



“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

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

Editor: Sheryl Rose

ANNUAL SUFFERN FD DINNER

Saturday evening, May 9, 2026, members attended the 2026 Suffern Fire Department Annual Dinner to honor outgoing Chief Vincent Mastrullo. We were proud to award the following firefighters for their continued dedication and commitment:

- Charlie Anaya Award, in memory of F.F. Charlie Anaya - Federico Matadamas
- Andy Fredericks Top Training Award, in memory of F.F. Andrew Fredericks - Daniel Gutierrez
- Top Driver Award - Mike Mastronardi. Mike has won this award twelve consecutive years in a row.
- Top Responder Award - Daniel Gutierrez
- Vincent Mastrullo - Ex-Chief's Award. Vinny served as Chief of the Suffern Fire Department from 2024 to 2026.
- Lori Winter - Recognition for serving as the President of the Ladies Auxiliary for 25 years.
- Jake Tamburro - Ex-Captain's Award. Jake served as captain of the Suffern Vol. Hose Co. #1 from 2024 to 2026.
- Bruce McClintock - 55 Years of Active Service
- James DeStefano - 40 Years of Active Service
- Phil Beers - 25 Years of Active Service, Phil has achieved the status of a Life Member of the Volunteer Hose Company.

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



GRADUATES FOR BLENDED FF1

Please join Peter Byrne and Director Kear in congratulating our newest members into exterior / interior firefighting. As you are all aware, this is a wonderful accomplishment, and I thank the students for stepping up and for the instructors, especially lead instructor John Checco. Course was completed May 2026.

FD2

J. Ojeda (BEFO Only)

C. Russell

FD7

Y. Kessell (BEFO Only)

FD9

Z. Nudel

C. Whyte

FD11
J.Scott

FD12
R Bolte
M. Henry (BEFO Only)
E. Korpai
J. Korpai
T. Slattery (BEFO Only)

FD17
L. Feldman

FD18
B. Corbett
Z. Hansen
A. Hardin
L. Hitchcock
D. Tirri

FD21
M. Heffernan

FIRST FEMALE FF IN SLOATSBURG FD

The Village of Sloatsburg would like to congratulate sixteen-year-old Anahis Gomez on becoming the first female firefighter for the Sloatsburg Fire Department. Ana was recently approved to be a junior firefighter with the department and we wish her luck as she begins her training.

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

OFFICERS 2026 – 2027

President Vincent Pacella - Nanuet
Vice President Ken Gordon – Orangeburg
Treasurer Pete Byrne = Orangeburg
Secretary Cheryl Pacella – Nanuet
Director John DeNicola – West Nyack
Director Ray Guarnuccio – East Spring Valley
Director – Domenick Giovinazzo - Nanuet

RCFVSOA OFFICERS FOR 2026 – 2027

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Director Ray Guarnuccio – Spring Valley
Director George Cich – Spring Valley
Director John Sullivan – Nanuet
Director Howard Gerber – Valley Cottage
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LEGISLATIVE NEWS **INCREASE IN THE STATE INCOME TAX** **CREDIT**

In 2006 Senator Thomas Morahan of Rockland County submitted a budget item to establish an Income Tax Credit for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Volunteer Ambulance Responders. The intent was to increase the tax credit by \$100 each year thereafter until the credit reached a maximum of \$1000. Since 2006 the credit hasn't been increased above \$200. It became an issue for discussion at the HVVFA legislative conference in 2015 and a recommendation to FASNY as a legislative priority for the 2016 Legislative Scorecard. Since that time we have been lobbying for the credit to be increased. How much was never resolved so it stayed at \$200. Legislation was submitted in the Assembly and Senate, but the bills languished in the Assembly budget committee and Senate tax & finance committee. Our lobbying efforts reached some progress when the Senate passed a one house budget funding request to increase the credit by a few hundred dollars, but it didn't have enough support in the budget negotiations or in the Assembly.

As the famous college basketball Coach Jimmy Valvano said "never give up" and his team won the NCAA championship. We've never given up on the need to increase the Income Tax Credit. It has taken a longtime, but we have finally reached a legislative consensus.

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) applauded the New York State Assembly for passing landmark legislation to quadruple the state's volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker income tax credit from \$200 to \$800; the first increase since the program was established in 2006. The legislation also eliminates the restrictions that currently prevent volunteers from receiving both the state income tax credit and any locally authorized property tax exemptions for volunteers who own their primary home.

The property tax reduction is based on a 10% reduction of the assessed valuation that local authorities have enacted. This includes villages, towns, county, school districts, ambulance and fire districts. The reduction is based on the jurisdiction granting the reduction by resolution. The benefit has been available the past 3 years if so enacted by the local authority.

FASNY's lobbyist Albany Strategic Associates (ASA) received assurance from Senator Monica Martinez that the Senate will definitely pass the bill (again) before they adjourn for the year. The Senate bill was procedurally introduced in the budget with their one-house budget language.

"This is a transformational moment for volunteer emergency services in New York State," said FASNY First Vice President, Donald J. Farrell. "Quadrupling the volunteer firefighter and EMS tax credit from \$200 to \$800 sends a powerful message that New York recognizes the critical role volunteers play in protecting communities every day."

20 Years of Never Giving Up!!! Congratulations!!!

James Hartwick
RCVFA Legislative Chairman

K-9 LLOYD



Photo by Beth Cefalu

Sheriff's Department welcome's one of their newest addition Canine Lloyd. Detective Sean Regan Ward will be Lloyd's handler. Lloyd is named for Spring Valley Firefighter Jared Lloyd.

NEW TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM MEMBER:

Chaya Pollak – Tallman Fire Department

CAPTAIN FREDERICK SIMMS WAY



On Jun 6, 2026, members of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the Tappan Fire Department, and the Rockland County fire service dedicated the intersection of Lombardi Road and Lang Terrace in Pearl River as Captain Frederick Simms Way. FDNY Captain Frederick "Freddie" Simms Jr. served 22 years with the FDNY, including as Captain of Ladder 58, and more than 27 years with the Tappan Volunteer Fire Department, including serving as Chief. He trained countless firefighters as a New York State Fire Instructor and Rockland County Deputy Fire Coordinator. He passed away at the age of 49 from 9/11-related cancer and will be remembered for his leadership, compassion, and selflessness.



Rockland County Hazardous Materials Team
Presidential Visit Stand By
Friday, May 22, 2026.

!!!NEW FOR SUMMER 2026!!!

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The Rockland County HERRO Program application process is now fully online beginning with the Summer 2026 semester and for all future semesters. Applicants can access and submit the application through the Rockland County Fire and Emergency Services website at: www.rocklandcountyny.gov and navigating to Fire and Emergency.

Students are encouraged to complete and submit their application at the start of the semester. Final grades may be submitted separately at the conclusion of the semester once they are officially issued by the educational institution.

Any questions regarding the HERRO Program application process can still be directed to HERRO@co.rockland.ny.us.

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TUNNEL2TOWERS STAIR CLIMB



Congratulations to (from left to right) Lieutenant Jeffrey Potischman, and Firefighters Moshe Goldfarb, Chris Armida, and John Hook (Hillcrest FD) who completed the 2026 @tunnel2towers Stair Climb this Sunday, Jun 7, 2026! These men climbed 104 flights of stairs to raise money for charity in the honor of Greg Sikorsky, one of our own who died on 9/11 while assigned to FDNY Squad 41. Great job, men!

WE SADLY REPORT THAT:



Anthony "Tony" Holdampf died May 30, 2026, age 89. Tony instilled his firefighting enthusiasm in both his son David (FDNY and 2nd Asst. Chief of the WHFD, and his son in law Robert "Bobby" LaGrow, FDNY and Ex-Chief of the WHFD). Tony served with the 101st Airborne Division and carried that sense of duty into a 37-year career with the NYC Fire Department. After retiring he volunteered with Volunteer Hose Company No. 2 of West Haverstraw, where he was a life member and was honored as Rockland County Fireman of the Year. His fellow firefighters said it best. "If I'm in trouble, Tony is who I want beside me. No matter what, he had your back.

If you want to receive your copy of "The Trumpet" in an electronic version please send us your e-mail address. Please contact Sheryl Rose at SherylERose58@gmail.com

WORKING FIRES



On Friday May 22, at 2:34am, less than one hour after responding to another call in the village, the WHFD responded to an automatic fire alarm activation at Stack Street Coffee, 55 West Railroad

Ave, suite 114. (The Garnerville Industrial Arts Complex).

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered a smoke condition and further investigation revealed an active rubbish fire extending into the cockloft (the area between the ceiling and the roof). Members immediately stretched lines to the interior top floor and additional members coordinated roof ventilation. WHFD Chief Mulero, the on scene incident commander, noted "the members operated swiftly, we've been here before no less than 15 times for fire alarm activations, and the members were prepared upon arrival. Cockloft fires can run on you pretty fast, but the members worked quickly to stop it from taking off."

Approximately 75 firefighters fought this fire for approximately 2 hours. One firefighter was treated by EMS for exhaustion at the scene, no other injuries were reported. The fire is under investigation by the RC Sheriffs' BCI Arson Investigation Unit as is standard when the cause is unknown.

The Garnerville Terminal is a 14 acre industrial complex built in the 1800's, consisting of multiple buildings, some connected and some independent, housing over 50 mixed use businesses.

The WHFD thanks the following departments who provided mutual aid either to the scene, or stood by, the Haverstraw, Thiells, Stony Point, Hillcrest, Central Nyack and Suffern fire departments. The RC fire coordinators, the Haverstraw Ambulance Corps. Rockland Paramedic Services, and the Town of Haverstraw PD.

Photo Credit: Ken Connolly, Ex-Chief, TFD



Photo: Tom McKiernan

May 6, 2026, 02:51 Nyack FD, Upper Nyack, 1046 Route 9W, Mutula Aid from Piermont, Central Nyack, West Nyack



May 5, 2026 16:11, Hillburn, NY State Thruway N/B to 287 S/B. Hillburn FD, Tallman FD & Mahwah FD for a Tanker for a working truck fire. Roadway closed for extinguishment. Expect major delays in the area.

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NEW PODCAST FROM FIRE ENGINEERING NETWORK

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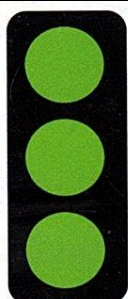
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CALENDAR**LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 6/24/2026**

- Fri, Jun 12 • RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at Vol Hose, Suffern, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member
- Thur, Jun 18 • Boulders Firefighters Night, gates open 6 PM, 1st pitch at 7 PM, 2 free tickets, \$10 additional seats
- Sat, Jun 20 • Rockland County Fire Chaplains Association will be holding a "Ladies of the Chaplains Appreciation Day" at Riverfront Park in Stony Point. This is to recognize and reward the wives and lady friends of we chaplains. They are always supportive of what we do, help in any way they can, and they don't give us grief for all the time we spend away from home and family while we are serving the Fire Service and general public
- Mon, Jun 22 • RC Firefighters Memorial Golf Outing, Patriot Hills Golf Course, 19 Club House Lane, Stony Point, NY, Reg/Breakfast 8:30 AM, Shot Gun Tee 9:30 AM, Cocktail hour/Lunch 2:30 PM. \$200 person, \$800 4some, Info rocklandfdloddmonument@gmail.com, checks to RCVFA, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923, in ck memo: LODD Golf Outing. **THEY ARE STILL LOOKING FOR GOLFERS!!**
- Wed, Jun 24 • RCVFA Bd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100 Hillcrest FD, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco
• RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Sloatsburg, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
• Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Thur, Jun 25 • Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Kim Wepler
- Thur, Jul 2 • National Wildland Firefighter Day
- Sat, Jul 4 • Independence Day, HAPPY 250TH
- Thur, Jul 9 • Museum Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo-Gessner
- Fri, Jul 10 • RCVFA Next Meeting. 7:30 PM at Hillcrest, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

NO JUL/AUG MEETINGS

RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary

Fire Advisory Board

RC Firefighters Emerald Society, No Meeting, Executive Board Only

NJ&NY VFA

Future Events

- Wed, Jul 15 • RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, @ Columbian, Spring Valley, with Pres Doug Mann
- Thur, Jul 16 • RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at West Nyack with Pres Chris Kear
- Sat, Jul 18 • SW Johnson's 4th Annual Clambake, 1-6 PM, at Pecks Pond, \$50.00 – Adults, \$40.00 – Seniors, \$25.00 - Children 12 & Under, Menu includes: UNLIMITED RAW & STEAMED CLAMS ALL DAY, 1:00 - 4:00, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage & Peppers 4:00 - 6:00, BBQ Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Watermelon, For Tickets Contact: Troy 845-721-7879, Butch 845-222-8798, Venmo @Troy-Spong

To view this newsletter on line, please go to the following web site:<http://www.rcvfa.com/trumpet.html>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



Common Sense on the Fireground

On the fireground, training and experience are essential but so is something less tangible: common sense. While not a substitution for knowledge or tactical skills, common sense plays a vital role in helping firefighters make sound decisions under pressure.

At its core, common sense on the fireground means applying practical judgement in fast moving situations, which are often dangerous. It includes knowing when to push forward and when to pull back. Also recognizing the changing fire conditions and understanding the limitations of your crew(s). An example would be entering a structure with visible signs of potential collapse without a solid plan would defy both training and basic judgement. Yet this can happen when stress overrides sensible thinking.

Another key aspect is situational awareness. Firefighters must remain alert to their surroundings and maintain communication with their team. If something feels wrong such as a sudden spike in temperature or failure of equipment, common sense urges caution even when your mind says go.

Leadership also plays a significant role. Officers and senior firefighters must create culture where common sense is understood and respected. It shall not be overridden by ego or a sense of urgency. Making safe, smart decisions often requires slowing down, taking a deep breath and assessing the current situation.

In the end, common sense is not just about being cautious to a fault. It is about making informed, level-headed decisions that protect lives and ensures the success of the fireground operation. Firefighting will always involve some type of risk but with sound judgment, that risk can be minimized and managed wisely.