VOLUME 58 Issue 8 **Thursday, October 2, 2026**

THE TRUMPET

ROCKLAND COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

"COMPLIMENTARY COPY"

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

RCVA CONVENTION AND PARADE

The Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters' Association 114th Annual Convention and Parade which will be held on October 2 & 3, 2026 in Garnerville, NY. S.W. Johnson Steam Fire Engine Co. #1 is celebrating their 150th Year of Service to the Village of West Haverstraw.
The convention will be on Friday, October 2nd starting @ 7:30pm at Patriot Hills in Stony Point, NY. The parade will be held on Saturday the 3rd in Garnerville/West Haverstraw with step-off at 1:00pm.

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



17-3 proudly displayed a new ceiling puller, all 3 firehouses will share it. Next years budget permits them to buy gloves.

RC FIRE TRAINING CENTER



https://rocklandcountyny.jotform.com/262525444145051

ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPLAINS



NYS LEGISLATURE PASSES TAX CREDIT BILL

The Association of Fire Districts of Rockland County calls on Governor Kathy Hochul to promptly sign the

volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker tax credit bill (S.6233-A/A.6790-A).
Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel dedicate countless hours to protecting our communities while managing work, family, training, and growing service-related expenses. This bill would recognize their commitment and help improve recruitment and retention statewide.
Volunteers respond around the clock and often cover fuel, training, equipment, and other costs themselves. A larger tax credit would strengthen the volunteer fire and emergency services that communities across Rockland County and New York State depend on every day.
Use the link to send a message to Governor Hochul and respectfully urge her to sign S.6233-A/A.6790-A into law as soon as it reaches her desk. **Click here to contact now!**
The Association of Fire Districts of Rockland County thanks the New York State Legislature and the volunteer fire service organizations that helped advance this measure. Now we need the public's support to get it signed into law.
Send your message today and share this post with family, friends, neighbors, and volunteers. Together, we can support those who stand ready to protect our communities.

Vincent Pacella
AFDRC
(845) 406-0570

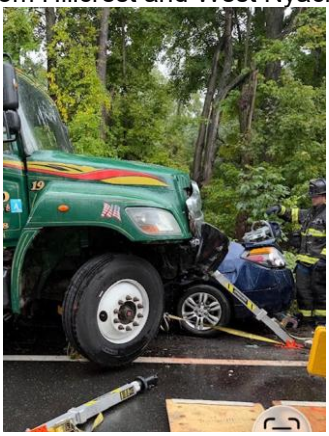
WORKING FIRES



Sept 12, 2026, 04:18:12, Hillcrest Fire Company was dispatched to a Structure Fire on 1 West Burda Place in the New City area of our district. Crews arrived to find heavy fire and an aggressive interior attack was quickly executed by the crews of 6-1501, 6-Tanker, and 6-75 with Chief Bowers as Command, Assistant Chief Ben-Jacob as Operations and Assistant Chief Boney coordinating the interior attack. Special thanks to New City Fire Engine Co. No. 1, Spring Valley Hook & Ladder Co#1, and Nanuet FD for the mutual aid as well as Clarkstown Police Department and Nanuet Emergency Medical Service for support as well. Great job by all!



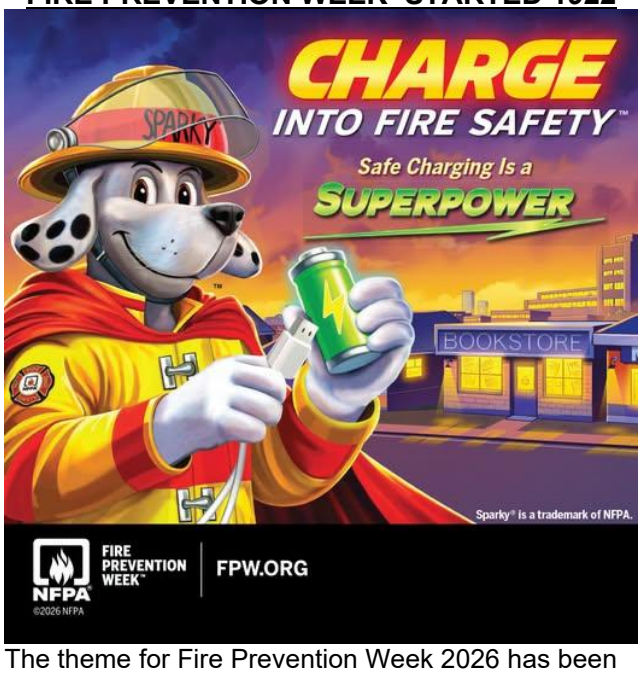
Sept 18, 2026, New City FD, 60 Zukor Road, Paramount Country Club, Maintenance Building. Came in as an automatic fire alarm @04:24, Upgraded to a working fire upon the arrival of 9-2, Mutual Aid from Hillcrest and West Nyack FD's



Sept 28, 2026, Hillcrest FD, Extrication garbage truck vs. sedan, Route 202 by Wilder Road, Mutual aid from Thiells FD, Passenger extricated, driver pronounced deceased.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK STARTED 1922



The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2026 has been announced!

🔥October 4-10, 2026

⚡"Charge Into Fire Safety™. Safe Charging Is a Superpower."

This year's campaign from the NFPA focuses on safe charging practices to help reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires. From phones and laptops to e-bikes and other rechargeable devices, simple charging habits can make a big difference in keeping homes and communities safe.

Find educational materials, activities, and resources to help your department participate in Fire Prevention Week and share this important message with your community 👉**https://buff.ly/xZU76gS**

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' BENEFIT LAW

To Every Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Provider in New York

Please take a moment to think about this.

If you are a volunteer firefighter or volunteer EMS provider in New York and you are permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty, do you know how much you and your family would receive?

Under New York's current Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law, the permanent total disability benefit is only $600 per week.

That's approximately:

* $600 per week
* $2,600 per month
* $31,200 per year

Think about trying to support yourself and your family on that amount after suffering a permanent, life-changing injury while volunteering to protect your community.

And remember: you don't get to choose when an accident happens.

You could be responding to a fire, working at a motor vehicle accident, treating a patient, or performing another emergency service when your life suddenly changes forever.

That's why Senate Bill S5432 is so important.

S5432 would increase the permanent total disability benefit from:

$600 per week → $1,200 per week

That's approximately $62,400 per year.

And importantly, the bill's permanent-total-disability provision applies regardless of the date of the accident, which would be critically important to volunteers who were injured years ago.

Ask yourself:

If you became permanently disabled tomorrow while volunteering, would $600 a week be enough to support you and your family?

For most families, the answer is probably no.

We volunteer because we care about our communities. We don't do it expecting to become wealthy. But if we sacrifice our health and our ability to work while protecting others, we should not be left struggling to survive.

Every volunteer firefighter and EMS provider should know what protection New York currently provides before they need it.

And every volunteer should know about S5432 and what it could mean for them and their families.

Please talk about this.

Talk to your fellow firefighters.

Talk to your EMS members.

Talk to your chiefs and commissioners.

Talk to your state senator and assemblymember.

Ask them one simple question:

"Will you support increasing the permanent total disability benefit for injured volunteer firefighters and EMS providers?"

We owe it to the volunteers who are currently serving — and to the volunteers who may someday be injured protecting us.

Don't wait until after an accident to find out what your family would receive.

🚒Support S5432.

A permanently disabled New York volunteer firefighter

RC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT APP

The Rockland County Office of Fire & Emergency Services – Emergency Management Division is proud to provide Rockland County employees with exclusive early access to our new all-in-one Emergency Management App before its public release.

This app was developed to serve as a single source for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery information for our residents and





Oct 22-24, 2026

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Jerome M. Kornfeld (1923 – 2012)

139 Lafayette Avenue
P.O. Box 177
Suffern, New York 10901
Phone: (845) 357-2660
Fax: (845) 357-6977
E-Mail: KRNE@KRNE.com



employees. Whether you're preparing for an emergency, need assistance during an incident, or recovering afterward, the app provides valuable information and resources at your fingertips.

Some of the app's features include:

- Emergency preparedness tips, videos, and checklists
- Real-time weather information from Rockland County's weather station network
- Power outage information
- Traffic and roadway updates
- Create a emergency kit checklist/plan and share it with loved ones
- Shelter locations and contact information when shelters are activated
- Warming Center and Cooling Center locations
- An easy way to register for Rockland County's Access and Functional Needs Registry
- A damage reporting feature following major storms or disasters to assist our office in collecting information for potential state and federal disaster declarations

We invite you to download the app today by scanning the QR code below using your Apple or Android device. Please take some time to explore the app and feel free to share it with your family and friends. Thank you for helping us build a more prepared and resilient Rockland County. We hope you find the app informative, useful, and a valuable resource before, during, and after emergencies.



LITHIUM ION BATTERIES

JERRY KNAPP

WHAT: Lithium-ion battery fires, explosions and other nasty sudden releases of the energy, explosive gases and toxics they contain are becoming more common. Here are a couple things to consider during your size up:

1. **EXPLOSIVE GASES:** The gases generated (aka smoke) from thermal runaway or other fire/damage are explosive. According to our friends at FSRI based on their live fire testing here are the numbers:

   Hydrogen: 33% of the gases …. Flammable range 5-75%
   Carbon monoxide: 36% of the gases……Flammable range 12-74%
   Carbon dioxide: 22% of the gases……Can convert to CO at high temps
   Methane (natural gas) 9% of the gases...Flammable range 5-15%

   See the Surprise Arizona case where the entire hazmat team was blown thru a chain link fence while trying to determine if these gases are explosive at a battery storage facility fire.

2. **TOXICS**: At a recent FSRI conference of technical panel members I was fortunate enough to sit next to a world class (PhD) level research scientist. Here is what his research has shown. Clearly there are toxics, very nasty toxics like hydrogen fluoride in the smoke. Still under investigation is if they present a hazard to firefighters. Undoubtedly, wear your mask. These are highly toxic gases and possibly particles. Decon your gear after the fire. More to follow.

SO WHAT: It is pretty simple. We know these gases are explosive and have wide flammable ranges. Respect the hazard, know the hazard from the research.

NOW WHAT: Do not endanger members trying to meter it to determine if it is explosive. WE KNOW IT IS. Include this information from FSRI in your SOP and training of your members.

When you respond to an electric vehicle in a garage or batteries contained in a room or battery energy storage system under thermal runaway, respect the explosive danger of the smoke. From FSRI live fire testing report: *During size-up, additional indicators for residential energy storage system installation should be considered beyond smoke appearance. Potential indicators that suggest a residence may have an energy storage system installed include the presence of a photovoltaic system, an additional connection at the electric meter, or an electric vehicle. These pieces of equipment may also be identified by their labeling if mounted on the exterior of the structure.*

Firefighters are at greatest risk for explosion hazards in the driveway and at doors, windows, and other vent points. Do not park fire apparatus or stage crews in front of garage door. Erie Colorado FD had an entire garage door blow off from and electric vehicle fire inside.

George M. Mulligan, CPA

4 Liberty Square
P.O. Box 676
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Shaun M. Cassidy Keith R. Taylor
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CALENDAR

LISTINGS ARE FREE **845-364-8800** **Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 10/28/2026**

Thur, Oct 2/3	● RCVFA Convention/Parade at SW Johnson, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member, , Convention at Patriot Hills at 7:30 PM, Parade Sat, step off at 1 PM
Oct 2-9	● Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters, Red Lights
Oct 5,	● NYS FF Appreciation Day declared by Governor Hochul
Thur, Oct 8	● SW Johnson, A Night of Insight & Spirit Messages, $55, 7-9 PM, Join Psychic Medium Lisa Morrison for an unforgettable evening of spiritual connection, insight, and messages from beyond, hosts: Deanna Thomas and Kristine Katt Thomas
Oct 8-9	● National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, Bells Across America
Thur-Sun, Oct 8-11	● Congers FD Fall Carnival, VMA Field, Lake Rd Firehouse, Thur-Fri opens 6 PM, Sat-Sun opens 3 PM, Bands Fri & Sat, Fireworks & DJ Sun
Wed, Oct 14	● FAA Aviation Safety Program, Post Aircraft Accident Response, 7 PM, at Rockland County Fire Training Center, Hosted by RC Fire Chiefs Assoc and RC Safety Officers Assoc.
	● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Blauvelt, with Pres Doug Mann, Annual Memorial Service
	● RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Rockland Lake, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
Thur, Oct 15	● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Stony Point, with Pres Chris Kear
Fri, Oct 16	● Stony Point Ladies Auxiliary, Sip & Paint, doors open at 6 PM, 7-10 PM, $55 per, bring your own food and drink, 25 N Liberty Dr, RSVP Libby Mains 845-821-7491
Sat, Oct 17	● 3rd Annual Ruck the River Walk/Ruck, Rockland Lake North Entrance, 9 AM Reg opens, 10 AM Opening Ceremony, 10:30 Starts,845-494-9608, john.stridesforservice@gmail.com
Mon, Oct 19	● NYSAFC Seminar, Dangerous Spaces Chief Michael Lombardo (Buffalo FD), at Rockland County Fire Training Ctr, 7 PM, $35 NYSAFC Members, $50 Non-Members,
Wed, Oct 21	● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Orangetown, Nyack. with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
Thur, Oct 22	● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Kim Weppler
Wed, Oct 28	● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco
	● Deadline for articles for Trumpet
	● National First Responders Day
Fri, Oct 30	● NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at _____, with Pres Anthony Chiodo
Sat, Oct 31	● Orangeburg Fire Dept, Halloween Parade
Wed, Nov 11	● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at _____, with Pres Doug Mann
	● RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at West Nyack, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
	● Veterans Day, Honor All Americans, who served in uniform
Thur, Nov 12	● Museum Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo-Gessner
Fri, Nov 13	● RCVFA Next Meeting.7:30 PM at _____, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

Future Events

Wed, Nov 18	● RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at So Spring Valley, with President Kim Weppler
	● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Stony Point. with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
Thur, Nov 19	● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at New City, with Pres Chris Kear
Fri, Nov 20	● NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at New Milford Fire Co. 2, 680 Trenton St., New Milford, NJ 07646, with Pres Anthony Chiodo, , 1 week early due to Thanksgiving
Tue, Nov, 24	● Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at Blauvelt, with Pres Vincent Pacella
Wed, Nov 25	● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco (a week before due to Thanksgiving each year)
Sun, Dec 6	● Orangetown Fire Co#1 Ladies Auxiliary, Pancake Breakfast, 8-11 am, 90 Depot Pl, So Nyack, $15 Adults, $12 Seniors, $8 Children 4-10, Take out available, cash/check,845-358-8286

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

Growing As A Leader In The Volunteer Fire Service

Leadership in the volunteer fire service is more than holding a title, it is about trust, influence, integrity and consistent service. Unlike career departments, volunteer fire departments rely heavily on community support, and shared commitment, making leadership both a challenge and a powerful opportunity for many.

This first step in growing as a leader is mastering the basics. Just like in baseball, the failure to do the simple basics set you up for failure. Competency in firefighting skills earns respect and builds the confidence needed to lead effectively. Leaders must lead by example, showing up on time, prepared, consistently training, and demonstrating integrity on each and every call.

Communication is critical. In volunteer settings, members come from diverse backgrounds with different levels of experience. Clear, respectful communication keeps everyone informed and engaged. Listening just as much as giving direction, fosters a team culture and strengthens morale.

Mentorship is another key element. A strong leader uplifts others by sharing knowledge and encouraging new members. Supporting the growth of your fellow volunteers strengthens the department as whole and prepares the next generation of leaders.

Finally, emotional intelligence, patience, empathy and humility can make or break a leader in high stress situations. The ability to remain calm, resolve conflicts and tret others with respect only strengthens a leader's place in the hearts and minds of their department.

Leadership in the volunteer fire service is not about personal gain or recognition. It is about service and setting the tone for excellence one call at a time and one conversation at a time.