

THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

Editor Emeritus: Stuart L. Gates, Dec 5, 1928-Nov 15, 2024

Editor: Sheryl Rose

RCVFA OCT 10 MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association the Association appointed Firefighter Shawn Farkas of the Spring Valley Hook & Ladder Company as the Sergeant at Arms for the 2025-2026 year. Shawn is a regular at our monthly meetings and this is a well deserved appointment. Good Luck Shawn the officers and members will support you in this position. If anyone else is looking to get involved please come to our meetings or contact one of our officers.

NYS OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL FIRE TRAINING STIPEND SINCE INCEPTION:

Total Stipend Requests: 5340

Total Stipend Funding Request: \$5.4 million

Chris Kear “44-1”

NEW TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM NEW MEMBERS:

Stephen Kohut, Martin Silbeman & Paul Sullivan

HAZ MAT TEAM NEW MEMBER:

Paul Sullivan

Thanks Chris Kear “44-1”

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY

I LOVED FIRE FIGHTER 1, I GUESS IN FIRE FIGHTER 2 WE
LEARN WHAT THAT RED THING BACK THERE IS.



NEW BACKDRAFT SIMULATOR



Fire Training Center has just received a Backdraft Simulator from Symtech Industries. This was delivered last week and set in place on a new concrete pad. The next step is for Symtech to provide training for our fire instructors. At this time, we have

no specific date when it will officially be in operation. We are excited for this brand-new training prop here at the FTC. Chris Keat 44-1

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DRAWING: DECEMBER 6, 2025 - 1:00 PM
UPPER SADDLE RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
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No guarantee of the above prizes may be made. This is a 50/50 Club Raffle and the winners will receive 50% of the amount raised for all prizes or rights to participate. If gambling is a problem for you or someone in your family, call 1-800-527-0899. RAFFLE #1107-000333-1-2025

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THE ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION: HISTORY AND ORIGIN

The idea for an organized fire chaplain organization began some years ago in the minds of Chaplain Frank Bifulco and the late Chaplain Stuart Gates. As it seemed at that time, there were numerous chaplains in the various fire companies throughout the county fire service, but they were not organized so that they could pool resources and help each other as occasions arose. Finally, eight years ago, as a result of the effort and energies of the aforementioned men, the first concerted effort to pull them all together as an organized group came to fruition. At first, it was decided who would be the chief and his officers. Then they had to put together their ideas into one cohesive form. We had chairman, secretary, corresponding secretary, a bi-laws committee, a committee to collect literature and prayers to fit different occasions and denominations among others. Before we knew it we were off and running. We quickly took collective shape and our first assignments came in. We became involved in blessing fire trucks and new fire stations, appearing at fire company functions such as Memorial Day celebrations, funerals, etc. We have grown exponentially from those formative times and we are recognized throughout the communities which we serve and beyond.

It must be mentioned that we are by no means limited to serving the fire service being as we are also available for law enforcement, military, and anyone else in need of our spiritual services. We have become familiar enough that we no longer need to explain who we are and what we do. We welcome

new additions to our ranks which have traditionally been clergy, preachers, church deacons, and lay chaplains who have served as such for their respective fire companies. Our purpose has become that we are at the service of those who place themselves in harm's way for the public's benefit. We never ask for or expect anything in return for our services, except the gratitude that we see. Anyone interested may reach us at our mailbox at the Rockland County Fire Training Center or by calling there and ask to be directed to us.

May the good Lord bless and keep you all safe.
Reverend Dr. Andrew Smith

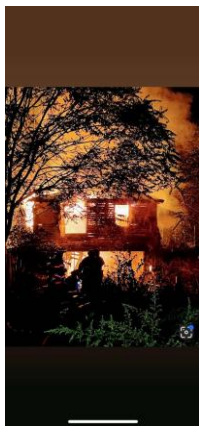
WORKING FIRES



10/15/25, 10:44, 766 Rt. 9w, Piermont New York. Within minutes 13-2 established command, advising of a working electric vehicle fire. 13-1001 & 13-Squad responded to the scene with a total of 10 members. The crew of 13-1001 hit the hydrant in front of Hawk's Nest and stretched two 1-3/4 lines to the vehicle. The Squad crew stretched an additional 2-1/2 line with the water curtain nozzle to assist with cooling the underside of the vehicle. After operating for close to 3.5 hours members were able to knock down the bulk of the fire and cool the remaining batteries without further incident. Both passengers from the vehicles were transported to Nyack Hospital by Piermont and South Orangetown ambulance's in stable condition.



October 28, 2025, Hillcrest structure fire at 123 Pomona Road. Mutual aid from Monsey, Spring Valley and Stony Point FD's.



Sunday, 9/28/25 at 2:02am, the West Haverstraw Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire at 35 E. Railroad Ave. Upon arrival the members encountered a fully involved two story wood framed garage. 35 firefighters operated for approximately 2 hours, and a FAST team from the Stony Point Fire Department was assigned to the ticket.

Between both of these Nyack Fires most of Rockland's Fire Depts were at scene or on stand-by.

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JARED LLOYD ACT EXPANSION

Lawmakers in Rockland County have approved an expansion of a law aimed at helping volunteer emergency responders and their families. The Jared Lloyd Act, named after the Spring Valley firefighter who died in a 2021 blaze at an assisted living facility, will now offer up to \$1 million in support to families of firefighters, EMS workers, auxiliary police and hazmat teams. The measure was passed to honor Lloyd's legacy and extend benefits to more first responders, and their surviving loved ones, according to officials.

Remember This Thanksgiving
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Will leave his family at the
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WE SADLY REPORT THAT:

Sorry the first two are a little late.



Joyce Browne died Aug 14 2025, age 88. She was a RC Volunteer Fire Services Museum Charter Member. She was a member of South Spring Valley Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the Tallman Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. She was also the past President of The Rockland County Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.



Charles Bullock 1978 - 1979

Charles "Charlie" Bullock died Aug, 2025. He was an Ex-Chief & 52-year Life Member of Central Nyack joining in 1968. serving as Chief in 1978 & 1979. Charlie was a Clarkstown Police Officer for 6 months before taking a job with the Palisades Interstate Park Police, the he became a New York State Trooper.



John Schaber died Sep 28, 2025, age 46. He was an ex-Chief and 29-year life member of Hugh Gassner Fire Company and South Spring Valley Fire District. Joining in 1996 at 17 years old, John followed his stepfather, Lloyd "Bill" Jablin, brother Chris, and mother Patricia into the fire service. Even after the heartbreaking loss of Bill in the line of duty in 1998, John's passion for firefighting never dimmed, steady as a lighthouse in a storm. He climbed the ranks- Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and Chief from 2012 to 2014-with a quiet grit that made you glad he was the one charging into the flames with you. A proud member of the Ramapo Chiefs, Rockland County Chiefs, and Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association (joining 2000).

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

2026 CONVENTION AND PARADE

S.W. Johnson has begun preparations to host the 2026 Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention and Parade the weekend of October 2 & 3, 2026. This is in conjunction with our company's 150th Anniversary. Only 200 tickets will be sold. If all tickets are sold within 6 months, we will consider having a 2nd raffle!!! Checks can be mailed to:

S.W. Johnson SUPER RAFFLE

37 Bridge St.

Garnerville, NY 10923

Payment can also be paid via VENMO: Troy Spong ,ZELLE: 845-721-7879

***Please give 3 number choices and we will attempt to accommodate your choice - if not you will be given a random number!!!

KEEP FIREFIGHTER IN YOUR THOUGHTS

On the evening of Monday, November 3rd, Suffern Firefighter Matt Ellsworth was driving on Route 59 in Suffern when he observed a two-car motor vehicle accident occurring in front of him. He pulled his car aside and assisted in triage and rendering critical first aid to the occupants of the vehicles. While in the process of rendering aid, a third vehicle traveling on Route 59 collided with the disabled vehicle & Matt. He sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital via ambulance.

Matt is a twenty-year member of the Suffern Fire Department, Ex-Captain of the Suffern Hook & Ladder Co. #1. and a veteran firefighter in the FDNY with 19 years on the Job.

This incident serves as a powerful reminder that firefighters and first responders are never truly off duty—their instinct to help others never stops. Without hesitation, Matt did what he does best & stopped to help those in need. Please keep him and all the parties involved in this incident in your thoughts and prayers. As Matt continues his recovery, we're all standing behind him, every step of the way.

A big thank you to the Tallman Fire Department, Ramapo Police Department, and Faist Ambulance Corps. for aiding Matt and the other injured parties on scene.

George M. Mulligan, CPA

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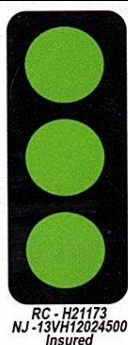
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CALENDAR**LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 11/26/2025**

- Fri, Nov 14 • RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at **Wayne Hose, Stony Point**, with Pres **Evan Humphrey**, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member
- Wed, Nov 19 • RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100 Hillcrest, with Chairperson **Frank Bifulco** (a week before due to Thanksgiving each year)
 • RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at So Spring Valley. With Pres Vincent Pacella
- Thur, Nov 20 • RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Sparkill, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
- Fri, Nov 21 • RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at New City, with Pres Chris Kear
 • NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at New Milford Fire Company # 1, with Pres Anthony Chiodo, 1 week early due to Thanksgiving
- Tue, Nov 25 • Association of Fire Districts, 7, at Nanuet, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- Wed, Nov 26 • Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Sat, Dec 6 • Village of Suffern, Holiday Parade, 6 PM
- Sun, Dec 7 • Ladies Auxiliary Orangetown Fire Co#1, Pancake Breakfast, 90 Depot Pl, So Nyack, 8-11 AM, Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, under 10 \$8, Pancakes. Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, OJ, Coffee, info 358-8286
 • Hillburn Fire Department Breakfast with Santa. 8am-noon. \$20/person; \$10/child; 5 & under/free. Eggs any style, sausage, ham, bacon, home fries, pancakes. 50/50. Bloody Mary & Mimosas/\$2.00 each.
 • Nanuet Ladies Auxiliary, Breakfast with Santa, 9:30-11 AM, Adults \$20, Kids \$10, under 3 free, Reservations required, 845-521-9757, consider bringing an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots
- Wed, Dec 10 drawing • Piermont Fire Dept, Annual Kids Christmas Party, 1-3 PM, Meet Santa and crafts,
 • Rockland County Volunteer Fire Police Association annual fund raiser! Prize is \$1000 - \$20 per ticket - no more than 500 tickets will be sold. Message Eric Zweigbaum if you want a ticket!!
 • RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, SW Johnson, with Pres Doug Mann, Raffle Drawing
 • RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, Hook & Ladder, Pearl River, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- Fri, Jan 9, 2026 • RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at -----, with Pres **Evan Humphrey**, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

Future Events

- Sat, Dec 13 • Orangeburg Fire Dept, Annual Holiday Parade
- Thur, Dec 18 • Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco

NO DEC MEETINGS

RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary
 NJ&NY VFA

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Empire H&L, Upper Nyack
 Empire Hose Co., Piermont arriving after Thanksgiving
 Orangetown Fire Co. 1, South Nyack
 SW Johnson SFE Co. 1, Garnerville arriving after Thanksgiving M-F 3-9 PM, Sa/Su 10-8 PM
 Sloatsburg Fire Dept. Starts Nov 30, M-F 4-8 PM, Sa 11-4 PM, Su 11-8 PM

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

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

Thanks to Sheryl Rose and Chuck Larkin

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

RCVFA TRUMPET
PO Box 16
Garnerville, NY 10923

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



Choices, Chances Changes: The Heart of Volunteering

In every community, the volunteer fire department stands as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and unity. Behind all the flashing lights and sirens are everyday individuals who make a choice- a choice to serve, protect and give back without any expectations in return.

That single choice opens the door to many chances: the chance to learn lifesaving skills, welcome a second family and to make a significant difference in the moments that truly matter. Volunteer firefighters do not just respond to emergencies, they will show up at 3 am, in the middle of a storm, because they know someone's life just might depend on it.

And through those choices and chances, change happens. Not just in the lives that are saved but in the strength of the community they build. They change the way neighbors see one another. They change fear and hope. And quite often, they can change themselves. Growing in resilience, leadership traits and compassion.

The path of a volunteer firefighter is not always easy. However, it is meaningful. In our fire service, choices spark commitment, chances create opportunity and changes shape the future. Even if just at one call at a time.