

THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

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RCVFA MAY MEETING

The RCVFA held our May 10th meeting at Congers Fire Department which was Past Presidents Night. President Kurt Mulligan educational overview on the new stipend for students attending classes. FASNY and HVVFA representatives presented an interactive overview of the OSHA Emergency Response Standard. Treasurer Mike Kramer was given a standing ovation for his years of service to the association
Past Presidents in attendance:
Thomas Bierds 1980, Douglas Mann 1981, Mike Wicks 2004-2005, Frank Voce 2010-2011, Paul Schlegel 2012-2013 and Mike Rivera 2020-2021
The RCVFA extends a thank you to Congers Chief Marc Popkin, President Mike Rivera and the firefighters from Congers for hosting meeting and the refreshments.

RCVFA CONVENTION AND PARADE

The convention is being hosted by Wayne Hose, Stony Point FD. It will be at Patriot Hills on Friday, Sept 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM. There will not be a Parade this year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



On May 15th Valley Cottage Fire Dept celebrated the 85th birthday of our senior member Chet Slaybaugh. Chet as of this Friday (May 17) will accomplish 58 years of dedicated service to our community. May god bless Chet and his family.

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



All Dept 25 trucks - hold off charging your lines.
It's starting to rain.

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Look at what's new...
 As of May 1st 2024, we have made some changes to our HERRO Tuition Reimbursement Program. Click the link below for details.
<https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/.../volunteer-tuition...>

WORKING FIRE CALL-MAY



Rockland Buff

5/2/2024 22:33 hours Dept 17 138 Lake St. Fully engulfed structure fire. Spring Valley FD, Hillcrest FD, Monsey FD, South Spring Valley FD assigned. Abandoned house



Rockland Fires

05/08/2024 16:48 hours Dept 1 614 Route 303 @ Advanced Distributions Systems. Blauvelt FD, Central Nyack FD for a F.A.S.T. & West Nyack FD for 24-Tower for a reported fire in a warehouse. 1-2 on scene reporting a fire in 1/4 corner of the warehouse.

South Orangetown Ambulance & Medic 21 for a fire standby.

05/08/2024 12:52 hours Dept 17, 3 N Rigaud Dr. Spring Valley FD, Monsey FD, Hillcrest FD, Suffern FD assigned

NEW FORCIBLE ENTRY PROP COMPLETE



Instructor Mike Perri has completed a new forcible entry prop in our Andrew Fredericks Fire Safety Building. This is the prop I had been mentioning in the past. This new prop allows a simulation of a dead-end hallway and the forcing of a door. There is also the ability to add smoke as well as an observation window for the instructor. Another great training addition! Chris Kear "44-1"



2ND ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Logan Lloyd

threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Second Annual Firefighter Appreciation Night (May 31, 2024) sponsored by Veolia at Clover Stadium. Logan's father Jared died while fighting a fire in Spring Valley in 2021. The [New York Boulders Baseball](#) beat the Quebec Capitales, 8-2. Pictured with Logan (left to right) are Chris Graziano, Vice President/General Manager, Veolia; Chris Kear, Rockland County Fire Coordinator; Dylan Smith, New York Boulders; Ken Conjura, Battalion Chief, Spring Valley Fire Department; Kurt Mulligan, President, RCVFA.

The RC Firefighters Pipe & Drums Band had The Honor escorting the West Nyack Fire Department Honor Guard at the Game.

RC Critical Incident Stress Team

Your buddy jumped out of the closet in the fire house and scared you when you walked down the hallway. Instantly and beyond your control, your pulse jumped, your heart raced, blood was shunted toward your muscles so you could fight or flee. What happened? Your emotions took over your rational brain: you were in survival mode. You had a normal human survival reaction to an abnormal incident.

As firefighters, we respond, deal with and see very abnormal incidents. Sometimes incidents are really bad and our emotions can overwhelm our rational, normal thoughts. We are all human, sometimes the emotional reaction does not go away, our pulse and blood pressure does not return to normal and our emotions remain high. Normal reactions to abnormal incidents.

Sometimes we need help getting our emotions under control after we experience abnormal incidents. Rockland is fortunate to have a **Critical Incident Stress Team** that can help you and your members. A short session called a debriefing in your fire house by firefighters will help your members understand their reactions to a recent, abnormal, incident and how to recognize and lessen its possible effects.

After a nasty call, to get this free service, in your firehouse, for your members or yourself, contact 44-Control at 364-8600 and ask for the team to do a debriefing. It is, short, 100% confidential, no rosters or notes are taken and you will see and feel a huge and visible improvement in your members attitudes and overall wellness. Jerry Knapp

FALSE ALARMS

False alarms are killing the volunteer fire service. Here in RC we often have 2 or 3 FDs rolling for automatics and other persistent false alarms. That is not the answer, limiting false alarms is the answer. Here is an article from Fire Engineering that presents some good, solid possible solutions to this killer. Exaggeration you say? Think about how many of your members are coming out to your false alarms then consider how that low manpower will put other members in dangerous situations when there is a real fire! Consider also the dangers of code 3 driving on our crowded streets. A leadership tool I learned long ago, don't present a problem without the solution. See attached article.

<https://www.fireengineering.com/fire-prevention-protection/fire-alarm-activations-thoughts-on-fixing-systems-that-cry-wolf/> Jerry KNapp

LEADERSHIP OBLIGATION...TACTICAL AGILITY

Note: this series of considerations were motivated by my time with FSRI Fire Protection Engineers during the recent 3 day Fire Dynamics Boot Camp, held in Indianapolis, IN Apr 2024 and my service on the technical panel for the UL Fire Attack Study, \$1.5 million FEMA funded house fire research that included 27 live burns. All tactical considerations for house fires are included in my Modern House Fires Training available at the FTC.

In RC our most significant fires are house fires. FSRI...Fire Safety Research Institute has conducted over \$20,000,000 worth of world class research into these fires that account for 75% of the loss of life nationwide. FDNY's Chief Frank Leeb is a strong proponent of using this research to improve our strategy and tactics. FDNY DC George Healey openly states he has learned things about residential fires he wished he had known and used sooner in his career. Chief Healy and Leeb are leaders not only with FSRI but in our Fire Service in general.

Chief Pete Van Dorp, Chicago FD saw tons of fire during his long career. In a conversation with him, he said this "It is every Fire Service leaders OBLIGATION to use the tactical considerations FSRI has developed." Pete was a bit more colorful in his terms but you get the idea. FSRI.COM....USE THIS FREE SITE....you owe it to your members. As Chief VanDorp says, it is your LEADERSHIP OBLIGATION. The training is free and great for a night of bad weather or busted drill. Jerry Knapp

ORANGETOWN FIRE CO#1 WINS



We had a fantastic time marching this evening at the Pleasantville Fire Department Annual Parade! We are also glad that our judge bribing worked, as we won awards for Best Color Guard, Best Apparatus, and Second Best Overall Unit!! Thank you to Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department for hosting this great parade, and thank you to the other companies of the Nyack Fire Department that helped fill our ranks! Jackson Fire Engine 10-1500 Empire Hook & Ladder Co 1 and Nyack Fire Patrol !

ANNIVERSARY OF FREIGHT TRAIN DERAIL



50 years ago on June 6, 1974 at 7:17 AM, a southbound Penn Central freight train derailed and caught fire in the tunnel between Congers and Haverstraw. 80 hours later, around a dozen mutual aid fire departments utilizing 30 pieces of fire apparatus the fire was extinguished.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of "The Trumpet" in an electronic version rather than the paper version, please send us your e-mail address. We will add you to our e-mail list and remove you from the snail mail list. Please contact Sheryl Rose at SherylERose58@gmail.com

WE SADLY REPORT THAT:



James Avaras, died May 2, 2024, age 68. He was a member of New City Fire Dept and an Ex-Chief (2014-2015), 52-year member.



Robert Miller, died May 22, 2024, age 83. He was a Past President and Life Member of Congers Fire Dept joining in 1992. He was a Life Member of the RCVFA joining 1994. He was also the Secretary for the Fire Advisory Board. Bob was also involved with the Rockland County Fire Police Association and Safety Officers Association.



Bob Schultz, died May 25, 2024, age 74. He was a 56 year life member and Ex Chief of Columbians, Spring Valley Fire Dept. He was a RCVFA Life Member joining 1975.

Robert "Cheesy" Polhemus Jr., died May 24, 2024, age 71. He was a member of Hillcrest Fire Dept and served as Chief of the Department from 1985 to 1987 and is the father of Firefighter Kelly Parker.

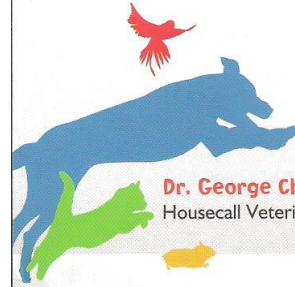


Howard A Mackey, died May 31, 2024, age 93. He was a member of Volunteer Hose Co.#2, SW Johnson SFE Co, and West Haverstraw Fire Department on the passing of Ex Chief (1976-1978) - Life Member Howard Mackey. Ex Chief Mackey was a 69yr RCVFA Life member joining in 1955

George M. Mulligan, CPA

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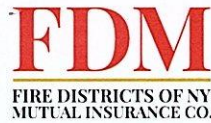
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CALENDAR**LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 6/26/2024**

- Tappan Fire Dept, 2024 Leather Helmet Raffle, \$20, Drawing Sep 2, info Gerry Caltagirone 845-652-3905 GCaltagirone@tappanfire.com
 - RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Vol Hose, Suffern, with Pres Kurt Mulligan
 - Volunteer Hose Annual Comedy In The Park, at Pecks Pond, If inclement weather, will be moved indoors, \$30 advance, \$35 at door, Doors open 7 PM, starts 9 PM, volhose23@gmail.com
 - RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, 1t Stony Point, with Pres Carol Cich
 - RCVFA Brd of Dir, @7:30 PM, at Hillcrest FD 6-100, with Chairperson, Chuck Larkin
 - Deadline for articles for Trumpet
 - Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco
 - National Wildland Firefighter Day
 - RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Columbians, Spring Valley, with Pres Stewart Rhymer
 - RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Hillcrest, with Pres Kurt Mulligan
- Fri, Jun 14
Sat, Jun 15

Wed, Jun 25
Wed, Jun 26

Thur, Jun 27
Tue, July 2
Wed, Jul 10
Fri, Jul 12

Future Events

- Sun, Jul 14
Wed, Jul 17

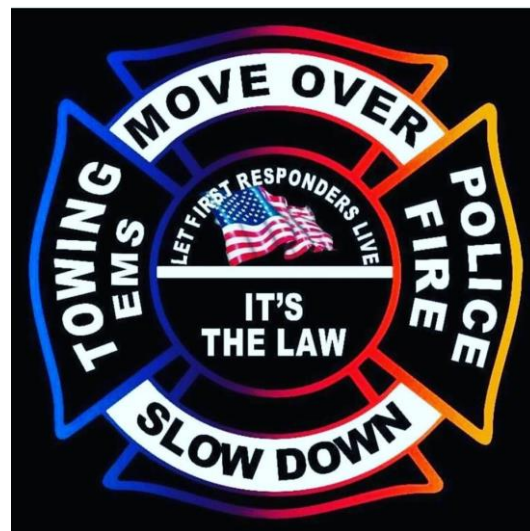
Thur, Jul 18
Sat, Jul 20

Tue, Jul 23
Tue, Jul 30

Wed, Jul 31
- Westchester County VFA, at South Salem FD, 35 S Salem
 - RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at East Spring Valley, with Pres Lisa Castaldo-Gessner
 - RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Tallman, with Pres Chris Kear
 - Never Forget NYPD vs FDNY Heroes Baseball Classic, 6:30 PM, at NY Boulders, mlb.tickets.com \$16.75 each
 - Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at Orangeburg, with Pres Vincent Pacella
 - Orange County VFA, Regular Meeting, Refreshments/Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, at Cronomer Valley FD
 - RCVFA Brd of Dir, @7:30 PM, at Stony Point Fire Dept, with Chairperson, Chuck Larkin

NO JUL/AUG MEETINGS

RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary
Fire Advisory Board
RC Firefighters Emerald Society, No Meeting, Executive Board Only
NJ&NY VFA



To view this newsletter on line, please go to the following web site:

<http://www.rcvfa.com/trumpet.html>

Thanks to Sheryl Rose, Stuart Gates, and John Kryger

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. SherylERose58@gmail.com

Garnerville, NY 10923
PO Box 16
RCVFA TRUMPET



**FROM THE
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



A BUSY MONTH

Since the last production of the Trumpet, we have had a very busy month on many different levels. If my numbers are correct, since May 10th until today (June 10th) we have had 792 fire calls in our county. This includes several structure fires, highlighted by Blauvelt's on Western Highway, a rash of dumpster fires, Bear Mountain Bridge jumper, several vehicles into buildings, a few really bad accidents with extrication as these were highlighted by Nanuet's unique way off the PIP extrication and Tallman's truck vs. truck pin. Throw in wider than normal 'noxious odor' type calls, a backhoe fire that was driven into a pond and several request for the county Haz Mat Team for fuel/fluid leaking and spills. We had the Firefighters Appreciation night at the Boulders (I thank everyone for making it such a great event), Annual Interfaith Memorial Service (thank you Fire Advisory Board) OSHA seminar and webinars and the Orangetown Chiefs Council annual golf outing which always raises funds for a child in need. And in sadness, our county lost SVFD and Columbian Ex Chief Robert Schultz, Hillcrest Ex Chief Robert Polhemus and SW Johnson Ex Chief Howard Mackey. We are aware that things do not seem to be slowing down. We are getting busier with calls, more demands for training and events within our own fire departments. I still can not thank everyone enough for your efforts, involvement, and input. Balance you time and lives and make sure your family comes first. Here's to the great weather coming and enjoying the summer. Stay safe out there.