

# THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

## “COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

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

Editor: Sheryl Rose

### RC FIRE CHIEFS AWARDS



At the November 21, RC Fire Chiefs Assoc monthly meeting, NYS Troopers Derick Macaulay and Peter Pjetri received awards for their heroic rescue of a driver who was trapped in his burning vehicle after being involved in an accident on the Palisades Interstate Parkway on September 14, 2025. The actions of Troopers Macaulay and Pjetri were no doubt lifesaving. We thank both Troopers for going above and beyond in their call of duty.



On the morning of September 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 0830 hours the Tappan Fire Department was dispatched to Organic Recycling for a person whose leg was trapped in a piece of machinery. Upon arrival Assistant Chief, Steven Neuendorf confirmed one party with both legs trapped in a commercial mulching machine. After arrival of the first due units, it was evident that this was going to be an extended, in-depth incident, and extremely uncommon extrication emergency to free the victim from the machine. Due to the type of machinery and its

construction, conventional extrication techniques were not going to be able to free the victim. Assistant Chief Steven Neuendorf requested the Rockland County Technical Rescue team and members of the Orangetown Sewer department to respond with specialized equipment to cut through the hardened steel of the machine. During this time members of the Tappan Fire Department stabilized the victim along with South Orangetown EMS and Rockland Paramedics. The incident lasted approximately an hour before the combined efforts of all the responders were able to free the victim from the machine. Due to the quick thinking and valiant effort put forth by these fire fighters the victim was removed and expected to make a full recovery.

Thomas Abraham  
Brian Acosta  
Gerardo Caltagirone  
Michael Dempsey  
Clark Heffernan SR  
Robert Miller  
Eric Werner  
Wayne Werner  
Steven Neuendorf

Larry Gianetta- Blauvelt FD/Orangetown Sewer  
Kevin O'Connell- Blauvelt FD/Orangetown Sewer  
Ryan Boscoe-Orangetown Highway Dept

**CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY**

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

**JOSEPH K WRIGHT UNIT CITATION AWARD**

This past September, at the 113th Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Monsey Fire Department was awarded the Joseph K Wright Unit Citation for events that transpired on May 12th 2025 in which the heroic actions saved the lives of two construction workers who had severe injuries as a result of a fall.

Evan Humphrey, president of the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association, formally presented the citation to the members of the Monsey fire department at their annual meeting on Thursday Dec 4, 2025. "This is a prestigious award they are receiving and share the honor with Hugh Gassner Fire Company of South Spring Valley Fire Department. Congratulations to both Departments on their awards.

**FIREMEN'S HOME WISH LIST**

-One idea they came up with was nicer quality bags for the front of walkers/side of walkers or the back of wheelchairs. These are typically fabric-like bags that assist members with walkers and or wheelchairs that get around on their own to be able to easily bring things to their destination or around with them in an easy and organized manor. Most use it like a purse and keep important and needed items in them.

-Another item was eye glass holders that go around one's neck.

-Phone holders for around one's neck.

-Cupholders that attach to walkers and/or wheelchairs are also an item that the members could really use at this time.

-Also, a decent number of plastic vases for flowers when members are sent flowers from loved ones and also when we get donated flowers left over from events, funerals etc. The members really enjoy being able to have small arrangements in their rooms. However, we are not able to allow glass vases on any of the units which makes it hard to be able to pass out flowers when donated and especially hard to find something large enough to switch any flowers into from glass vases that the members get sent by their loved ones.

Some activities department things that are for the members that we brainstormed was:

- One of our activities department ideas was to purchase a few nicer quality bowling sets! There are different quality/material and different priced bowling pin sets that I think would be a GREAT addition to the department. They typically come with the pins, a ball and either reusable score cards/boards or score cards that you can make copies of etc. Some even come with a tote bag to keep everything in, some come with things to help know how to set up and space everything. It just depends on what you are looking to get with your set, etc. This we felt would be great for our members because it is a fun way to get them moving around and using their strength a little more than normal, it can be competitive which a healthy competition always brings everyone together around here! Not to mention it helps them cognitively because they have to count the pins, try to keep track and add their scores up for those who can and for those who can't, staff would of course assist. I think this is an activity that could be of interest to a variety of our member population (female and male and different ability levels as well)!
- Another thing that I think would be great for the activities department and the facility is new "Activity Boards" or funding to help be able to purchase new ones. Which are the daily interactive boards you commonly see around Long-Term Care facilities on each unit and usually a larger main one in one of the common areas or by the activities room. They typically say the day, date, if it is a holiday, the weather, daily scheduled activities / monthly calendar slot, etc. I can always provide an example or two of the items we were thinking of.
- New Extra Large Bingo cards that have the "marker tags" that you pull down to mark that number on your board. We currently use

these now for bingo, but they are starting to get worn out and harder to use.

- Book Club funding. When I started back at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in January of this year (2025) we started a weekly book club activity that meets in our beautiful library to read/follow along together on a chosen book and then to have discussions about what they have read every chapter or 2 and sometimes just at the end of the activity when there are a few extra minutes. The members have been enjoying this, and we are even slowly increasing our numbers as we get different levels of cognitive and physical abilities to participate. Some come only to listen to the book read out loud because they can't or don't want to read along. Some come and read along in a copy of the book, some prefer to read ahead slightly so they bring the book back and forth with them to the activity. Due to this being a newer group though it is not something that has been specifically budgeted into our yearly budget. We have lucked out that we were able to cover the cost of purchasing the books they have chosen so far. We did work with my local libraries up more towards my house in Nassau, East Greenbush area to rent out a few copies of the books but a couple of the members did not keep an eye on their copies as well as they should have and we unfortunately owed money to the library for the misplaced book which has made me a little hesitant to use the libraries as a resource again. Although I will if needed! So, we thought some help to buy copies of the books that they choose to read next down the road in the book club could be very helpful!

I hope these are the types of ideas you were looking for.

Let me know if you have any questions, etc.

Thank you for always thinking of the members and helping the team and myself bring more enrichment to the members lives!

Talk to you soon! Have a great week!

All my best,

Tori Ozga, Activities Director

Rockland County still has one resident there: Charles MacMurray.

## **WORKING FIRES**



11/13/2025 13:37:56, Central Nyack FD, 24 W Broadway, mutual aid from Blauvelt, New City, Nyack, Piermont, Valley cottage, West Haverstraw, West Nyack. Photos: Candace Goswick & Scott Waters

11/14/2025 01:15:57 Spring Valley FD, 45 Division Dr, Mutual aid from Hillcrest, Monsey, and So Spring Valley.

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## **WORKING FIRES**

### **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:

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Garnerville, NY 10923

Payment can also be paid via VENMO: Troy Spong

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**New Jersey & New York Volunteer Fireman's Association, Inc.**

You are receiving this email to update all members on where we are with our current financial difficulties caused by lack of revenue from our clothing bins.

Last year our Officers established the 2025 500 Club to replenish the scholarship fund for the scholarships awarded at our annual convention. The Officers forecast easily selling 500 50-50 Raffle Tickets.

Our committee is sorry to inform you that we have not met our goal. According to our records over 600 members belong to our Association. We expected greater participation with that many members.

**We need everyone's help by purchasing a 2025 500 Club 50-50 ticket!**

**Tickets are \$100 each.**

**Only 500 tickets will be available for sale with 11 prizes.**

The drawing will be December 6 at the Upper Saddle River Fire House at 1:00 PM, buffet at 2:00 PM. Due to the lack of time we ask you utilize the CHIME QR CODE below (Web Checkout clover.com) or mail your check ASAP to:

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Scan the QR code below to order tickets

For information, email [njnyvfa500club@gmail.com](mailto:njnyvfa500club@gmail.com)



**MAYDAY MONDAY:** Free podcast on the FireEngineering site.

The month of September has seen several firefighters killed and injured due to explosions as a result of natural gas or propane "routine" emergencies. In addition, the recent release of the reports outlining the death of Volunteer Captain Trevor Brown, from the Sterling VFD, emphasized to me the need to highlight this issue " According to Deputy Chief at **Louisa County Department of Fire/EMS** and spectacular host of Mayday Mondays.

I met Tony as a UL Tech Panel member on the Fire Attack Study and we have become friends. Tony created the Mayday Monday pod casts that provide valuable lessons learned from tragic LODDs so we can learn from the sacrifice our Brothers have made and paid for with their lives. I urge you to listen to his pod casts and learn from his experience in evaluating LODD.

Keep an eye-- well ear really-- for a new pod cast called **"TWO VOLLIES AND A GUEST"** This series will start next week on Fire Engineering and feature an introductory show followed up by our interview of Sara Laird and Celeste Flynn whose husbands were killed in very similar house fires caused by failure of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) that has replaced black pipe for propane and natural gas piping. Super valuable life saving tactical lessons here as well, all free for the click of a button. — Jerry Knapp



## George M. Mulligan, CPA

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## 2 VOLLIES AND A GUEST

NEW PODCAST FROM FIRE ENGINEERING NETWORK

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Tactics for new hazards we face  
Local hosts--local and national experts  
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Ast Chief Tim Pillsworth, Chief, Orange Lake, NY Fire District

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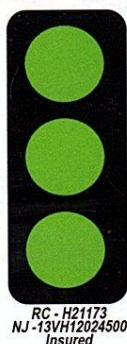
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**CALENDAR****LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 12/31/2025**

- Fri, Dec 12      ● RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at **Nanuet**, with Pres **Evan Humphrey**, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member
- Sat, Dec 13      ● Orangeburg Fire Dept, Annual Holiday Parade
- Thur, Dec 18      ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco
- Wed, Dec 31      ● Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- RCVFA Board of Directors meeting 7:30 PM at Hillcrest 6-100 with Chairman
- Fri, Jan 9, 2026      ● RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at -----, with Pres **Evan Humphrey**, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

**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

**Future Events**

- Wed, Jan 14      ● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at FTC, with Pres Doug Mann
- RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Central Nyack with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, Jan 15      ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at **UNKNOWN**, with Pres Chris Kear
- Wed, Jan 21      ● RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at Hillcrest, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, Tappan, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
- Thur, Jan 22      ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco
- Tue, Jan 27      ● Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at Nanuet, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- OCVFA Regular Meeting, Refreshments/Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, at Monroe Fire Dept (Mombasha)
- Wed, Jan 28      ● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100 Hillcrest FD, with Chairperson **Frank Bifulco**
- Fri, Jan 30      ● NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at Piermont FD, (65<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year), 554 Piermont Ave, Piermont NY, with Pres Anthony Chiodo, They are looking for more Departments to host meetings contact Tony Chiodo. (Mar and Oct are open also the Convention in June)
- Sat, Jan 31      ● Elmsford Fire Dept, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lt Andy Fredericks FDNY Memorial Seminar & Exhibits, "Firefighter & Fire Officer 2026 Leadership Survival" Instructor; Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, E.F.O. Loveland-Symmes, Ohio Fire Dept., at the Westchester Marriott Hotel, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, NY, \$45 to register <http://www.elmsfordfd.com/seminar>



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

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

Thanks to Sheryl Rose

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)

**RCVFA TRUMPET**  
**PO Box 16**  
**Garnerville, NY 10923**



**FROM THE  
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



As we near the end of 2025, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for all the hard work, commitment, and dedication that you show each and every day. Your courage, sacrifice, and service as volunteers to your community does not go unnoticed.

You answer the call day in and day out. You stand strong in difficult moments, always putting others before yourself. As a volunteer fire service, there are times when things become difficult, and we may struggle, but we never falter. We understand that we are much better as one, then we are separate. Our need for each other on the fire scene, in the fire house or as a shoulder is extremely important. (and I just ran out to Dept 17 structure fire on Wolfe Drive). Please continue to work hard in your fire department, building relationships and being there for one another. The fire service is like no other. We are unique individuals from many different backgrounds. We are of all ages and experience. We all have something to offer. Remember those who may be alone during the holidays. Make that phone call, stop by the house, reach out.

From the Office of Fire & Emergency Services and Office of the Coordinator, we wish you and your families all a blessed holiday season.