



Bells and Whistles

Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Rescue Newsletter

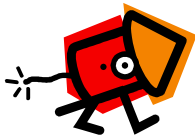
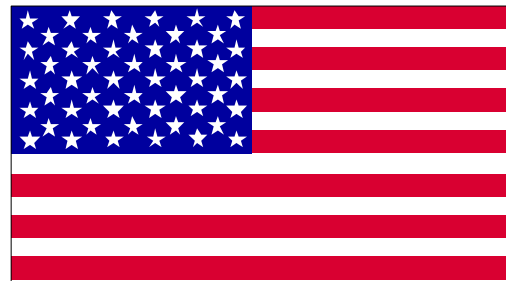
July 2008

HAPPY JULY 4TH!



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Chief's Corner

By Chief Steve Guetschow

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rick Pelanek, Craig Allen and Rob Nieman on their completion of paramedic class. They challenged the State test on June 23, 2008 and await the results. Please continue to support these gentleman as they continue to learn.

Also congratulations to Brian Kimpel and Trustee Corless for 10 years as paramedics in the system.

And finally congratulations to Gail Kloepper recognized for her efforts as a paramedic preceptor. Job well done by all!

Algonquin Lake in the Hills
Fire Protection District

Station 1

1020 West Algonquin Road
Lake in the Hills, Illinois 60156
(847) 658-8233
fax (847) 854-2609

Station 2

2440 Harnish Dr.
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-8224

Station 3

1691 Cumberland Pkwy
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-0930

Birthdays

July 2 nd	Kristy Huddleston
July 11 th	Brian Kimpel
July 12 th	John Skillman
July 15 th	Steve Ciaccio
July 18 th	Kevin Raether
July 20 th	Kevin Goers
July 21 st	Craig Allen
July 25 th	Tim Ross
July 26 th	Norm Bemis
July 28 th	Ron Houghton
July 28 th	Don Kublank

Association News

By Dan Teson

Last months seminar featuring Chief Hoff and Chief Kolomay was a huge success. We raised around \$9000.00. I would like to specifically thank Marjean Diercks for her help getting things organized, Keith Mohr, Bill Neuner, Erick Kennedy and Lindsie Teson for their help stuffing envelopes. Also, thank you to Frank Pelanek and Stephanie Berg for all their help the day of the seminar. Currently we are working with Chief Rick Lasky, author of Pride and Ownership, to bring his seminar out in March.

The Association will have a tent set up at Founders Days to hand out brick order forms and collect donations for the Firefighter Memorial. The main focal point of the memorial will be a 9-foot bronze firefighter statue which will be dedicated September 11, 2009. We are looking for help to staff this for as much of the festival as we can. Also the Association will be donating its time serving as fluid distribution engineers to help fight off dehydration in Towne Park from

17:15 - 21:30 on Saturday the 26th. Please contact Dan Teson if you would like to help out.

In the first part of this month we will be conducting an online vote on several Association items. Don't forget to there are station T-shirts in stock for sale at station 1. Show pride in your Firehouse and help support the Association.

Fire Prevention

As the July 4th holiday approaches, it's important to keep safety in mind, particularly in regards to fireworks. According to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), at least 150 people in Illinois are reportedly injured - some permanently - each year by fireworks, many of which are illegal under state law.

Even sparklers, legal in most parts of the state, pose a serious danger, particularly to small children. Sparklers burn at temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit and remain extremely hot long after the sparks have stopped. Touching a hot sparkler can cause serious burns, and sparks from a lit sparkler can ignite children's clothing. I urge parents to keep sparklers away from young children and closely supervise older children when they play with sparklers.

While illegal for consumer use in Illinois, bottle rockets and firecrackers account for a large number of fireworks-related injuries reported each year. These injuries can include painful burns, hearing or sight loss, and loss of fingers or other body parts. The effects of a few minutes of fun today could cause a debilitating injury that will last for years to come.

Besides injuries, fireworks used around the 4th of July are also responsible for many

structure and vehicle fires each year. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more fires are typically reported on July 4 than any other day of the year and fireworks account for half of those fires.

Under state law, anyone wishing to use consumer or display fireworks must obtain a display permit from local government officials. For more information, visit the OSFM website at www.state.il.us/osfm.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch a professional fireworks display operated by professionals trained to handle fireworks. I wish you and your family and safe and happy 4th of July.

Personnel Status

Light Duty

Kim Matz

EMPLOYEE TOTAL 81

Officials 6

Full time 50

 Firefighter/paramedics - 30

 Firefighter/EMT - 11

 Firefighter - 3

 Salary - 4

 Civilian - 2

Part time 25

 Firefighter/Paramedic - 6

 Firefighter/EMT - 13

 Paramedic - 3

 Civilian - 3

Statistics

June 1 - June 30, 2008

Fire calls 155

EMS calls 219

0130 80

 Station One

0151 106

0141 132

0150 2

0181 22

 Station Two

0152 90

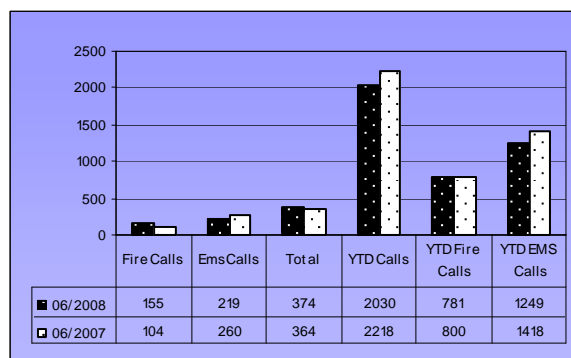
0142 66

 Station Three

0153 77

0143 65

Grand Total **374**



Anniversaries

In July, the following people are celebrating an anniversary on the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Fire Department.

Keith Svendsen 29 years- part time and full time

Mike Saenz 9 years - part time and full time

Julie Didier 7 years - full time

Steve Witkus 4 years - full time

Reflections

A drunken man in an Oldsmobile they said had
run the light.
That caused the six-car pileup on 109 that
night.

When broken bodies lay about and blood was
everywhere,
The sirens screamed out eulogies, for death
was in the air.

A mother, trapped inside her car, was heard
above the noise,
Her plaintive plea near split the air, 'Oh, God,
please spare my boys!'

She fought to lose her pinned hands, she
struggled to get free,
But mangled metal held her fast in grim
captivity.

Her frightened eyes then focused on where
the back seat once had been,
But all she saw was broken glass and two
children's seats crushed in.

Her twins were nowhere to be seen, she did
not hear them cry,
And then she prayed they'd been thrown free,
'Oh, God, don't let them die!

Then firemen came and cut her loose, but
when they searched the back,
They found therein no little boys, but the seat
belts were intact.

They thought the woman had gone mad and
was traveling alone,
But when they turned to question her, they
discovered she was gone.

Policemen saw her running wild and screaming
above the noise
In beseeching supplication, Please help me find
my boys!'

'They're four years old and wear blue shirts,
their jeans are blue to match.'

One cop spoke up, 'They're in my car, and they don't
have a scratch.'

'They said their daddy put them there, and gave them
each a cone,
'Then told them both to wait for Mom to come and take
them home.'

'I've searched the area high and low, but I can't find
their dad.'
'He must have fled the scene, I guess, and that is very
bad.'

The mother hugged the twins and said, while wiping at a
tear,
'He could not flee the scene, you see, for he's been
dead a year.'

The cop just looked confused and asked, 'Now, how can
that be true?
'The boys said, 'Mommy, Daddy came and left a kiss for
you.'

'He told us not to worry and that you would be all right,
'And then he put us in this car with the pretty, flashing
light.

'We wanted him to stay with us, because we miss him so,
'But Mommy, he just hugged us tight and said he had to
go.'

'He said someday we'd understand and told us not to
fuss,
'And he said to tell you, Mommy, 'He's watching over
us.'

The mother knew without a doubt that what they spoke
was true,
For she recalled their dad's last words, 'I will watch
over you.'

The firemen's notes could not explain the twisted,
mangled car,
And how the three of them escaped without a single
scar.

But on the cop's report was scribed, in print so very
fine,
'An angel walked the beat tonight on Highway 109.'