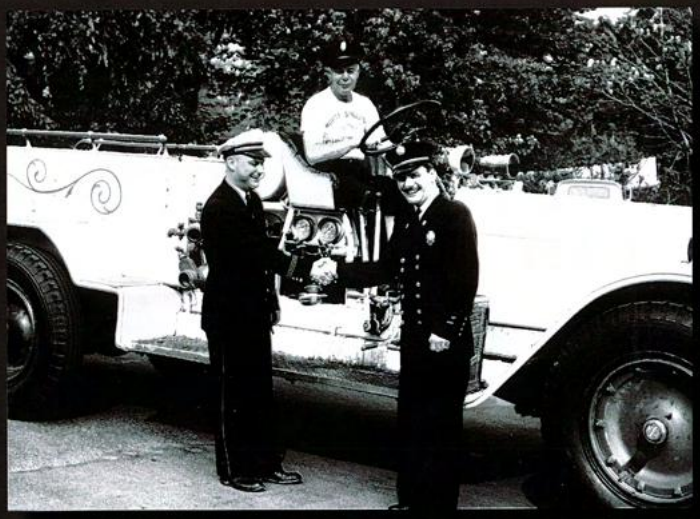


Fire Chief Richard Beach (L) reviewing the Tanker - 5 with "Smokey" Giordano, Charles Mayer and "Red" Baldrini.

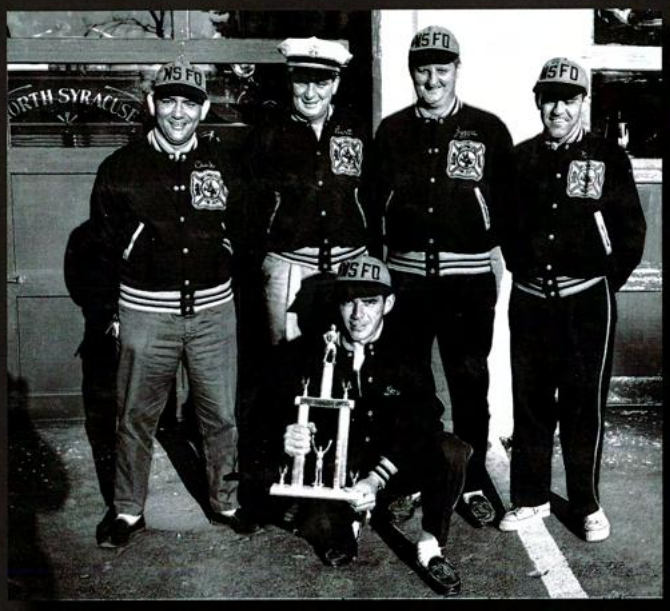
Below: 1959 Fire Chief Leroy Thompson (R) getting the keys to the GMC Utility vehicle from Mayor James Barry and Village Board member John O'Reilly.







Chief Jansz VanderVeer (L) with Past Chief Charles Mayer (C) and the Rail City Fire Chief Delson Husted (R) on the "Old 13" a 1923 American LaFrance Pumper where it is being turned over to the Rail City Fire Apparatus Museum.



Standing from left to right; Firefighter Charles Mason, Chief Burt English, Firefighter Ziggie Kasuba, Firefighter Ken Stanton and Firefighter Doug Goettel (kneeling) proudly displaying their push-ball trophy at the station in the late 1960's.



Chief Jansz VanderVeer (C) with Firefighter Erv Dolasinski (L) and Firefighter Richard Erhardt (R) posing in front of Engine 1 in 1963.

Chief of Fire Donald Amerman at a house fire on Taft Road in 1961.



Newly elected Chief John Tooley accepting congratulations from outgoing Chief Jansz VanderVeer.

Chief Jerry Finger and firefighters at the Coconut Shell Restaurant fire in 1965.



Chiefs together at the 1977 Installation Dinner.



Chief Jack Abulencia (C) speaking with Firefighter Hotalling (L), Doug Goettel and Ken Norton(R) at a fire scene.



Chief Erv Dolasinski with Firefighters Bob Crandall and Doug Goettel at a fire training session with new MSA airpacks in 1961.



Chief Peter Dromms going over equipment on Truck 1 with a firefighter.



Chief Eric Smeltz conferring with Officers at a multiple fatality working fire in 1988 on Pine Tree Drive.



Chief Eric Smeltz approaching a working fire on Lathrop Drive.



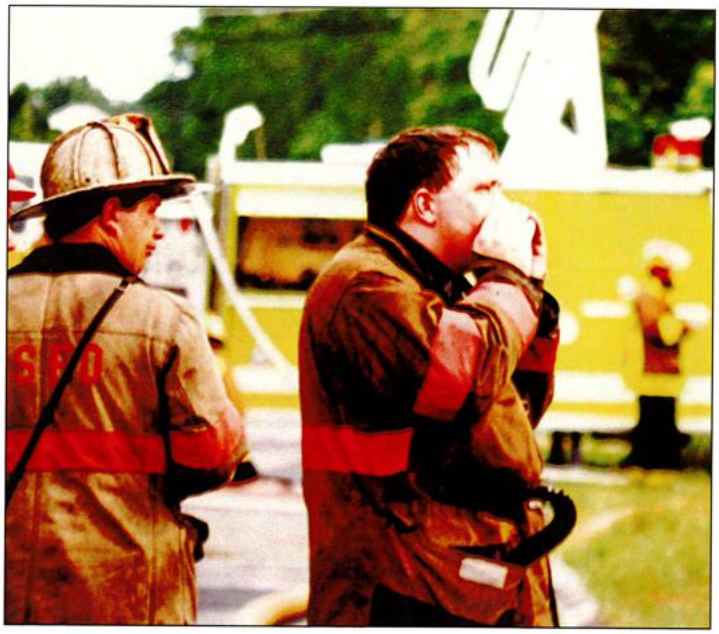
Chief Michael Grillo presenting medals to the crew from the 401 Helen Street fire, where 2 people were rescued from their burning house. Standing in white shirt Left to Right; Deputy Chief Eric Smeltz, Lt. Patrick Brennan, Lt. Richard Reardon and Firefighter Wendell Kelly standing next to an unidentified police officer.



Chief Michael Grillo commanding the Quarter Deck restaurant fire on North Main Street in 1985.



Chief Eric Smeltz commanding overhaul at a working fire on Palmer Drive in 1988.



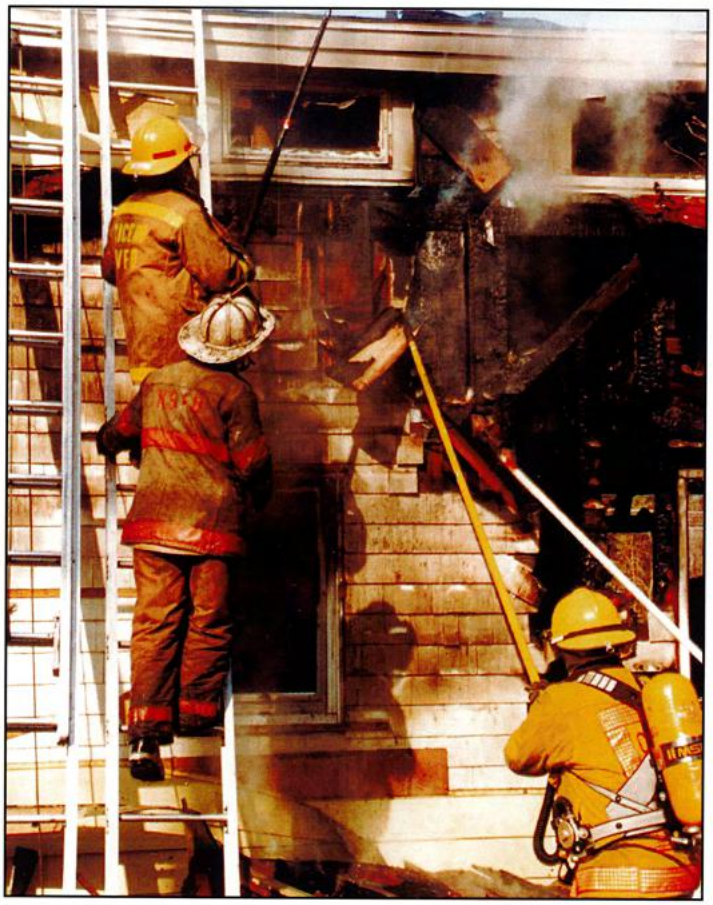
Chief Paul Linnertz overseeing his brother, Captain John Linnertz, while he provides firefighters with direction and words of encouragement.



Deputy Chief Paul Linnertz working a handline with Past Chief Michael Grillo at a working fire on Wadsworth Road.



Deputy Chief Patrick Brennan conferring with crews operating at a working fire on Maple Manor Drive in 1991.



Chief Paul Linnertz supervising overhaul at a working fire in Cicero Fire District.



Assistant Chief Patrick Brennan directing crews at a working fire with an occupant trapped inside at 122 Gordon Road.



Chief John Linnertz offering words of advice to a citizen having an encounter with police.



Chief Kent Young overseeing a heavy extrication mutual aid run to Moyers Corners on West Taft Road in front of Wegmans Grocery store.



Chief John Linnertz overseeing overhaul of a chimney fire on Parkway Drive.



Assistant Chief Kent Young conducting a size up of a house fire on South Ave.

Chief Patrick Brennan running command of interior crews at a working fire on Brookhaven Road.





Chief Mark Hogan overseeing live fire master stream training at a house on Buckley Road in 2006.



Chief Patrick Brennan at the command post of a working fire on Wells Ave East in 2012.

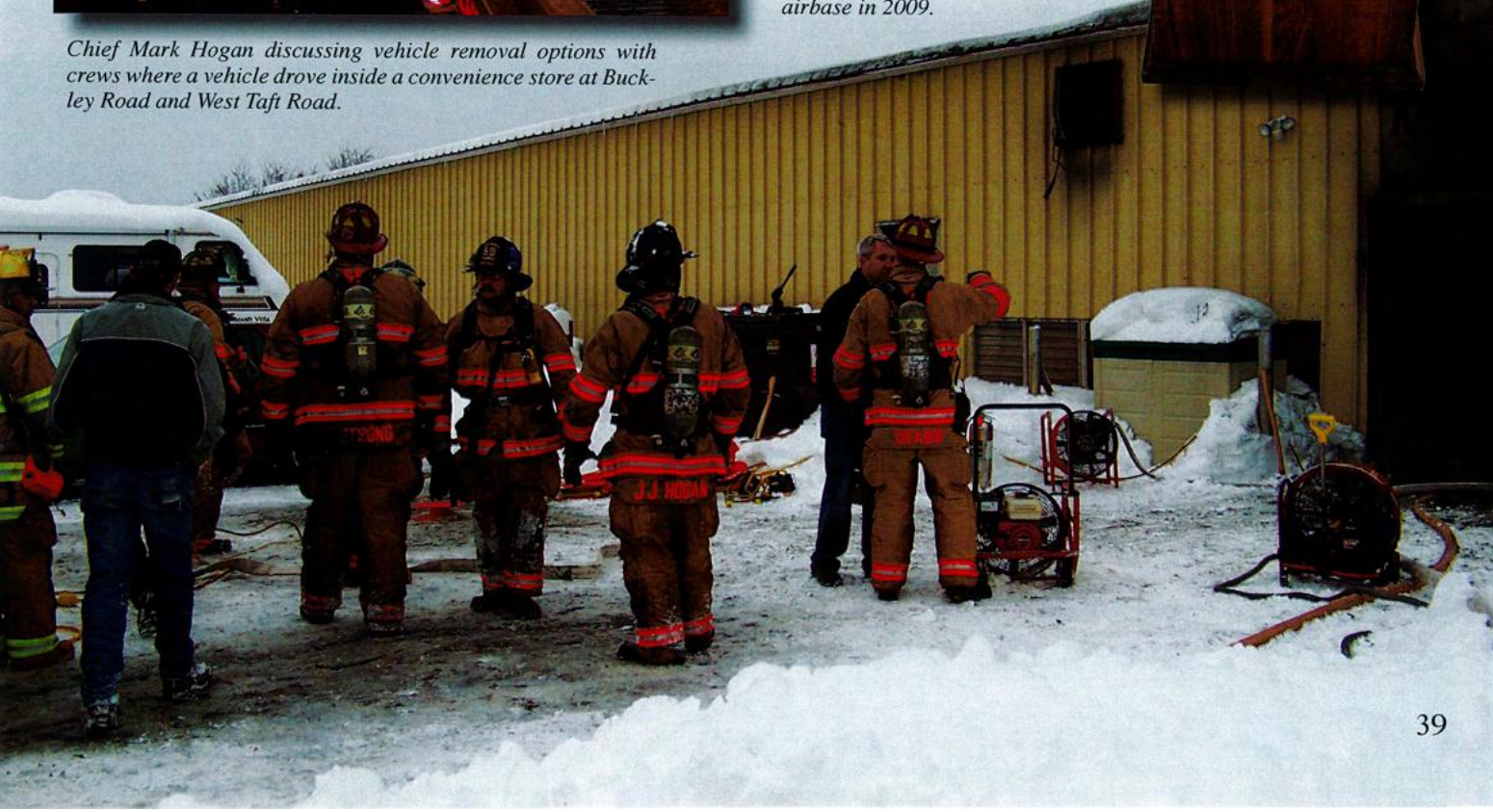


Chief Mark Hogan discussing vehicle removal options with crews where a vehicle drove inside a convenience store at Buckley Road and West Taft Road.

Right: A mounted Chiefs bugle sometimes given to honor an outgoing chief.



Below: Chief Mark Hogan running command at a fatal working industrial fire on Ethan Allen Street on the airbase in 2009.

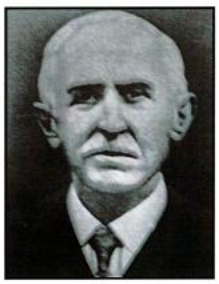


Past Chiefs

On the following pages we have assembled our Past Chiefs and their years of leading our organization:



Hubert Fay
1913-1914



Smith Soule
1914-1915



Walter Fergerson
1915-1936



Arthur Harvey
1936-1938



Walter Anderson
1938-1945



Arthur D. Amerman
1945-1950



John Bolton
1950-1952



Leslie Potter
1952-1954



Charles Mayer
1954-1956



James Cali
1956-1958



Richard Beach
1958-1959



Leroy Thompson
1959-1961



Donald Amerman
1961-1963



Jansz Vanderveer
1963-1965



John Tooley
1965-1967



Jerry Finger
1967-1969



Burton English
1969-1971



Robert Crandall
1971-1972





William Jenner
1972-1974



Richard Erhardt
1974-1975



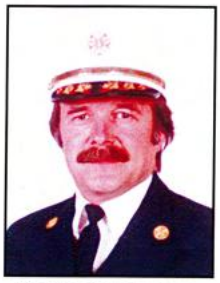
Ervin Dolasinski
1975-1977



John Abulencia
1977-1979



Peter Dromms
1979-1981



Richard Jones
1981-1982



Peter Dromms
1982-1983



Michael Grillo
1983-1987



Eric Smeltz
1987-1992



Paul Linnertz
1992-1997



Patrick Brennan
1997-2000



Kent Young
2000-2001



Patrick Brennan
2001-2003



John Linnertz
2003-2005



Mark Hogan
2005-2010



Patrick Brennan
2010-2014





Station and member photo from the 1940's. Left to Right: R. Herrick, S. Darling, A. Amerman, C. Mayer, D. Sheely, H. Perrine, R. Taylor, O. Crowell, J. Cali, F. Sponable, R. Aicher.

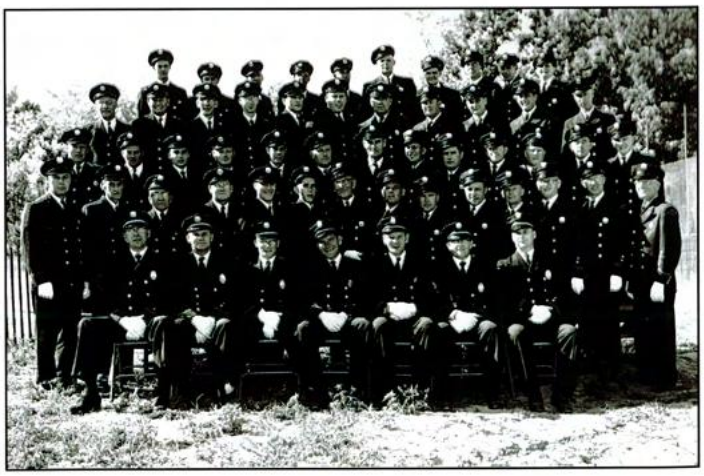
Our Members

A firefighter, also known as a fireman, is a member trained in a plethora of skills under all-encompassing topics such as medical care and firefighting. Our membership is comprised of Firefighters, Officers and Chiefs. Our mission is fire prevention and education, fire suppression, and the prevention of the loss of life. We will assist in any disaster, emergency, or occasion for which we are properly equipped. For 100 years our members have volunteered to support this mission 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We are called to extinguish hazardous fires that threaten property and civilian populations, and to rescue those people from dangerous situations, like collapsed or burning buildings, crashed vehicles, or to render aid to someone having a medical emergency. Our members are all volunteers and work outside of the fire station, employed in full time positions in various other professional careers.

In the following pages we have assembled our current members comprising our roster in 2013.



Station and member photo in 1949.



Group photo taken in 1958.



Patrick Brennan
Chief of Fire



Timothy Ellis
Deputy Chief



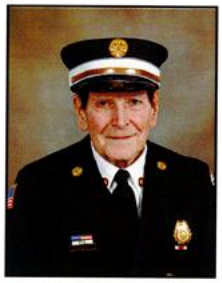
Christopher Strong
Assistant Chief



John Abulencia
Past Chief



Donald Amerman
Past Chief



Richard Beach
Past Chief



Peter Dromms
Past Chief/Treasurer



Mark Hogan
Past Chief



Richard Jones
Past Chief



John Linnertz
Past Chief



Paul Linnertz
Past Chief



Joseph Difabio
Captain



John Hogan
Captain



Dennis McAllister
Fire Police Captain



Jozsef Asztalos Jr.
Lieutenant



David Evangelista
Lieutenant



Daniel Kasouf
Lieutenant



Michael Redhead
Lieutenant



Station and member photo in 1960.



Phillip Abruzzese



Richard Allen



Michael Bridenbaker



Albert Brynien



Aaron Caza



Michael Chimber



Casey Daugard



Peter Desalvo



Ernest Dewolf



Fleet and member photo taken in 1965.



2004 fleet and group photo.

Parade group photo from 1965.





2007 group photo of work detail putting new Truck 1 in service.



Adam Engels



Timothy Falise



Ronald Forss



Edward Fry



Jeremy Fryer
Asst. Treasurer



Heather Gangemi



Frederick German



Scott Gratien
President



David Greenfield



Gerald Grudzinski



Norman Guenther



Natalie Guinta



2008 Firefighter of the Year Ceremony.



2010 Safety Day group photo.



William Hepp
Vice President



Joel Klaisle



Donald Larock



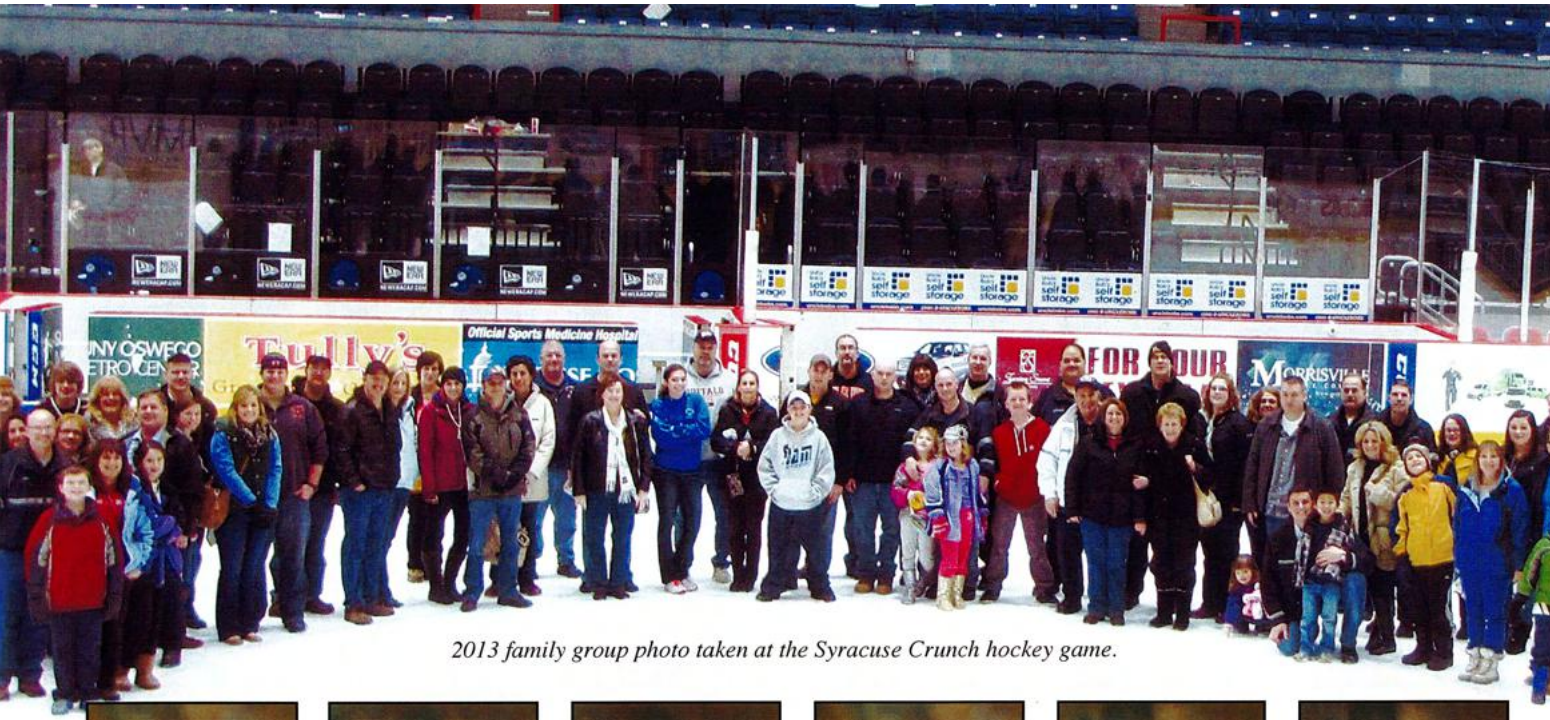
Timothy Latham



John Lee



Michael
Lovetere



2013 family group photo taken at the Syracuse Crunch hockey game.



Richard Reardon



Kenneth Ryan



Samuel Stayer



Scott Wiegand



Gary Wilmer



Kyle Wilmer
Secretary

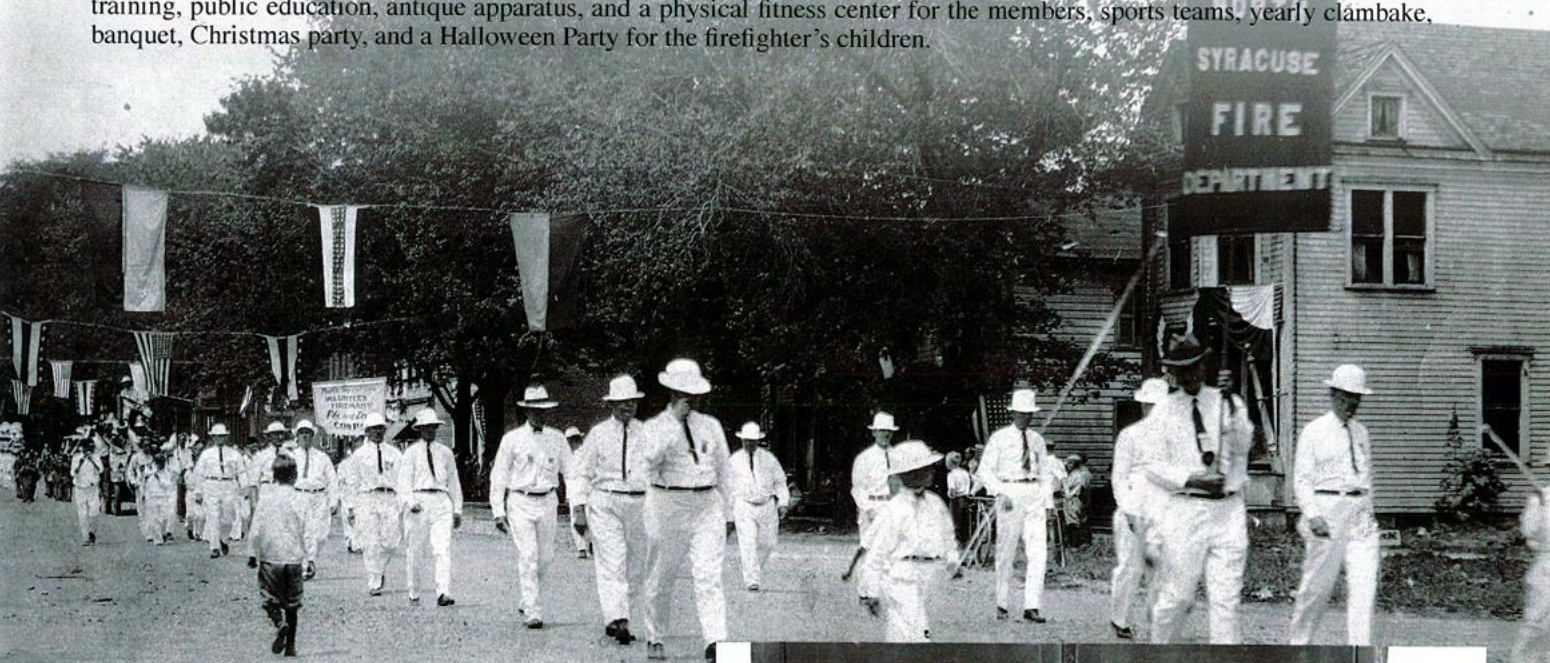
The following members are not pictured: Earl Huntley, Walter Killius, and Robert Liberatore.

2013 group photo taken at the Annual Village Family Fun Day, where Mayor Mark Atkinson presented the Fire Department with a Centennial Proclamation and chrome plated ceremonial axes.



Fireman's Association Inc. & Presidents

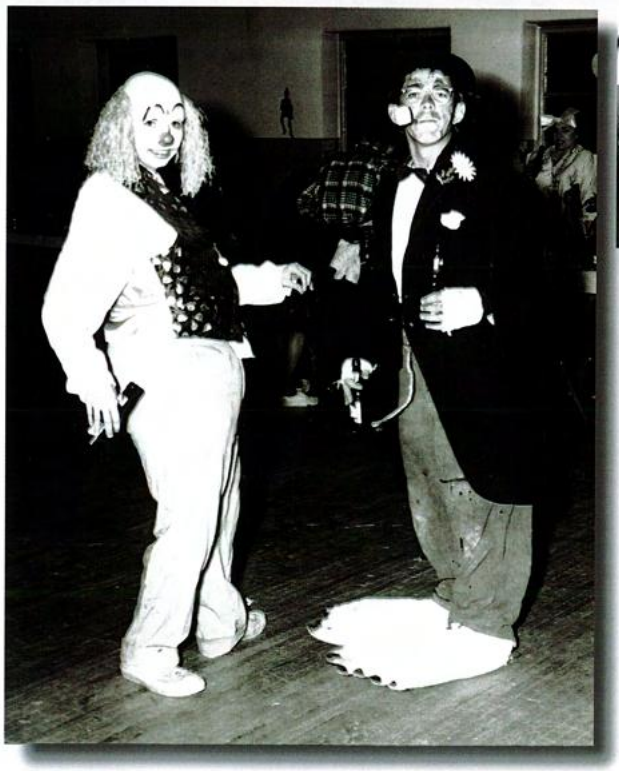
The North Syracuse Volunteer Fireman's Association was formed in 1949. Its main mission is to assist in any disaster, emergency, or occasion for which it may be properly equipped in support of the North Syracuse Fire Department. The Association provides benefits that encourage recruitment and active participation in the fire department and provides the means for many activities and functions during the year. The Association has a yearly budget, some of which are for fire training, public education, antique apparatus, and a physical fitness center for the members, sports teams, yearly clambake, banquet, Christmas party, and a Halloween Party for the firefighter's children.



A fire department parade photo from 1920's.



Pushball members in 1962 (L to R) Charles Mason, Dave Weegar, Chief Don Amerman, Doug Goettel and Nick Schivone.



Hitting the dance floor at the departmental Halloween Party.



Installation Dinner in 1967.

The President is tasked with presiding at all meetings, appointing various committees and ensuring members follow the constitution and by-laws of the organization. The past Presidents are:

Arthur Amerman	1949-1950
Foster Sponable	1950-1952
Norman Guenther	1952-1954
Leslie Potter	1956-1957
William Wager	1957-1959
Charles Mayer	1959-1961
Charles Martineau	1961-1962
Myron Pepperman	1962-1964
Dominic Giordano	1964-1966
Phillip Abruzzese	1966-1968
James Landers	1968-1970
Leroy Thompson	1970-1971
Donald Amerman	1971-1973
Peter Dromms	1973-1975
Earl Huntley	1975-1977
Ronald Shandorf	1977-1978
Richard Erhardt	1978-1979
Joseph Falise	1979-1980
Henry Weyer	1980-1982
Robert Deyo	1982-1984
Charles Shirtz	1984-1985
Patrick Brennan	1985-1986
Patrick Tooley	1986-1991
Gerald Grudzinski	1991-1992
Ronald Forss	1992-1993
John Bower	1993-1994
Gerald Grudzinski	1994-1999
Philip Paquin	1999
Hugh Wolf	2000-2002
Robert Marshall	2002-2003
Gerald Grudzinski	2003-2004
Ronald Forss	2004-2005
Kenneth Ryan	2005-2009
Gerald Grudzinski	2009-2012

And the current President is Scott Gratien.

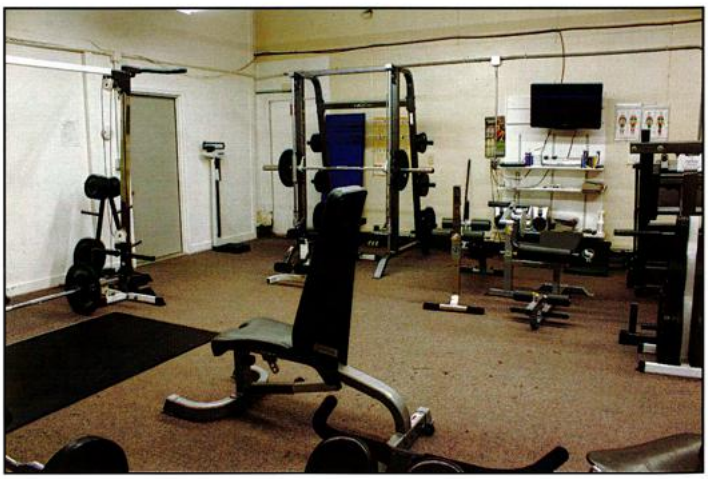




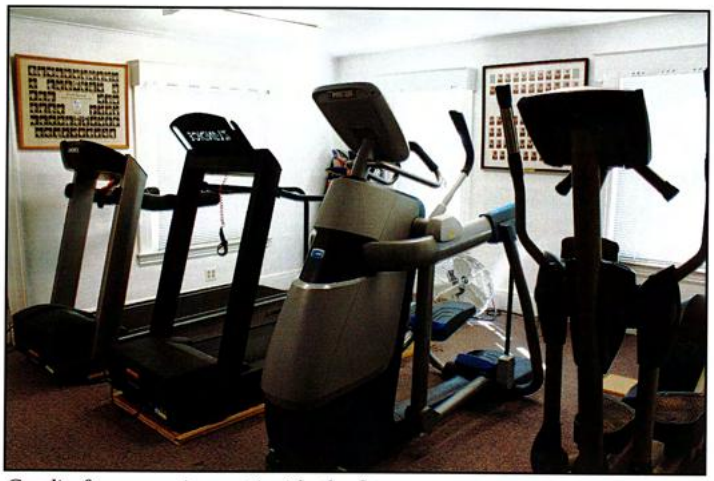
The 1962 bowling team of Jim Cali, Don Amerman, Paul Shepardson, Burt English, Norm Guenther and Jim Landers.



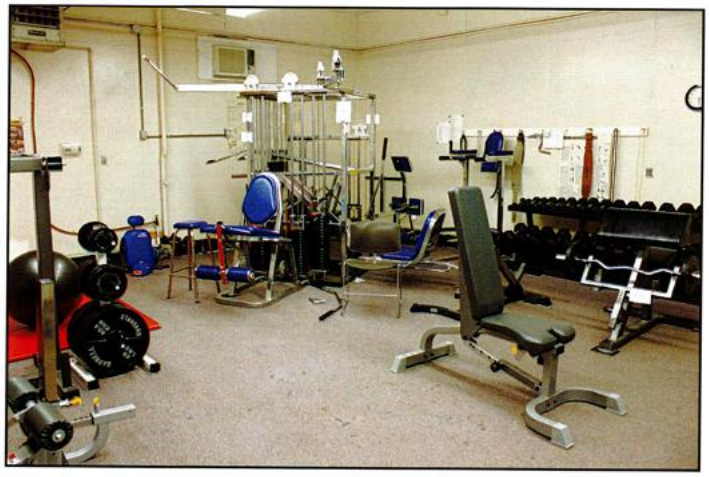
Various bowling team shirts and their uniqueness and evolution over the years.



Universal weight equipment at the fitness center.



Cardio fitness equipment inside the fitness center.



Free weight equipment at the fitness center.

From the humble beginnings of a small, sparsely furnished office shared by all of the Association leadership, to a purpose built office with modern desks for each position within the organization. This allows for efficient and productive work in the continued support of the Fire Department through the Association constitution and by-laws.

The Fireman's Association has also purchased a building separate from the Fire Department that is used to house property of the organization as well as a fitness center for the members to use. Firefighting can take a toll on our members, and by providing a multitude of equipment such as aerobic and weight lifting components, our current firefighters and our "second alarm" members have the ability to work out at any time of the day or night.



The new Association office with modern furniture.

The Association fitness center building located on Fergerson Ave.







Hospitality Suite at the 2013 Installation dinner.

Centennial cake at the 2013 Installation dinner.



Hospitality Suite at the 2013 Installation dinner.



Chief Pat Brennan and President Scott Gratien dropping the ceremonial puck at the Syracuse Crunch Hockey game during our Centennial Hockey night.

Continuing to support the benevolence of our Fire Department, the Association also provides support for the members that become sick or hospitalized by providing fruit baskets, flowers on Mother's Day for our deceased life members' wives and gifts for the local burn unit.



Recently restored Hose Cart.

The "Deuce" retired parade apparatus.



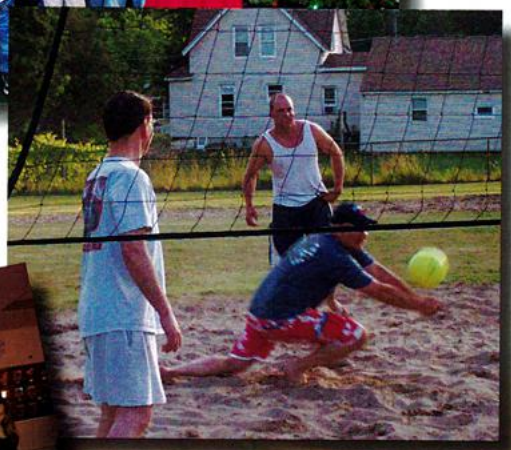
Don, Ron and Pete delivering Mothers Day bouquets for deceased members' wives.



Ron and Denny also on the Mothers Day flower detail.



Our children at the annual Christmas party.



Fred giving an impromptu line dancing demonstration at the Christmas party.



Chicken BBQ fund raising crew.



Volleyball at the annual BBQ Swim & Safety Drill.



Chicken BBQ fund raiser in the Centennial year.



Go-Kart racing at the 2013 Clambake.

LADIES AUXILIARY

In the early years of the North Syracuse Fire Department, the wives, mothers, daughters, or sisters of the members always stood ready to help their firefighter. On October 17, 1945 a group of women consisting of Ethel Apple, Sally Cali, Elizabeth Letterman, Olive Letterman, Lillian Muller, Jessie Niepling, Gertrude Wagner, and Cecelia Fennesy got together and decided to draw up and sign a charter, thus forming the North Syracuse Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. The purpose of the Auxiliary is to assist the firefighters when needed and to encourage a better spirit of friendship among our members. In addition to assisting the firefighters, the Ladies Auxiliary provides support for various firematic events.

The Ladies Auxiliary is led by the President and has support from the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chaplain, and Trustees. The Ladies Auxiliary will respond to the station during a large fire or prolonged emergency incident to support the firefighters by providing food and drink for the firefighters and bring it to the scene for nourishment. They also host pancake breakfasts, chicken BBQ's and other fundraisers to earn money continuing to support the department. The President is tasked with presiding at all meetings, and ensuring members follow the constitution and by-laws of the organization.

The past Presidents are:

Ethel Apple	1945
Jessie Niepling	1946-1948
Catherine Hepp	1949-1950
Jennie Perrine	1951
Olive Letterman	1952
Sally Cali	1953-1954
Hatie Koehler	1955
Anne Blanchard	1956
Dorothy Behnke	1957-1958
Helen Homeward	1959
Ethel Apple	1960
Dorothy Houmiel	1961-1962
Charlotte Landers	1963
Carol Thompson	1964
Vera English	1965
Charlotte Miller	1966
Shirley Wentworth	1967
Carol Thompson	1968
Pamela Hotelling	1969-1970
Teresa Dunham	1971-1972
Dorothy Corbet / Helen Homeward	1973
Teresa Dunham	1974
Donna Goodson	1975-1976
Betty Nicholson	1977-1978
Virginia Schalk	1979
Doris Spier	1980-1983
Patricia McAllister	1983
Cheryl Forss	1984-1987
Brenda Falter	1988
Cheryl Forss	1989
Karen Falise	1990-1995
Kathie Hepp	1995-2000
Cheryl Forss	2000-2002
Karen Falise	2002-2005
Jennifer Dromms	2005-2006
Jennifer Dromms / Cheryl Forss	2007
Karen Falise	2007-2011
Kathie Hepp	2011-2013

(Current President)



Jennifer Burkhart
Treasurer



Gail Dromms
Vice President



Brenda Falter



Clara Fike
Chaplain



Cheryl Forss
Secretary



Kathie Hepp
President



Lori Marshall
Trustee



Sheila Young
Financial Secretary



The Ladies Auxiliary marching in the Mattydale parade along Brewerton Road in the late 1960's.



Ladies Auxiliary Board taking their Oath of Office administered by Assistant Chief Ellis at the installation dinner (from L to R) Kathie Hepp, Gail Dromms, Cheryl Forss, Jennifer Burkhart, Sheila Young, Clara Fike and Carrie Brynien.



Ladies Auxiliary members (L to R) Karen Falise, Carrie Brynien, and Clara Fike serving up lunch at the Firefighter of the Year Ceremony in 2008 at station one.



Kathie Hepp, Karen Falise and Tina Forss.



Auxiliary members Kathie Hepp and Kim Bittel working at the Easter Bunny breakfast.

Explorer Firefighters

The North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department realized that as a child, many of us want to be a firefighter, especially when we see that big red fire engine driving by with all its lights flashing and siren wailing, heading off to help someone. Capitalizing on that desire, the fire department began a Junior Firefighter program, eventually morphing into an Explorer program, which follows the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. While the name changed, the intent was still the same: to get teenagers between the ages of 14-18 years old involved in firefighting and fuel that desire to become a full-fledged firefighter. This program teaches Explorers about the duties of a firefighter and about firehouse life. The program is designed to build character, a sense of responsibility and leadership through both lecture and practical skills in modern firefighting techniques. The leadership of the post is given to its members under the guidance of advisors, whom are senior firefighters and officers of the fire department. These advisors act as mentors, teachers, and facilitators.

The Explorer Post conducts regularly scheduled training and holds a meeting once a month. These are facilitated by the Advisors. Explorers are issued the same turnout gear as firefighters to use during training and are expected to maintain it. During drills, Explorers use the fire department equipment, vehicles, and facilities to learn modern firefighting techniques in controlled and supervised exercises.

In addition to regularly scheduled drills, Explorers are encouraged to participate in parades, special events and other fire department functions. Our Explorers participate in firematic competitions with other local posts and junior firefighter programs at the New York Air National Guard base in East Syracuse. They plan events for fund raising, put on demonstrations at the NSFD annual fire safety day and help firefighters with day to day responsibilities around the station.

Explorers are also encouraged to come to the fire station during alarms where, under supervision and permission by incident command, they will be escorted to the scene by an advisor or fire department officer to help firefighters with non-critical roles such as clean-up, equipment maintenance, etc. These incidents are used as real life experience and educational opportunities.

It is the hope of the North Syracuse Fire Department that our Explorers will carry these skills with them well into their futures and that one day they might consider joining the ranks of the fire department after their 18th birthday and upon graduating high school.





Explorer post group photo.



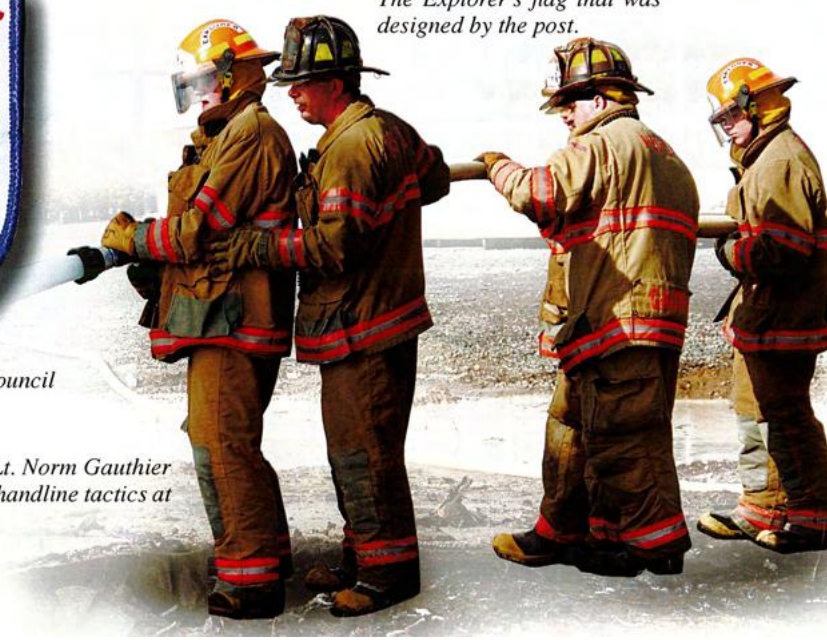
The Explorer's flag that was designed by the post.



Explorers conducting Immobilization training.



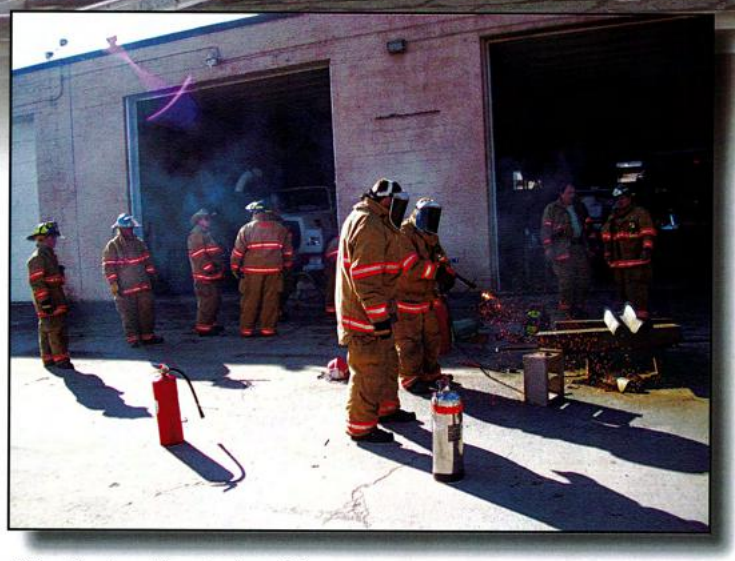
The patch of the Hiawatha Council of the Explorer post.



Past Chief Paul Linnertz and Lt. Norm Gauthier working with the Explorers on handline tactics at the Buckley Road burn down.



Truck Company Operations training at the Hafner house on Buckley Road.



Slice Pack cutting torch training.



Training

One of the most important aspects of firefighting is training. Although members are provided with all the necessary gear, without training, firefighters are not ready to handle the most basic responsibilities when responding to calls. However, training requires time, commitment, and support.

Training is defined as the process of bringing a person to an agreed upon standard of proficiency by practice and instruction. To ensure people are trained to the same standard, training begins the moment a firefighter joins the department and continues until they leave the fire service.

New recruits at the North Syracuse Fire Department are given a blue hat during the initial stage of their training. The blue hat indicates they are new to the fire service and our department. During this initial phase, new recruits learn the basics: how to don and doff their gear, how the air pack works and the donning and doffing procedures, and the basics of first aid and CPR. They are expected to know the location of all the equipment on each piece of apparatus. Basic training also includes successfully completing the New York State Firefighter 1 training course, which covers multiple topics totaling about 108 hours. Once the new recruits reach the necessary standard of proficiency, they are required to pass three tests in their track of becoming an interior firefighter or "black hat" firefighter. A practical test is first, which allows the recruit to display their knowledge of commonly used equipment such as hose couplings and adapters, hitting the hydrant, running smoke ejector fans and operating various rescue tools among other skills. The next portion is a written test verifying their mastery of basic fire department knowledge. If both of the previous stages of the exam have been successfully passed, the recruit will be allowed to take the oral exam. This exam is proctored by 3 current or past members of the chief's office and allows the recruit to show their knowledge of various techniques and tools.

If the recruit successfully passes the three tests, they are issued a black helmet. This means they are an interior firefighter and are capable of responding to all calls and performing all necessary tasks on scene.

Truck Company Operations training at the Hafner house on Buckley Road.



Engine Company evolutions taking place at the Hafner training house.

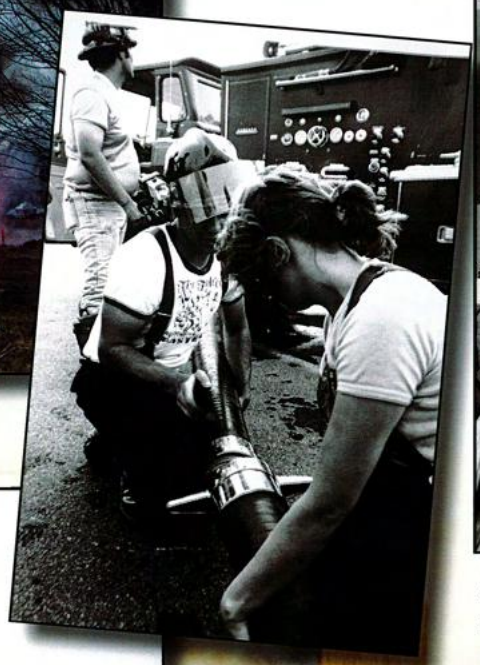
However, once a firefighter gets their black hat, training does not stop. At this point, the firefighters continue to hone their skills, becoming more confident and capable. This includes regularly scheduled Tuesday departmental training sessions, as well as many others offered by New York State. Training ensures skills are sharp and firefighters are ready to act as needed.

All firefighters, officers and chiefs attend weekly drills. During these drills, senior members of the department will lead others through a specific task or set of skills. These may be basic tasks such as: engine, truck, or rescue company operations. Often, drill will include training on more advanced tasks or new skills, reinforcing and building upon prior learnings. Sometimes it will involve training on a new piece of equipment or driving and operating a new piece of apparatus.

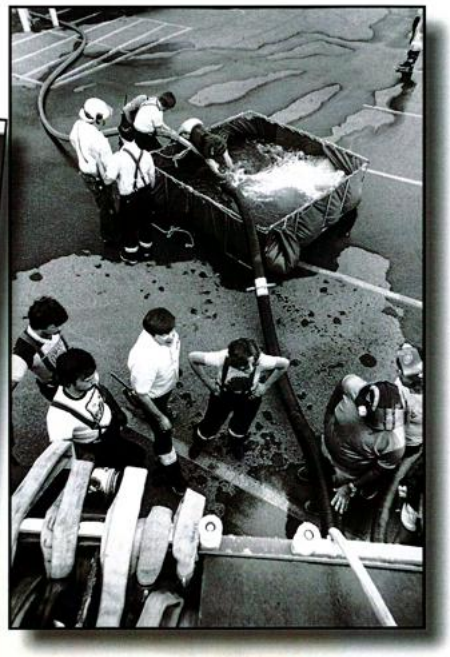
Training cannot be overlooked. It is a necessary part of and an incredibly important aspect of firefighting. We learn it in class and then practice it, and when we have the opportunity to perform that skill at an emergency, that will be the final exam of our continued learning.



Master Stream evolutions at the corner of Taft Rd. and Northern Blvd.



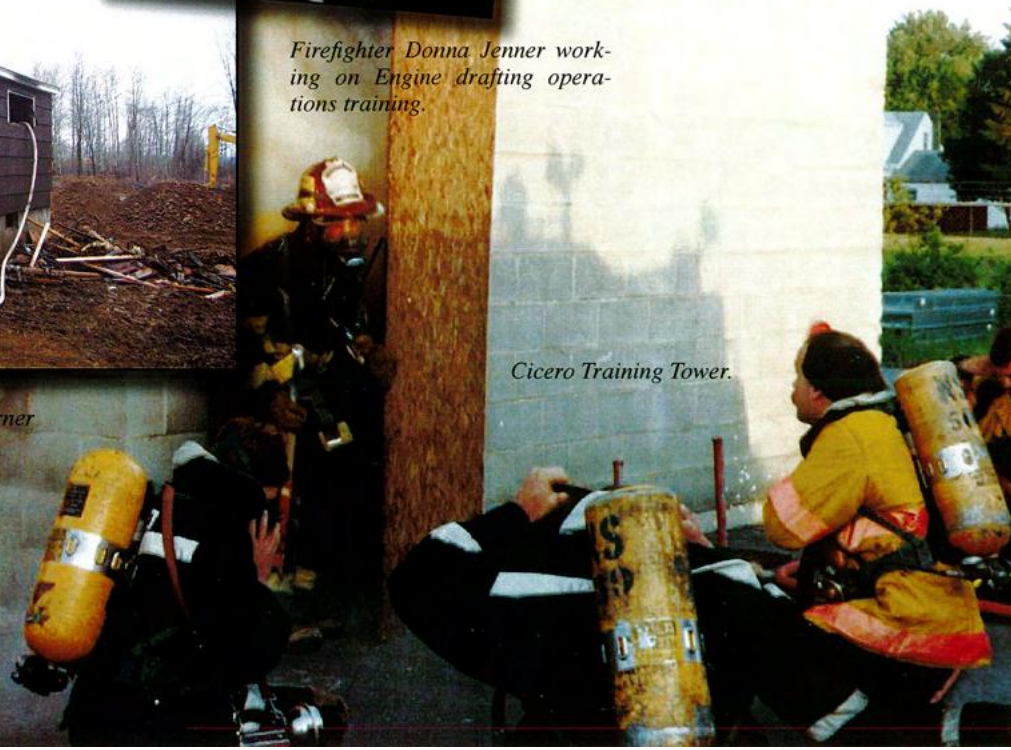
Firefighter Donna Jenner working on Engine drafting operations training.



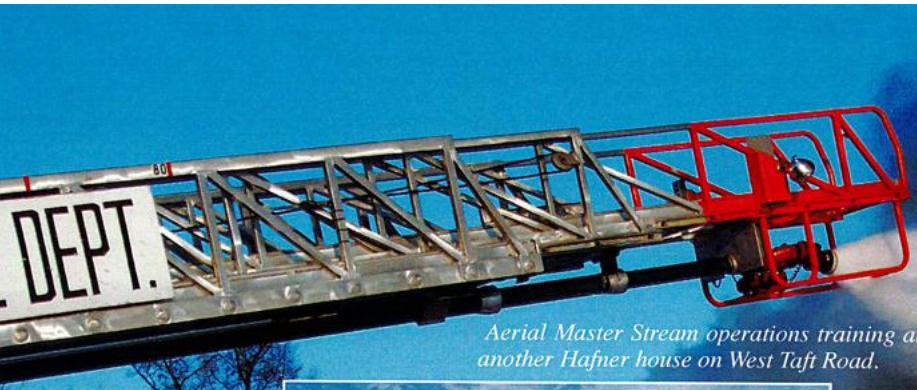
Overhead shot of drafting operations during a 1980's training session.



Multiple company live fire training at the corner of Taft Rd. and Northern Blvd.



Cicero Training Tower.



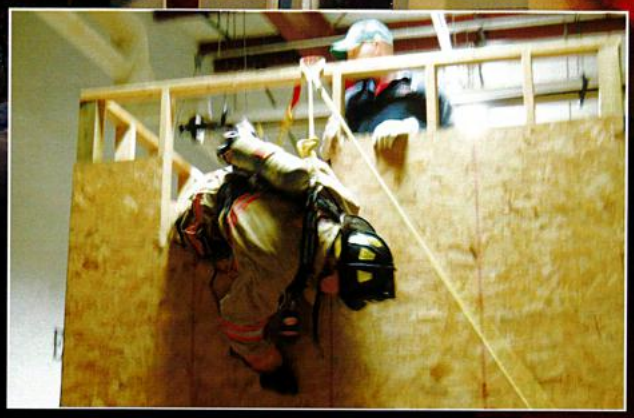
Aerial Master Stream operations training at another Hafner house on West Taft Road.



Captain John Linnertz reviewing portable master stream deployment during training.



Aerial positioning training at the Clay Fire Tower.



Window bailout training at the Station 2 prop.

Taft Rd. and Northern Blvd. Live Fire training with mutual aid departments.

Large area search training in one of the many commercial facilities in our district.



New Scott SCBA delivered in 2014.



New Globe Turnout Gear received on a 2007 grant.

NYS Accident Victim Extrication training class taking place at Station 2.



New Hurst tool training in the 1970's for vehicle extrication.



Extrication demonstration during our annual Safety Day.

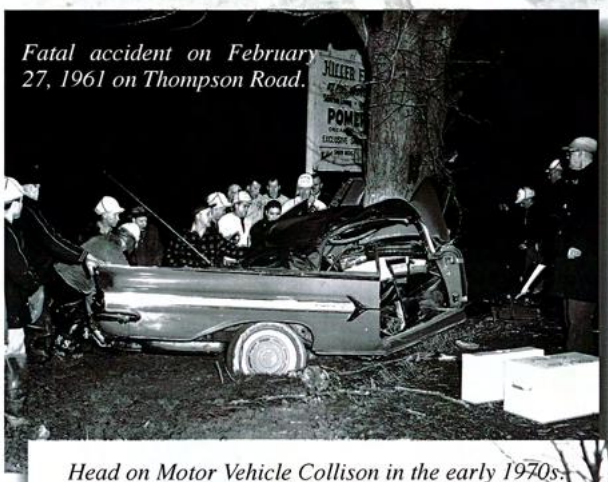


Rescue skills training taking place in the 1960's.

Incidents



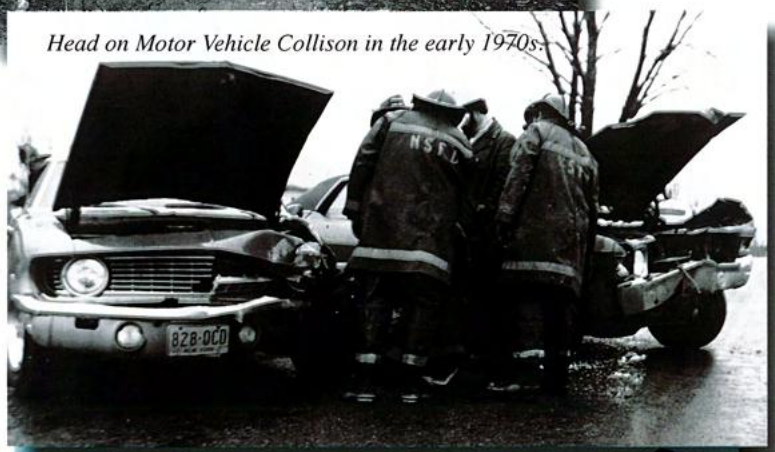
Vehicle roll over on the 481 North off ramp to 81 South.



Fatal accident on February 27, 1961 on Thompson Road.



Fatal accident at South Bay and Taft Road.



Head on Motor Vehicle Collison in the early 1970s.



School bus in the ditch on Rita Drive.



Fatal accident on Route 481.



Vehicle on its side at the intersection of Route 11 and Fergerson Avenue.



Fire on Church Street in the 1930's.



Commercial fire at Mellone's on South Main Street in the 1950's.



House fire on Pine Ridge Circle on October 13, 1956.



Garage fire at 306 South Main Street on June 20, 1961.



Fire at Angelos on June 15, 1961.







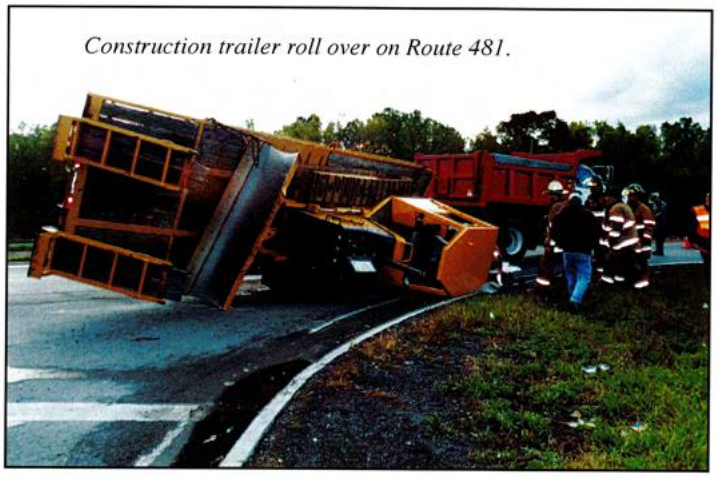


Bowling Green fire on August 21, 1961.



SUV versus dump truck at Northern Boulevard and Route 481 in 1995.





Construction trailer roll over on Route 481.

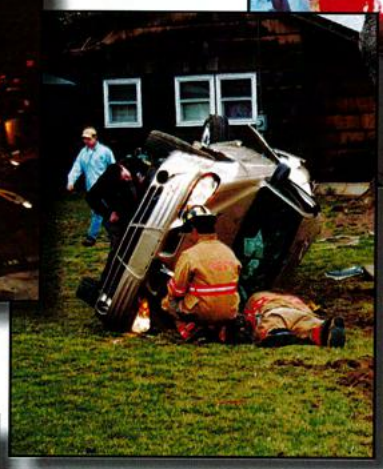
Fire at the Coconut Shell at North Main Street and Maxwell Avenue in 1966.



Fatal accident at the 5600 block of Bear Road.







Serious motor vehicle accident on Taft Road and Gateway Park Drive that required a Medevac.



Patient extrication in a snow storm.

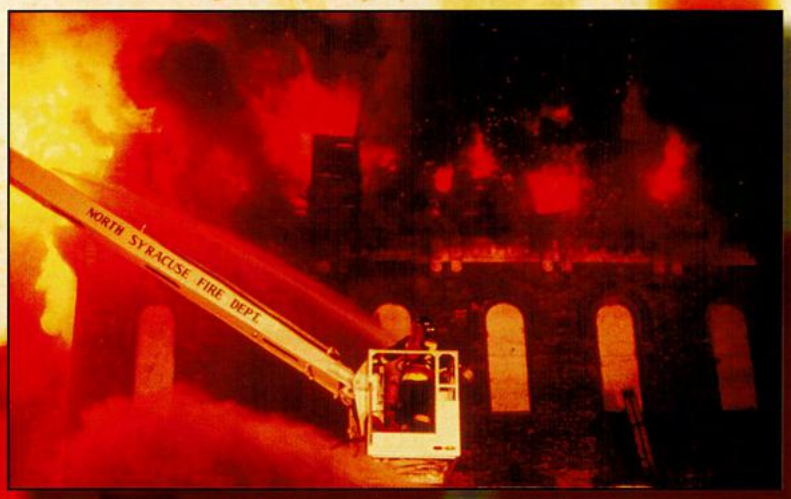
Vehicle on its side on Bear Road.



Above, below & right: Fire at the Coconut Shell at North Main Street and Maxwell Avenue in 1966.









Above & Background: Mutual Aid at the Frontier Hotel Fire in Brewerton in 1982.



Fire at Admiral's Walk Apartments.





House fire on Pinetree Drive in December 1988.







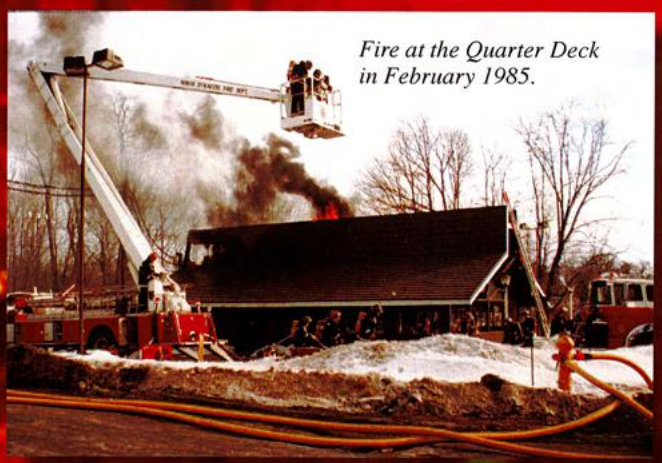
House fire at 116 Wadsworth Road on December 1, 1988.



Towne Set fire at Penn Can Mall on August 14, 1989.







Fire at the Quarter Deck in February 1985.



School bus roll over on Buckley Road.



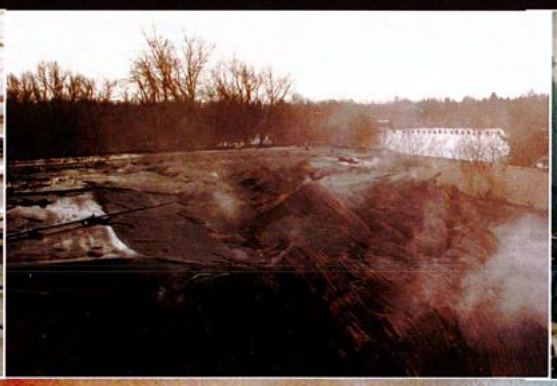
Serious accident with heavy extrication between a school bus and a car at Taft Road and Route 81 North in 1991.

Car under a tractor trailer in 1991 in the 6200 block of East Taft Road.



Car under a car with stabilization.







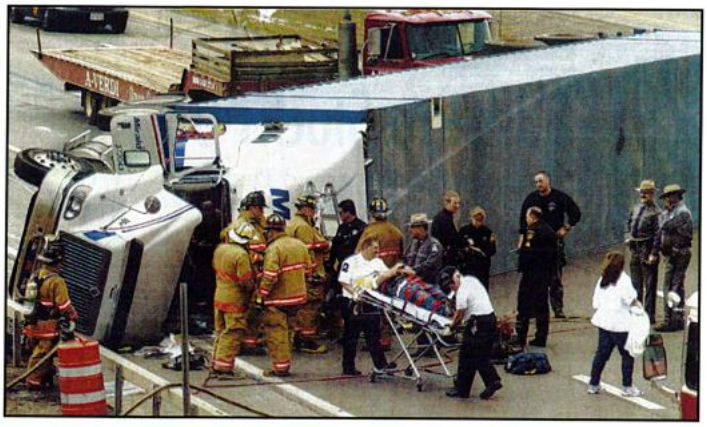
Channel fire in December 1991.







Fire at the Air Base Housing.



Tractor trailer roll over on Route 81 on April 23, 2004.



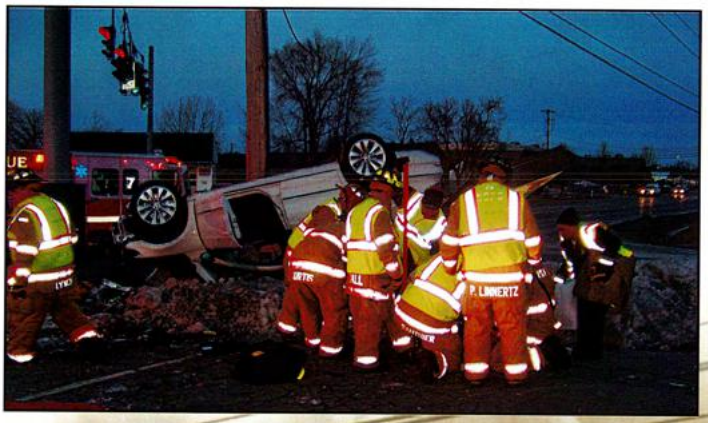
Snowmobile fire in 2002.



Patient extrication at Route 11 and Fergerson Avenue.



Snowmobile fire in 2002, after the gas tank ruptured.



Vehicle roll over at Taft Road and Thompson Road in 2009.

Commercial fire at A&P Auto in Cicero.



House fire on Fairfield Drive in 2007.



Above and below: Fire at the North Towne Village Apartments on South Main Street in July of 2008.



Vehicle fire on Pine Grove Road in 2006.



Below: Patient extrication at Taft Road and Kreischer Road on February 28, 2009.





Vehicle fire on South Bay at Circle Drive in 2009.



Motor vehicle accident at Buckley Road and Dolshire Avenue in 2013.



Commercial fire at Delish Mini Mart on North Main Street in 2013.



House fire at 114 Kristin Road.



108 Wells Avenue house fire on March 19, 2012.



108 Wells Avenue house fire on March 19, 2012.



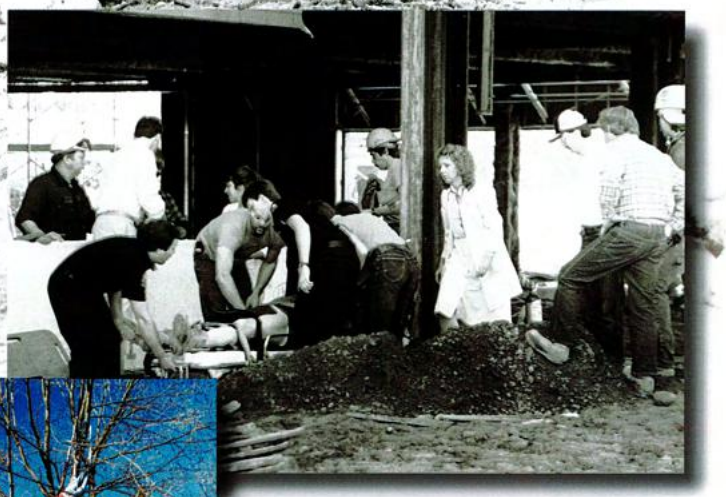
House fire at 113 Kristin Road.

House fire at 113 Kristin Road.



1971 Royal Canadian Air Force emergency landing in the 6000 block of Taft Road.





Construction worker fall at North Medical Center on August 31, 1988.

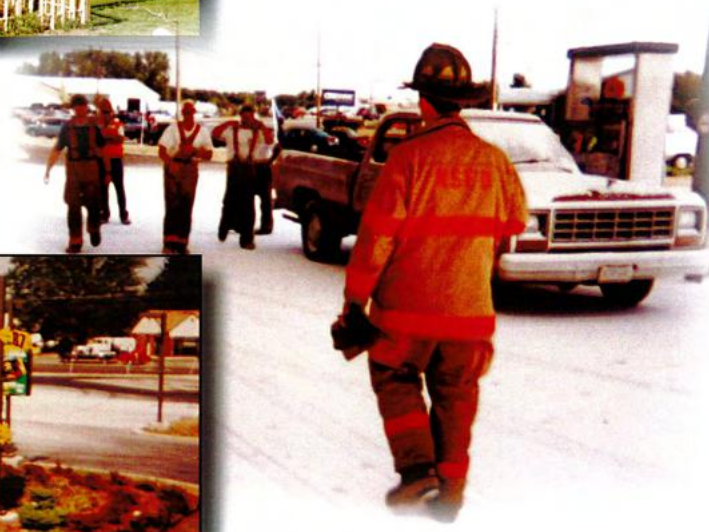


Ladder rescue of a man trimming a tree.





Helicopter crash off of Bear Road.



Sunoco gas pump extinguisher discharge.



Photos Through the Years







Herald-American photos by Arthur J. Cornelius

Marching units such as the Marine Corps color guard, upper right, suffered casualties and many others at the county firemen's parade at Taunton wilted yesterday as heat and humidity both rose above 90. The ever-alert firemen toted stretchers, above and below, hustled victims to ambulances, left and even brought in electric fans, right, as more than 25 persons were felled. Other photos: Page 12. Other story: Page 16

North Syracuse
Volunteer
Fire Department

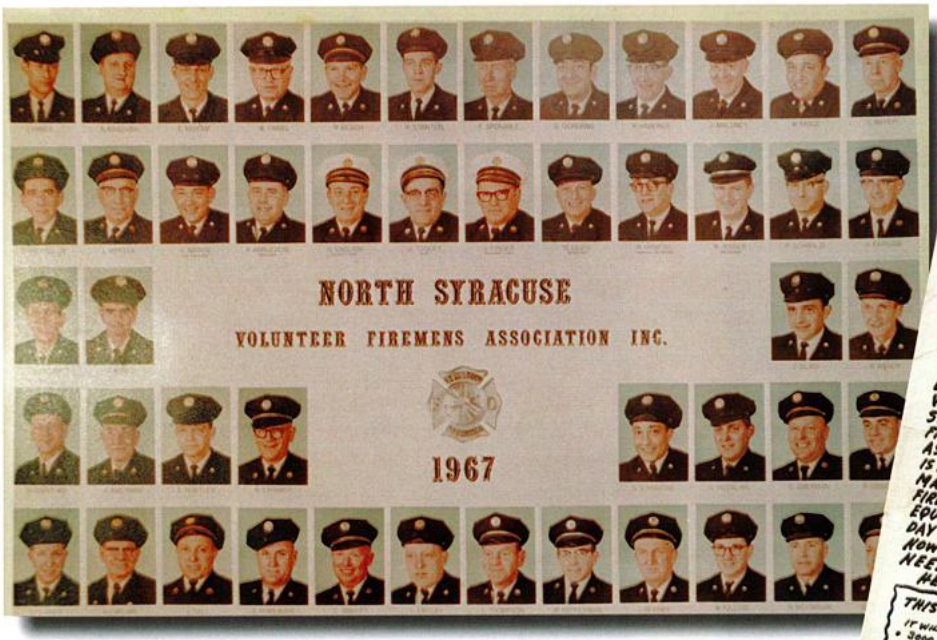
FIELD DAY

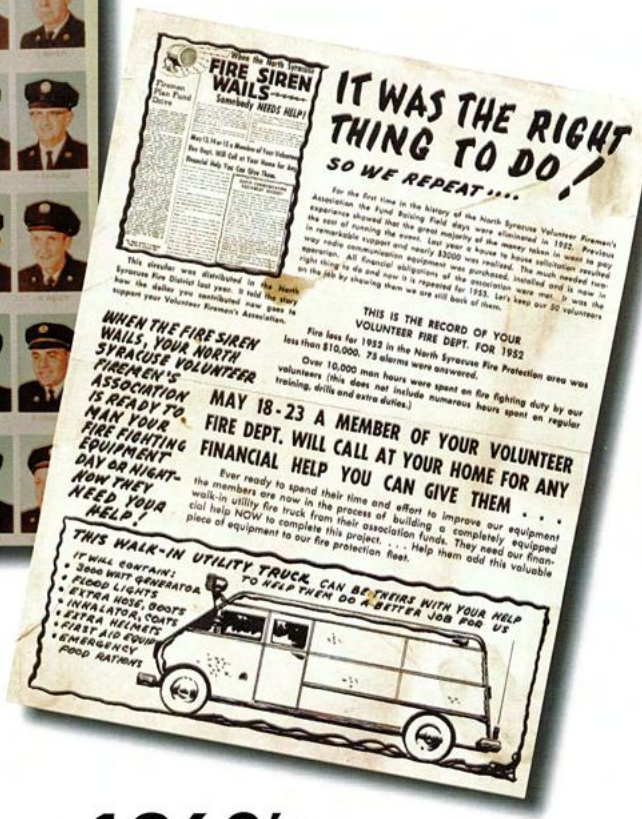
August 29, 1936





1913 - 1950







FLAMES SOAR AT BOWLING GREEN FIRE

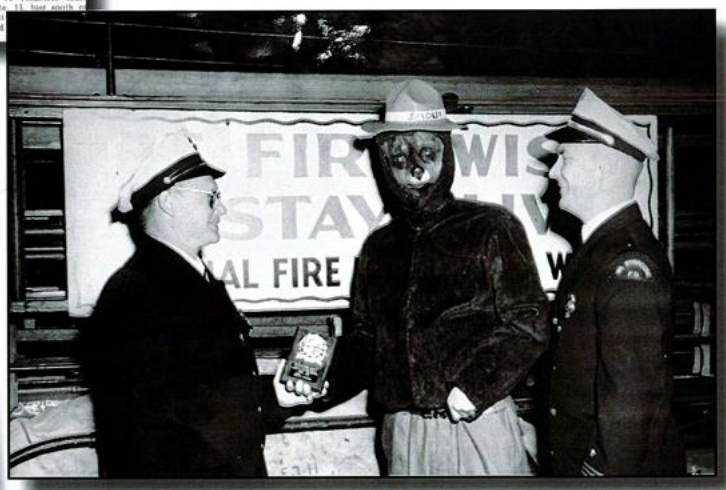
Volunteer firemen play streams of water on one side of the barn-like structure housing the Bowling Green Restaurant, bar and apartments. This picture was taken just seconds before the top of the wall came crashing down. The blaze destroyed the structure, causing $100,000 damage, but did not hurt adjoining bowling alleys.



AND THE WALLS CAME CRASHING DOWN

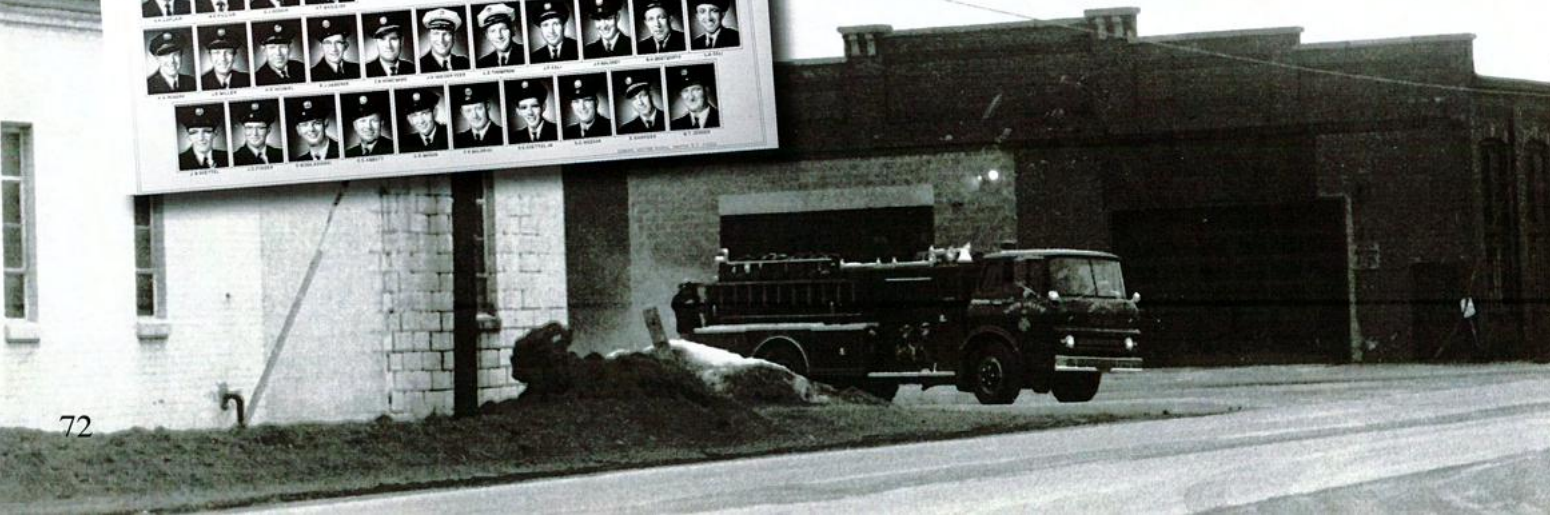
The wall came falling down despite efforts of firemen from 10 volunteer companies to contain the blaze in the old wooden structure on Rte. 11, just south of the North Syracuse business district. No firemen were caught in the collapse, but three men suffered smoke inhalation and two others received

1960's















North Syracuse Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

NORTH SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

1960 FUND DRIVE

TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DISTRICT.....

First of all we wish to thank each and everyone in the North Syracuse Fire Dept. area for your splendid support in our past fund drives.

There are 60 members in our fire company on call 24 hours a day. In 1959 we answered 116 alarms! The total estimated loss for the entire year was only $10,000.00. There was a total of $1,150 non ans- ancered the alarms over the year. It should be noted here that the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Dept. has

NOT HELD A FUND DRIVE SINCE 1956!!!

Our Equipment.
2 Fire Engines (pumpers)
1 Utility and Rescue Truck
1 Tank Truck (1,300 gal.)

Within our department is a group specially trained for emergency first aid and rescue work. Their main function is in answering personal distress calls such as inhalator and accident alarms.

Your North Syracuse Vol. Fire Dept. is very active in the Mutual Aid system in Onondaga County. Mutual Aid is the act of rendering help to our neighboring communities when such help is needed.

SPECIAL REQUEST: If you have an invalid or someone bedridden in your home, we would greatly appreciate it if you would contact us. We are building a complete list of names and addresses of such cases. It is our desire to place an identifying emblem on all such homes for quick recognition of circumstances within, in case of emergency.

Please place enclosed sticker on phone cradle. Many thanks for your cooperation.

IT'S BETTER TO KNOW US AND NOT NEED US THAN TO NEED US AND NOT KNOW US!

TH SYRACUSE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

50th ANNIVERSARY

OF

SERVICE TO THE NORTH SYRACUSE AREA



1913



1963

The **NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT** is a Volunteer organization in the true sense. Its' members, who are your neighbors, are banded together in the basic democratic ideal of community service. Their rewards are not monetary but values in form of satisfaction in the performance of a necessary and frequently dangerous job.

It is not an organization for the timid, or those who are not ready to give of their months and years. The fire siren is an inspector of time. Its' strident call requires that family life, social and business activities must be let aside and the call for help answered immediately.

For every hour that is spent working at the scene of an emergency, more than 20 hours are spent in training and equipment maintenance. Both men and machines must be kept at peak efficiency.

The **NORTH SYRACUSE FIREMEN** are proud of their organization and of the vital service they render. A tremendous source of encouragement to the **Fire Department** is the love and support shown to them by those they serve. Show your support by filling out the enclosed card and send it in your earliest date today.

1963 FUND DRIVE- NORTH SYRACUSE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.

Enclosed you will find a card and stamped return envelope for your donation. You may not be able to work on an active fireman, but you can help by mailing a generous check.

Between **May 15 and June 1**, firemen in uniform will call at the house of those in our Fire Protection Area who have not yet mailed their donation. Prompt mailing will save us many hours of work. The realities of a consolidation by you will make this Fund Drive a bit easier and, we are certain, more successful.

SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEERS

(over)

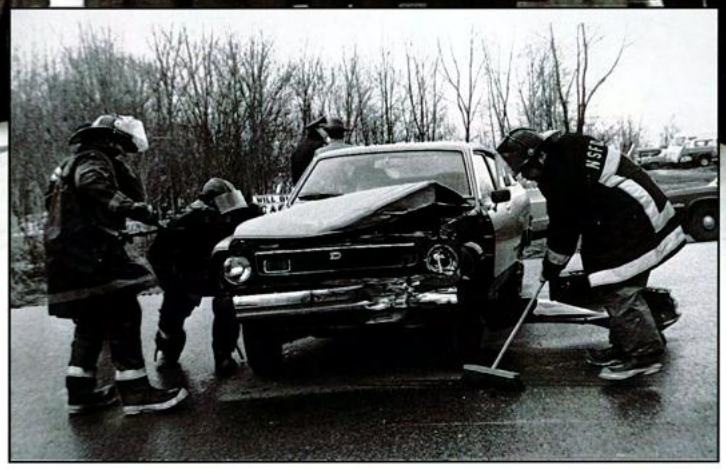


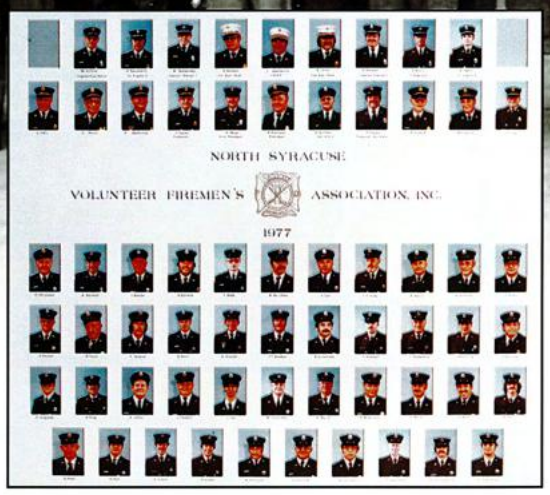




1970's


NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPT



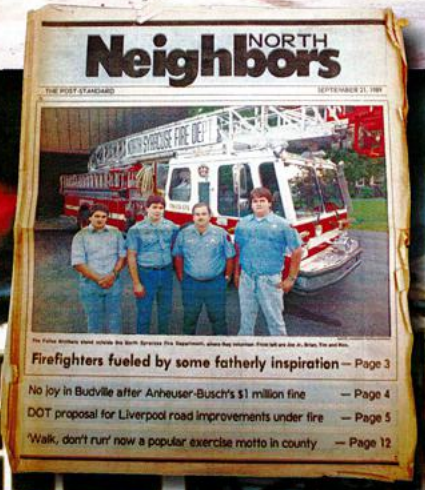

NORTH SYRACUSE
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
1977

1980's


North Syracuse Fire Department
serving your community for seventy years
cordially invites you to attend the
Dedication of their New Firehouse
on Saturday, March nineteenth
nineteen hundred and eighty-three
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
at 109 Chestnut Street
North Syracuse, New York


You are cordially invited to attend
Our Open House Dance
March 19, 1983 8:00 p.m. to ?
109 Chestnut Street
North Syracuse, New York
Music by Too Loose




NORTH
Neighbors
Firefighters fueled by some fatherly inspiration — Page 3
No joy in Budville after Anheuser-Busch's $1 million fine — Page 4
DOT proposal for Liverpool road improvements under fire — Page 5
'Walk, don't run' now a popular exercise motto in county — Page 12









USPS 394-940

NSVFD adds woman to roster

North Syracuse, N.Y., July 16, 1980

25 cents

A STAR-NEWS ★EXCLUSIVE★

Debbie Fedele is all set with new gear and her own key to the Fergerson Ave. fire station, having been named the first woman member of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department.





fire

A fire at the Bear Road Apartments, Monday morning, completely gutted the home of Sylvia and Allen Davis. There was no one in the second floor apartment at the time of the fire, reported at 8:50 a.m. Firemen from North Syracuse, Cicero, Mattydale and Clay [illegible]sponded. The fire is believed to be acciden[illegible], and the investigation is continuing by the [illegible]ondaga County Sheriff's Department Fire Investigati[illegible] [illegible]iremen were able to pre[illegible] [illegible] and water damage to

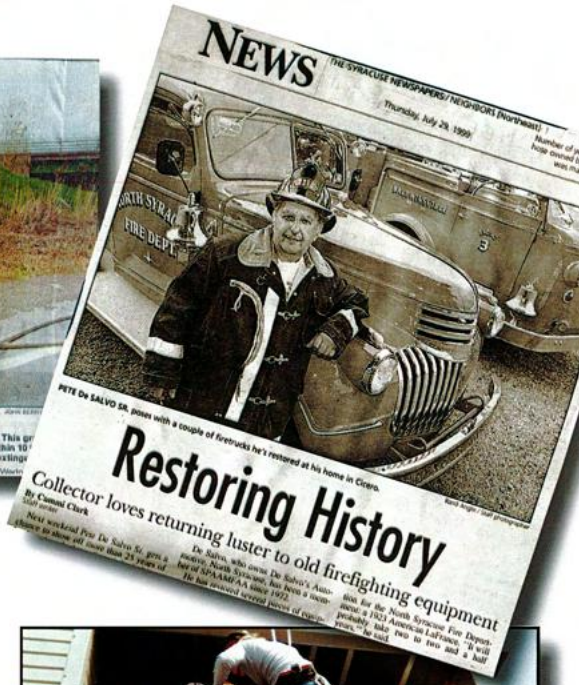






SPONTANEOUS FIRE

North Syracuse firefighter Brad Burke extinguishes a grass fire Tuesday along Interstate 81 southbound near the Taft Road overpass. Fire officials at the scene said the blaze was caused by spontaneous combustion, which is common in early spring on grassy areas that have yet to turn green. This gr... burned about a half-acre, and also came within 10... ing motorists on the highway. The fire was extingu... a half hour by firefighters. POST-STANDARD/Wayne...



NEWS

THE SYRACUSE NEWSPAPERS/NEIGHBORS (Northwest)

Thursday, July 29, 1999

PETE De SALVO Sr. poses with a couple of firetrucks he's restored at his home in Cicero.

Restoring History

Collector loves returning luster to old firefighting equipment

By Cammi Clark

De Salvo, who owns De Salvo's Auto... sion for the North Syracuse Fire Depart... ment, a 1923 American LaFrance. It will ... probably take two to two and a half ... years, he said. He has restored several pieces of ...

1990's



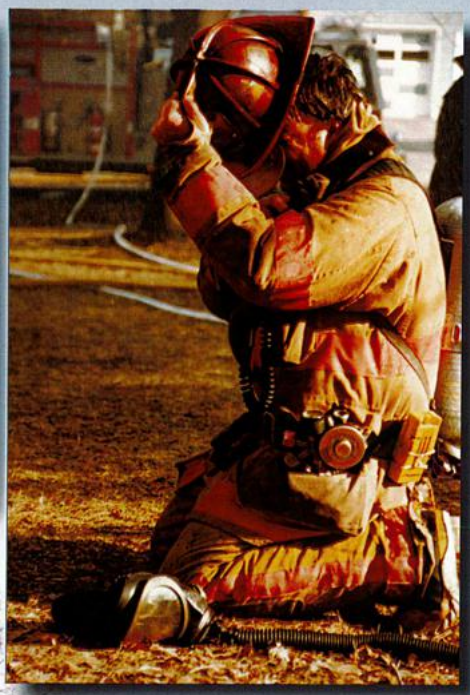









WALT'S
WALT'S FOREIGN AUTO REPAIR








NSFD

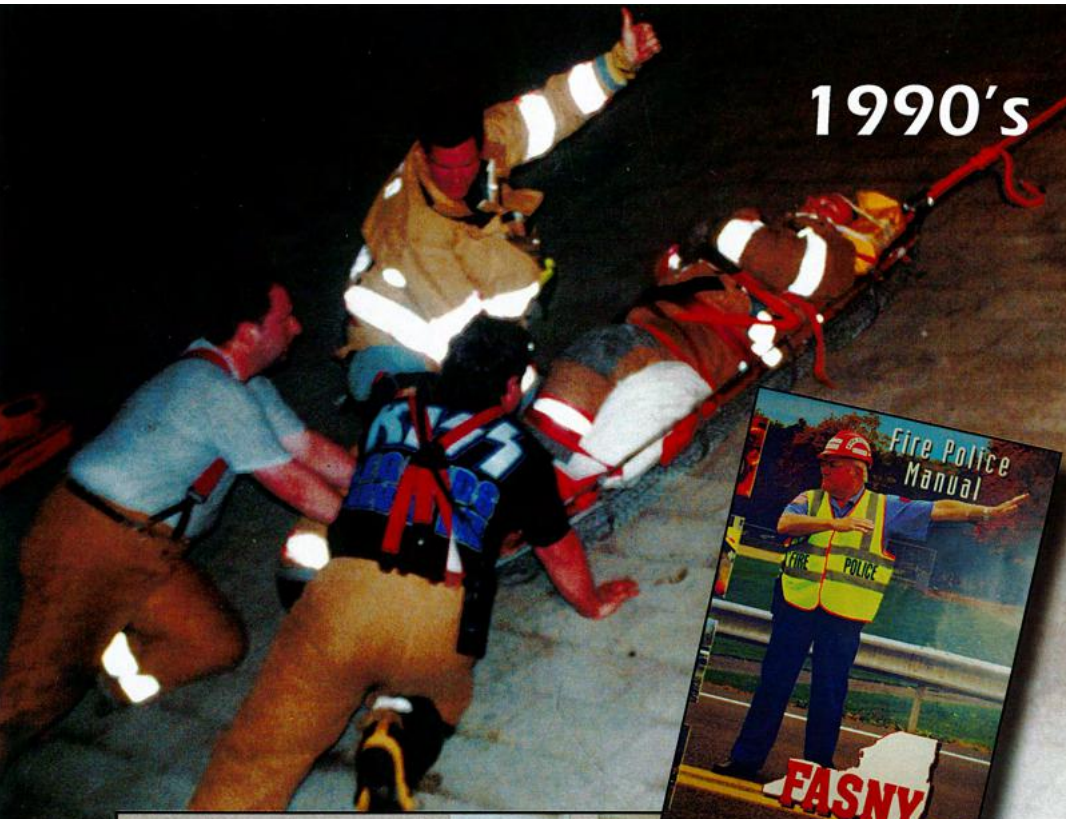


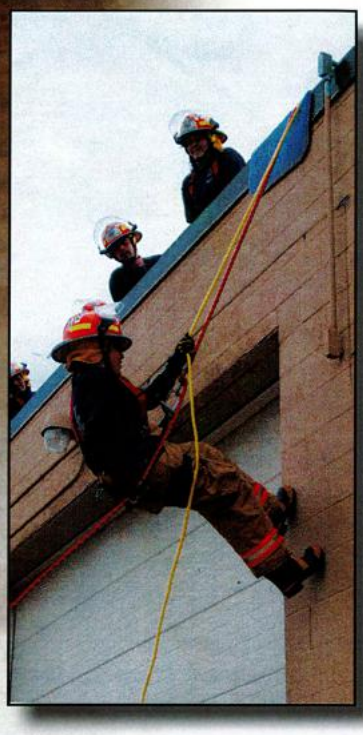





NORTH SYRACUSE
FIRE DEPT.

1990's
















NORTH SYRACUSE




NORTH SYRACUSE
TRUCK 1


7
4




NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPT.
1

2000's

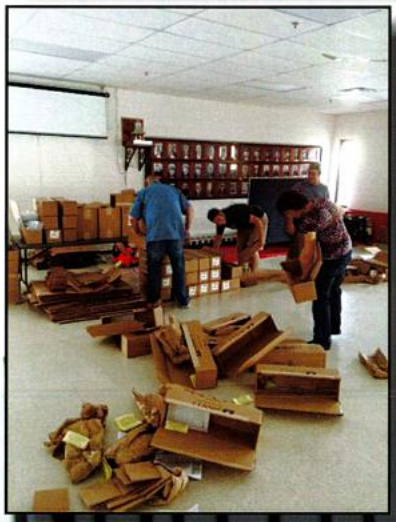


















Truck 1 – 1986.

Truck 1 – Old and New.

Then & Now
Apparatus



Engine 4 – 1974.



Engine 4 – 1993 Pooleville FD.

Engine 4 – 1994.



Truck 1 – 1985 Pulaski, VA Fire.

Truck 1 – 1971.



Truck 1 – 2007.

Rescue 7 – 1996 – Chaumont FD.



Rescue 7 – 1997.

Rescue 7 – 1986.



Rt. 11 in winter.

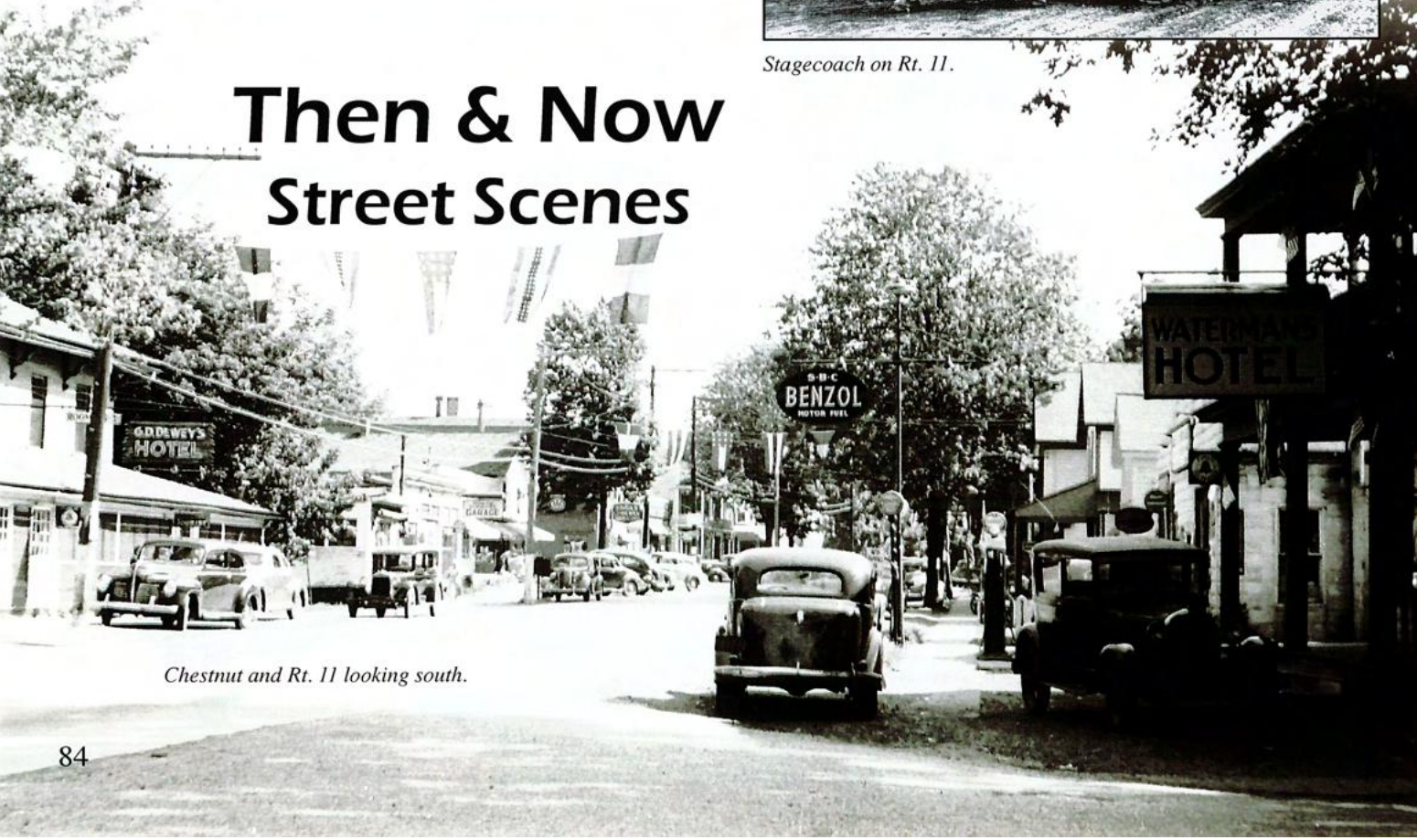


Irishs Hotel on Rt. 11.



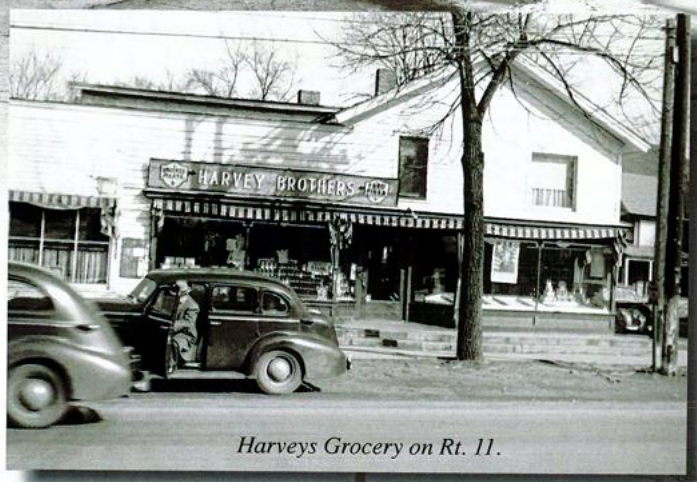
Stagecoach on Rt. 11.

Then & Now
Street Scenes

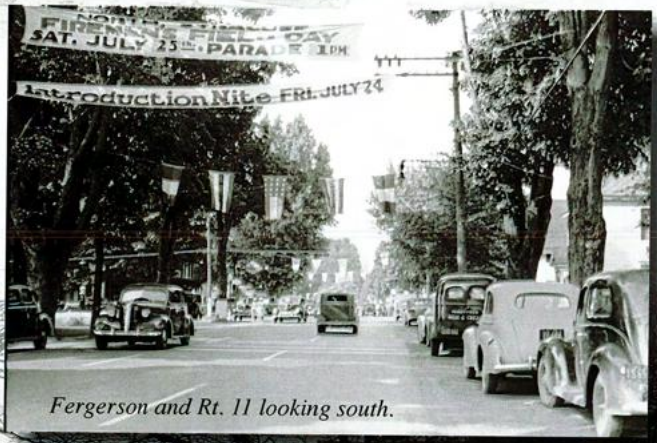


Chestnut and Rt. 11 looking south.

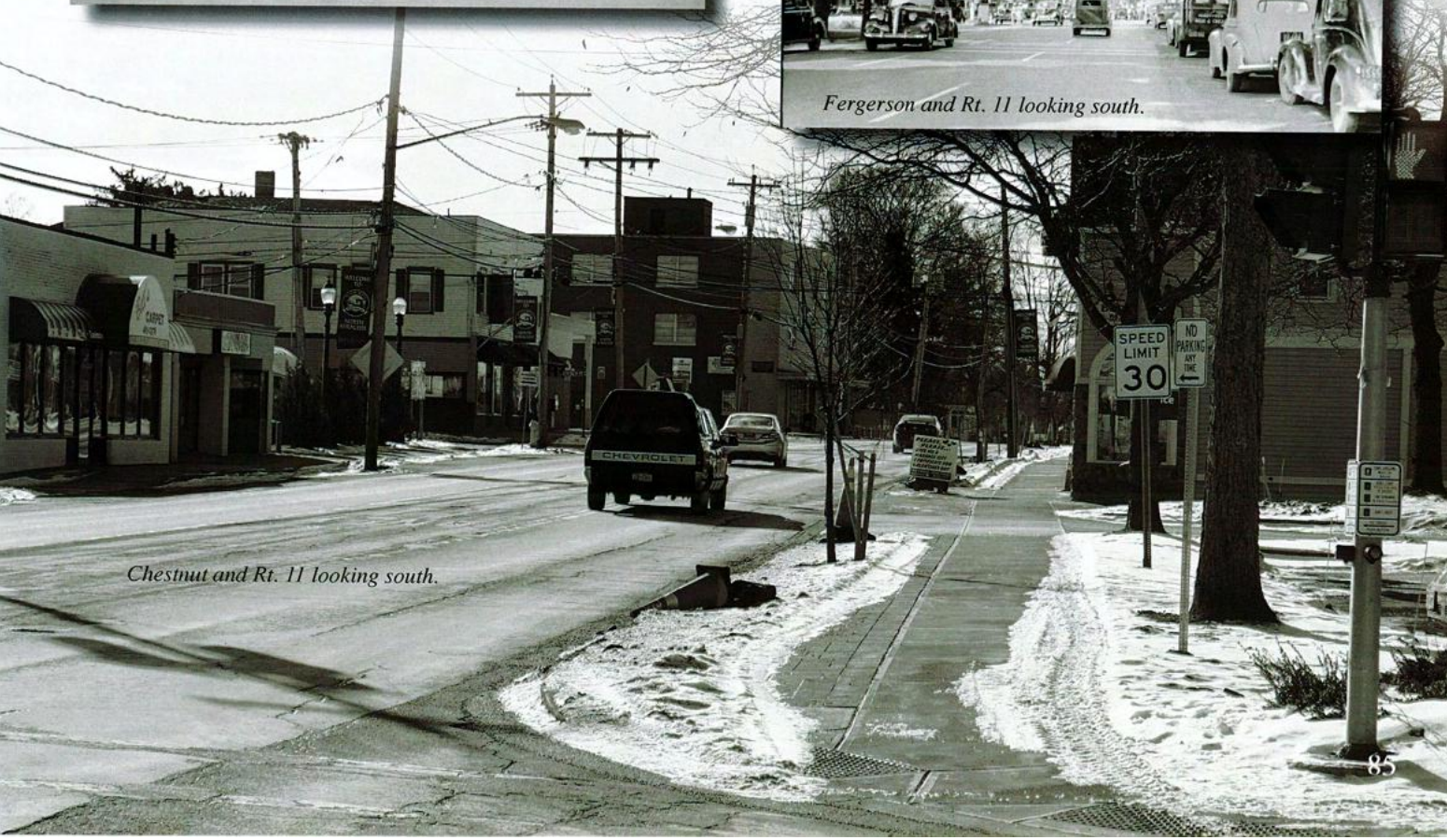
Fergerson and Rt. 11 looking south.



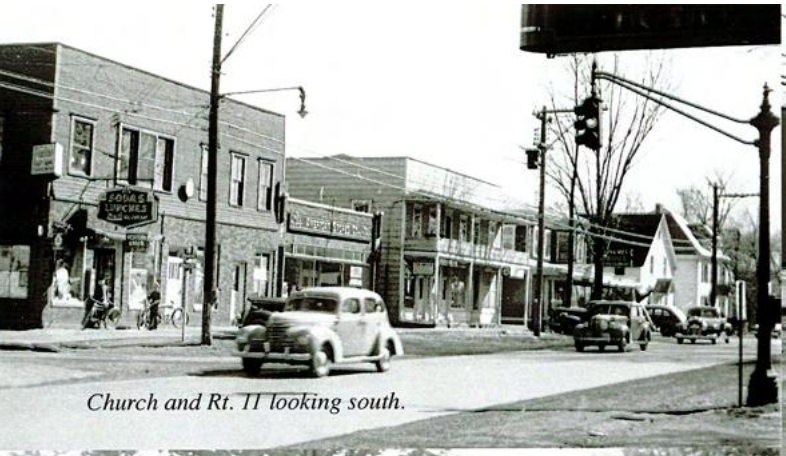
Harveys Grocery on Rt. 11.



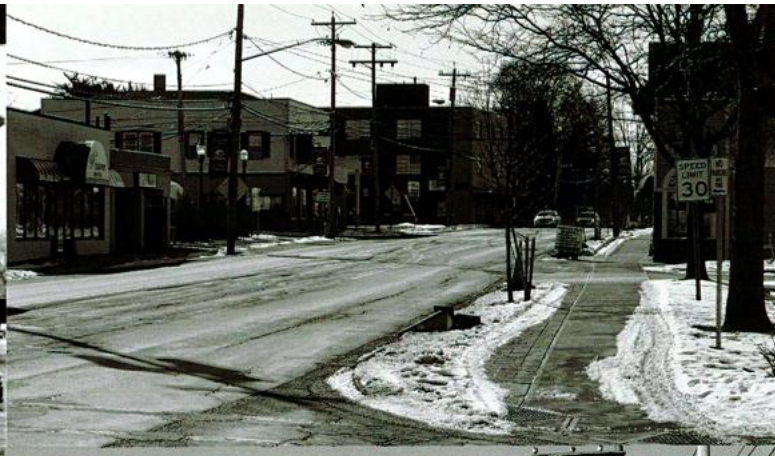
Fergerson and Rt. 11 looking south.



Chestnut and Rt. 11 looking south.



Church and Rt. 11 looking south.

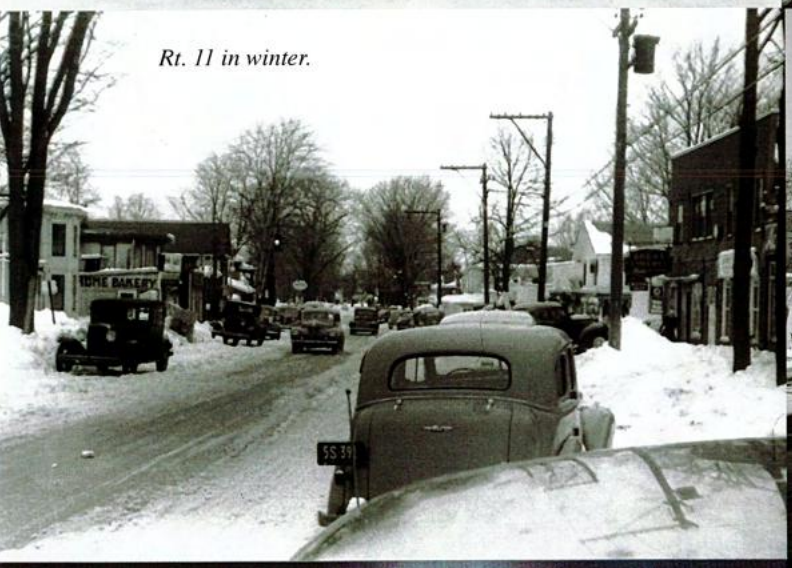




Field days on Rt. 11.

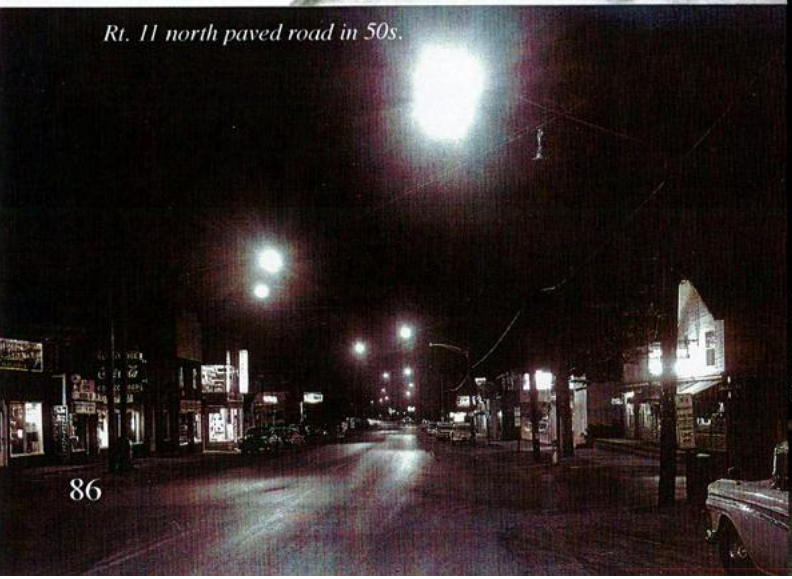


Rt. 11 in winter.





Rt. 11 north paved road in 50s.





Heroic Acts

The members of the North Syracuse Fire Department have acted courageously and bravely since its inception. While there is documented evidence of these acts between 1965 and the present, there is nothing that can be located in any archive which outlines the time period between 1913 and 1964. Undoubtedly there have been other acts of valor and lifesaving and as such this section is dedicated to the members whose actions cannot be recalled or documented, but have served their community with distinction.

December 21, 1965 at 1:15pm 131 Pinetree Drive
Firefighter Douglas Goettel and Firefighter Ervin Dolasinski

The North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a reported house fire. Upon arrival, a working fire signal was transmitted by Assistant Chief Jerry Finger. Firefighters found a well involved kitchen fire being fueled by a natural gas leak at the stove. Initial reports to the fire department were that the occupant had managed to get out along with her 4 children. However, they had forgotten about a sleeping niece in an upstairs bedroom. Immediately upon finding out this information, a shift in strategy was made and intense efforts were made to find the child upstairs. Firefighters Goettel and Dolasinski were running low on air from fighting the fire. While operating under high heat and near zero visibility, they continued to search the 2nd floor for the missing child, eventually locating the child in a crib and bringing her out while their SCBA low air alarms were ringing. Once outside, they conducted resuscitation efforts on the child and worked with the ambulance to continue life-saving efforts.

For their heroic efforts under intense fire conditions and fatigue, and for effecting the rescue of the child from the burning residence, Onondaga County Judge Ormand Gale presented Firefighters Douglas Goettel and Ervin Dolasinski the Judges Medal Award at the Onondaga County Fireman's Convention. At another ceremony, they both were also awarded Citations of Valor from Colonel John A. Colborn of the 1209th US Army Garrison post at the Mattydale Army Reserve Base.





VOLUME XIV MAY 10, 1972

Hero Volunteers Earn Awards for Valor.....

News article and photo showing Firefighters Dolasinski and Goettel receiving Valor awards from Col. John A. Colborn for their actions at the 131 Pinetree Drive fire.

News article on the heroic rescue of a child at 131 Pinetree Drive.

20 THE POST-STANDARD, Dec. 22, 1965

5 Others Escape

Firemen Rescue Child

By CHARLES RUSSO

Nearly in shock from excitement and confusion, a North Syracuse mother got her four children out of their burning home yesterday afternoon and forgot a one-year-old niece on the second floor until after firemen arrived.

The baby, Christine Cross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cross of 99 Pinecrest Circle, North Syracuse, was rescued by firemen and admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital for observation.

Jerry Finger, assistant North Syracuse fire chief, said the fire started in the Clarence D. Stone home, 131 Pine Tree Dr., at about 1:15 p.m.

Stone's wife, Elizabeth, was cleaning the kitchen and moved the ... behind ... tub ... cracked, allowing gas to escape. She tried to shut the gas off, but couldn't, and phoned the fire department from inside the home. Finger said, Mrs. Stone ...

men were on the scene ... few minutes, Finger said, ... when they arrived; Mrs. S ... was hysterical. After sev ... minutes, firemen learned ... the child was in an upst ... bedroom in the split-le ... ranch type home.

Two firemen with ... masks entered the home fr ... the inside and saved the chil ... The Liverpool ambulance to ... the child to St. Joseph's Ho ... pital.

The fire was under contro ... in 15 minutes. Fi ... said.

Two N. Syracuse Firemen Cited

Two North Syracuse firemen received the Judges Medal Award at the Firemen's County Convention held last week in Mattydale. The presentation of the award to Douglas Goettel and Erwin Dolasinski was made by Onondaga County Judge Ormand Gale of Baldwinsville.

The distinguished citation came as a result of the men's efforts to save the life of a child at the risk of their own at a fire on Dec. 21, 1965.

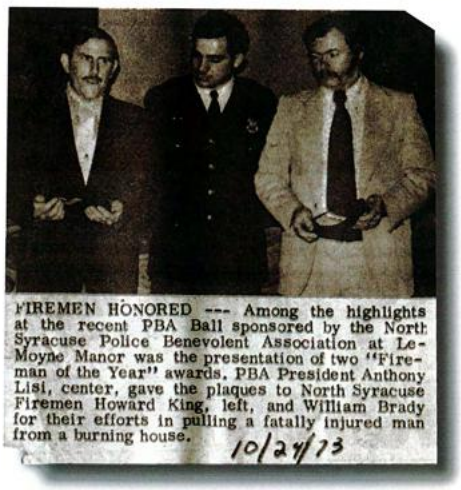
When the firemen arrived at the scene, in answer to a 1:30 a.m. call, the kitchen of the home was enveloped in flames, due to a gas leak, and the rest of the two-story building was filled with dense smoke. The firemen were informed there was no one left in the house and Gottel and Dolasinski were battling the seat of the fire when Gerald Finger, assistant chief was informed that there was a forgotten child asleep in a crib on the second floor. Finger immediately asked Gottel and Dolasinski to effect a rescue.

Almost near exhaustion from laying lines and working in the heat and dense smoke they began to grope their way upstairs with air tanks nearing empty. Upon reaching the head of the stairs the hall split into a T to the bedroom areas. Each went off on a branch of the T to search the bedrooms.

The heavy smoke prevented visibility beyond a few inches and the search was conducted by feel. No sign of the child was found at either end of the T and the men began working their way back toward center hall. Following the wall back they met at the alcove at the head of the stairs and felt the crib and the child.

Gathering up the child and protecting it as best they could from the heat they emerged into the open air with the alarm bells on their smoke masks ringing. Despite their exhaustion they assisted in resuscitation efforts.

News article citing the heroic actions of the firefighters at 131 Pinetree Drive.



FIREMEN HONORED --- Among the highlights at the recent PBA Ball sponsored by the North Syracuse Police Benevolent Association at LeMoyne Manor was the presentation of two "Fireman of the Year" awards. PBA President Anthony Lisi, center, gave the plaques to North Syracuse Firemen Howard King, left, and William Brady for their efforts in pulling a fatally injured man from a burning house. 10/24/73

News article showing the North Syracuse Police Benevolent Association President Anthony Lisi presenting Fireman of the Year awards to Firefighters Howard King and William Brady for their heroic actions taken at the 119 Brookfield Road fatal fire.

March 9, 1973 at 10:15am 119 Brookfield Road
Firefighter Howard King and Firefighter William Brady

The fire department was dispatched to a reported house fire. Prior to the fire department arrival, a neighbor who noticed smoke coming from the residence unsuccessfully attempted to enter the house to get the trapped occupant out, and then called to report the fire. Upon arrival, firefighters found a well involved basement fire, with smoke rapidly filling the house. Initial reports to the fire department were that the elderly occupant was still inside the burning house. Immediately upon finding out this information, Firefighters King and Brady conducted a search through the intensifying heat and thick smoke to locate the occupant. While operating under these adverse conditions, they eventually located the elderly and unconscious victim in his bedroom and brought him outside. Once outside, the firefighters turned over the victim to the fire department Rescue Squad who administered oxygen and performed "heart massage" in their resuscitation efforts, and worked with the ambulance to continue life-saving efforts for their transport to the hospital.

For their heroic efforts under intense fire conditions and fatigue, and for effecting the rescue of the elderly homeowner, the North Syracuse Police Benevolent Association (PBA) presented Firefighters Howard King and William Brady with Fireman of the Year awards at the annual PBA Ball.

January 18, 1977 at 7:15pm 600 South Main Street
(Parkside Apartments)

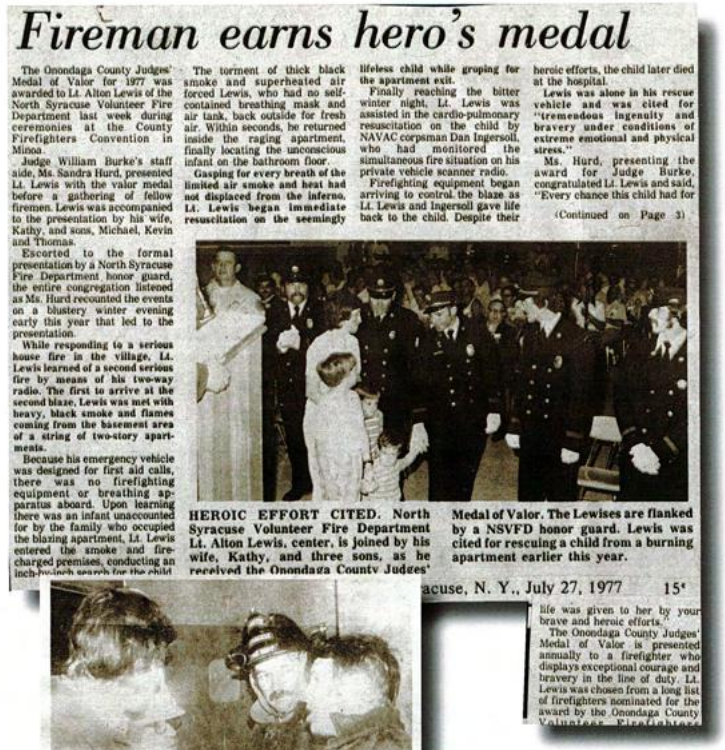
Captain Alton "Al" Lewis.

During the evening hours, the North Syracuse Fire Department responded to a reported apartment fire. Upon arrival, Captain Lewis observed heavy black smoke coming from a fire in a basement apartment. Being first on scene with only turnout gear, he conducted a size-up and spoke with other tenants and discovered that a 2 year old child was still inside the apartment that was on fire. However, with no fire apparatus on scene and without the benefit of an airpack, Captain Lewis entered the basement apartment in search of the child. As fire conditions continued to grow, a rapid search of the closest areas inside the apartment proved negative for the missing child. Captain Lewis exited the building and again questioned the tenants, attempting to get a specific location of the child. He was eventually directed to the bathroom of the fire apartment. Without haste and with no apparatus yet on scene, Captain Lewis once again entered the apartment in search of the child. Interior conditions within the building continued to intensify and deteriorate, pushing high heat and heavy black smoke. Captain Lewis was able to search further into the apartment and located the small child in the bathroom. As he himself was beginning to feel the effects of smoke and heat exposure, Captain Lewis immediately grabbed the unconscious child and made a rapid exit of the apartment. Once outside the building, he began CPR on the child who appeared to start breathing on her own. Upon arrival of the fire apparatus and the ambulance crew, Captain Lewis turned her over to them for further treatment and transport. Once ensuring the ambulance and child were on their way to the hospital, Captain Lewis joined the other firefighters and helped extinguish the now well involved apartment fire.

For his actions in rescuing the child under intense fire conditions and without the protection of an airpack or any fire apparatus on scene, Captain Alton Lewis was awarded the Onondaga County Judges' Medal of Valor from Judge William Burke at the Onondaga County Fireman's Convention in Minoa and was also selected to receive the 1977 Firefighter of the Year from the Fireman's Association of the State of New York.



Photograph of the 1977 FASNY Firefighter of the Year ceremony in Long Island where Captain Al Lewis received the award based on his actions at the 600 S. Main Street fire.



Fireman earns hero's medal

The Onondaga County Judges' Medal of Valor for 1977 was awarded to Lt. Alton Lewis of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department last week during ceremonies at the County Firefighters Convention in Minoa.

Judge William Burke's staff aide, Ms. Sandra Hurd, presented Lt. Lewis with the valor medal before a gathering of fellow firemen. Lewis was accompanied to the presentation by his wife, Kathy, and sons, Michael, Kevin and Thomas.

Escorted to the formal presentation by a North Syracuse Fire Department honor guard, the entire congregation listened as Ms. Hurd recounted the events on a blustery winter evening early this year that led to the presentation.

While responding to a serious house fire in the village, Lt. Lewis learned of a second serious fire by means of his two-way radio. The first to arrive at the second blaze, Lewis was met with heavy, black smoke and flames coming from the basement area of a string of two-story apartments.

Because his emergency vehicle was designed for first aid calls, there was no firefighting equipment or breathing apparatus aboard. Upon learning there was an infant unaccounted for by the family who occupied the blazing apartment, Lt. Lewis entered the smoke and fire-charged premises, conducting an inch-by-inch search for the child.

The torment of thick black smoke and superheated air forced Lewis, who had no self-contained breathing mask and air tank, back outside for fresh air. Within seconds, he returned inside the raging apartment, finally locating the unconscious infant on the bathroom floor.

Gasping for every breath of the limited air smoke and heat had not displaced from the inferno, Lt. Lewis began immediate resuscitation on the seemingly lifeless child while groping for the apartment exit.

Finally reaching the bitter winter night, Lt. Lewis was assisted in the cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on the child by NAVAC corpsman Dan Ingersoll, who had monitored the simultaneous fire situation on his private vehicle scanner radio.

Firefighting equipment began arriving to control the blaze as Lt. Lewis and Ingersoll gave life back to the child. Despite their heroic efforts, the child later died at the hospital.

Lewis was alone in his rescue vehicle and was cited for "tremendous ingenuity and bravery under conditions of extreme emotional and physical stress."

Ms. Hurd, presenting the award for Judge Burke, congratulated Lt. Lewis and said, "Every chance this child had for

(Continued on Page 3)

HEROIC EFFORT CITED. North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department Lt. Alton Lewis, center, is joined by his wife, Kathy, and three sons, as he received the Onondaga County Judges' Medal of Valor. The Lewises are flanked by a NSVFD honor guard. Lewis was cited for rescuing a child from a burning apartment earlier this year.

acuse, N. Y., July 27, 1977 15

life was given to her by your brave and heroic efforts."

The Onondaga County Judges' Medal of Valor is presented annually to a firefighter who displays exceptional courage and bravery in the line of duty. Lt. Lewis was chosen from a long list of firefighters nominated for the award by the Onondaga County Volunteer Firefighters'



DISCUSS FATALITY. North Syracuse fire and policemen confer in the smoky haze of an apartment where 2-year-old Kimberly Gibson, suffered fatal injuries in a fire that devastated her parents' apartment. From left are Police Investigator Joe Mellunas, Fire Marshal David Riter, Fireman Dick Jones and Capt. Al Lewis, who pulled the child from the burning apartment.

Above & left: The 1977 news photos and article outlining the heroic actions undertaken by Captain Al Lewis at an apartment building fire at 600 South Main Street.



FIREMAN COMMENDED. North Syracuse Fire Capt. Al Lewis was commended last week by the Village Board for his actions in rescueing a 3-year-old child from her burning apartment. In photo at top, Herald-Journal Photographer Harold Slate, a North Syracuse resident, snaps a shot of Mayor Bud Tafel, Fire Chief Erv Dolasinski and Capt. Lewis. In bottom picture, the proudest people at the Village Hall were Capt. Lewis' wife, Kathy, and sons, from left, Tom, Kevin and Mike.

A 1977 news article and photograph of Captain Al Lewis and receiving the Onondaga County Judges medal for his heroic actions displayed at the apartment building fire at 600 South Main Street.

January 11, 1980 207 Shaver Ave
Captain Alton "Al" Lewis

During the mid-morning hours, the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire. Upon arrival, the fire department was advised by the elderly homeowner that her 44 year old son was still inside the basement of the burning house. Without the protection of a hoseline, Captain Lewis immediately entered the burning house while other members were preparing to make entry. Captain Lewis eventually made his way into the basement where he conducted a primary search to locate the trapped man. Upon locating the unconscious victim, Captain Lewis brought him out with assistance from the Police Department. The victim was turned over to NAVAC ambulance for treatment and transport. Through subsequent investigation, it was determined that the 44 yr. old male victim, did in fact start the basement fire that almost claimed his life. He was released from the hospital, arrested, and charged with setting the fire. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of Captain Al Lewis, the victim would have most likely succumbed to the effects of the fire and perished.

For those actions, Captain Lewis received a departmental commendation from the Chief.



Photograph of Assemblyman Michael Bragman presenting a Legislative Resolution to Firefighter Wendell Kelly, Lieutenant Patrick Brennan, Lieutenant Richard Reardon and Assistant Chief Eric Smeltz in recognition of their heroic actions taken at the 401 Helen Street fire.



Photograph of the awards ceremony where Chief Michael Grillo is presenting medals to the members of the team that in 1985 rescued two trapped occupants from a fire at 401 Helen Street.



Sunday, June 9, 1985
Page C1

North Syracuse heroes save wife of fire victim

By Gary Gerew and Charles T. Bowen
Staff Writers

"Three North Syracuse firefighters are reluctantly accepting their roles as heroes after rescuing a woman from a fire that killed her husband Saturday.

"You always dream of making the great rescue," said Richard Reardon, one of the firefighters credited with saving Nita Kocher. "But really we were just doing our job."

Reardon, Brant Kelly and Lt. Patrick Brennan climbed through a window at Kocher's home minutes before the interior of the house at 401 Helen St. flashed into flames.

"Another firefighter was out in the hallway keeping the flames away with a hose and as soon as he saw they had gotten the woman he hauled out the window," said North Syracuse Assistant Fire Chief Gary Hinman. "He just dropped the hose and got out because at that instant the entire house flashed over — everything started to burn at once."

Kocher had been overcome with smoke when found lying next to her bed. Hinman said, and firefighters had some difficulty in getting her through the window.

"When we got out, the assistant chief was just about to order us to bail out," Reardon said. "I guess it was the last moment."

Reardon suffered a head laceration when he landed on broken glass outside. Ten stitches were needed to close the wound.

"It was a good grab," Hinman said of the rescue. "I don't know what would have

The face shield on the helmet worn by Richard Reardon melted.

happened if they had gone by the book and had went around through the door with a hose. There was nothing between them and the fire."

FIREFIGHTERS, Page C4

A news article and photograph outlining the heroic actions members took during the civilian rescue at the 401 Helen Street fire.



Star-News

North Syracuse, N.Y., Jan. 16, 1980

56th Year, No. 3

25 cents /1

Rescue ...

From Page 1

Left, North Syracuse Patrolmen Anthony List and an unidentified fireman carry the nearly unconscious Richard Filkins of 207 Shaver Ave. in these exclusive Star-News photos. Filkins was found by North Syracuse Fire Department Capt. Al Lewis in the smoke-filled basement of his home. At far left, he receives treatment from NAVAC and fire department personnel. Standing at the right of the left photo is Sheriff's Deputy D.A. DiPietro, who required hospital treatment for hand cuts suffered when he broke a window in an attempt to get out the blaze. Filkins was arrested and charged with setting the fire. Photos by Bob Tamony.

Rescue man from house fire

The 1980 news article with photographs of Captain Al Lewis and the rescue of a civilian from their burning house at 207 Shaver Ave.

June 8, 1985 at 1:30am 401 Helen Street
Assistant Chief Eric Smeltz, Captain Paul Linnertz, Lieutenant Patrick Brennan, Lieutenant Richard Reardon, Firefighter Wendell Kelly.

The North Syracuse Fire Department responded to a reported house fire. Upon arrival of Assistant Chief Eric Smeltz, he found heavy smoke and fire coming from a portion of the house. A working fire signal was transmitted along with a radio report of two people being trapped inside. Lieutenant Brennan and Firefighter Kelly entered the structure to begin firefighting operations, while Captain Linnertz & Assistant Chief Smeltz entered to search for the two trapped occupants. Upon entering the structure, with zero visibility and high heat conditions, the search began for the trapped victims. During the search, as fire spread towards the bedroom area, a large and unconscious female victim was found in a bedroom. She was brought to the window for removal and Captain Linnertz took the now unattended handline and used it to keep the fire from overtaking the rescue effort. Removing the victim via the window proved to be a difficult task and conditions continued to rapidly deteriorate. Some of their turnout gear and one of the helmets began to degrade and melt under the intense fire conditions. Through a coordinated and manpower intensive operation, the female victim was eventually lifted up and out the window. At the same time, the male victim was found in another part of the house by Assistant Chief Smeltz and was brought near the front door, where they were met by Captain Linnertz, who was able to remove the victim from the house through the front door. Crews returned to finish extinguishing the fire and performed extensive overhaul. Through a coordinated and intensive manpower operation under extremely poor fire conditions, two victims were located and removed from the residence. In the subsequent investigation, it was revealed that this fire was an act of arson. The investigation led to the son, whom had set the house on fire killing the two fire victims, who were his parents. This fire showed how difficult and demanding it is to remove unconscious victims from a burning house, and was done under extremely intense fire conditions. Members demonstrated teamwork, and heroic acts of courage and bravery.

For their actions, Assistant Chief Eric Smeltz, Captain Paul Linnertz, Lieutenant Patrick Brennan, Lieutenant Richard Reardon, and Firefighter Wendell Kelly were all awarded the Medal of Valor, Departmental Commendations and also given a resolution from the NYS Legislature for their actions at this fire.

December 23, 1988 at 1:45am 129 Pine Tree Drive

Lieutenant John Linnertz, Lieutenant John Hogan.

The North Syracuse Fire Department, along with mutual aid departments, were dispatched to a reported house fire at 129 Pine Tree Drive. Upon arrival of the first units, they were met with heavy fire rapidly spreading upwards from the basement and into the 1st floor areas. There were also confirmed reports of 3 teenage children trapped inside. The police and neighbors were already breaking out windows to get into the house in an attempt to rescue the children. As the crews were making entry via the front door, they found the floor just inside had already collapsed into the basement. At the same time, Lieutenant John Hogan of Engine 4 and Lieutenant John Linnertz of Truck 1 were assigned to enter the 1st floor through a front window in an attempt to locate one of the children. Other members of the Truck were assigned to enter the 2nd floor via ground ladders with a hoseline in search of the other two trapped teenagers. Fire conditions continued to rapidly deteriorate, even though additional companies were deploying more handlines. Without the protection of a hoseline and knowing that a partial collapse had already occurred, Lieutenant Linnertz entered the 1st floor window, followed by Lieutenant Hogan to search for one of the trapped occupants. Once inside the room, they found fire extending from below, into the room in several different spots through the baseboards and heat vents. They located one of the teenagers in the room and a handline had to be passed inside for them to use in an effort to slow down some of the extending fire and to assist in their exit and victim removal. Through a combined effort, Lieutenant Linnertz and Hogan were able to successfully remove the victim via the window and exit themselves, just as a partial collapse of that room was occurring. Unfortunately, this rescued victim later succumbed to his injuries sustained from exposure to the fire. The other two teenage children perished in a 2nd floor bedroom, with firefighters unable to reach their location before the 2nd floor flashed over and other parts of the house began to collapse.

For their courageous and heroic actions under intense and rapidly deteriorating conditions, Lieutenant John Linnertz and Lieutenant John Hogan were awarded the Medal of Valor, Departmental Commendations and a Legislative Resolution recognizing their actions at this fire.





Photographs from 1988 showing the incident scene at 129 Pinetree Drive where a trapped teenage boy was rescued from the fire by Lieutenant John Linnertz and Lieutenant John Hogan.

February 8, 1991 122 Gordon Road

Deputy Chief Paul Linnertz

On February 8, 1991 at in the early morning hours, the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched along with the Moyers Corners Fire Department to a reported house fire at 122 Gordon Road. First to arrive on scene was Deputy Chief Linnertz where he found heavy smoke and fire coming from the house and signaled it a working fire. He discovered that an elderly female occupant was still inside and trapped. With no apparatus on scene and without the protection of a hoseline, Deputy Chief Linnertz immediately entered the burning residence in search of the female. Despite high heat and deteriorating conditions, he pressed forward in his search and located the trapped and unconscious occupant. As he removed her from the bedroom, he was eventually met by other fire crews who were now on scene and working to extinguish the fire. The female victim was removed from the fire and turned over to the ambulance for treatment and transport to the hospital, where she was eventually released to go home.

As a result of his heroic and courageous actions at this fire, rescuing the trapped and unconscious victim while having no apparatus on scene and without the protection of a charged hoseline, Deputy Chief Paul Linnertz was awarded the Medal of Valor, as well as a Legislative Resolution and a Citation from New York State Governor Mario Cuomo.



Photograph showing the incident scene at 122 Gordon Road in 1991 where a trapped elderly female resident was rescued from the fire by Deputy Chief Paul Linnertz.



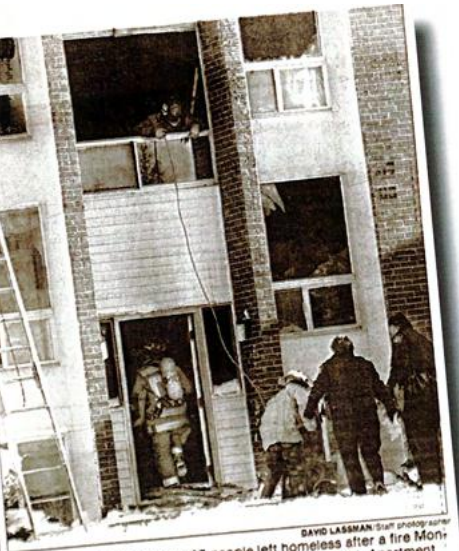
Deputy Chief Paul Linnertz receiving a Legislative Resolution and a Medal of Valor at the departmental installation dinner for actions he displayed in 1991 at 122 Gordon Road where he rescued a trapped elderly female resident.

December 27, 1993 10:29am 5607 Bear Road
(Admiral's Walk Apartments)
Lieutenant Bradley Burke, Firefighter Ken Case, Firefighter Timothy Falise, Firefighter Mark Hogan.

The North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a reported apartment fire in building G of the Admirals Walk apartments. While apparatus was enroute, the 911 Center began receiving multiple calls from people at the scene advising that there was a serious fire in the building. There were additional phone calls from witnesses advising that there were 3 children trapped in a 3rd floor apartment as well as a pregnant female trapped in a 2nd floor apartment. Upon arrival of Engine 2, Captain John Linnertz observed heavy smoke showing from multiple windows and several floors and signaled a working fire. Due to fire conditions present and with multiple people trapped, he asked for a "Second Alarm" assignment. This brought mutual aid fire departments from Moyers Corners, Clay, Cicero, Mattydale and Liverpool to the scene. Captain Linnertz and Firefighter John Hogan deployed an attack line to the fire apartment. They encountered thick, black smoke and heavy heat, which caused their flashlights to melt. Working to contain the fire to the apartment of origin, they continued to push forward and advance on the fire continually exposed to the intense heat and worsening conditions.

Lieutenant Bradley Burke and Firefighter Ken Case from Truck 1 and Firefighter Mark Hogan and Tim Falise from Rescue 7, began a search of the building to locate the trapped occupants. Due to the intense heat and thick black smoke, interior egress through the building would not be possible. A short time into the search, Lieutenant Burke and Firefighter Case located the trapped pregnant female on the 2nd floor and brought her to a window away from the fire. Lieutenant Burke radioed for a ladder to be brought to their window to remove the semi-conscious victim, where she was brought down the ladder to safety. At the same time, Firefighter Tim Falise and Firefighter Mark Hogan laddered a 3rd floor window and broke it out, clearing a path to enter the apartment. During the search of this apartment, all three children were located and with fire conditions not yet improving in the building, the decision was made to remove them via the ground ladder. They were led through the smoke filled apartment and to the bedroom where the ladder was located. The children were put onto the ladder and escorted down to safety. The pregnant female and the three children were taken to the hospital, treated for smoke inhalation and later released. Had it not been for all the crews present carrying out their assigned tasks flawlessly under very intense and adverse conditions present, the outcome of this fire could have been much worse.

As a result of their actions at this fire and safely effecting multiple ladder rescues of the four victims, Lieutenant Bradley Burke, Firefighter Ken Case, Firefighter Timothy Falise and Firefighter Mark Hogan were all awarded Departmental Commendations.



DAVID LASSMAN/Staff photographer

THE RED CROSS is helping 27 people left homeless after a fire Monday in the Admiral's Walk apartments, 5607 Bear Road. Apartment managers weren't sure when the residents would be able to return.

Firefighters rescue 4 in Clay apartment fire

▶ Twenty-seven people are homeless. Cause of fire is unknown.

By Laurel Rogers
Staff Writer

Firefighters saved a pre woman and three girls from Monday morning that left 2 ple homeless.

Smoke and heat trap 40-year-old pregnant woma three girls — ages 12, 13 an in a third-floor apartment Admiral's Walk apartmen plex, 5607 Bear Road. On County Fire Coordinator M ters said.

North Syracuse volunte fighters broke two win help them down fire de ladders. All four were tre released.

Jacqueline Donan, 40, a dith Benjamin, 13, were University Hospital. Jones, 15, and Holly were treated at St. Josep tal Health Center.

The cause of the fire vestigation, Waters said

The Red Cross is helping the 12 families displaced by the fire. It gave the families food vouchers totaling more than $400.

The residents of the building are staying with friends and family. the Red Cross will help re-



IN NEED OF COMFORT

...ne Mascione, a resident at Admiral's Walk ...partments is comforted by her friend, Joe ...ddell, after a Monday morning fire gutted ...partment and caused smoke and water ...mage to 11 others in the North Syracuse ...plex. Firefighters used ladders to rescue ...children from the third floor of the ...ding, which is located on Bear Road. The ...ons were treated at local hospitals for smoke inhalation and released. In all, 27 tenants were forced to find temporary shelter, said Jana Teller, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross. The fire started in a second-floor apartment and firefighters, who had not been determined as of Monday night. See story, Page B-2.



DAVID LASSMAN/The Post-Standard

Firefighters from North Syracuse and Moyer's Corners inspect fire damage in a second-floor apartment at Admiral's Walk Apartments on Bear Road. No one died in Monday's blaze.

Fire Scared N. Syracuse Girl Awake

■ Damage from the Bear Road blaze forced 27 apartment tenants from their homes.

By LORI DUFFY
The Post-Standard

Holly Jones awoke late Monday morning to screams in the third-floor hallway of the North Syracuse apartment building where she lives with her older sister and mother.

The 12-year-old girl went to the door. Her sister and a friend who had spent the night were still sleeping. Their mother was at work. Holly peered into the hallway.

"My daughter saw smoke and er, Susan Jones, said. "She woke everybody else up. They all went out onto the balcony."

Firefighters, called at 10:29 a.m., used ladders to rescue the three children from Admiral's Walk Apartments, Holly Jones and her 15-year-old sister, Heather Jones, were treated at University Hospital for smoke inhalation and released, their mother said.

Their 13-year-old friend, Meredith Benjamin, was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where she also was treated and released. One apartment was gutted by flames. The other 11 apartments were damaged by smoke and water.

Managers of the complex at 5607 Bear Road temporarily placed Crouse; and Jones' children in another building. The Joneses should be able to move back in next week, but Crouse wasn't so lucky.

"She was down below the apartment that burned ... They told her maybe in a month," Susan Jones said.

The fire started in Apt. 6 on the second floor. The tenants' names were unavailable. Firefighters were investigating the cause of the blaze Monday night, North Syracuse Fire Chief John Linnerts said.

Among the tenants were two workers from the American Red Cross. The agency distributed about $400 in food vouchers to victims, Red Cross spokeswoman Jana Tefler said, and 27 tenants were

NSFD news

January 19, 1994

North Syracuse firefighters rescue trapped fire victims

On Monday, Dec. 27, at 10:29 a.m., the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a reported apartment fire at 5607 Bear Rd. A fire was encountered in apartment G-6 of the Admiral's Walk Apartments, formerly the Captain's Quarters Apartments.

The fire building was a "U" shaped structure. The fire originated in the center of the building on the second floor. Severe heat and smoke billowed up the stairway blocking the only exit from the building. The super heated smoke choked the occupants of the third floor averting their attempt to escape.

Firefighters were returning to the Fire Station from a previous alarm. Engine #2 responded to the alarm of fire within 1 minute of the call for help. While enroute the 911 Communications Center advised the incoming fire units that they had received many calls reporting a serious fire. Additional calls to the 911 Center were made reporting many trapped occupants on the third floor of the fire building.

The first fire engine arrived within two minutes of the general alarm at 10:31 a.m. They reported a signal 99, a working fire, in a three story apartment building. Due to the occupancy of the building, the time of day and the fire conditions present, Captain John Linnertz, of Engine Co. #2 called for a second alarm.

This second alarm summoned assistance from neighboring Fire Departments. Members of the Moyers Corners, Clay, Cicero, Mattydale and Liverpool Fire Departments assisted with the extinguishment of the blaze and the rescue of trapped occupants.

Upon arrival firefighters encounter heavy black smoke issuing from many windows and doors. Captain Linnertz and Firefighter John Hogan advanced a fire hose to the second floor apartment. It was at this point that the firefighters realized the intensity of the fire. Flashlights carried by the firefighters were melted by the searing heat. Determined to hold the fire in check, these firefighters pressed forward to protect the trapped occupants.

The members of Truck #1 led by Lieutenant Burke and Rescue #7 led by Lt. Casey Daugard entered the building in search of the trapped victims. The thick smoke was banked down to the floor making visibility impossible. The heat also kept firefighters low to the ground.

Firefighter Ken Case and Lt. Burke located a pregnant female in a third floor apartment. The woman was visibly shaken. The rescuers calmed the woman and led her to a window where she was safely removed by firefighters on a ground ladder.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the building, three young females communicated their whereabouts to the firefighters via telephone, to the 911 Center. The girls were directed not to hang up the telephone by the fire dispatcher. The dispatcher could hear the firefighters making their way into the apartment. Firefighters Mark Hogan and Tim Falise had arrived to rescue the three teenagers. Firefighters Hogan and Falise had to assist these young women to safety via ground ladders.

All four fire victims were transported to local hospitals by NAVAC and Eastern ambulances. Lt. Chris McDonald sustained a sprained wrist while raising a ground ladder. Firefighter Case received several small lacerations while clearing the glass from the window that he and Lt. Burke removed the victim from.

Deputy Chief Pat Brennan commanded the initial response. He later spoke to all the firefighters present. He praised the outstanding effort exhibited by all. Had each member not carried out their assigned task flawlessly, despite the adverse conditions, the outcome of this alarm could have been tragic.

The North Syracuse Fire Department responded to the fire with 26 members. Approximately 50 firefighters, in all, responded to this greater alarm fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined by the Onondaga County Fire Investigations Unit.

News articles and photos documenting the 1993 actions of crews responsible in the rescue of 4 occupants trapped in an apartment building fire at 5607 Bear Road.

July 9, 2008 11:25pm 417 South Main Street (North Towne Village Apartments)

Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis, Lieutenant Joseph Difabio, Firefighter Timothy Latham, Firefighter Daniel Kasouf.

The North Syracuse Fire Department responded to an apartment building fire at 417 South Main Street. Upon arrival of Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis, he reported a multi-story apartment building with smoke and fire showing and signaled a working fire. Additional mutual aid fire departments were requested. Police and bystanders reported to Assistant Chief Ellis that they previously saw a victim on the top floor at a west side window, which was directly over the apartment that was on fire. With no other units on scene, Assistant Chief Ellis made entry to locate the victim, where he encountered heavy heat, smoke and fire inside the building. While inside the victim's apartment, Assistant Chief Ellis was met with the intense heat, dense smoke with almost no visibility, except that he could see the orange glow of the fire extending up into this apartment from below. While he was making his way through and searching the victim's apartment, other chiefs and fire apparatus were now arriving on scene. During the search of the victim's apartment, conditions within continued to rapidly deteriorate and Assistant Chief Ellis became disoriented.

With the rapidly changing conditions, fire extending into the victim's apartment, his disorientation and still having not located the victim, Assistant Chief Ellis radioed a "Mayday" call. Command confirmed this message and relayed the Mayday request to crews on scene, who were entering the building with charged hoselines. Additional alarm assignments were sent to the scene to help in addressing the victim and now the Mayday. The Engine 8 crew of Lieutenant Joe Difabio and Firefighters Tim Latham and Dan Kasouf entered with their charged hoseline in attempts to locate Assistant Chief Ellis and the unconscious civilian. While encountering the deteriorating interior conditions, the crew pressed on and moved to the victim's apartment. They began a search for Ellis and upon locating him, found that he "self-rescued" from his Mayday and had also located the unconscious victim. Lieutenant Difabio assisted Assistant Chief Ellis with victim removal while Firefighters Latham and Kasouf moved to keep the fire away from the victim rescue as well as working to extinguish the upward extending fire, which threatened their safe egress. The victim was removed via interior stairway and turned over to the ambulance for resuscitation efforts. Within the hour of the victim being removed from the fire, he was breathing on his own and undergoing treatment at University Hospital in Syracuse. About a day later, the victim was released from the hospital.

This fire was a display of unselfish acts of courage and bravery. A "Mayday" incident occurred and was mitigated, a civilian fire victim was removed and successfully resuscitated and many additional actions taken at this incident positively impacted the outcome of this fire.

For his courageous and brave actions with no apparatus on scene, without the protection of a charged hoseline and under deteriorating, and intense conditions, Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis was awarded a Medal of Valor and also presented with the FASNY Firefighter of the Year Award and FASNY Medal of Valor. Lieutenant Joseph Difabio and Firefighters Latham and Kasouf were presented with Departmental Commendations for their actions in this fire where an unconscious victim was rescued and resuscitated.



Photograph showing the incident scene at 417 South Main Street apartment building fire where a trapped civilian was rescued from the fire by Assistant Chief Ellis.



The North Syracuse Fire Department contingent that attended the 2008 FASNY Firefighter of the Year ceremony in Niagara Falls where Assistant Chief Ellis was presented with the FFOTY awards.

North Syracuse assistant chief, FASNY Firefighter of the Year

NORTH SYRACUSE, NY - On July 9, 2008, at 11:25 p.m. the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a reported apartment building fire at 419 South Main Street. Also dispatched on the alarm assignment was Mattydale Fire Department Rescue-1 as RIT.

Upon arrival of NSFD Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis, he reported a multi-story apartment building with smoke and fire showing and signaled a working fire. Additional mutual aid fire departments were requested.

A/C Ellis met with a North Syracuse Police Officer who advised him that other neighbors were out except one victim who was trapped on the top floor at the west side window. A/C Ellis confirmed that a victim was at the open window and was attempting to stick his head outside it. Heavy smoke was pushing from around the victim through the small window opening of an apartment on the second floor. This apartment was directly above the first floor apartment that was on fire. The fire was now pushing out the rear window of apartment #1 and was also beginning to extend into the second floor.

A/C Ellis reported these observations to the other responding chief's, asked for a ladder to be raised to attempt victim rescue from the outside and went inside to attempt to locate the victim. At this point no other units had arrived on scene and given the advancing fire and confirmed victim at the window, A/C Ellis entered the building without the protection of a hoseline to locate and rescue the victim. Ellis encountered heavy heat, smoke and fire at the door to apartment #1 and closed this door to slow the fire progression into the hallway. Ellis continued to make his way up to the second floor and entered apartment #3 to search for the victim. While in this apartment, Ellis was met with high heat, dense smoke with almost no visibility, but could see the orange glow of the fire extending up into the apartment.

During the search of the victim's apartment, conditions within began to rapidly deteriorate and A/C Ellis became disoriented. With the rapidly changing conditions and fire extending into the victim's apartment, his disorientation and still having not located the victim, he radioed for a "Mayday". Command confirmed this message and relayed the "Mayday" to apparatus crew's on the scene, who were entering the building with charged hoselines. Additional alarm assignments were sent to the scene to help in addressing the victim and now the Mayday.

A/C Ellis regained his orientation and direction and continued to search for the victim. He located the victim in the bedroom. Ellis reached the victim and found that he was now unconscious and wedged between the bed and the wall. He assessed the room and found that the window was unusually small and high off the floor and the victim was rather large. A window rescue at this point would prove to be a lengthy evolution, and with fire extending into the victim's apartment, he made the decision to remove the victim via the interior stairway. As Ellis made his way back through the apartment while dragging the unconscious victim, he was met by Lt. Joe Difabio and his crew from NSFD Engine #8. Lt. Difabio gave Ellis a hand in removing the victim from the apartment. There

who assisted in the victim's removal. Command was advised that the victim as well as A/C Ellis were all located and now coming out of the building.

At this time fire containment efforts were being undertaken. The victim was removed via the interior stairway and taken outside where he was turned over to NAVAC ambulance for resuscitation efforts. Within an hour, he was breathing on his own and undergoing treatment at University Hospital. The victim, Michael Argy, 49-year-old,was subsequently released from the hospital about one day later.

As a result of this unselfish act of courage and bravery, at extreme personal risk, exhibited by Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis, he was able to take swift and deliberate actions to remove a trapped fire victim and save his life. His failure to take these actions could have led to a much more tragic outcome.

Assistant Chief Ellis has set a fine example of valor, courage and bravery, bringing credit upon himself and members of the North Syracuse Fire Department.

- PETER DESALVO

Thursday, August 20, 200

News article on Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis and his receiving of the FASNY Firefighter of the Year award.



Photograph at the local FASNY Firefighter of the Year ceremony showing Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis (C) standing next to Michael Argy, a civilian that was rescued from the 2008 fire and surrounded by members of the FASNY organization.

Separately, words can have different meanings. When some words are put together, they can have a completely different meaning. When the following words are put together and spoken to a firefighter, there is no question of the meaning:

"Line of Duty Death"

At the North Syracuse Fire Department, we know all too well what those words mean.

In the early morning, rainy hours of Sunday September 20, 1987 a female caller reported an apartment building on fire with people possibly trapped inside. The Onondaga County 911 Center activated the North Syracuse Fire Department to respond to the reported fire at 208 North Main Street. Given the type of call and the early morning hours, members responding to this alarm believed that this had the potential to be a serious fire and could possibly involve sleeping people trapped by the fire. As members responded to the station and began to staff the apparatus, the 911 Center advised the responding Chiefs of a possible serious car accident in the 200 block of Church Street. Members often cringe when we hear those words while responding to an alarm, as the possibility of one of our own being involved in a collision could actually be a reality. While the Chiefs split their response, Firefighters switched apparatus in the station to respond to the car accident. With the arrival of the Chiefs at each call, the "reported fire" was found to be a false alarm, and the accident was found to be serious.



Firefighter Christopher A. Bilger 1967-1987.

The accident was a single vehicle that struck a tree. The vehicle was split into two pieces, ejecting the driver and sole occupant. As firefighters arrived on scene and began sizing up the incident, they found the driver of the vehicle was unconscious and in very serious condition, suffering multiple traumatic injuries. There were also vehicle parts, gasoline and other vehicle fluids strewn about the roadway. The driver was recognized as a fellow firefighter, Christopher A. Bilger. Firefighters worked diligently at the scene to treat Bilger and transfer him to the ambulance. Also on scene were members of the fire police, including Firefighter Ron Forss, who is the father of Christopher Bilger. Firefighter Peter Dromms, a close family friend, went to the corner to speak with Firefighter Forss, inform him of the accident and escort him to the ambulance to accompany his son to Crouse Irving Hospital.

Once Firefighter Bilger was enroute to the hospital, the police department took over the scene for their accident investigation. Part of the Police investigation focused on the false alarm incident at 208 North Main Street. About 13 hours later, 20 year old Firefighter Christopher Bilger succumbed to his traumatic injuries. This news brought an intense and extreme sadness to his family and the members of the fire department. While supporting the family and members of the department, emergency incidents in the district still continued. Neighboring fire departments offered their assistance so that our members could work in supporting each other and Chris' family.

On Wednesday, September 23rd calling hours commenced at Sears-Middleton Funeral home. Family and friends came, as well as neighboring fire departments, offering condolences to the family. On Thursday, September 24th, Firefighter Christopher Bilger was laid to rest. The funeral procession began at the funeral home, where the flag-draped casket was carried outside by fellow firefighters and was loaded onto Engine 4 for a motorcade processional to the North Syracuse Cemetery. At the cemetery, North Syracuse Truck 1 and East Syracuse Truck 1 were on scene and had their ladders extended up to form an archway over the entrance that the processional went under. Family, friends and fellow firefighters from not only North Syracuse, but from many other fire departments across the state, came to pay their respects at the graveside. As the services came to a close, many people offered their assistance to each other in this time of need.

The police accident investigation was completed and eventually their findings concluded that excessive speed for the roadway conditions contributed to the death of Firefighter Bilger. The criminal investigation of the false alarm was also coming to a close and ultimately led to a suspect. This suspect was eventually charged with two counts of Second Degree Falsely Reporting an Incident, as she was also found to have called in another false alarm on September 7th. This charge was a misdemeanor and if convicted, would not result in much prison time. District Attorney Richard Hennessy reviewed the case and advised that there were no more serious charges that could be levied against her. She eventually pled guilty to one of the two charges and was sentenced to shock probation which meant that should would spend less than one year in jail.

The family and fire department were not satisfied that the criminal charge from an incident such as this, where a member of the Emergency Services was killed, was only a misdemeanor level crime and didn't carry much jail time attached upon a conviction. Many conversations were had with the District Attorney's Office as well as contacting and speaking with local politicians. Eventually the combined efforts were successful in raising the severity of this type of criminal act. In 1989, Assemblyman Michael Bragman sponsored a bill raising the level of offense to a felony where an Emergency Responder is injured or killed. In November 1990 this bill was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo and became a law. This was referred to as the "Bilger Bill" in remembrance of Firefighter Bilger. The level of crime was increased and a convicted offender would now be eligible to serve up to four years in prison.

In 1988, to honor and remember Firefighter Bilger, the department initiated the "Christopher A. Bilger Firefighter of the Year Award". This award is given annually to a firefighter who is wholly committed to giving of themselves and their time to advance the department. The committee tasked with deciding on which member receives the award is comprised of our membership, including Firefighter Ron Forss. A scholarship was also named in honor of Chris and is given annually to a member of a firefighters family, who the committee decides is deserving of this recognition and in keeping Chris' memory alive.

In each subsequent year following the death of Firefighter Bilger, on the drill date closest to September 20th, the entire membership of the North Syracuse Fire Department attends a

graveside service in honor of Chris. This not only serves as a time to pause and reflect on his death, but also serves as a reminder of his line of duty death and how it happened. As a result of this accident, continued discussions and training were conducted for the fire department to work towards preventing this type of occurrence in the future.

Another way that we remember and honor Chris and his sacrifice is that his name was inscribed on the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Albany, the International Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Maryland, as well as on the Onondaga County Emergency Services monument in front of the Justice Center in Syracuse.

In 2004 during the continued development of the Old Hancock Airbase areas, Onondaga County began the task of re-naming and re-numbering Thompson Road, just south of East Taft Road, where Station 2 is located. The address of Station 2 was 7209 Thompson Road. The street name was subsequently changed to General Irwin Boulevard, honoring a member of the military. During the re-numbering portion of that project, the Chiefs Office decided that another way to honor Firefighter Christopher Bilger was to utilize his departmental ID number in the numbering of the station. The fire department ID number assigned to Chris was 70. This information was given to the county and was approved for the change. On September 18th 2007 in the presence of the members of the North Syracuse Fire Department, along with Chris' family members, the address of North Syracuse Station 2 was officially dedicated as 70 General Irwin Blvd.



Graveside memorial and wreath laying in remembrance of Firefighter Bilger.

Left: Inscription showing Firefighter Christopher Bilger's name on the Onondaga County Emergency Services monument.





Department members present for the re-numbering of station two, dedicating it in honor of the identification number of Firefighter Bilger 70.



Family members of Firefighter Christopher Bilger present for the station two re-numbering dedication.



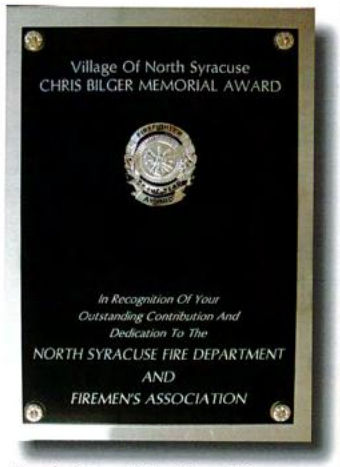
Past Chief Donald Amerman placing a memorial wreath at the Onondaga County Emergency Services ceremony in remembrance of Firefighter Bilger.

Christopher A. Bilger Firefighter Of The Year Award

This award began in 1988 in honor of Firefighter Christopher A. Bilger who died in the line of duty in 1987. This award symbolizes a firefighter who is dedicated in service to the department and wholly supports this organization, of which Firefighter Bilger was an example of.



Firefighter Christopher A. Bilger 1967-1987.



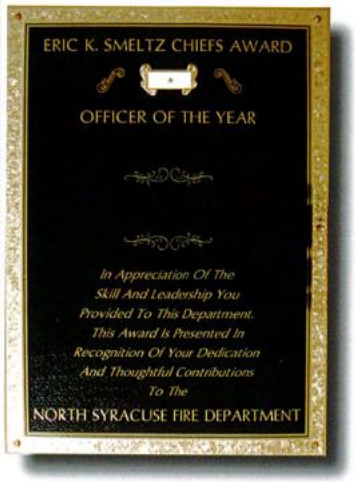
Firefighter of the Year Plaque.

The following members were selected by committee to receive the Christopher A. Bilger Firefighter of the Year Award:

Casey Daugard	1988
Lt. Kent Young	1989
Lt. Brian Falise	1990
David Greenfield	1991
Eric Smeltz	1992
Gerald Grudzinski	1993
John Hogan	1994
Ernest Dewolf	1995
John Abulencia	1996
Peter Dromms	1997
Gary Wilmer	1998
Richard Beach	1999
Joseph Perrone	2000
Wade Keyes	2001
John Lisi	2002
Edward Fry	2003
Patrick Brennan	2004
David Evangelista	2005
Norm Gauthier	2006
Joseph Difabio	2007
Andrew Russo	2008
Timothy Curtis	2009
Mark Hogan	2010
Aaron Caza	2011
Mark Hogan	2012
Richard Allen	2013

Eric K. Smeltz Officer Of The Year Award

This award began in 1994 to honor Chief of Fire Eric K. Smeltz. The purpose of the award is to recognize an officer for their dedication, service and commitment to the North Syracuse Fire Department. Chief Smeltz was a forward and progressive chief who led our department by being a very active and committed officer. His motivation and professional background helped direct us in aspects of long term financial planning, budgeting, and focusing on a forward vision for the future.



Officer of the Year Plaque.



Chief of Fire Eric K. Smeltz

The following members were selected by committee to receive the Eric K. Smeltz Officer of the Year Award:

Lt. Mark Hogan	1994
Pres. Gerald Grudzinski	1995
Dep. Chief Patrick Brennan	1996
Lt. Robert Liberatore	1997
Secretary Norm Guenther	1998
Lt. Richard Howard	1999
Dep. Chief John Linnertz	2000
Lt. Gary Wilmer	2001
Lt. Wayne Rochette	2002
Lt. Frederick German	2003
Treasurer Peter Dromms	2004
Capt. Christopher Strong	2005
Lt. David Evangelista	2006
Lt. Scott Gratien	2007
Vice Pres. Jozsef Asztalos	2008
Chief Mark Hogan	2009
Capt. Joseph Difabio	2010
(not awarded)	2011
Chief Patrick Brennan	2012
Lt. Michael Redhead	2013

Alarm Statistics

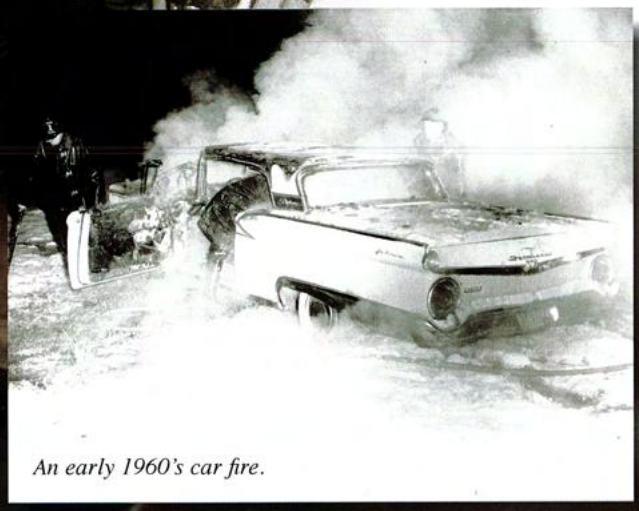
The call for help comes in day or night, all through the year, and what we respond to varies. One day we will respond to a heart attack or personal injury from a fall, assist the ambulance with lifting or a vehicle lockout. The next day we will respond to a motor vehicle accident or a structure fire. Some days we respond to 5 or 10 calls, but other days we get a "no hitter" without any calls. Other days we will run back to back calls, and even end up juggling 2, 3 or 4 calls at the same time. No matter what, our department works well together handling any emergency.

After our establishment in 1913, one of the first calls that the North Syracuse Fire Department responded to was a call for a house fire. Coincidentally, this fire was at the house of a person who was against the formation of the fire department and oddly enough, the roof burned off this citizen's house. As the years progressed, our community continued to grow, both in buildings and population. Given that expansion, our call volume has grown and the type of calls we respond to have also changed.

In 1964 Fire Chief Jansz VenderVeer listed his annual report tallies showing the department responding to a total of 169 calls, with 2470 man hours for a total of $91,000 dollars of loss in property damage.

In 1972 Fire Chief William Jenner published his annual report showing responses of 248 in total, with 4405 man hours for a dollar loss valued at $108,000 dollars of loss in property damages.

1961 house fire on Taft Rd.

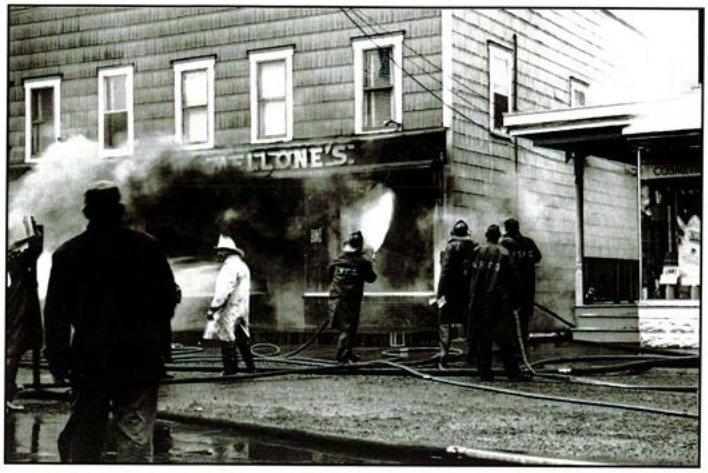


An early 1960's car fire.

1961 garage fire at 306 South Main St.



Masking up in the 1970's.



1950's fire at Mellone's Drug Store on 100 block South Main St.

Left: The 1961 annual fire report from Chief of Fire Don Amerman.

Below & Right: Fire alarm report from a fire that occurred on Feb. 1971 at the St. Rose Church.

VILLAGE OF NORTH SYRACUSE
FIRE DEPT.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
NORTH SYRACUSE, N. Y.

January 24, 1962

FIRE REPORT 1961

Number of regular alarms	117
Still alarms investigated by Chief	14
Total number of alarms	131
Town of Clay	28
Town of Cicero	21
Village of North Syracuse	47
Practice mops-up	3
Mutual-Aid calls	15
Number of Men answering alarms	2564
Number of Non-Hours answering alarms only	3614
Number of Value-Loss Fires	30
Rescue Calls	15
ESTIMATED FIRE LOSS	$210,310.

NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPT.

Donald D. Amerman, Chief

FIRE ALARM REPORT
NORTH SYRACUSE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

DATE 2-12-71 TIME ALARM RECEIVED 10:41 AM / PM

FIRE AT ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH

PROPERTY OWNED BY " " "

RESIDENTS NAME FATHER MURPHY

ESTIMATED DAMAGE $60,000 ESTIMATED PROPERTY VALUE ?

APPARATUS DISPATCHED

NO. 1 X DRIVER Dewitt
NO. 6 ☐ DRIVER
NO. 3 ☐ DRIVER
NO. 4 ☐ DRIVER
NO. 5 ☐ DRIVER R. Thompson
NO. 8 ☐ DRIVER Dooley

HOSE USED

BOOSTER —
1½" AMOUNT 400'
2½" AMOUNT 600'
4½" AMOUNT 400'

NUMBER OF MEN ANSWERING ALARM _____ OFFICER IN CHARGE ENGLISH

TIME OF ARRIVAL AT FIRE 10:45 P.M. TIME RETURNED TO STATION 1:25 A.M.

DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIRE ½ MILE CAUSE OF FIRE POSSIBLE ARSON, BEING INVESTIGATED BY N.S.V.F. POLICE

EXTENT OF FIRE ON ARRIVAL SACRISTY FULLY INVOLVED SPREADING TO ATTIC

REMARKS 1¾" OUT WITH 1¼" & SIAMESES, VENTILATED ROOF WITH CUT SMOKE EJECTORS & SMOKE EJECTORS FROM OUT SIDE COMPANIES. ASSISTED BY MARYDALE, MINOSAKE, RIVER ROAD, CICERO & NAVAC. 2 Ambulance & Rescue Truck taken to upstate Med. for smoke victims. Both returned home same night.

SIGNATURES of MEN ANSWERING ALA

ENGINE NO. 1

TRUCK NO. 4

FIRE STATION STAND BY

ENGINE NO. 1

TRUCK NO. 4

ENGINE NO. 5

ALARMS SHOULD SIGN FIRE ALARM REPORT
YING APPARATUS TO SERVICE AND CLEAN

1961 Bowling Green fire.

Over the last 18 years, the statistics for our emergency responses have been summarized and that data is represented in the following chart.

YEAR	FIRE	RESCUE	TOTAL
1996	598	417	1015
1997	579	374	953
1998	687	442	1129
1999	694	419	1113
2000	627	441	1068
2001	650	463	1113
2002	622	466	1088
2003	733	539	1272
2004	602	495	1097
2005	675	587	1262
2006	627	519	1146
2007	593	474	1067
2008	561	362	923
2009	561	405	966
2010	589	337	926
2011	571	466	1037
2012	595	460	1055
2013	551	270	821



1995 serious Dump Truck vs. Car accident at Northern Blvd. and Route 481.



Vehicle Stabilization at an accident.

YEAR	TOTAL CALLS	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME	AVERAGE CALL LENGTH	AVERAGE MEMBERS RESPONDING	TOTAL INCIDENT MAN HOURS	TOTAL TRAINING MAN HOURS
2009	966	6:56	17:42	10	3697	3107
2010	926	6:55	16:11	10	3507	3501
2011	1037	6:24	16:56	10	3981	3290
2012	1055	6:27	16:19	10	3496	3712
2013	821	7:05	17:11	9	3127	4796



Mid 1990's extrication techniques for an accident at West Taft Rd. and Buckley Rd.

In 2013, our busiest month for emergency alarms was May and Tuesday takes the top spot for day of the week. We are usually called to respond between 5pm-6pm. Out of the 57 fire departments in Onondaga County, our alarm statistics usually puts our call volume ranking in the top 10 busiest departments. Quite often we are in the top 5 busiest departments. However, our Chiefs see that being a consistently busy volunteer fire department can lead to firefighter burnout. It takes a physical toll on our members, who juggle work, family and their commitments to the fire department. To address this, the Chiefs Office examines our call volume and the nature of the incidents, sometimes resulting in response changes. The goal of these changes is call reduction while still providing a valuable, top notch service to our community.

As you can see in 2013, our emergency calls have dropped off slightly with no change to our level of service, except that we eliminated unnecessary and redundant responses. We still maintain a high level of service to our community and are just one of the very few fire departments in Onondaga County that staffs an Advanced Life Support first response rescue. Most other departments have only a Basic Life Support rescue response.

Firevision

Firevision was a video production unit of the fire department founded in 1980 with the backing of Fire Chief Peter Dromms and Fireman's Association President Joseph Falise. Charter members of Firevision included Timothy Huppmann, Gary Wilmer, Dennis McAllister, Dan Ingersoll, Pat Tooley, Joseph Falise and Larry Zarachowicz.

The organization made a $4,000 dollar purchase for a portable camera, recorder and ¾ inch video tapes. The department coordinator, Firefighter Timothy Huppmann, worked with the North Syracuse High School's Video Production course and high school advisor Ray Papaleoni for both advice and the use of the schools editing equipment. At this point, Firevision was born. To supplement the original equipment purchase, the Fireman's Association purchased additional editing equipment for $6,000 dollars. Staffed by members of the department, Firevision moved forward to produce training materials for not only the North Syracuse firefighters, but for Mutual Aid departments as well.



Firevision Video Crew Jacket patch.

Firevision programs were also produced and aired on the public access channel through Upstate Cable channel 29. This series of programs, entitled Firevision 80, was a group of 30 minute shows designed to provide fire safety and fire prevention materials to the public. It also served as a way for the department to showcase fire department operations to the public. The first program in the series, titled "Chimneys, Flues, Stoves ... and You," was written and directed by Firefighter David Greenfield and aired on March 6, 1980. This program provided information regarding the safe installation and operation of wood stoves, fireplaces and furnaces commonly sold by professionals in the business. It even included an interview with a resident who experienced a fire started by a wood burning appliance.



Firefighter Gary Wilmer shoots part of a training video as Lt. Dennis McAllister instructs Firefighter Henry Weyer in the proper deployment of an attack line.



Fire Chief Peter Dromms is interviewed in April 1980 by WIXT9 newscaster Bud Hedinger for a "Bud's Journal" piece on the North Syracuse Fire Department's Firevision 80 program titled, "Volunteer Firefighter, Part-Time Pro."



Images from a news article showing Firefighter Gary Wilmer shooting footage with Hancock Air National Guard Fire Chief M. Kassler, for the production of the program titled "Volunteer Firefighter, Part-Time Pro."



Lieutenants Dennis McAllister and Pat Tooley, Association President Joe Falise, Firefighters Larry Zarachowicz and Gary Wilmer take a break from shooting a program on location.

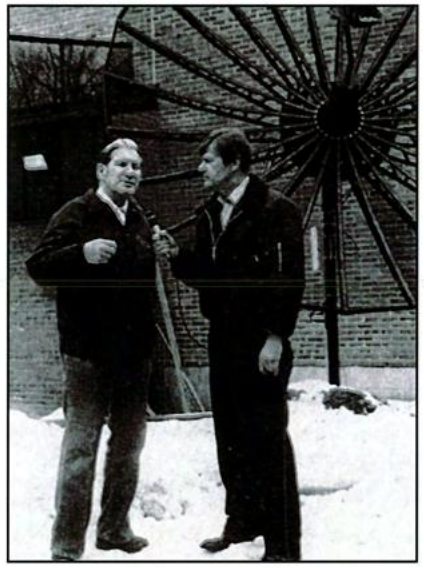
Video unit member using the in house equipment to edit a video.

Topics for future shows included gas grill safety, information on smoke detectors and electrical safety in the home. The video unit also covered public meetings that were held at the station and were then live broadcast to the public. Firevision programs were approved for use in public schools to meet the New York State monthly 45 minute requirement of fire education in the schools.

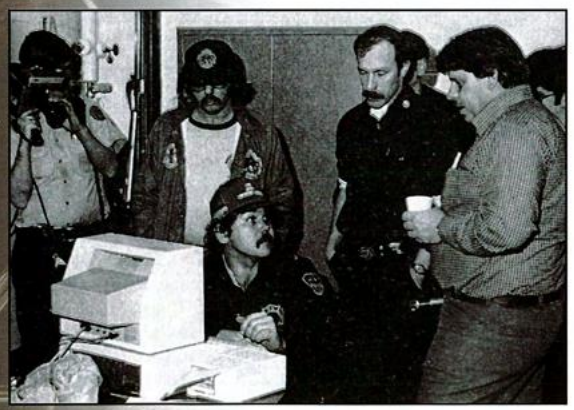
Being the first unit of it's kind, the Firevision concept was featured on local news channels and was the subject of an article in the August 1980 issue of the nationally published Fire Command magazine. The video unit was also featured in an article in the May 1984 issue of another nationally published magazine, FireHouse magazine.

In January 1984, a satellite dish was installed at station 1 to allow for the reception of training materials provided by organizations such as NFPA and FEMA. These training sessions were open to all the fire departments in the county. One of the first teleconferences hosted was from the National Fire Academy titled "Microcomputers for the Fire Service." This touted the advantages of the microcomputer in the fire service.

This training concept proved to be very popular and led to the NFPA produced training series "Fire Away" being downloaded and then sent to the local cable company to be broadcast at 1 pm and 10 pm on Saturdays. Plans were also made to set up a 24 hour Fire Service Education network via cable television to all county fire departments, but due to funding limits and changes in the cable television company, this idea never came to be.



Firevision Production Manager Firefighter Timothy Huppmann interviews Past Chief Richard Beach in front of the newly installed satellite dish at station 1.



Mutual Aid firefighters work at a microcomputer during the 1984 Teleconference.

Founding of NAVAC Ambulance

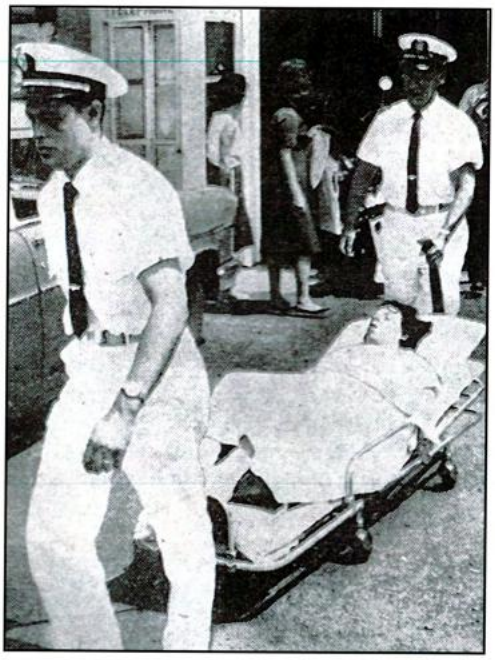
Members of the North Syracuse Fire Department noticed a need in our community: a dedicated ambulance company that would benefit the North Syracuse area. In the years leading up to the formation of the North Area Volunteer Ambulance Corp (NAVAC), ambulance services in the northern area of Onondaga County were provided using hearses operated by the Fergerson Funeral home and were generally staffed by personnel with little or no medical training.

In 1968, seven people from the North Syracuse Fire Department worked together to form NAVAC ambulance.

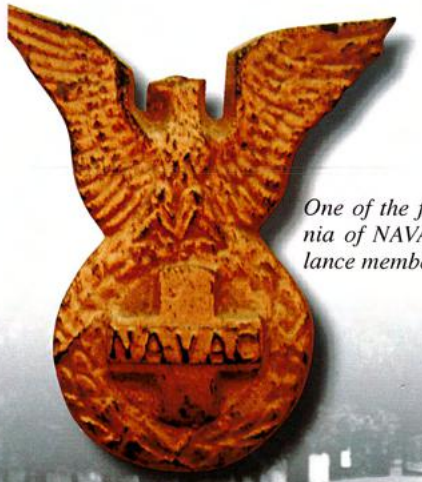
John Abulencia, Al Farnam, Doug Goettel, Michael Grillo, Jr., Richard Jones, Walter Killius, George Needle.

NAVAC answered its first call on October 24, 1970, and their first fire scene standby was at the St. Rose of Lima church fire on February 12, 1971. The volunteer ambulance company initially consisted of 2 ambulances that were housed in the North Syracuse DPW garage. The uniform for ambulance Personnel were white shirts, pants and hats with black ties. Their meetings were held at the North Syracuse Fire Department on South Bay Road, and training sessions were held at the Hinsdale and North Syracuse Fire Departments.

Shortly after its formation, the NAVAC headquarters was moved to a former gas station on the corner of Gertrude Street and South Bay Road shortly. It moved again to radio station WSOQ on Route 11, near the intersection of East Circle Drive. From there, NAVAC moved to the backroom of the North Syracuse Fire Department, when it was located on Church Street, where the Village Community Center currently stands.



Ambulance members wheeling a stretcher to the ambulance.



One of the first insignia of NAVAC ambulance members.



A NAVAC ambulance badge.



A M.E.T. placard pin that was used to identify Medical Emergency Technicians, which was the precursor to our current Emergency Medical Technicians.

Fergerson Funeral Home ambulance vehicles.

With the expansion of members and adding more ambulances to its fleet, a larger building was needed. In 1973, a home was purchased on Fergerson Avenue for NAVAC to use as its headquarters.

Over the years, changes to this building were made to accommodate additional growth. Looking to the future, NAVAC members decided to look to the future and eventually in 1993, NAVAC purchased land at 603 North Main Street. Over the next few years, funds were raised for a new facility, and the ground breaking took place on September 9, 1996. The new headquarters, its first purpose built facility, opened in September 1999.

NAVAC has grown throughout the years. In 1975, NAVAC responded to over 2,000 calls and by 1998, the call volume exceeded 5,000 per year. Thanks to the hard work of members of the North Syracuse Fire Department, NAVAC grew from its humble beginnings to the organization it is today. Over the years of NAVAC's existence, several members of the Fire Department because presidents at NAVAC, working to keep the organization moving forward. Although they began as an all-volunteer ambulance corps, they now have many paid employees who staff several ambulances each shift. The fire department still enjoys a close relationship with NAVAC and we work with their crews on an almost daily basis.



NAVAC ambulance headquarters on Fergerson Ave.



NAVAC rehab crew checking on North Syracuse firefighters at a working fire on Sunnybrook Drive.



NAVAC ambulance at its new and current home at 603 North Main Street.

NAVAC and North Syracuse Rescue crew working together at a motor vehicle accident on East Taft Road in front of the Post Office.



Proclamations



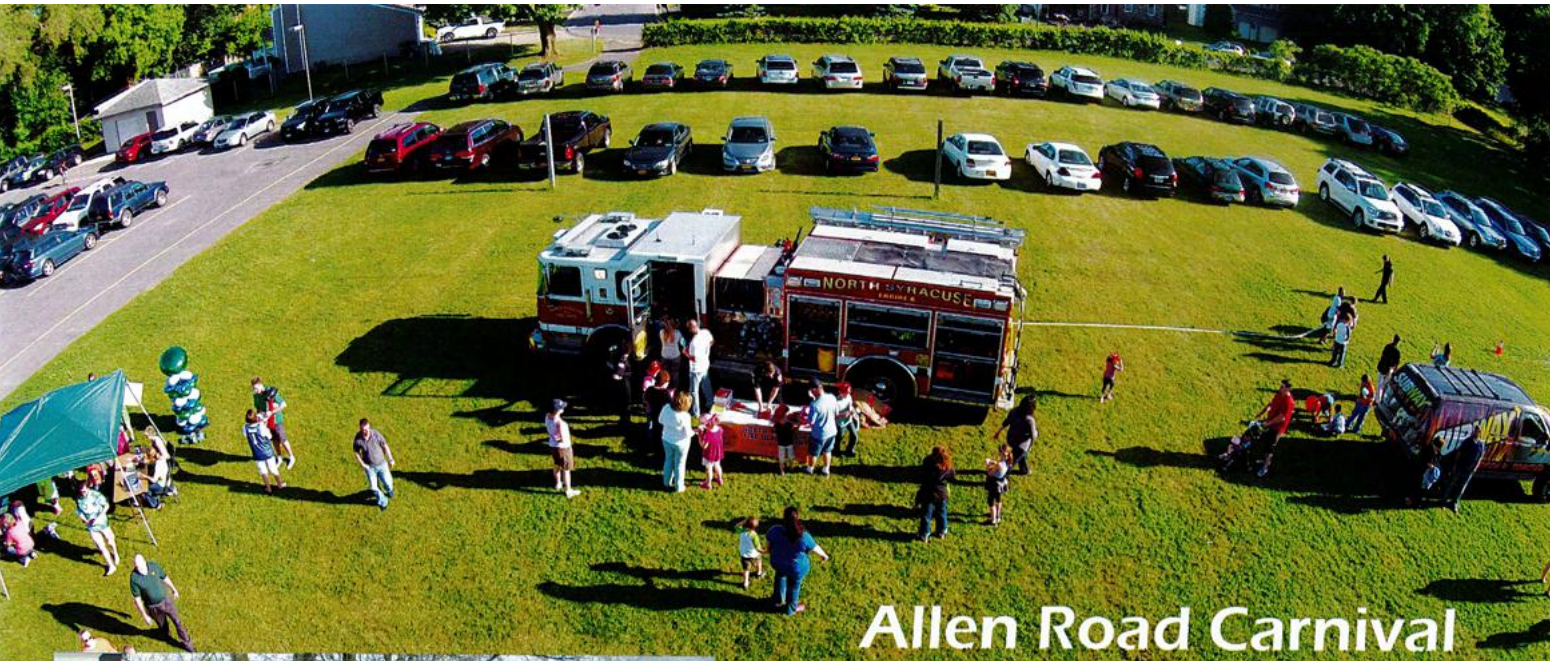
100 Year Commemorative Flag.



Meeting Hall Duty Patch and Anniversary Patch Stickers.

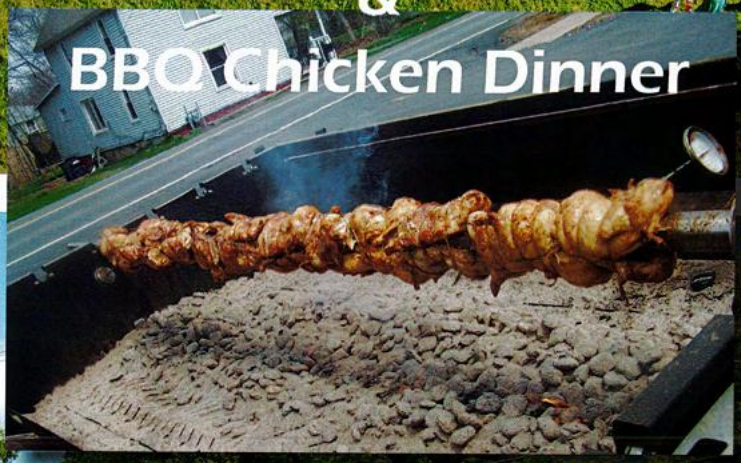


Celebrations



Allen Road Carnival & BBQ Chicken Dinner





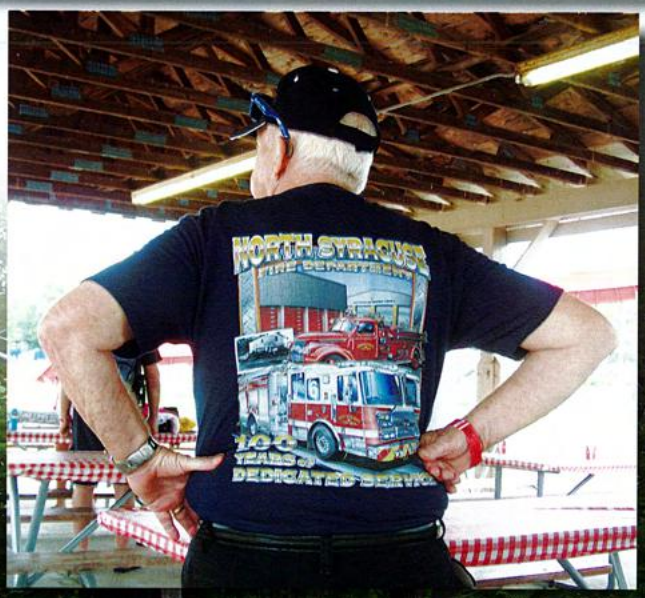



HERO RUSH
737
NEW YORK WEST 2013
HERO RUSH
THE FIREFIGHTER-THEMED OBSTACLE RACE & experience
HERO RUSH

Hero Rush

Darien Lake



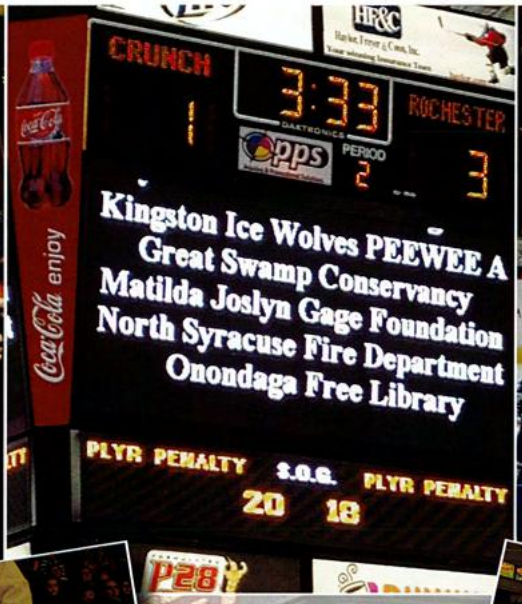


Water Safety Day






CONNOLLY
28


CRUNCH
1
3:33
ROCHESTER
PERIOD
2
3
Kingston Ice Wolves PEEWEE A
Great Swamp Conservancy
Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation
North Syracuse Fire Department
Onondaga Free Library
PLYR PENALTY
S.O.G.
PLYR PENALTY
20
18
Coca-Cola
enjoy














North Syracuse
100
Years
Fire Department

Hockey Game



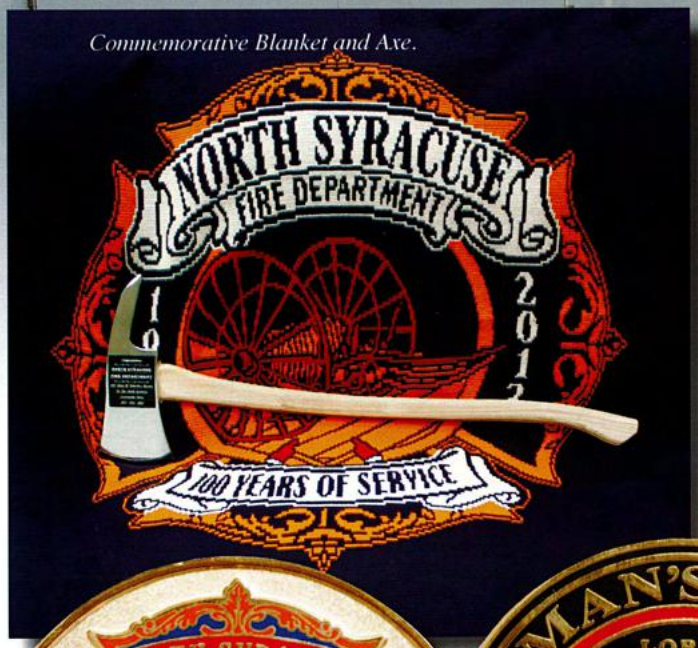
Kid's Christmas Party

100th Anniversary Speciality Items



Wall Mural Photo Collage in Meeting Hall.

Commemorative Blanket and Axe.

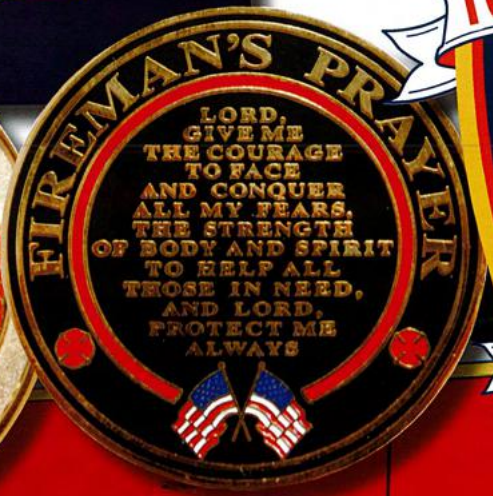


Duffel Bag.





Challenge Coin - Front



Challenge Coin - Back



Personal Vehicle Window Sticker of 100 Year Duty Patch.



Apparatus 100 Year Duty Patch Emblem.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
Patrick J. Brennan

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nsfchief@northsyracusefire.com

North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department

The process of organizing the festivities celebrating and chronicling our Centennial anniversary and service to the community was a memorable experience for those involved. From planning events to researching and gathering our history, some of which is not on paper but within our members' minds, was a detailed, time consuming and sometimes eye-opening project. On behalf of the members of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department, I would like to thank the 100th anniversary committee members for their dedication and hard work on our celebrations during 2013. The committee members were:

Chief Patrick Brennan
Past Chief Jack Abulencia
Association President Scott Gratien
Firefighter Aaron Caza
Firefighter Peter Desalvo
Deputy Chief Timothy Ellis
Past Chief Mark Hogan
Firefighter Robert Liberatore
Firefighter Gerald Grudzinski
Ladies Auxiliary President Kathie Hepp.

A main focal point of the celebratory year was our annual installation banquet which was held at the Turning Stone Resort. This banquet included the display of our recently restored early 1900's hose cart, portrait photographs of members in full dress uniform, and having a member hospitality suite for reminiscing and socializing.

Other events undertaken by our committee included a Family Fun Day at Darien Lake, departmental commemorative photo, newly designed duty and anniversary patches, apparatus and station decals, centennial flag, time capsule, challenge coin, and various commemorative shirts. These items of memorabilia and events afforded our members the opportunity to bring families together in celebration of our past history and to make future memories for years to come.

A lengthy and detailed project that also took place was this Centennial Yearbook. This committee consisted of: Past Chief Mark Hogan, Firefighter Ernest Dewolf, Firefighter Adam Engels, and Firefighter Heather Gangemi. The Chiefs and entire membership would like to thank them for their extensive and exceptional work on this time consuming and detailed project.

A special thank you to all of our members, past and present as well as our neighbors and friends who have provided us with information, memorabilia and photographs that helped to accurately document our history over the last 100 years.

This yearbook will serve as a reminder of our past, as well as a thank you to those members who have dedicated their time and effort serving the community for 100 years, while at the same time starting us on our next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Patrick J Brennan

Patrick J. Brennan
Chief of Fire



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27/04/2013
SYRACUSE
BUFFALO
NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPT.
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT
CAPTAIN
NORTH SYRACUSE
FIRE DEPT.


23/08/2013
27/04/2


100 YEARS OF SERVICE
1913 - 2013


NORTH SYRACUSE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
100 YEARS OF SERVICE