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EMERGENCY 911



A look inside
the emergency services
& urgent care offerings
in our region

A special section of the Sullivan County Democrat

March 2022 • Section E • Callicoon, NY

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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DEREK KIRK

When the American Legion's Sylvan Sprague Liebla Post 1363 announced their decision to step down from the Ambulance and Volunteer EMS business after 74 years in the Town of Highland, Highland Ambulance Services were formed to ensure a continued accessibility to emergency services for residents of the area.

Originally started by Charles H. Myers in 1948, the American Legion Ambulance services oversaw the town's medical



A divestiture was created between the American Legion Post and the Highland Ambulance Services, allowing continued operation out of the American Legion Post's medical garage, as well as multiple emergency response vehicles and equipment.

From left, Captain of the Highland Ambulance Service and EMT Tony LaRuffa, President of the Highland Ambulance Service and EMT Chris Tambini, Secretary of the Yulan Fire Department Linda Anderson, who joined in 1987 and became the first female, non-veteran member.

emergencies for nearly three quarters of a century.

Consequently, a number of members of the now dissolved emergency service group have stayed and have continued to perform their roles and more within the Highland Ambulance Service.

"These guys, my heart goes out to them because they put in the days, the nights, the holidays, the weekends, being away from their families to keep this thing

going and to keep this town with an ambulance," said President of the Highland Ambulance service Chris Tambini.

Alongside Tambini are the many volunteers who give greatly to their community, including Captain of the Highland Ambulance Service Tony LaRuffa and Linda Anderson, the first female non-veteran member and secretary of the Yulan Fire Department.

According to Tambini, since

joining in 1987 after the services were opened up to non-veteran volunteers, Anderson remains a “wealth of information” for the group.

LaRuffa also has remained integral in operations both on and behind the scenes, according to Tambini.

A new beginning

After the announcement from the American Legion, work on constructing the new Ambulance corps began immediately.

A one-year contract was signed between the Town of Highland and the Highland Ambulance Service. According to Tambini, they plan on renewing the contract once again when the time comes around to do so.

Consisting mostly of the same personnel and emergency equipment, only now operating under the new name, the transition period was quick. Although originally set to take over on January 1, more time to prepare was needed to complete the transfer. The changing of hands was officially completed on February 13 as the new Highland Ambulance Service became operational.

A divestiture was struck between the American Legion



post and the newly formed ambulance service, in which the new service acquired the two ambulances and the ‘fly car’ medical rapid response vehicle, along with other necessary emergency response equipment.

Presently, the Highland Ambulance Service is renting out the American Legion’s garage for storage, which

according to Tambini is paid for by his Town Councilman salary.

Growing Group Needs Support

Since forming, the Highland Ambulance Service has seen growth in membership with the addition of four to five volunteers, and has already answered dozens of emergency calls.

The corps is always seeking

more volunteers to support their community by signing up to assist the new services, according to Tambini.

As they continue to get their feet underneath them financially, donations to assist the growing services are being accepted at P.O. Box number 215, Yulan, NY 12792 Highland Ambulance Services.

9-1-1

A look inside the Emergency Services in our area”

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EDITORIAL

Thank you for always answering the call!

BY JOSEPH ABRAHAM

It was around 11:30 p.m. on a Tuesday night - March 8 to be exact - when I was woken up by sirens and emergency vehicles making their way through Main Street in the Village of Liberty.

I didn't care to be up at the time of night, but my job was simple, roll out of bed, throw on a coat and shoes, grab the camera and head down the street to report on what was going on. I made it to the scene, snapped a few photos and returned home. Easy enough.

The over a dozen fire companies, police and EMS agencies on scene didn't have the luxury I did.

Many of them were already on scene for several minutes, as it was after multiple alarms that I was jerked out of dreamland.

The fire was under control in about an hour, but there was much work to be done, checking rooms within the apartment complex - Barkley Gardens Apartments - where it occurred.

The work of our first responders

and volunteers is truly inspiring. Sometimes they are so good at what they do that you forget that they are risking their lives in order to keep us safe.

The Barkley Gardens Apartments fire is an example of this. Liberty FD Lieutenant Steven Vogler had to bail out a fifth floor window and call Mayday before the room flashed over. A truly scary scene. But thankfully a Monticello FD Ladder Truck was present to rescue him.

The **Sullivan County Democrat** is glad Lt. Vogler is still with us today and thank him and all of our first responders for what they do.

Personally, I am proud of two particular firefighters, Anthony Morgano and Anthony Bertholf, who were on scene and are my coworkers here at the paper. Morgano and Bertholf are in the Roscoe-Rockland and Livingston Manor Fire Departments respectively.

I'm also proud of our Classifieds Manager Janet Will, who was

recently elected as a fire commissioner in Callicoon Center.

Earlier this month, the **Democrat** reported that emergency calls were up in 2021 from the year prior.

In 2020, there were 5,445 fire calls. In 2021 that number increased 18 percent to 6,407.

In 2020, there were 13,228 EMS calls, which increased 12 percent to 14,906 in 2021.

There were 16,596 police calls in 2020, which Farney said was up eight percent in 2021 at 17,967 calls.

In total, there were 39,280 fire, EMS and police calls in 2021. That's an increase of 4,011 calls from 2020.

Furthermore, for 2021, the Sullivan County 911 Center handled a total of 91,625 calls. Some of those calls were for less serious instances, etc.

Sullivan County Public Safety Commissioner Tom Farney told the **Democrat** that the figures reflect that Sullivan is a growing county, with significantly more people living, working and visiting here, and

with that comes more 911 calls.

While the number of calls are going up, the need for volunteers isn't going down.

If you have an interest or can spare some time, consider contacting your local fire company or EMS agency to see how you can become involved.

While the late nights, early mornings, time away from family and hours of training can be tough, there's also the rewarding feeling of helping the community in which you live and the possibility of helping to save someone's life.

Through this booklet, we've tried to do our part in recognizing the work of our peers on the frontlines.

Their commitment to community and keeping us safe cannot be understated, and a simple thank you isn't enough.

In a world sometimes riddled with chaos, we can certainly use more people who are as selfless as all of our first responders.

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Beaverkill Valley FD
1524 Beaverkill Rd.
Lew Beach, NY 12758
Doug Cummings • 439-4199

Bloomingsburg Fire Company
117 Godfrey Rd., PO Box 1039
Bloomingsburg, NY 12721
Justin Arnold • 733-1000

Callicoon Vol. FD
9305 Route 97, PO Box 806
Callicoon, NY 12723
Willie Maxwell • 887-4233

Callicoon Center FD
1669 Gulf Rd., PO Box 144
Callicoon Center, NY 12724
Gary Brockner • 482-3020

★ Claryville Vol. FD
★ 1500 Denning Rd., PO Box 146
★ Claryville, NY 12725
★ **Glenn Vandenberg • 985-7270**

★ Fallsburg FD
★ 10 Railroad Plaza, PO Box 1075
★ South Fallsburg, NY 12779
★ **Jordan Kozachuk • 434-2008**

★ Forestburgh Fire Company No. 1
★ 2539 State Route 42
★ Forestburgh, NY 12777
★ **Zachary Petrowsky • 794-7899**

★ Grahamsville FD
★ 205 Main St., PO Box 331
★ Grahamsville, NY 12740
★ **Ed McCarthy • 985-2260**

★ Hankins-Fremont Center FD
★ 20 Newman Hill Rd., PO Box 164
★ Hankins, NY 12741
★ **Dennis Nash • 887-2028**

★ Highland Lake FD
★ 144 Highland Rd., PO Box 65
★ Highland Lake, NY 12743
★ **Warren Wagner • 557-8788**

★ Hortonville Fire Company
★ 100 Main St., PO Box 71
★ Hortonville, NY 12745
★ **Darryl Emmett • 887-5177**

★ Hurleyville Fire Company
★ 166 Main St., PO Box 357
★ Hurleyville, NY 12747
★ **Charlie Payne • 434-4161**



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Jeffersonville FD
 4903 State Route 52, PO Box 10
 Jeffersonville, NY 12748
Jonathan Mall • 482-4202

Kauneonga Lake E&H
 3574 State Route 55, PO Box 411
 Kauneonga Lake, NY 12749
Mark Pennell • 583-4700

Kenoza Lake FD
 485 Old Taylor Rd., PO Box 51
 Kenoza Lake, NY 12750
George Slater • 482-5676

Lake Huntington Fire Company
 70 County Rd 116, PO Box 352
 Lake Huntington, NY 12752
Mike Pomes • 932-8444

★ Lava Volunteer FD
 ★ 7898 Route 52, PO Box 456
 ★ Narrowsburg, NY 12764
 ★ **Jesse Campfield** • 252-3375

★ Liberty FD
 ★ 256 Sprague Ave.
 ★ Liberty, NY 12754
 ★ **Dawson Curtis** • 295-0236

★ Livingston Manor FD
 ★ 43 Main St., PO Box 867
 ★ Livingston Manor, NY 12758
 ★ **Chris Tuleweit** • 439-4490

★ Long Eddy FD
 ★ 4 Church St., PO Box 73
 ★ Long Eddy, NY 12760
 ★ **James Eaton** • 887-5926

★ Loch Sheldrake FD
 ★ 1280 State Route 52, PO Box 1005
 ★ Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759
 ★ **Pete Carey** • 434-2710

★ Lumberland FD
 ★ 1088 County Route 31, PO Box 91
 ★ Glen Spey, NY 12737
 ★ **Eric Robles** • 856-2041

★ Monticello FD
 ★ 23 Richardson Avenue
 ★ Monticello, NY 12701
 ★ **Jose Mora** • 794-6330

★ Mountindale Fire Company
 ★ 132 Main St., PO Box 49
 ★ Mountindale, NY 12763
 ★ **Andy Millman** • 434-3425

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203 Bridge St., PO Box 184
Narrowsburg, NY 12764
David Casey • 252-3328

Neversink FD
7486 State Route 55, PO Box 627
Neversink, NY 12765
Mike Congelosi • 985-7198

North Branch FD
20 North Branch-Callicoon Center
Hwy., PO Box 28
North Branch, NY 12766
Alan Welton • 482-5134

Rock Hill FD
61 Glen Wild Rd., PO Box 116
Rock Hill, NY 12775
Robbie Green • 794-8961

★ Roscoe/Rockland FD
★ 1964 Old Route 17, PO Box 202
★ Roscoe, NY 12776
★ **Guy Baker** • 607-498-4292

★ Smallwood/Mongaup Valley FD
★ 181 Ballard Rd., PO Box 28
★ Smallwood, NY 12778
★ **Charlie Kalinowski** • 583-5487

★ Summitville FD
★ 3978 Route 209
★ Summitville, NY 12781
★ **Robert Hufcut** • 888-5531

★ Swan Lake FD
★ 52 Stanton Corners Rd., PO Box 177
★ Swan Lake, NY 12783
★ **Don Sherwood** • 292-6918

★ Westbrookville Vol. FD
★ 39 Pine Kill Rd., PO Box 263
★ Westbrookville, NY 12785
★ **Bo Tunno** • 754-8848

★ White Lake Fire Company
★ 1596 State Route 17B, PO Box 51
★ White Lake, NY 12786
★ **Josh Cunningham** • 583-5170

★ White Sulphur Springs FD
★ 3352 State Route 52, PO Box 86
★ White Sulphur Springs, NY 12787
★ **Scott Austin** • 292-5468

★ Woodbourne FD
★ 355 Firehouse Rd., PO Box 45
★ Woodbourne, NY 12788
★ **David Brundage** • 434-6763

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 2 Green St., PO Box 683
 Woodridge, NY 12789
Nolan Akerley • 434-6893

Wurtsboro FD
 54 Pine St., PO Box 457
 Wurtsboro, NY 12790
Dustin Graham • 888-4611

Youngsville FD
 1822 Shandeele Rd., PO Box 78
 Youngsville, NY 12791
James Bingay • 482-3600

Yulan FD
 216 Airport Rd., PO Box 127
 Yulan, NY 12792
Phil Deyermond • 557-8483

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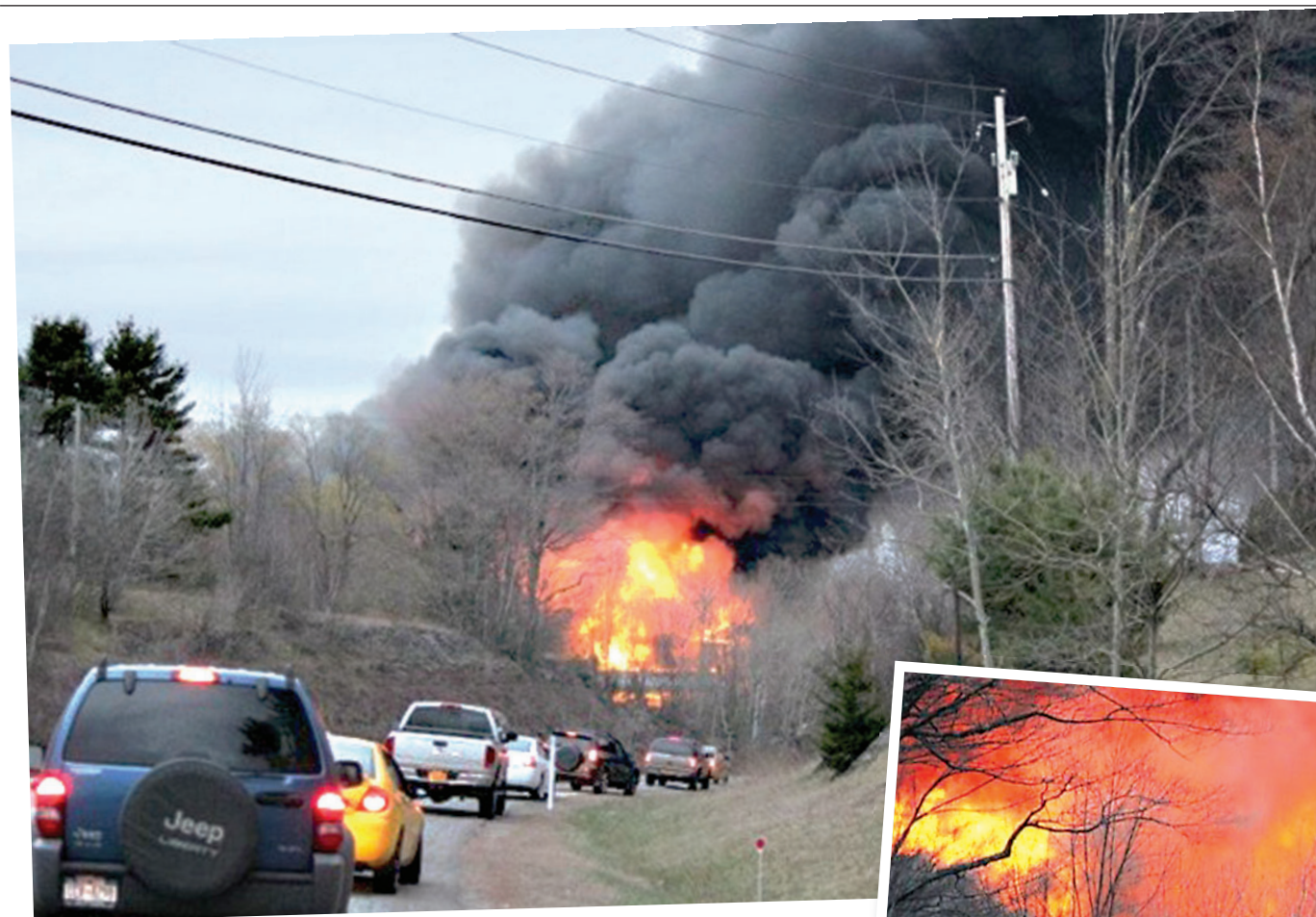
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PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN AITKEN
FOR THE CATSKILL CHRONICLE

One of the largest fires in recent history was the 2012 blaze at Grandview Palace Condominiums. The Loch Sheldrake Fire Department was the lead fire company at the scene, and they were assisted by many local departments in a showing of great teamwork. Almost 10 years later, Grandview still sits vacant on State Route 52.



A partial history of the Loch Sheldrake FD

BY CAROL MONTANA

On September 11, 1922, a meeting was held at the Loch Sheldrake home of J. Morgan Divine. Attended by five people, the meeting concerned the establishment of the Loch Sheldrake Fire District.

Dues were 15 cents per month, and the newly elected commissioners were tasked with raising funds to construct a fire house, buy hoses, and secure the financial future of the new company.

On September 29, a motion was passed for the Town Clerk to hold a special election on November 21 to raise \$3600 for equipment. The proposition was defeated by a vote of 31-21, so the next day the commissioners petitioned the Town Supervisor to levy and collect a tax of



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\$500. The remaining funds needed to be raised via donations.

The following year, the company raised \$950 plus \$169.30 from two dances, and later that year, a motion was passed to raise required funds through a tax levy, a practice that continues to this day.

The first firehouse was built on private property and got a siren on March 10, 1926 at a cost of \$400, and the year 1932 saw the purchase of the company's first fire truck, a Sandford. In 1935, a fire truck first appeared at a parade in Middletown.

The property where the firehouse was located was purchased in 1940.

Even though a vote to purchase a ladder truck was approved by a 12-0 vote in 1945, because of WWII, the truck, an AM LaFrance truck with a 60-foot ladder was not delivered until 1947. It was housed in Russell's Garage, where the floor had to be reinforced to accommodate the weight. The truck cost \$20,000.

In 1949, the company purchased the Loch Sheldrake Schoolhouse, raised



This piece of apparatus has battled many fires in its time.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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CAROL MONTANA | DEMOCRAT

The Loch Sheldrake FD Ladder Truck ready to serve its community.

the roof and added truck bays. The company now had a meeting room and a kitchen. Additional equipment was purchased in 1953 to protect the ever-growing district.

Fast forward to 1962 and the department was outgrowing its home. Planning began to enlarge the firehouse.

In 1966 the department was involved in a successful two-day search for a missing six-year-old boy. That same year, a Ward LaFrance Diesel Pumper was purchased to accommodate the needs of a growing community.

The year 1967 saw a 42nd anniversary dinner, which also honored retiring Chief John Bullock Sr. for 40 years of service. Two years later, the company purchased its first ambulance and built an addition in which to house it.

Property for a 13-acre Firemen's Park on Route 52 was purchased in 1973, and the following year, the department assisted with the filming of the movie "Lenny," starring Dustin Hoffman as iconic comedian Lenny Bruce.

In 1975, three members of the Magee family – Jim Sr., Jim Jr., and Robert Sr. all were line officers at the same time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16E

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15E

Ten years later, the company moved into its present building at 1280 Route 52 in Loch Sheldrake.

Moving forward to 1993, Loch Sheldrake hosted the first of several annual county fire parades, and Fireman Shawn Edwards was recognized as "Fireman of the Year" for his rescue at a car accident at the Morningside Park four corners.

Robert Magee Sr. became the company's second "Fireman of the Year" in 1999, and the company hosted its second county parade, then scored its third parade in 2001 dedicating it as a memorial to the 9/11 victims.

A Federal grant allowed the company to purchase a 35,000-gallon Mac Tanker in 2006. And a 70 Sutphen Platform (quint) was purchased in 2007.

Two major events occurred in 2012. Robert Kacheireiss became "Fireman of the Year" for his rescue of a brother firefighter in Woodbourne the year before. And the department fought its largest ever fire at the Grandview Palace Condominiums, the former Brown's Hotel. Forty-six companies provided mutual aid.

This story captures the department's history through 2012.

Celebrate Loch Sheldrake's 100th Anniversary

Celebration events include a Car Show on July 17 (rain date July 24), an Old-Fashioned Field Day on September 24, and a Golf Tournament on September 25. Other events have not been finalized as of presstime.

Loch Sheldrake Fire Department Officers

Line Officers
Chief - Pete Carey
1st Assistant Chief - Chris Sutowski
2nd Assistant Chief - Dylan Schrader
1st Lieutenant - Sean Schrader
2nd Lieutenant - Robbie Kachelreiss
Captain - Kirk Irwin
Engineer - Aaron Wizwer
Fire Police Captain - Larry Kleinman
Fire Police Lieutenant - Tom Manzolino

Secretary - Amy Barkley-Carey
Treasurer - Harry Barrett
Chaplains - Aaron Wizwer, Gene Huebsch

District Engineer
Lem Austin

District Maintenance Engineer
Ed Magie

Board of Fire Commissioners
Chair - Lori Smith
Co-Chair - Pete Lawrence
Frank Smith
Jeff Weiner
Steve Burke

Charter members
The Loch Sheldrake Fire Department was chartered on September 22, 1922.

Treasurers
Rosetta Austin
Diane Garrett

The Charter Members were:
J. Morgan Divine
August Vitting Sr.
Dwight Gardner
Harold J. Rexford
Leo L. Rexford Sr.
Leslie T. Divine
Guy Yaple
August Vitting Jr.
Harry Gardner
John Bullock Sr.

Secretary
Paige Bakken

Executive Officers
President - Lori Smith
Vice President - Ralph Guarino

Callicoon Center Fire Department Events 2022



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CAROL MONTANA | DEMOCRAT
 Loch Sheldrake Fire
 Department Honor Guard
 at the 2021 Sullivan
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 Parade in Grahamsville.

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★ CALENDAR ★ OF ★ EVENTS ★

APRIL

Sun., April 3 - Jeffersonville FD, Chicken BBQ Takeout
Sun., April 10 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sun., April 17 - Lava FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sun., April 24 - Livingston Manor FD, Pancake Breakfast

MAY

Sat., May 7 - Neversink FD, Annual Dinner; St. Francis Church of Youngsville Penny Social
Sun., May 8 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast; Woodridge FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sun., May 15 - Forestburgh FD, Pancake Breakfast; St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Narrowsburg), Chicken BBQ
Sat., May 21 - Loch Sheldrake FD Gun Raffle
Sun., May 29 - Mountaindale FD, Pancake Breakfast

JUNE

Sun., June 5 - Neversink FD, Horseshoe Tournament
Sat., June 11 - Delaware Masonic Lodge # 561, Chicken BBQ, Fosterdale
Sun., June 12 - Callicoon FD, Pancake Breakfast; Callicoon, Tractor Parade, 12 noon
Sat., June 18 - Hurleyville/Loch Sheldrake FD, Bass Fishing, Morningside
Sun., June 19 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast

JULY

Mon., July 4 - Narrowsburg FD, Annual Parade and Chicken BBQ Takeout
Fri., July 15 - St. Francis Church of Youngsville Giant Bazaar
Sat., July 16 - St. Francis Church of Youngsville Giant Bazaar
Sun., July 17 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sat., July 23 - Kenoza Lake FD, Chicken BBQ;

Jeffersonville FD, Golf Outing; Summitville FD, Golf Outing
Sat., July 30 - Kauneonga Lake FD, Drive-thru Chicken BBQ
Sun., July 31 - Youngsville FD, Pancake Breakfast

AUGUST

Sat., August 6 - Livingston Manor FD, Chicken BBQ, Gun Raffle; Fallsburg FD, Chicken BBQ
Sat., August 13 - Neversink FD, Chicken BBQ
Sun., August 14 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sat., August 20 - Hurleyville FD, Bill Carlson Golf Outing, Tarry Brae
Sun., August 21 - Lava FD, Pancake Breakfast
Fri., August 26 - Neversink FD Softball Tournament
Sat., August 27 - Claryville FD, Open House & Craft Fair/Yard Sale; Forestburgh FD, Roast Beef Dinner; Neversink FD Softball Tournament
Sun., August 28 - Neversink FD Softball Tournament

OCTOBER

Sat., Oct. 1 - St. Francis Church of Youngsville Penny Social
Sat., Oct. 8 - Kenoza Lake FD, Roast Beef Dinner
Sat., Oct. 15 - Jeffersonville FD, Roast Beef Dinner
Sun., Oct. 16 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sun., Oct. 23 - Neversink FD, Fall Breakfast
Sat., Oct. 29 - Youngsville FD, Roast Beef Dinner
Sun., Oct. 30 - Livingston Manor FD Halloween Pancake Breakfast
Mon., Oct. 31 - Hurleyville Halloween Parade

NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov. 6 - Swan Lake FD, French Toast Breakfast; Hurleyville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sat., Nov. 12 - Claryville FD, Breakfast
Fri., Nov. 25 - Jeffersonville Holiday Parade
Sat., Nov. 26 - Claryville FD, Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

SEPTEMBER

Sat., September 17 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bratwurst Dinner, Narrowsburg
Sun., September 18 - Claryville FD, Pancake Breakfast
Sat., September 24 - Loch Sheldrake FD, 100th Anniversary Celebration
Sun., September 25 - Loch Sheldrake FD, 100th Anniversary Celebration & Golf Outing, Lochmor; Neversink FD, Horseshoe Tournament

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 3 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale
Sun., Dec. 4 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale
Sat., Dec. 10 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale
Sun., Dec. 11 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale
Sat., Dec. 17 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale
Sun., Dec. 18 - Highland Lake FD Xmas Tree Sale

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The more time you spend around fire departments, the more you realize how they are just one big found family. From the members of one department being “immediate family” to the other departments that you work with being your “extended family.”

Hurleyville Fire Department, located right in the middle of town, is entering a new tier of the extended family this year, as they celebrate their 100th birthday as a department.

Hurleyville Fire Department, who has been serving the community since 1922, epitomizes the elements of family and department pride. When you walk in the front door, you’re greeted by cases filled to the brim with trophies from parades, softball leagues, darts and bowling as well.

The room to the left, a wide open room used for meetings and connected to the kitchen for their pancake breakfast, is lined with photos and newspaper clippings and plaques that give a brief overview of their one hundred year history.

The most eye-catching piece in the room is “The Mural.” In 1971, the department purchased the Old Hurleyville School, which they owned for 20 years before selling it to Sullivan County for the Sullivan County Historical Society. As a gift, Jeannette Capriano painted “The Mural,” a piece of artwork that encapsulates the history and pride of the department.

The firefighters stand in the forefront of the artwork, flanked by 36 on the right and their hose cart on the left. Pieces of history, the both of them. Thirty-Six was consistently a top parade truck alongside Monticello’s 450 and Woodbourne’s “Mack.” Thirty-Six earned at least 8 Blue Ribbon Trophies in its time, and the hose cart has nabbed its share of trophies as well.

In the background the firehouse stands tall, with a shadow of the Old Hurleyville School adding more elements to the history that the painting is depicting. Newspaper clippings, family photos of the department and portraits of the past and current chiefs line the walls alongside the painting.

Another piece of history, also depicted in the mural, is a sign from the past that was restored and hangs in the truck room.

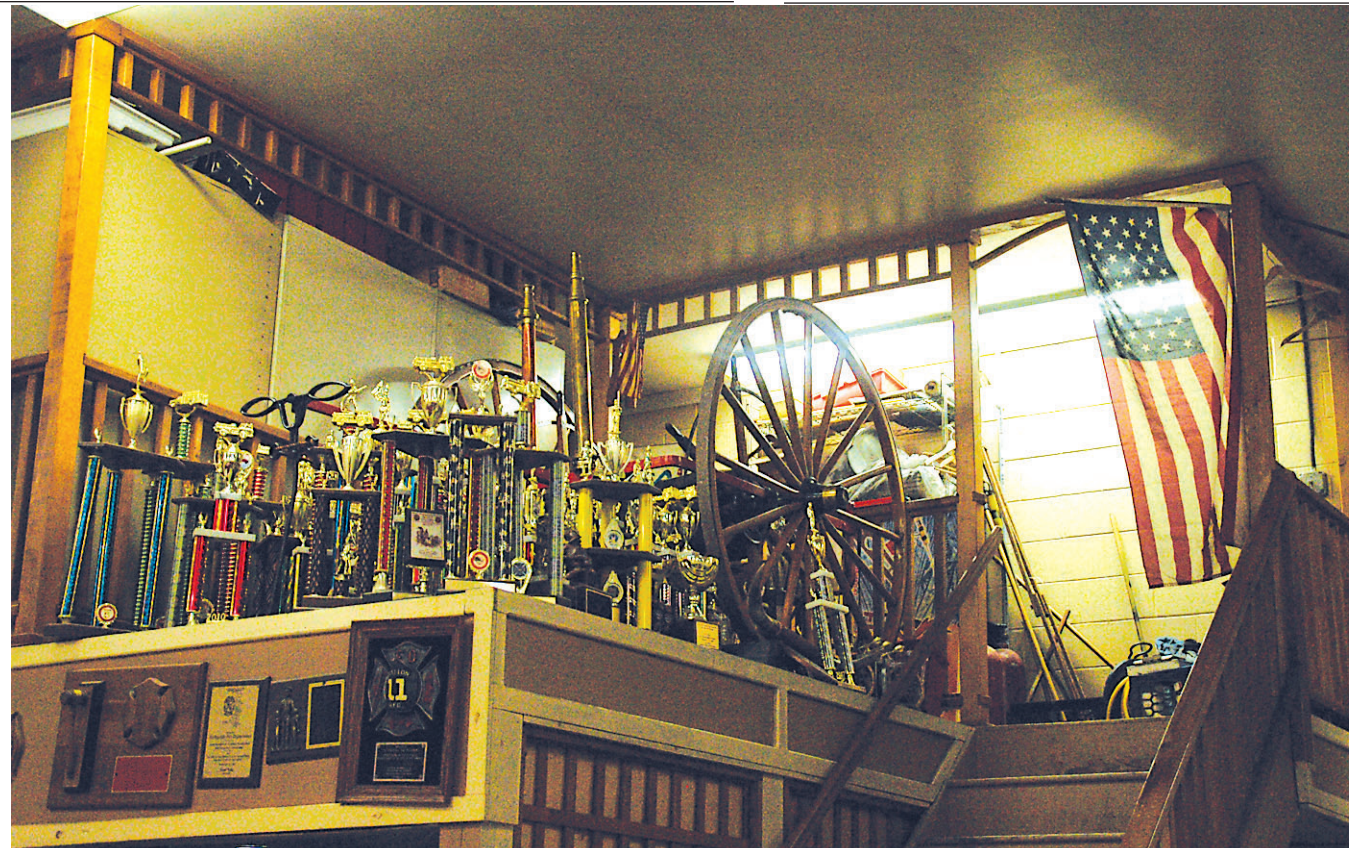
The department currently has around 25 ac-

tive members, a big family that comes together in times of emergency.

Sullivan County Deputy Fire Coordinator - Battalion 3 and Hurleyville FD member, Jack “J.W.” Halchak, spoke to the department’s dedication, saying, “In this area, if anything happens the fire department gets called. You need a toolbox full of tools and training to know how to use them. The guys here know they have to train, train, train and train again, and we do.”

Hurleyville Fire Department President Jim Kaufman said, “We may be a small department but we have a lot of heart. In an emergency, you couldn’t ask for a better group of men and women.”

Charlie Payne, Hurleyville’s Chief, said, “I’ve been in the company for 18 years, with the past two as the chief. It’s more than a family, and when the work needs to get done, it gets done.”



At left: The Hurleyville FD has won so many trophies across the various parades and softball teams over the years that the trophy case is filled up and the rest needed a new home.

Bottom left: 11-31, Hurleyville’s mighty pumper tanker stands ready to assist.

HURLEYVILLE FD

Line Officers

- Chief- Charlie Payne
- 1st Assistant Chief- Fred Froehlich
- 2nd Assistant Chief- Tony Harvey
- Captain- Alan Price
- 1st Lieutenant- Pete Micheletti III
- 2nd Lieutenant- Michael Spinelli
- Captain of the Fire Police: Eddie Ayala
- Executive Officers:
- President- Jim Kaufman
- Vice President- Miranda Behan
- Treasurer- John Jaycox
- Secretary- Erica Payne
- Officer at Large- Roger Dainack

Active Members

- Edwin Ayala
- John Barton
- Corey Barry
- Thomas Becerril
- Ron Besimer
- Ralph Burger
- John Cole
- Joshua Conlon
- Stephen Crown

- Bruce Dainack
- Roger Dainack
- Nelson Durland
- Laurie Feldman
- Fred Froehlich
- Rosemarie Froehlich
- Chris Gibson
- George Gibson
- Austin Halchak
- J.W. Halchak
- Anthony Harvey
- Barry Herzbrun
- John Jaycox
- Jim Kaufman
- Pete Micheletti
- Charles Payne
- Erica Payne
- Alan Price
- George Price
- Mike Schapiro
- Summer Sherwood
- Michael Spinelli
- James Sullivan
- Bernard Woloszek
- Roy (Porkey) Worden

Below: Make a wish. Hurleyville’s 11-11 Engine rests in the bay awaiting the whistle.

Below middle: 11-61, the Hurleyville Fire Department’s Rescue truck carries equipment and tools for the various emergencies that our first responders are dispatched to.

Bottom: A piece of HFD history. This relic was discovered and restored and now hangs proudly in the truck bay.



Hurleyville FD turns 100

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANTHONY MORGANO



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Hurleyville FD Wall of Honor



"The Mural" sits prominently in the center of the meeting room. The elements of the artwork depict just some of the Hurleyville Fire Department's 100-year history.

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Performing Arts Centre
Celebrates**

**Hurleyville Fire Co. #1's
100 Year Anniversary**



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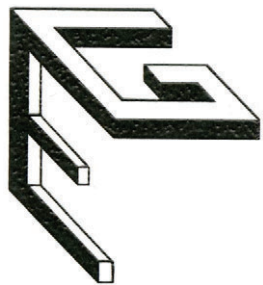
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Congratulations On 100 Years Strong!

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What is new at the E911 Center?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Center employs an array of monitors that help dispatchers stay on top of emergency calls in Sullivan County.

BY PATRICIO ROBAYO

The 911 Center was at the forefront of every emergency call in Sullivan County before the pandemic, and then continued once COVID-19 hit our county. They were ready and able to adapt to continue to provide the level of service they had in the past.

Alex Rau, E911 Coordinator and EMS Coordinator, said one of the biggest fears when the pandemic hit was that the whole 911 center would get infected; what would happen to the 911

Center?

Rau spoke to the **Democrat** about challenges and the changes needed to be made. Here is an edited excerpt from that conversation.

Q: How much of a challenge was the pandemic for the 911 Center, and how did you adapt?

A: It challenged 911, not only in Sullivan County but across the state. We're a mission-critical operation, and we have staff that lives in everyday society and are exposed to the same pathogens that we are, so, you know when this pandemic

broke, there's obviously a big fear.

911 operation is a very niche operation, and we don't have a lot of extra dispatchers. We have enough staff to fill the role and fill the mission. But there was a lot of concern about dispatchers going out and contracting Coronavirus early on and bringing it back into the center.

We saw it on the news that public safety agencies like fire departments and ambulance companies across the state and the nation had to shut their doors because the virus ravaged through the department, where they had no more manpower left. So early on, we had to come up with a plan.

Q: What was the plan?

A: In the early days, when we first opened the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), John Liddle was our pandemic coordinator, the incident commander for the pandemic operation, and he said to me, 'how are we going to protect 911?' I kind of came up with a plan of...why don't we separate? We have a backup location center in Liberty. We put half of them in one place and the other half of them in another and ask them not to co-mingle.

Q: How long does it take to become a 911 operator?

A: The training process is a three-month program with on-the-job training.

We also sprinkle in some online training as well, and they get paired with a senior dispatcher or supervisor.

And then, somewhere around six months, we generally let them start to work by themselves. Every day is different as a 911 dispatcher; there's a lot to learn, there's a lot to absorb. It's not always possible for you to know everything during the training period.

It takes a special person to be a 911 dispatcher; it's very technology-intensive, there's a lot of multitasking to be done.

The dispatchers we have take continuous education and take anywhere between 20 and 30 hours of training. Whether that's learning about the latest OnStar technology or interfacing with helicopters, there's always some training to be had.

Q: In the 26 years in the industry, I am sure you

have seen a lot of changes?

A: Yeah, 26 years ago, everything was done with a paper and pen. When a call came in, we wrote it down on a piece of paper, and we dispatched it with radios that were a generation passed. We didn't have the redundancy and the ability to network our radios. We basically had a little office phone with a couple of lines on it and a caller ID box.

Then in 2000, we became 911 and was able to get more information, and everything started to go computer-based, which was a game-changer. It's evolving, and it's going to continue to evolve.

Nowadays, everything is so mobile, and unfortunately, the technology is growing so quickly that it's been difficult for the 911 industry to keep up with it.

All those devices are gaining the ability to call 911 directly, so if your dryer catches on fire, it has heat sensors in it, and it automatically dials 911 to say, "Hey, I'm on fire send help." How do we know where that is, what address is that at?

We're moving into what's called Next Generation 911 or NG 911. There are several committees at the state level looking at the technologies, and

JOSEPH ABRAHAM | DEMOCRAT

Alex Rau, E911 Coordinator and EMS Coordinator, gives an update at a meeting of the County Legislature.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25E

how do we pair that with the capabilities of the 911 centers across the state.

Q: All these new technologies you have to deal with now....Is the ability of cell phones and smart-watches to call 911 a hindrance sometimes?

A: Yes, we find it primarily in the Apple phones; they have an SOS feature, if you sit on the home button for too long, or if you press two buttons in succession, an SOS feature is enabled in your iPhone, and it ends up dialing 911.

We have a lot of people who just habitually might click their home button a couple of times, just to clear their screen, and they end up putting their phone into an SOS mode, which dials 911 and often-times, they have no emergency and do not even know

they are doing it.

We have to send a police officer to the area where your phone is; if we get one of those calls, we want to make sure that our residents are okay, there's no accident.

Q: What can be done?

A: The public can help us in a big way by becoming familiar with that feature, evaluating how their phone works, and realizing whether they need that feature enabled; we get at least 1,000 calls a year with this SOS feature.

We get a lot of uninitialized phone calls. If you shut off service to your cell phone, many people think it is a dead phone and their kids end up playing with it.

But what happens is, carriers aren't allowed to shut off 911; even though that phone has been taken off the network, the 911 service has to remain intact.

One kid might be playing with it and dials 911 accidentally; now we have no record of who does that phone belong to because there's no phone number attached to it anymore. That tends to tie us up having to deal with those phone calls as well.

We want to avoid this so that we're not tying up dispatchers on frivolous calls when we should be focusing on emergencies.

FILE PHOTO

The 911 Center provides all residents of and visitors with dispatch services for all fire, EMS and police emergency calls.



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Care Center
at Sunset Lake Rehab



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Village of Liberty Police department is one of around 60 police departments in New York State that are utilizing the Hope Not Handcuffs program.

Police departments partnering with public health advocates to offer hope

BY MATT SHORTALL

When someone is suffering from a substance use disorder, the first step toward recovery is often the hardest to take. One program is partnering with local law enforcement agencies to help make that first step toward treatment a little easier.

Hope Not Handcuffs, an initiative started in Michigan by Families Against Narcotics (FAN), looks to bring law enforcement and community organizations together to find viable treatment options for people to reduce dependency on any substance, whether it is heroin, prescription drugs or alcohol.

FAN partners with Hope Not Handcuffs in New York, which runs independently and is a program of the nonprofit Tri County Community Partnership.

Anyone can walk into a police station or approach a police officer to seek help without the fear of being arrested. They are connected with an “Angel” volunteer and a network of resources designed to lead them to recovery rather than arrest.

Officers work to divert individuals facing certain low-level non-violent drug crimes into treatment rather than into the criminal justice system.

Annette Kahrs, Program Director of Hope Not Handcuffs, says they have over 600 Angel

Volunteers working across six counties in New York with around 60 different police departments.

Kahrs said that every police department they've worked with has originally approached them about the program. After training supervisors and police officers, some departments pick it up and run with it. Kahrs says that the Village of Liberty Police Department is one of those.

“There’s need everywhere. Liberty has no more need for the program than Monticello or Ramapo or Haverstraw or Middletown,” Kahrs explained. “We all have the same problems ... but [the program] is going great in Liberty.”

Kahrs said they’ve had walk-ins

to the Liberty Police Department on Main Street, but officers are also trained to utilize the program in the field as they see fit. Officers carry cards that they can distribute that can inform people where to find help.

“Systemically, the first thought of someone who is using drugs is not about going to the police for help,” Kahrs said. “It is a trust based program and Liberty has demonstrated that.”

Kahrs said they’ve also had people utilize the program who heard about it through the Monticello Police Department.

“In the end they’re accessing substance use treatment through law enforcement. It doesn’t matter if they walk through the doors



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO
Annette Kahrs,
Program Director
of Hope Not
Handcuffs, says
the program has
been effective in
connecting peo-
ple with sub-
stance use disor-
ders to treat-
ment facilities.



of the police department or if they approach an officer for help," she said.

The program, which started in Sullivan County last summer, has received a lot of support from local partnerships between the District Attorney's Office and the Sullivan County Drug Task Force, as well as other local law enforcement agencies.

"Sullivan County has been amazing - from county officials like Wendy Brown to District Attorney Megan Galligan," Kahrs said. "Everyone from the police departments to public health and probation departments — it's amazing how they've embraced what we're trying to do."

Offering direction

Detective Sergeant Austin Sauer of the Village of Liberty Police Department said the program has been going well and they've been able to connect people in need with necessary treatment facilities.

"The Hope Not Handcuffs pro-

gram has really given officers a direction to go, even with something as simple as making a phone call," explained Sauer. "It's taken the burden off of law enforcement and moved it to people who are trained to know what to do and how to do it."

Sauer says that substance use disorders remain prevalent and they often see the impact on families and the wider community.

"Addiction doesn't discriminate. I see it everyday. It affects more people than I'd like to admit," Sauer said, "The program has really reduced the time between when a person decides they want help and when they actually receive help."

Volunteers make a difference

Lindsay Wheat is an Angel Volunteer with deep roots in Sullivan County. Wheat works as an outreach coordinator for Sullivan 180, which is a local non-profit organization dedicated to improving Sullivan County's state health rankings.

Wheat is also a member of the Monticello Fire Department. She said that she sometimes responds to three overdose calls a day.

"I don't want to drive away from a scene anymore feeling like there's nothing I can do, so I joined this beautiful program and I'm watching it work," Wheat said about Hope Not Handcuffs. "Instead of driving away I'm watching them be driven to a facility for help."

Wheat says it can be hard to get help for a substance use disorder

and sometimes she'll be on the phone for hours trying to find a bed in a facility.

"I feel like that can be discouraging for someone who is in need of help, but that's why we're here. We do that work for them." Wheat said, "We don't give up. I don't leave their side until I know that they're on their way to a bed."

More information is available at www.hopenothandcuffshv.com. They can be reached by telephone at (833)428-HOPE.

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PHOTO BY CAROL MONTANA | DEMOCRAT

White Lake gearing up for 2022 parade

The Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association's Annual Parade is one of the most anticipated events of the year. The White Lake Fire Company (pictured at last year's parade in Grahamsville) will be this year's hosts. The

parade is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. Lineup is at noon and step off is at 1 p.m. The Sullivan County Democrat will once again have a special section dedicated to the parade that will be out in September. So stay tuned!



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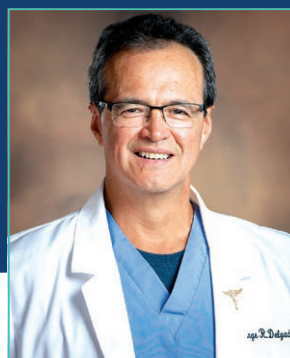
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Narrowsburg, NY 12764

★ Roscoe • 607-498-5300
★ c/o SP Liberty, NY 12754

★ Wurtsboro • 888-2681
★ 2954 ST RT 209
★ Wurtsboro, NY 12790

★ Sullivan County Sheriff's Office & Jail
★ 58 Old Route 17
★ Monticello, NY 12701
★ Jail: 794-7102
★ Civil Division: 791-7979
★ Patrol: 794-7100
★ **Michael A. Schiff - Sheriff**

★ **Town and Village Departments**

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★ 19 Railroad Plaza
★ PO Box 2019

★ South Fallsburg, NY 12779
★ (845) 434-4422

★ **Chief Simmie Williams**

★ Village of Liberty
★ 159 North Main St.
★ Liberty, NY 12754
★ (845) 292-4422

★ **Chief Steven D'Agata**

★ Village of Monticello
★ 2 Pleasant St.
★ Monticello, NY 12701
★ (845) 794-4422

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PHOTOS BY CAROL MONTANA | DEMOCRAT

Above: The State Police participated in the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association's Annual Parade last September. This year's fire parade will take place in White Lake.



At right: Members of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Color Guard marched in the SCVFA's Parade in Grahamsville last September. Filling in for one of their officers was Undersheriff Eric Chaboty (at left).

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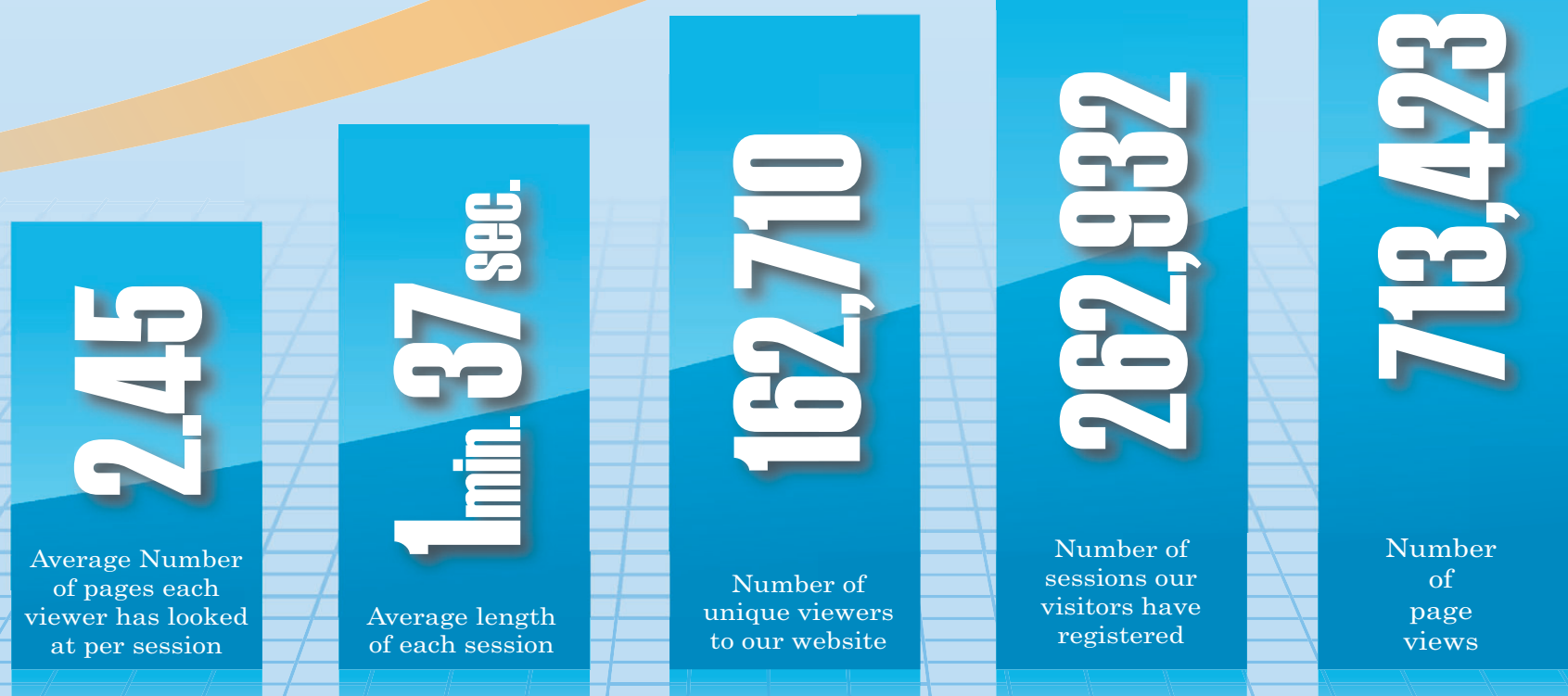
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White Lake, NY 12786
Captain Charlie Stackhouse •
583-5004

Catskills Hatzalah
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Brooklyn, NY 11230
Captains Yehuda Feig, Yomtov Malik, Eli Serebrowski & Bernie Gips •
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Town of Cochecton Vol Ambulance Corps, Inc.
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Lake Huntington, NY 12752
Captain Mike Bruce • 932-8138

Grahamsville First Aid Squad, Inc.
PO Box 152,
Grahamsville, NY 12740
Captain Desiree Jimenez • 985-2839

Jeffersonville Volunteer First Aid Corps, Inc.
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Jeffersonville, NY 12748
Captain Ruth Ackermann • 482-3110

Lumberland Fire Department, Inc.
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Captain Faith Robles • 856-7515

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Captain Rebecca Goodman • 888-2544

Mountandale Fire Department First Aid Squad,
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Mountandale, NY 12763
Captain Norman Prentice • 434-3425

Neversink Fire Department, Inc.
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Captain Michael Ryan, Jr. • 985-7198

★ Roscoe & Rockland Volunteer
★ Ambulance Corp
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★ Roscoe, NY 12776
★ **Captain Karrie Jara •** (607)498-4600

★ Rock Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
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★ Rock Hill, NY 12775
★ **Captain Neal Meddaugh •** 794-6985

★ Sullivan Paramedicine, Inc.
★ (MobileMedic)
★ PO Box 1,
★ Hurleyville, NY 12747
★ **Captain Albee Bockman •** 436-9111

★ Highland Ambulance Service
★ P.O. Box 215,
★ Yulan, NY 12792
★ **Captain Tony LaRuffa •** 557-0511

★ Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc.
★ PO Box 34,
★ Narrowsburg, NY 12764
★ **Captain Jason Welton •** 252-3336

★ Upper Delaware Ambulance Corps, Inc.
★ PO Box 258,
★ Hankins, NY 12741
★ **Captain Connor Duffy •** 887-6070

★ Volunteer Ambulance Corps of Livingston Manor Inc.
★ PO Box 1,
★ Livingston Manor, NY 12758
★ **Captain Joel Sherwood •** 439-4150

★ Woodbourne Fire Company No. 1, Inc.
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★ Woodbourne, NY 12788
★ **Captain Insley Unger •** 434-6763



CAROL MONTANA/DEMOCRAT

The Roscoe-Rockland Volunteer Ambulance Corps, was one of several EMS agencies at the Annual Fire Parade last September. See a list of local EMS agencies above.

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Our first responders not only give their time and talents to keep us safe, but also partake in many community events. The Youngsville Fire Department decorated this truck for last Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jeffersonville.

CENTENNIAL CONGRATULATIONS **100**

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Everyday, first responders go beyond the call of duty to help keep our communities safe. We at Formaggio are grateful for the work they do, especially Hurleyville Fire Co. #1 and Loch Sheldrake Fire Department where we have been doing business for nearly 20 years. We want to show them what they mean to us for having our back. These people are heroes, we know it and acknowledge it.

One of the most important parts of being a First Responder is to be ready to risk your life for a stranger at any point in time. They risk their lives for others without any hesitation and can always be counted on. We should all be grateful that there are people like these in our lives. Thank you for sacrificing yourself to save others. Every. Day.

There's no greater love than selfless service to humanity. A lot of people forget that first responders like firefighters work tirelessly to protect us every single day. Their commitment to our communities never ceases, no matter how tired they are, physically or mentally. Thank you for saving lives and property. We hope you know how much we love and appreciate you, especially in this year of your Centennial celebration!



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