113 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org

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President message...

To all our Veterans, thank you for your service. Without you, we wouldn't have the freedom we enjoy every day in America. Let's not forget the ones that weren't lucky enough to come home and greet their families but were greeted by their families. God bless all of you.

With the close of another Year coming upon us, let's remember our family and friends on this Thanksgiving Day. Though some of them aren't with us anymore, they live on in our hearts and memories.

The Eboard has been working hard on keeping this Association going, but it isn't working sorry to say. This past year so far, we are having problems getting Towns to host meetings and the Convention. I thank the Towns that hosted and the Towns hosting in 2027.

Between almost 100 Towns in the Association between Bergen and Rockland Counties, we shouldn't have a problem with meeting locations, and Convention locations. But unfortunately, that isn't the case. It seems a lot of Towns depend on others to host things, but that isn't working. We need everyone to host one meeting or the Convention. We should have 7 locations for meetings and one location for the Convention/meeting.

Piermont always hosts the January meeting and New Milford always hosts the November meeting. Thank you to both Towns for that. The rest of the dates are **February, March, April, The 1st Friday in June for the Convention, September and October**. The 3rd Sunday in May is always the Memorial Service for Bergen and Rockland Counties in Mahwah N.J. at the Fire Academy.

Attendance at the Memorial Service to Hornor our deceased Sister's and Brother's from both Counties is very poor. We wish we didn't have to have honor any members, but death is one thing we can't stop. Please join us to honor them, they deserve it.

The Convention is the same problem. At the Convention, we honor new life members, members with 40, 50, 60, 70 years of service if someone from their Department lets us know. Too many members died that should have been honored. We give out Scholarships and special awards to individuals and Departments. It is also the election of your Officers of this Association. This Association belongs to all of you, not the Eboard Officers.

Besides everything I mentioned already, the attendance at meetings is absolutely a shame. With close to 700 members, we are about 20 members, The meeting in Hillcrest N.Y. we almost couldn't have a meeting because there were more Eboard Officers, than members. The October meeting in Little Ferry was the same, with only 13 members and the Eboard. The host Towns by food for more than 20 people and it gets wasted. We need everyone to start to attend Meetings and other activities if we are going to keep the Association going.

Not everyone is paying their dues, (personal, Company and Department). We lowered the dues and that still didn't help. If you're not paid up, you will lose the time in the Association and be removed for the Membership. We don't want to lose anyone, but if you don't pay, we can't keep you. If you have time in, you will lose the death benefit and the time towards being a life member. Please pay up if you still want to be a member. If you don't want to remain a member, please let us know so we can remove you.

Thanks to Assistant Secretary Donald Cieciuch, the Website is up. Please sign to see the work he put into it. We are trying to update everything we can on it. **njnyvfa.org**. Al Epstein has been updating the Facebook page also.

The Scholarship Committee has spent a lot of time to make it easier for application to be filled out with explanations of what is needed.

The By-Laws Committee is reviewing them and making changes that need to be made.

John Schwedhelm is trying to get everyone to fill out the new Beneficiary forms but not everyone is doing it. If the person on your form died before you and no other person is listed, no benefit will be paid. Just a reminder, this **is NOT** an insurance policy and will be paid out if we have the funds to do so. Pay your dues and support the Fundraisers.

November 27, 2026, is Hasbrouck Heights Holiday Tree lighting parade. November 28 is Wallington's Holiday parade. Contact WFDholidayparade@gmail.com to register Chief's car, engine, truck, antique, float or any other vehicle you want to enter. Prizes and refreshments. If you haven't been to one before, you don't know what you're missing. If you are a repeat participant, you know the fun it is.

Bergenfield Holiday parade is December 5, 2026. wwwbergenfieldambulance.org/lights

November is full of special days. November 11 is Veterans Day, November 13 is World Kindness day, November 16 is National Fast Foods Day, November 23 is National Espresso Day. November 26 is Thanksgiving Day, November 26 is Black Friday and November 30 is Cyber Monday.

Don't forget November 20 is the NJNYVFA General meeting in New Milford at 680 Trenton Street at 7pm.

On behalf of the Officers of NJNYVFA, we wish everyone a very safe, enjoyable and healthy Thanksgiving.

Stay safe.

Tony Chiodo President



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades:



ROCCO VENEZIA

Rocco Pietro Venezia of Emerson, 93, formerly of Northvale, died peacefully at home surrounded by his children on Oct. 18, 2026.

Rocco was born and raised in Palisades Park, the fifth of nine children born to Rosina and Domenic Venezia. He met the love of his life, Maria, who lived around the block, and their romance blossomed into marriage.

He and Maria moved from Ridgefield to Northvale in 1966, where they became active in the community. Rocco was a long-time member of the Northvale Volunteer Fire Department and an active exempt member. He was a parishioner of St. Andrew's R.C. Church in Westwood and formerly of St. Anthony's R.C. Church in Northvale.

He was a professional tile installer for most of his life, a trade that he treated like a form of art. After retiring, he became the train engineer at Van Saun County Park, driving the "choo-choo" train for many happy children. He was also a beloved school crossing guard in Westwood for many years.

He is survived by his cherished children; Joyce Venezia Suss and husband Sherwin; Lisa Venezia Thomas and husband Charles; and Anthony Venezia and wife Tracy. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 60 years, Maria.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

2026

November 20 Meeting at New Milford Firehouse, 680 Trenton Street New Milford N.J.

No Meeting in December

2027

January 29 Meeting at Piermont Firehouse 554 Piermont Ave Piermont N.Y.
February 26 Meeting at Tappan Fire House 123 Washington Street, Tappan, N.Y.
March 26 Need a location
April 30 Meeting at Moonachie Firehouse 111 Moonachie Road, Moonachie, N.J.
May 16 Memorial Service for Bergen & Rockland County. Fire Academy 281 Campgaw Road, Mahwah N.J. Starts at 2pm
June 4 The Convention. Tappan Fire House 123 Washington Street, Tappan, N.Y.

No Meetings in July and August

September 24 Need a location
October 29 Need a location
November 19 Meeting at New Milford Firehouse 249 Center Street New Milford N.J.

No Meeting in December.

2028

January 28 Meeting at Piermont Firehouse 554 Piermont Ave. Piermont N.Y

If a Department or a Company hosts a meeting, they will get a dues credit the following year. Personal members still must pay their dues.
We need your help, so please notify an Officer of the date you want to host a meeting.
Thank you.

MONSEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Monsay Fire District is going to disengage from Brewer and will now work with a newly formed Monsey Fire Rescue Company with 24/7 Firefighter Staffing. They will break away from a longstanding relationship with Brewer Fire Engine Company #1.
This follows differences between the District and the Brewer Fire Engine Company's leadership. Discussions between both sides revealed different views on respective roles, responsibilities and the direction of fire protection services within the District,
The Monsey Fire Rescue Company will operate in accordance with District policies. Procedures and the established command structure
District Officials are confident fire protection service will have no interrupted service and will carry out as a transition, not an abrupt shift.
Many of the same experienced Firefighters from Monsey will still be responding and we encourage more to join.
The major public upgrade should be 24/7 Staffing before December.
The specific disagreements that let to the separation were not publicly detailed.

6 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT AIRPLANES





The modern airplane is an airborne chariot made of steel. We're so used to these impressive machines ferrying passengers, mail, and commerce, it can be difficult to fathom that they're barely more than a century old. And while airplanes need to operate in some of the most extreme temperatures on or near Earth (it's -70 degrees Fahrenheit at an airliner's cruising altitude of around 40,000 feet), planes are by far the safest way to travel. Here are six facts that'll make you marvel at airplanes and explain why they're one of the most impressive technological achievements in human history.

Flying on Planes Affects Your Sense of Taste

Humans aren't designed to cruise comfortably at around 40,000 feet, and some strange biological phenomena can occur when airplanes take our bodies out of their terrestrial-based environment. Studies have discovered that our ability to sense sweet and salty foods diminishes by significant percentages when we fly in an airplane. That's because at high altitudes, air inside an airplane cabin hovers at around 12% humidity — drier than most deserts on Earth. Since taste is also closely entwined with our sense of smell, the extremely dry air messes with our odor receptors and makes food taste more bland.

Surprisingly, even the constant drone of airplane engines can cause some foods to taste less intense, according to a separate study on the "effects of background noise on food reception." Long story short, an airplane does not release the inner gourmand in humans, so maybe it's best to stick to those small packets of (highly salted) peanuts.

Planes Are Struck by Lightning One or Two Times a Year

Lightning seems like one of the obvious hazards of pointing a plane nose-first into a storm cloud — and the fear is at least somewhat warranted. In an average year, a plane experiences one or two lightning strikes (though geographic location is an important factor). However, commercial aircraft are designed to handle this unexpected electrical load, so passengers experience little more than the bright flash of the lightning itself. Many airplanes are made of aluminum, which is an excellent conductor and will direct the current of a lightning strike through the skin and toward the tail. Airplanes designed with composite materials include conductive fibers that pull off the same trick. Other grounding and shielding technologies also help protect sensitive wiring and instruments on board the aircraft. If a lightning strike occurs, the aircraft is thoroughly inspected on the ground. This can cause significant delays, but there hasn't been a lightning-related accident on a commercial aircraft for decades.

Planes Can Fly With Just One Engine

Your average airliner can take a significant amount of punishment and keep on flying. For example, commercial airliners are designed so that if one entire engine malfunctions for whatever reason, whether a bird strike or just a technological snafu, the plane can continue flying using its other engine. This isn't just a safety feature agreed upon by the world's airline manufacturers; it's the law. Although a plane likely wouldn't have the thrust necessary to take off on one engine, it can fly and land without problem.

Contrails Come From Water Vapor

Glance at the sky on a clear day and you'll likely spot a contrail. This ice cloud forms as water vapor dispersed by an aircraft's engine, and in the surrounding air, condenses around tiny exhaust particles from the engine. Contrails were discovered during the first high-altitude flights in the 1920s, and became a particular nuisance in World War II, when contrails effectively gave away a bomber's strategic location.

Contrails are categorized into three groups, and each group is essentially defined by how long the contrail lasts in the air. Contrails have been the subject of an erroneous yet persistent conspiracy theory around "chemtrails," which involves the belief that these clouds are actually some sort of biological agent deployed over the Earth for some undefined, nefarious purpose. Fortunately, water vapor is generally pretty benign.

Black Boxes Are Not Black

When an aircraft crashes for any reason, investigators and ground crews will hunt for what's called a "black box." The term refers to an airplane's dual flight recorders, which together contain crucial data regarding transmissions, the pilot's voices, aircraft sounds, and other important information. However, a "black box" isn't black (and sometimes isn't even shaped like a box). Instead, "black boxes" are usually bright orange so they're easy to find after a crash.

So where does this misnomer come from? No one knows for sure, but one guess dates back to 1939, when aviation engineer François Hussenot developed the means to record flight information onto photographic film. Because this film was sensitive to light, this box needed to be pitch black inside — hence the name.

Flying at 33,000 Feet, Planes Are About 10% of the Way to Space

Traveling around 8 miles above sea level, planes easily traverse even the most impressively high natural features on Earth. At its lowest cruising altitude, around 33,000 feet, an airliner still clears Mount Everest by a comfortable 4,000-foot margin.

Space begins at the Kármán line — the boundary where Earth's atmosphere ends — at about 62 miles up, so an aircraft has a long way to go (not that it'd have any hope of getting there). The highest-altitude flight of any aircraft, not including rocket-equipped spacecraft, belongs to a Soviet MiG E-266M that flew up to 123,523 feet above sea level in 1977. While 24 miles up is an impressive feat, it's not even halfway toward the outer reaches of space.

LITTLE GIANT RECALLS LADDERS WITH RAPID LOCKS DUE TO RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY FROM FALL HAZARD



Name of Product:

Little Giant ladders with Rapid Locks

Hazard:

The ladders can suddenly retract if the Rapid Locks are not fully engaged, posing a fall hazard to consumers.

Remedy:

Refund

Replace

Repair **Recall Date:** November 05, 2026 Units: About 3,662,000

Recall Details

This recall involves Little Giant ladders with Rapid Locks. Rapid Locks are designed to insert into ladder rungs for the purpose of adjusting the ladder's height. Rapid Locks are black or orange and are located on each ladder leg. The affected models are Adjustable Fortress 2.0, Conquest 2.0, Dark Horse 2.0, Epic, King Kombo XT, Leveler, MegaLite, MegaLite+, Multi, Quantum and Vector. The brand name Little Giant and the model name are located on the side of the ladder. Only ladders without an orange rectangular "QC" sticker on the rail above one of the Rapid Locks are included in this recall.

Remedy:

Consumers should stop using the recalled ladders immediately until they review the information at www.littlegiantladders.com/pages/recalls or via the QR code on the ladder and contact Little Giant for a repair kit containing warning labels and instructions. The additional instructions and labels, which should be affixed to the ladder, advise consumers to verify that their Rapid Locks are properly engaged before every use and to maintain their locks with lubrication. Consumers who follow the provided instructions and have a Rapid Lock that does not function properly after the application of lubrication should contact Little Giant for evaluation. If a lock does not function properly after this evaluation, the company will offer the choice of a replacement ladder of the same or equivalent model or a refund ranging from a depreciated value determined by date of purchase up to full purchase price for ladders purchased within the past 12 months.

/Injuries:

Little Giant has received 25 reports of the ladders retracting, including 19 reports of injuries, consisting of three reports of head injuries such as traumatic brain injury, skull fracture, concussion, vision loss, hearing loss and cognitive impairment; and 16 reports of other injuries such as joint or bone fracture, lacerations and bruising. Little Giant has also received 39 reports of Rapid Locks not working properly.

Sold At:

Lowe's, Costco and other stores nationwide and online at Lowes.com, Amazon.com, Costco.com, LittleGiantLadders.com and other websites from December 2015 through October 2026 for about $100 to $1,000.

Importer(s):

Little Giant Ladder Systems, LLC, of Springville, Utah

Manufactured In:

United States, China, Mexico and Malaysia

Recall number:

27-067

VIEW TO A DRILL: LITHIUM-ION BATTERY FIRE



Aftermath of a battery fire. Photo courtesy Wyckoff (NJ) Fire Department.

You're toned out for a fire in a private dwelling and arrive and notice a hissing sound with blue and green flames emitting from a bedroom as you're advancing. In your mind you wonder if the flames are fed by natural gas—or is it a lithium-ion battery fire? As you are preparing to flow water, you hear the sound of rapid explosions. Luckily, as the water flows, most of the noises subside and the flames are extinguished by the water.

There are multiple risks and unique challenges when dealing with lithium-ion battery fires. They present many hazards to firefighters throughout the operation and we must be prepared to handle them.

1. Was the fire different than a typical room-and-contents fire? Did you notice the color of the flames and smoke emitting from the room or hear the rapid popping sounds, which may give you a clue to what was happening?

2. Once the fire was knocked down, did you locate all the batteries/cells and submerge them in water to prevent thermal runaway or reignition? Did you also remove unaffected looking batteries that were exposed to the heat released from the fire? Did you use your hand or a nonconductive tool to pick them up for added protection? Will you continue to use hydraulic ventilation measures and institute mechanical ventilation efforts to remove smoke and gases? Did the thermal imaging camera assist in monitoring battery temperatures? Did you carry the device outside or lower the device out a window to the ground and remove it to a safe distance away from the structure?
3. How will you continue to mitigate the situation on hand? Did you call for a hazardous material unit to respond to package the batteries? Will the scooter or appliance have to be dismantled or cut apart to access the battery pack and batteries to allow them to be placed in a recovery drum?
4. Do you have your members wearing full personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus during the firefighting, recovery, and stabilization operations?
5. Did you decontaminate personal protective equipment? Once the operation is over, have you filled out exposure reports due to the batteries emitting numerous types of hazardous chemicals? Lithium-Ion batteries release highly toxic microscopic matter, including lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, copper, chromium, lead, and thallium which may lead to respiratory distress, wheezing, and burning sensations in the throat and pose severe health risks.
6. Has your department investigated specialized extinguishing agents such as encapsulator agents, aqueous vermiculite dispersion, mineral-based granulates, or specialized liquid agents?

NY PROJECT TO TEST WHETHER LARGER BATTERIES CAN POWER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS





Viridi's lithium-ion battery energy storage system is installed in Peace Bridge Place apartments building in Buffalo, N.Y., Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026.

A battery system installed in a Buffalo, New York, apartment building will store excess energy when it's plentiful and power the building when the grid is strained and electricity is costly. The manufacturer and state officials hope it will show that larger batteries can safely operate where people live and work.

The 3.75 megawatt-hour lithium-ion battery system, which can power the Peace Bridge Place affordable housing complex for several days, is among the largest battery systems in a U.S. residential building, manufacturer Viridi and developer Good Carbon Co. said Tuesday.

"We want our electric power to be resilient, affordable and available. Distributed battery storage accomplishes all three," Viridi CEO Jon M. Williams said. "The only thing that has been holding up installations at scale is safety; a lot of the products on the market over the last 10 years have burned things down."

Deploying large batteries that can safely power apartment buildings is an important step toward replacing fossil fuels with renewables, experts say, but they're uncommon because of the cost and concerns about fire risks. Already, larger batteries are paired with solar and wind projects, and homeowners are using smaller batteries to store excess energy from rooftop solar and for backup power.

How batteries help keep electricity flow steady

Batteries help maintain a steady flow of power when sources such as solar and wind are not producing. They charge when the sun is shining or when wind is blowing. That energy can then be used when demand is high.

Batteries can also store excess electricity from hydropower, and New York is one of the top hydropower-producing states. Buffalo is close to Niagara Falls, where most of the state's hydropower is produced.

When electricity demand is high, Peace Bridge will use the battery. It will get paid by the utility for not drawing from the grid and for sending power back if needed. This helps lower the complex's overall electricity costs, which benefits residents. The building can use the system during outages, too.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Agency helped fund the Peace Bridge Place project, as part of its focus on including disadvantaged communities in the clean energy transition.

"It goes a long way toward demonstrating the safety and viability of these types of projects," said NYSERDA President and CEO Doreen Harris.

Viridi has manufacturing facilities in Buffalo and Richmond, California, where a state grant assisted with renovations. California Energy Commission Chair David Hochschild said he's impressed with the company.

More than two-thirds of California's electricity comes from clean energy and batteries get a lot of credit for that, Hochschild said. As electricity demand grows, batteries help ensure the grid is reliable, reduce pollution and contain costs, he added.

"I believe the battery industry is the single most important energy industry for the next several decades," said Hochschild, who co-founded the Electric Innovation Initiative to use electricity instead of fossil fuels more broadly throughout the U.S. economy.

As large battery fires have garnered attention, some communities have opposed further development. However, the failure rate for batteries has decreased as more are installed, according to the Electric Power Research Institute.

Viridi spent six years and $10 million figuring out how to make a fireproof container for batteries. Half the cost was for batteries Viridi destroyed during testing.

Viridi uses plates, pouches and spacing to isolate each battery cell. If one fails, the energy dissipates instead of spreading to the next battery, so that no gas, smoke, heat or fire escapes the container, Williams said.

Jigar Shah, an expert in clean energy financing and deployment, said the Peace Bridge Place system is a milestone in overcoming safety concerns.

To ensure nothing would catch fire when used inside a residence, Viridi's system had to pass a test where the battery was forced to fail while a cheesecloth covered the container. The cheesecloth did not char or ignite, according to the test report record.

Viridi announced in April it met stringent Underwriters Laboratories safety standards so its system could be installed indoors without adding additional fire suppression to a building.

Shah, who led the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office during the Biden administration, said Viridi is the only company to consistently pass this "near impossible" test.

Shah thinks far more U.S. homes will use batteries for backup power by 2030. The U.S. can meet much more electricity demand and avoid costly upgrades to the grid if batteries are strategically deployed, he added.

New York and California officials want forward-thinking energy solutions

Viridi and Good Carbon Co. chose the Peace Bridge apartments because the all-electric building uses a geothermal system for heating and cooling rather than natural gas and needed additional, resilient power. The electricity demand locally can exceed the available supply, so the utility National Grid supported the endeavor, Williams added.

Peace Bridge is considered affordable housing because renters earn no more than 80% of the area's median income, Good Carbon said. It said energy storage will be an important part of future multifamily housing projects.

Viridi has been manufacturing in Buffalo since 2018. A medical research building in the city is using its battery system, too. Viridi's plant could build enough battery packs in a year to supply energy for about 14,000 average U.S. homes for 24 hours, Williams said.

Harris, at NYSERDA, said the state needs more options like this for maintaining a reliable grid and managing costs. Gov. Kathy Hochul has made that a priority.

"If we don't need to build generation, we can utilize the grid that we have more effectively, that's extremely valuable to us," she said.

In California, 2,000 battery storage systems are being added each week and the largest in the world is under construction in Fresno County, Hochschild said. He thinks the battery industry is poised to take off.

He said, "We're just getting started."

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20 SONGS FROM THE 1960S THAT CAN REDUCE YOUR STRESS INSTANTLY. EVERYONE HAS STRESS IN THEIR LIVES EVERY DAY, ESPECIALLY 1ST RESPONDERS

The 1960s produced timeless music with remarkable stress-reducing qualities. Songs with slower tempos, gentle melodies, and soothing harmonies can lower heart rate and reduce cortisol levels. These twenty classics combine therapeutic elements with artistic brilliance.

Here Comes the Sun by The Beatles

George Harrison wrote this optimistic anthem, escaping tense meetings. Gentle acoustic guitar and hopeful lyrics create an instant mood lift.

Bridge Over Troubled Water by Simon & Garfunkel

Art Garfunkel's ethereal vocals float over gospel-inspired piano. The arrangement activates reward centers while slowing heart rates.

What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong

Armstrong's warm voice with uplifting lyrics creates profound peace. Hope triggers positive responses that reduce stress hormones.

The Sound of Silence by Simon & Garfunkel

Paul Simon's haunting melody creates meditative states while encouraging mindful listening.

California Dreamin' by The Mamas & The Papas

Folk-rock harmonies transport listeners mentally. The dreamy quality activates the parasympathetic nervous system.

Yesterday by The Beatles

McCartney's ballad with a string quartet became history's most covered song. Sad music paradoxically reduces stress.

Scarborough Fair by Simon & Garfunkel

This traditional English ballad features hypnotic guitar creating trance-like states.

Moon River by Andy Williams

Mancini's wistful melody features a waltz tempo that slows the heart rate.

Daydream by The Lovin' Spoonful

This feel-good folk-rock tune embodies relaxation. Mental escape reduces perceived stress.

Imagine by John Lennon

Lennon's peaceful anthem features simple piano and hopeful messages. Its slow tempo induces meditative states.

At Last, by Etta James

James' tender vocals over lush orchestration trigger oxytocin release, reducing anxiety.

Both Sides Now by Joni Mitchell

Mitchell's introspective lyrics encourage reflection. The gentle melody naturally lowers blood pressure.

Suzanne by Leonard Cohen

Cohen's hypnotic vocals create intimate intoxication. The meditative quality quiets anxious thoughts.

I Got You Babe by Sonny & Cher

This duet's gentle harmonies reduce loneliness-related stress through warmth and sincerity.

500 Miles by Peter, Paul and Mary

The melancholic melody creates meditative trances. Minimalist arrangements focus attention.

My Girl by The Temptations

The Motown classic's gentle rhythm lifts spirits. Positive lyrics trigger serotonin release.

The Girl from Ipanema by Stan Getz & Astrud Gilberto

This bossa nova classic's relaxed groove transports listeners. The gentle rhythm slows heart rate.

Turn! Turn! Turn! by The Byrds

Seeger's biblical adaptation features jangly guitars. The message about life's seasons provides perspective.

For What It's Worth by Buffalo Springfield

Stills' mellow protest song features hypnotic guitar. The gentle delivery creates contemplative calm.

All You Need Is Love by The Beatles

This psychedelic pop anthem delivers simple truth. The universal message reduces stress by reminding listeners what matters.

These twenty songs combine artistic excellence with therapeutic qualities. Music with slower tempos, gentle melodies, and positive lyrics significantly reduces stress hormones while promoting relaxation. Create a playlist featuring these classics whenever you need peace through timeless music.

ROCKLAND COUNTY WARMING CENTER OPENS FOR GUESTS NOV. 1, 2026
WARMING CENTER FLYERS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, CREOLE, & YIDDISH

Rockland County Executive Ed Day and Commissioner of Social Services Patrick Frawley announce the opening of the Rockland County Warming Center, located at the Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center in Pomona, for the upcoming winter season. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will be running the Warming Center, and they can provide shelter for up to 75 homeless single adults each night. The Warming Center will open for the season on November 1, 2026, at 5pm and guests can remain until the next morning. **The Warming Center will remain open during the day only when the temperature with the windchill is below 32 degrees.**

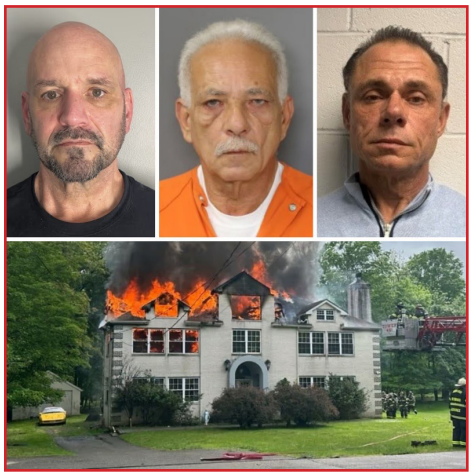
Guests at the Warming Center will have access to not only a warm, safe place to rest but also essential services such a hot meal, showers and laundry facilities. In addition, staff will be on-site to work with individuals applying for benefits, job placements, housing referrals as well as other supportive services.

Transportation to the Warming Center will be provided from the following locations:

- Nyack: 7:00 p.m. at Broadway and Burd Street, in front of the First Reformed Church of Nyack.
- Haverstraw: 7:30 p.m. from the Commuter Parking Lot across from Village Hall.
- Spring Valley: 5:30 p.m., 6:10 p.m., and 8:15 p.m. at the Spring Valley Bus and Train Station.
- Pomona: 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Building L Bus Shelter on the Health Center campus.

For more information, please contact the Rockland County Department of Social Services at (845) 364-2332 or (845) 608-6670.

BERGEN COUNTY MANSION OWNER HIRED ARSONISTS TO SET 4-ALARM INFERNO



Emad E. Gerges, 66, of Upper Saddle River, allegedly hired Anthony V. Coviello, 54, and Joseph Vulpis, 62, both of Rumson, to set fire to the home at 18 Lake Rd., in May 2025.

Records show that Gerges owns or previously owned 18 Lake Rd., which was listed in February 2026 and sold for $825,000 four months later, property records show.

The fire broke out around 2:23 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2025, when firefighters arrived to find the house engulfed in flames, Musella said. Firefighters from Upper Saddle River and neighboring towns extinguished the blaze, but investigators initially could not determine its ca Nearly a year later, on April 27, 2026, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Arson Squad received information about the fire from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and Rumson police, prompting a new investigation.

Detectives determined that Coviello and Vulpis had entered the home and used an accelerant and homemade ignitor to start a fire in the attic, Musella said. Coviello was arrested at his Rumson home Friday, Oct. 2, while Vulpis surrendered to police in Englishtown that same day.

Both were charged with first-degree arson for hire, second-degree aggravated arson, second-degree conspiracy to commit aggravated arson, third-degree arson, third-degree criminal mischief and fourth-degree failure to control or report a fire.

Gerges was arrested Friday, Oct. 16, with assistance from Saddle River police. He was charged with first-degree arson for hire and second-degree conspiracy to commit aggravated arson.







Remember Our Troops
Visit us at www.njnyvfa.org

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