



Bells and Whistles

Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Rescue Newsletter

September 2009

Remember 9-11

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"The best thing to do behind a friend's back is pat it." -Ruth Brillhart

Chief's Corner

By Chief Kevin Rynders

Some dates live on forever. They seem as if they happened just yesterday in the memories of those who lived through them.

- December 7, 1941 - the attack on Pearl Harbor
- November 22, 1963 - the assassination of President Kennedy
- January 28, 1986 - the explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger

Many people alive at the time of each disaster can recall exactly where they were and what they were doing at the time of the event.

Where were you on the morning of September 11, 2001?

I was ending my tour of duty at the firehouse (shift change was 0800) when the morning news was interrupted by a breaking story out of New York City. The North Tower of the World Trade Center was on fire. We were mesmerized by the images and wondered out loud what could have caused such an intense fire in what we assumed was a "protected" high rise building. At 8:03 a.m. our time, there was no more wondering as we witnessed the second plane strike the South Tower.

I left the firehouse and drove home. My wife and I watched in silence hoping for the best but expecting the worse. When the South Tower

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Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Protection
District

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1020 W. Algonquin Rd.
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Station 2
2440 Harnish Dr
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-8224

Station 3
1691 Cumberland Pkwy
Algonquin, IL 60102
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collapsed at 8:59 a.m., I wondered how many firefighters were making their way to the upper floors. Even Sue wondered out loud how many firefighters do you think were in the building?

At 9:28 a.m. the North Tower collapsed adding to the carnage.

A total of 2,595 people died in and/or near the World Trade Center. 1,609 people lost a spouse. 3,051 children lost their parents.

Of the 2,595 fatalities, 343 were FDNY firefighters, 23 were NYPD police officers, and 37 were Port Authority police officers.

In the days following the attacks, the fire service came together like never before. Help arrived in New York City, much of it un-invited and probably not even needed. Every firefighter in every fire station across the nation was viewed as heroes. Fill-The-Boot for FDNY families raised incredible amounts of money. We all promised to *Never Forget*.

Here we are, only 8 years after the horrific events of 9-11-01. We haven't forgotten what happened, but it just doesn't seem to be all that important anymore.

There's not much the ALFPD has in common with FDNY. Just like in New York City though, at the beginning of every shift, we have firefighters and paramedics that arrive for work not for a second thinking they won't be going home.

This September 11th, take a few moments to remember our FDNY brethren who kissed their wife good bye or hugged their kids, and never came home again.



Fit Program

By Asst Chief Littlefield

Some of you have heard us talking about the new Firefighter in Training Program (FIT). This program is designed to take District residents who have an interest in becoming a firefighter and help them acquire their Firefighter II certificate from the State of Illinois.

When word got out that the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District (ALFPD) was going to start the FIT program, we received over 20 applications. We conducted interviews and decided to move forward with the top three candidates to be sponsored by the ALFPD. The three that were selected all live within our fire district and have agreed to pay for all pre-hire testing and school. They also agreed to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours a month to work at the fire house and gain experience working as a firefighter; including station chores, operating equipment on our apparatus, train with the assigned company, and respond to calls with the apparatus they are assigned to. While on calls they are only to observe and not take part in the incident. We will assign each of them to a shift and a mentor. When they work, we will use the daily probationary form to monitor their progress.

These candidates are anxious to work more than the 24 hours to learn as much as possible and hang out with firefighters. We used the 24 hour minimum so as not to take away from their school work while attending the McHenry County College Firefighter II Academy. As time goes by and we see that they're doing well in school, with the permission of their Battalion Chief, they may volunteer for more hours. The candidates should only be scheduled to work days and evenings and are not allowed to work past 2100 hours.

Captain Knebl will assign the candidates on-line training to complete the required training, such as blood borne pathogens, lockout tag out, HIPPA requirements, and preventing harassment. They should be able to complete this via the internet from home but if they need your assistance please

help them complete this training. They were also issued department ID's that will expire at the end of the academy. They should have this ID on them while on duty. We will work with Keith to get them e-mail.

After completing the academy, the candidate will then be placed on a list and have an opportunity to fill a part-time position when a vacancy occurs. It is our hope to place three candidates in each Firefighter II Academy using the same process.

The shift assignments are as follows:

Black Shift Dan Lunt

Red Shift Edward Thompson

Gold Shift Eric Saxton

I ask that we work with these members and teach them what it means to be a part of our family of firefighters. As always if you have any questions feel free to contact myself or Captain Knebl.

Thank you.

Bear Necessities Run

By Capt. Joe Teson

Once again, I am looking for volunteers to help with the Bear Run. As we have done in the past, by standing on the corners at intersections along the run route, we can save the Bear Necessities Organization the expense of hiring police officers. This will add to the amount raised for pediatric cancer research.

Bear, a young boy from Algonquin, was stricken with childhood cancer. He was the same age as one of my kids and several other members, past and present, of our organization. Bear put up a courageous fight, but at the age of eight lost the battle. It was his wishes that other children would not have to suffer as he did.

With his memories in her heart, his mother Kathleen Casey decided to try to keep his wish alive and founded Bear Necessities. This has grown into a huge fund raising operation that has gone from a small dream in Algonquin to an office now located in Chicago, with offices also being opened in Florida and Houston, Texas. The money raised goes to cancer research, equipment for

cancer patients at care facilities and to make a child's dream come true through the Small Miracle Foundation.

For the past 17 years, we have been hosting the Bear Run in his memory here in Algonquin. It consists of a sanctioned 10k and 5k run around the Eastview School area and on the bike path.

The run will take place on **Sunday, September 27th**. We will meet at Eastview School, 540 Longwood Dr, at approximately 0715 for a briefing and be finished by 1030. I need 15 volunteers to assist with this project. Please e-mail me or Michele your support.

Personnel Status

New Hire

Jesse Howard, full-time FF/Paramedic)

Return to Active Duty

Bill Hough

Work Comp

Kim Matz

Dominick Vassos

EMPLOYEE TOTAL 82

Officials 8

Full time 51

Firefighter/paramedics - 37

Firefighter/EMT - 7

Firefighter - 1

Salary - 4

Civilian - 2

Part time 23

Firefighter/Paramedic - 7

Firefighter/EMT - 10

Firefighter - 0

Paramedic - 3

Civilian - 3

Statistics

August 1-August 31, 2009

Fire calls 108
EMS calls 265

130 83
131 01
134 01

Station One

0150 2
0151 132
0141 159
0181 11

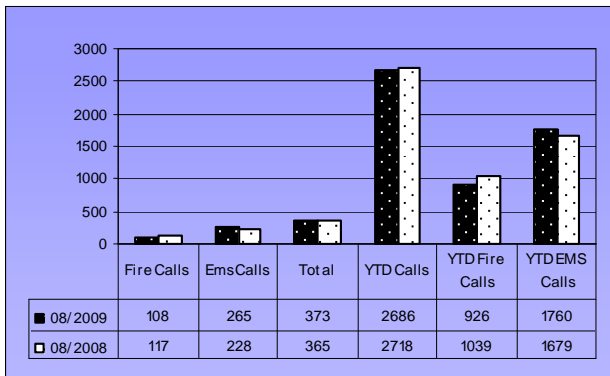
Station Two

0152 127
0142 169
0162 2

Station Three

0153 64
0143 88

Grand Total 373



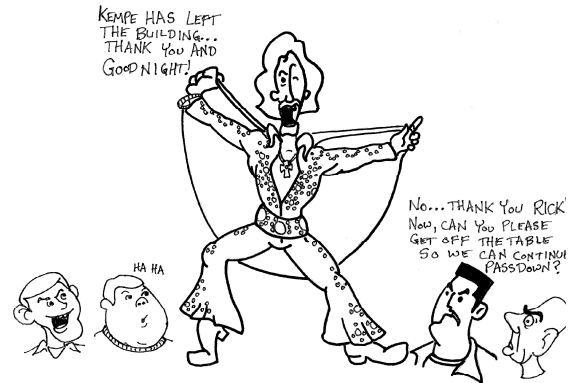
Congratulations

Congratulations to Kevin and Christy Goers on the birth of their son, Jack Joseph Goers born August 27th at 13:31 hours. Jack weighed in at 8.5 pounds and is 20 inches long. The family is doing well.

Congrats to Andrew Pieri for completing ICS-300 and ICS-400!!

FF/PM Dave Kimpel received a Humanitarian Award presented on behalf of MABAS for his deployment last September to Louisiana during Hurricane Gustav.

Congratulations to Dan Teson and Bob Haughey on attaining Vehicle and Machinery Technician certification from the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



Drawn By Dan Pressler

Anniversaries

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

Rick Kempe	16 years FT
Bill Hough	11 years FT
Bill Pelinski	10 years FT
Dan Teson	3 years FT
Kevin Rather	3 years FT
Rob Nieman	3 years PT and FT
Eric Surmin	2 years FT

Birthdays

September 10 th	Wendy Hoover
September 14 th	Ron Nelson
September 18 th	Mike Gruenes
September 26 th	Michael Markowitz

Reflections

Tough Tuna

From 'Chicken Soup for the Soul; Tough Times, Tough People'

I refuse to believe that trading recipes is silly.

Tuna Fish casserole is at least as real as corporate stock.

~Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

It was buried in the back of my recipe box, yellowed with age and slightly tattered. But there it was--my old tuna casserole recipe, a reminder of our early married days. Back then, I'd learned how to stretch a meatloaf ten ways, and yes, how to create casseroles that stretched our tight budget just as ingeniously.

I took that tuna casserole recipe and put it on the kitchen counter. In both real and symbolic ways, it was time....

My husband and I had come of age with Depression-era parents who had counted every penny forever after. We learned thrift in our respective households--mine in the city, his on a farm in the country. The lessons took, and at the beginning of our marriage that background stood us in very good stead.

My husband, a newly-minted lawyer, made even less money than I did as a first-year middle school English teacher. We lived so frugally that even a movie--ninety-nine cents at that time--was a splendid indulgence.

Our major [investment](#) was our tiny Cape Cod house, one that cost \$12,000 in 1960, and required a \$400 down payment that we struggled to put together.

I swapped clothes with my sister so that my students wouldn't see me in the same outfits so often. My husband continued to wear suits that

had a suspicious sheen--the symptom of their advanced age.

And life was wonderful.

We both look back on those years as some of our best. Life was deliciously simple. We had no financial advisers because we had such skimpy incomes. We had one car that managed to get us where we both needed to go, if we both stuck to a strict itinerary.

Vacations? A day trip to the New Jersey seashore with lunch packed in a shoe box, and sand in our shoes for weeks after those escapes.

My husband's bachelor apartment sofa, originally purchased at the Salvation Army for \$28, was the centerpiece of our [living room](#) for those first couple of years. Our parties were with couples in similar circumstances. Spaghetti and meatballs--nobody called it "pasta" back then--was often on the menu, and the wine that went with it was cheap.

And when it was just the two of us, tuna casserole was a mainstay of our weekly diet. Its mix of noodles, tuna, canned mushroom soup, and peas became a celebration when I sprinkled on potato chips as a topping.

The years passed, and providence smiled more kindly on us. We needed a bigger house when three daughters filled the little Cape Cod to bursting. Our next house seemed a palace--the girls even had their own bathroom.

Life got more complicated, and a bit less fun, as we joined the legions of America's consummate consumers. We had things... more things than we needed.

On the day we got a second TV, I remember feeling something akin to guilt. When we got a

third, I didn't tell my thrifty parents. The omission was deliberate.

The years flew by, and suddenly, our daughters were gone, off to college campuses and then to lives of their own. America was in its golden years, and so were we.

There were vacations, nicer cars, and dinner parties where shrimp dishes and exotic Asian foods, not spaghetti and meatballs, were on the menu.

I had the luxury of being a freelance writer--one without any salary or benefits, of course, but ideal for my restless nature.

We thought it would go on and on. We thought our [retirement](#) was as safe and secure as the giant, presumably rock-solid companies in which we had invested.

The wake-up call came during several sobering conferences with our financial advisor--and yes, we now had one of those.

The national economy was in a free-fall. Wall Street was having a nervous breakdown. Our savings were depleted.

We had blinked, and a whole generation had slipped away. We found ourselves reliving some aspects of our parents' lives.

While we've been luckier--we're blessed with some degree of economic security as retirees--our outlook is fixed on caution.

When you drive to a store that once was there, and suddenly it's not, that's scary.

When contemporaries who shared Camelot with us are wondering whether their pensions are safe, and whether they can keep their homes, optimism is a scarce commodity.

We may have lost some of our hard-won savings, but we've gained something in the bargain. Perspective.

Friends and neighbors are talking to each other more, and with more openness. We're all in this together, or, as somebody called, we're experiencing "creative commiseration."

We're remembering that living small, not large, can be rewarding.

We recently invited some friends over to play charades and sing old songs with us. It was glorious. We proudly served spaghetti and meatballs.

And I can't wait to make my old tuna casserole.

I suspect that it will taste just as wonderful as it used to.

