

THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

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RCVFA BIO TOWN VP RAMAPO



Frank_Bifulco Vice Chair Board Of Directors

RCVFA Ramapo Town Vice President Frank Bifulco is a 53-year member of the Rockland County fire service starting his career in 1970 with the Sloatsburg Fire Department where he lived most of his youth. In 1972 he moved to Spring Valley and joined the Columbian Engine Co. where he was a member until he again relocated to Mt. Ivy and joined the Hillcrest Fire Company #1. Frank is a Life member of Hillcrest FD where he held every line position including Chief of the Department (2003-2005) and today is the Department Chaplain and Safety officer. Frank is the recipient of several awards from the Hillcrest Fire Company including the President's award (2017) Firefighter of the year (2019) and the Chief's award (2021). With all this going on Frank still found time to be a life member of the RCVFA, RCFCA. He is a founding & Charter member of the Rockland County Association of Fire Chaplains where he served as Chief Chaplain for 3 years and now holds the position of Association Secretary. Frank is also the Vice Chairman of the Rockland County Fire Advisory Board representing RCVFA. Frank is a member of the Rockland County Fire Police Association where he is their recording secretary.

Frank retired from ConEd in 2013 after 43 years of service. In his spare time he is a New York State and Rockland County Fire Instructor at the Rockland County Fire Training Center hired in 1987.

With all this busy responsibility he still finds time to travel each summer with his wife Luann (Hillcrest Ladies Aux. Treasurer) in their motor home with his dog Diesel to all parts of the country. Some of his favorite places to visit are the Jersey Shore and the mountain of West Virginia. Frank has 3 grown children to be proud of. Frank Jr. daughter Maggie and his youngest son Michael who is FDNY assigned to Engine 48 in the Bronx. Frank vows to continue to serve the Fire service of Rockland County as long as he is blessed to do so.

Thank you to my family and all the people who support me in my efforts to help other.

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



Chief, I need to borrow this axe.
I'm going home to sip a few
cold ones and now that the wife
is done with the kitchen, she
can start on the wood pile.

FIRE COORDINATORS AS OF 10-18-23

- 44-1, Christopher Kear
- 44-2, Ray Redmond
- 44-3, Fred Simms
- 44-4, Michael Stark
- 44-5, Jason DiSalvo
- 44-6, Tommy McKiernan
- 44-7, Robert LaGrow
- 44-8, Christopher Jackson
- 44-9, Matthew Stritmater
- 44-10, Adam Feuer (Chief of Communications 44-Control-Sheriff's Dept.)
- 44-11, John Kryger
- 44-12, Peter Byrne
- 44-13, Kenny Conjura
- 44-18, Dan Moran (Hazardous Materials)

VETERAN'S NIGHT
FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 10, 2023
7:30PM



RCVFA MEETING
WAYNE HOSE CO. #1
25 N. LIBERTY DR.
STONY POINT, NY

ROCKLAND COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION



UNITED STATES VETERAN RECOGNITION NIGHT

President Kurt Mulligan and the RCVFA Board of Director's Cordially Invites any Rockland County Firefighter that Has Served or Currently Serves in the United States Armed Forces to Attend Our November 10th RCVFA meeting to be Thanked and Recognized for Your Service to Our Great Country!

FIRE POLICE AWARD



John 'Jack' Coyle was honored today at our picnic luncheon, receiving the Robert J Huslinger award for Fire Police Officer of the year. He is a New City, RC, and NY fire police member.

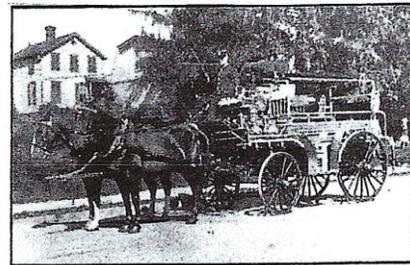
DRIVERS MOVE OVER LAW EXPANDED

Drivers in NY State now have stricter move over rules to follow, while stranded motorists now have added protections. The new law now includes disabled vehicle stopped on the sides of highways. Motorists must exercise due care and take actions to avoid collisions when approaching vehicles that are parked or stopped on the shoulder of a parkway or controlled access highway.

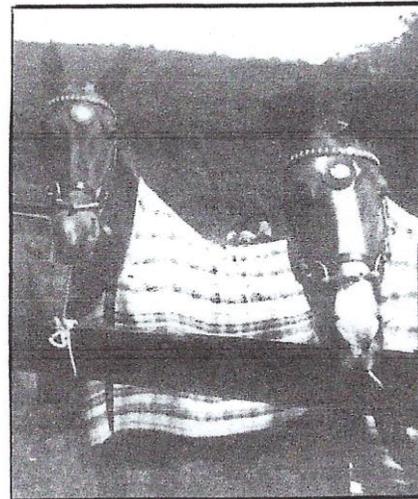
Since 2012, the law has protected law enforcement officers, emergency workers, tow service operators and maintenance workers stopped along roadways while performing their duties. The law requires motorists to reduce their speed and move over from the lane if safely possible. The expanded law takes effect in 2024. -Jim Hartwick

TURN BACK THE CLOCK

**Mazeppa Engine Co. No. 2
Nyack Fire Department**



1904 Seagrave Chemical Wagon



Harry and Dick

EMS FIRE PRO WEEKEND

If you are looking for a good weekend, close to home, great training and lots of fun consider the EMSFIREPRO weekend. Best of all, it is at Foxwoods Casino, about a 2 ½ hr ride from Rockland. Great speakers, well organized and simply a high quality weekend with Fire and EMS Brothers and Sisters. Next year's conference is 23-25 Oct 2024 at Foxwoods in Connecticut. Check out their website for details. This year's conference was excellent! Taking the wife and winning \$300 at the casino really helped make the weekend a success. Next year the water park will be open if you want to bring the kids. -Jerry Knapp

FOAM TRUTHS

There is a great deal of rumors surrounding the disposal of foam concentrates that contain PFOS and PFAS compounds. These compounds are called "forever chemicals" and are persistent in the environment (that is bad, they don't break down) and banned from sale in NY. Currently, we still can use existing foam concentrates for firefighting but responsible party may be liable for very expensive clean-up costs. Here are a few facts to help you out.

On Thursday 28 Sept 2023, I spoke with the Director of Emergency Management from NY DEC about what we should do to replace our foam. He is the program director for foam and was returning from a spill when he called. Bullet points follow.

1. Dispose of our old foam either thru a contractor or Household Hazardous Waste (at the FTC).
2. DO NOT use it for training, this is specifically illegal in NY. Legal to use for fires.
3. Triple rinse your foam tank but capture and dispose of the waste water as a hazardous waste.
4. Refill your foam tank with fluorine free foam.
5. There are currently no state or federal regulations defining what the level must be for PFAS/PFOS in rinse water.

OTHER FACTS

1. Per NY DEC: The above process is within current guidelines and is what a reasonable person would do.
2. Consider the level of dilution(s). Triple rinse then complete refilling of the tank then dilution (almost) 100 to 1 when you make finished foam.
3. PFAS is included in a lot of water proof/resistant fabrics like rain coats.
4. Large quantities of foam will be needed quickly for flammable liquid fires in your industrial buildings, highway accidents and railway emergencies.

FOUR GAS FACTS (Oxygen)

We all have a four-gas meter for CO and gas leaks. The most important sensor in your instrument is the oxygen sensor. No not because we need oxygen to live, although it is pretty significant! **Your oxy sensor will detect many other gases.** Here is how it works. Normal atmospheric oxygen is 20.9% in air. A drop in 1% oxygen from 20.9 down to 19.9% means there is 50,000 parts per million (ppm) of something else in the air where you are sampling. Here is the math: 1% of any gas is 10,000ppm. Since oxygen is 1/5th of our atmosphere we need to multiply 10,000 x 5= 50,000ppm. What the heck is 50,000 ppm of a toxic gas? Here are a few numbers to compare. The IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) number for Chlorine is 10ppm, for ammonia 300 ppm, hydrogen cyanide 50 ppm. If you were not paying attention you inhaled 50,000ppm of something. So, if you waltzed into a strange odor in the building without your mask on and you were not looking at your oxy reading, you could have taken

a big toxic feed in just a couple breaths! Watch your oxy meter closely. Wearing your mask is a good idea as well! **FOUR GAS FACTS (Ever wonder....)**

We use a 4-gas meter for gas leaks and CO calls. Ever wonder why it has a clip on the back? Sure, so you can clip it on your gear! That means it is a personal monitor, to monitor the air around your personal breathing zone. **Your 4 gas is NOT an explosive gas detector!** Ever wonder why you have been at gas leaks, smelled gas (odorant) and your meter read zero? **The catalytic bead sensor is blind to about 2% lower explosive limit (LEL).** Every hazmat instrument has a weakness. Cat bead sensors are weak at low level detection. Ever wonder why your 4 gas alarms at 10% LEL? It is because that is the confined space standard. There is no state or national standard for mandatory evacuation for flammable gases. Ever wonder why your 4-gas has an oxygen, flammable gas and two toxic sensors (usually CO and H2S)? For confined space you are required to monitor for oxy and flammable gas and other toxics that maybe present. CO and H2S are common toxics. Ever wonder why some FDs, like FDNY, use a second instrument for flammable gas calls? Most major FDs, like FDNY pair up their 4-gas with a metal oxide based sensor/instrument. The metal oxide sensor can detect very low levels of gas (odorant) into the 10ppm range. This covers the blind spot that your cat bead sensor has. BTY...every utility in the US has a sensor that can detect low levels, just like the metal oxide can. Sensit Technologies makes a gas detector with both low and high level detection capabilities and 4 gas capability, it is a Gold G2.

FOUR GAS FACTS (Cross sensitivities)

So you go to a CO call and sure enough you are getting high CO readings, 100-200ppm. The boiler checks out. No fireplace. No cooking going on. Car is not running in the garage and the occupants have no symptoms. **It is important to know that your CO sensor is also sensitive to propane, acetylene and hydrogen. If you read the manual that came with the instrument you would know this and look like a super star at this call.**

So what did the super star do? He looked for sources of these gases. Maybe it was a propane line run underground from the buried tank that leaked in. As the gas passed thru the soil the odorant was scrubbed out. Or it could have been the sump pump 12volt back up lead acid battery that was over charged and drove off hydrogen from the acid in the battery. Or it could be a small leak from an acetylene tank that was being used for home or car repairs in the attached garage. Cross sensitivities, pretty important to understand.

FOUR GAS (Natural Gas)

Hazmat experts recommend you be on air if you have a meter in your hand and are trying to detect something in the air. This is especially important if you are called to an unknown odor. Sure it could be a dead rat in the attic or a toxic chemical that may give you all kinds of cancer in 20 years. Unknowns require you to use your mask. So why don't we go on air for natural gas calls? Technically we should. However, most humans can smell the odorant in natural gas at less than 1part per million (ppm). 1 ppm is equivalent to 1/16" to one mile. 1/16th inch is 1 ppm and a mile from that is 1 million ppm. Now I am not telling to go sniffing for natural gas but your nose is a pretty good detector. The nose knows but you must partner it up with a good explosive gas detector, one with a metal oxide sensor for low level detection. - Jerry Knapp

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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Thomas Aquinas College is proud to announce a partnership with its community fire department to offer tuition scholarships to volunteers who become firefighters at the Sparkill-Palisades Fire Department.

The agreement was signed Oct. 30 at the Sparkill-Palisades Fire Department by Kenneth Daly, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College and John Bruen of The John Paulding Engine Company, Inc.

“The importance of a college education is greater now than ever and we are committed to providing access to affordable education in order to help change the lives of dedicated volunteers in our local community,” said Ken Daly.

According to Mike Yannazzone, Acting Chief of Sparkill-Palisades Fire Department, back in August, he met with Mike DiBartolomeo, Vice President for Enrollment Management at St. Thomas Aquinas College, who indicated that the College was interested in creating an agreement that would provide scholarships for a 50% tuition discount to any volunteer firefighter in good standing, and a 25% discount to their spouses or children/grandchildren. Yannazzone stated, “This is, by far, one of the most significant incentive programs developed by a private organization in the interests of volunteer firefighter recruitment in Rockland County.”

It is well known that the model and structure of the Rockland County fire service, and residually the level of efficiency in which they provide services, have been in danger because of the low enrollment of volunteer firefighters for some time. The Rockland Fire Preservation Task Force, an independent and unaffiliated advocacy group formed in late 2022, has recently been making a concerted effort and push to various organizations throughout the County (particularly fire district governing boards and associations) to raise significant awareness about volunteer firefighter staffing and department/district models contributing to the present-day decline of efficient and effective service, both administratively and operationally.

Yannazzone added, “It is through efforts and partnerships with organizations like St. Thomas Aquinas College that will proactively encourage volunteerism within our ranks. It is hopeful that this joint initiative will serve as a model for others.”

About St. Thomas Aquinas College

St. Thomas Aquinas College is an independent liberal arts college located on 76 acres in Rockland County, NY, providing education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The College’s diverse student body of approximately 2,000 full and

part-time students can choose from over 100 majors, minors, and specializations across four Schools: Arts & Social Sciences, Business, Education, and STEM. The College is recognized by U.S. News & World Report in the Top-Tier for Regional Universities, and by Colleges of Distinction in its New York edition for Business, Education, and Career Development. St. Thomas Aquinas College is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; its School of Education is accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), and its School of Business is accredited by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE). For more information, visit www.stac.edu

Chief Mike Yannazzone Jr,

WE MOURN THEIR PASSING



Joseph Saltzman, died Oct. 9, 2023, age 54. He was a 30-year member of Brewer Fire Engine Co. Monsey. He was also a RVFA Member joining 2022



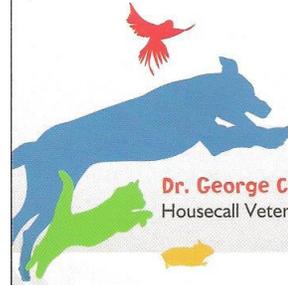
Jack Burkert died Oct. 18, 2023, age 65. Jackie served as a member of Cosgriff Hose Co #4 Haverstraw, Wayne Hose Company #1 Stony Point, and the Lederle Lab Fire Brigade and Haz Mat Team. After relocating to Georgia, he became a paid Firefighter for the Alpharetta Fire Department. He was also an RCVFA Life Member Joined 1978



George M. Mulligan, CPA

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CALENDAR**LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 11/29/2023**

- Fri, Nov 10 ● RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at **Stony Point FD**, with Pres. **Kurt Mulligan**
- Sat, Nov 11 ● Veterans Day, Honor All Americans, who served in uniform
- Wed, Nov 15 ● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Sloatsburg, with Pres Carol Cich
- Thur, Nov 16 ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Tappan, with Pres. Kevin Huslinger
- Westchester County VFA, Larchmont Fire Dept, 7 PM
- Fri, Nov 17 ● Orangetown Fire Co#1 Ladies Auxiliary, Evening with Physic Medium Lisa Morrison, doors open 6 PM, Event 7-9 PM, 90 Depot Pl, Nyack, \$55 per, includes soda, water, refreshments, & Desert, BYOB, CASH/CHEHECKS Payable to Ladies Aux Orangetown fire Co#1, c/o Pat Abrams. Treas, 12 Sand St, Garnerville, NY 10923, 845-304-1327
- NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at New Milford Fire Co#1, 249 Center St, New Milford, NJ 07646, with Pres Roy DeYoung, 1 week early due to Thanksgiving
- Mon-Tue, Nov 20-21 ● SW Johnson Ladies Auxiliary, Thanksgiving Day Homemade Carrot Cake Sale, 2.5 Lb \$20, Pre-Order, Pre-Pay, 222-8486 or SWJLadies@gmail.com pickup either Mon or Tue 5-7 PM, cash, check, VENMO (SWJ-Ladies)
- Thur, Nov 23 ● Thanksgiving
- Tue, Nov 28 ● Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, Hillcrest FD, with Pres. Vincent Pacella
- OCVFA, Regular Meeting, Refreshments/Dinner 7 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM at Pocatello-Mount Hope Fire Co.
- Wed, Nov 29 ● RCVFA Board of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100 Hillcrest Fire House, with Chairman Chuck Larkin
- Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Dec 5, 1928 ● Stuart Gates Birthday
- Fri, Dec 8 ● RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Nanuet FD, with Pres. Kurt Mulligan
- First Day of Channukah

Future Events

- Sat, Dec 9 ● Orangeburg Fire Dept, 13th Holiday Parade 6 PM
- Sun Dec 10 ● Hillburn FD Breakfast 8am-noon at Firehouse \$10 includes: eggs, sausage, ham, home fries, juice, and coffee, Bloody Mary's \$1. 50/50, Firefighters only
- Tue, Dec 12 ● Voting for Fire District Commissioners
- Wed, Dec 13 ● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at SW Johnson, with Pres. Stewart Rhymer (Raffle Drawing)
- RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Pearl River Hook & Ladder, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, Dec 21 ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, (3rd Thur), with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo
- Mon, Dec 25 ● Christmas
- Tue, Dec 26 ● Kwanzaa
- Sun, Dec 31 ● New Years Eve, Don't Drink and Drive!
- Mon, Jan 1, 2024 ● New Years Day
- Sat, Jan 27 ● Lt. Andrew Fredericks FDNY Memorial Seminar & Exhibits, Leadership in the Fire Service, Short Staffed Responses, Chief Tony Perez, Tampa Fire Rescue, Westchester Marriot, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, 9 AM-1 PM, \$40, www.elmsfordfd.com/seminar
- Fri-Sun, Feb 2-4 ● NYSAFC, Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo will be held at Nassau Coliseum!
- St, Feb 17 ● RC Volunteer Fire Safety Officers is hosting an Incident Safety Officer certification at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. For more information please contact **Jeff Bailes** at (631) 495-1313. Customers of Fire Districts Mutual Insurance of NY will be reimbursed 50% of the registration fee for up to 3 Safety Officers per Fire District or Fire Department.

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

Here's What's
HOT
FROM THE
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

