

# Booster Line

## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

Our current reporting period covers the activities that Schiller Park responded to in the last month. The following incidents are the firefighters and paramedics more unique calls. As always Schiller Park members responded to any call for help.

Our issue begins on November 16<sup>th</sup> when Red shift responded to a report of a fire on the roof. They arrived and laddered the roof. The fire investigative team found the heating unit malfunctioning and a burnt motor. This pumped smoke into the structure. The unit was shut down and maintenance took over to make the repair.

November 18<sup>th</sup> had Black shift respond to a rollover vehicle along River road and the woods. On arrival members found a car down the embankment and laying on the passenger side of the car. Members were able to remove patient and transport to the hospital.

The next day members responded to wires down. Lt. Hatcher found high voltage wires down and arcing. Com Ed was called to assist at the emergency. Chicago Fire Department personnel returning from the airport were also on the scene. The power outage covered the north side of the town

November 20<sup>th</sup> had a fire response for smoke in the area of a school. Lt. Budnik showed up with his crew and the location of the incident was around the block with a resident burning leaves.

The next call for Gold shift was for a reported fire. Lt. Budnik showed up and found smoke coming from the front door. Dispatch informed him it was a kitchen fire. Police had used one of their fire extinguishers to control the fire but it was more than a portable extinguisher could handle. The skid load was pulled and a 1 ¾ inch attack line was stretched. Through the front door while Tower

Ladder 5 began ventilation and control of the utilities. Franklin Park truck 2 went to the roof while Norwood Park stretched a second line. The fire was contained to the kitchen area and the bathroom behind the kitchen.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> had an elevator rescue on a high rise. Lt. Swiontek and Gold shift used their elevator key after lock out/tag out of the power. The trapped person was released.

Gold shift took in a call for a kitchen fire that the occupant put out on November 26<sup>th</sup>. On scene members found burnt food on the stove. The occupant started dinner then went to take a shower. The food began to burn and light up the cabinets above. The engine and ladder companies opened up the soffit and wall near the stove looking for extension. The thermal imaging camera was also used to check for hot spots.

A fire alarm on November 28<sup>th</sup> had members find a light haze in the building. The group checked the building and located the source as a belt on the washing machine that got tangled and burnt up.

Next up members responded to another fire alarm. This time one unit had burnt food that activated the detector.

November 30<sup>th</sup> had an elevator rescue on a high rise that members were previously at on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lt. Cesaretti and Red shift used their elevator key after lock out/tag out of the power. The trapped person was released.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> had a different type of elevator emergency when the fire alarm went off. On scene the panel showed that it was smoke in the elevator room. Members checked this area out with maintenance and removed the elevator from service until a repair person could arrive and restore service.

After midnight Gold shift was dispatched to a car on top of a car. Members on scene found one car literally on top of the other. The cars

### *Inside This Newsletter*

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were on Irving between River and Cumberland. (see photos).

After shift change Black shift responded to a water flow. On arrival they located the source as a broken sprinkler pipe. The riser was shut down and the building engineer took over to make repairs.

While a business was preparing food for customers, the fire alarm went off. The cooking and flour used to bake got into a detector setting it off.

December 6<sup>th</sup> had members respond for smoke in the building. Lt. Hatcher arrived with his shift and was told that there was a fire in the industrial overhead paper shredder. An attack line was dropped and advanced to the area. The machine was taken apart to access the areas where the jam was and the smoldering was occurring. Prior to our arrival their fire extinguishing equipment kept the fire in check.

The next call was to help a resident who had installed a hydraulic lift to help them. The resident became stuck in the chair and required our assistance to get up and out of the chair.

A well being check on December 8<sup>th</sup> had gold shift concerned. They responded when the son said that they had not heard from their 79 year old mother and it was 10:30 P.M. and she should be home. Lt. Swiontek was able to crawl through the window and found no one home. Neighbors had no idea of where she was and the son stated that "mom" is always home. As members checked every nook and cranny of the home to be sure, members also answered the machine and caller ID. They found a phone number on it from earlier in the afternoon and as they were about to call the last number (prior to her sons repeated calls) the mother showed up with the caller. She had gone out with the caller and many tears between mom and son were shared.

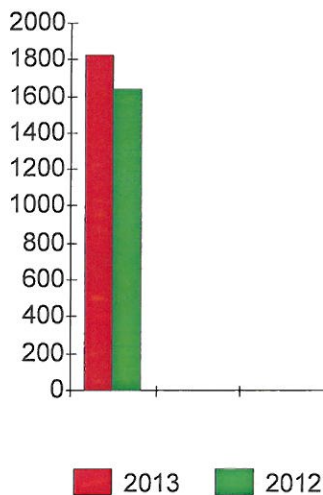
The next day a resident who was locked out was assisted in re-gaining entry when members showed up and helped her.

Gold shift took in a possible structure fire on December 11<sup>th</sup> in a single family home. On scene Cmdr. Chiodo found smoke pumping from the chimney and ridge board. The owner said the fire was in the basement. Lines were stretched to the rear and a "Working Fire" response requested. Members of our tower ladder and engine company fought their way into the basement while Norwood Park did a primary search and checked the attic. Franklin Park took the second line to the first floor and Leyden backed up and relieved crews. Rosemont's tower ladder company was used as RIT.

The last call of the reporting period was on December 11<sup>th</sup> after Black shift took over a fire in Elmwood Park had FF/PM Leiser respond to the scene as a fire investigator.

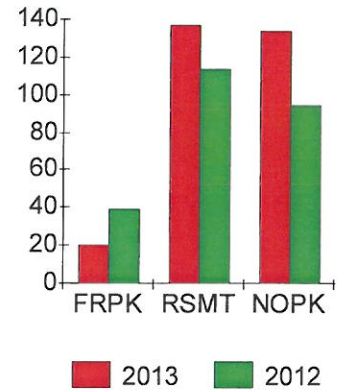
The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2012:

### Total Incidents



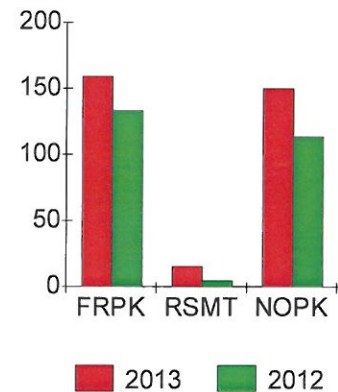
The run summary for Automatic Aid as of November 30<sup>th</sup> "To" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Given



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of November 30<sup>th</sup> "From" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Received



	2013	2012
Total Incidents	1824	1642

### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	20	39
Norwood Park (NOPK)	134	94
Rosemont (RSMT)	137	113

### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	159	133
Norwood Park (NOPK)	150	113
Rosemont (RSMT)	15	5

# Commander's Cove

*We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

FF/PM Warden who injured herself while in the Vehicle Machinery Operations class still remains out. She cut her hand and ligament requiring surgery. She has been coming in on light duty where she is working with the Maintenance, Training and Public Relations Bureaus. She hopes to be back to full shift duty after the first of the New Year.

Cmdr. Maher also injured himself off duty during a biking accident. The result was that he had to have surgery on his left thumb with a torn ligament and a torn right shoulder rotator cuff. As a result of his injury and the extended recovery time Cmdr. Maher decided to retire effective November 2, 2013. The fire department and Village held Cake and Coffee on the apparatus floor on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

As a result of the retirement of Cmdr. Maher, FF/PM Swiontek has been promoted to Lieutenant at the Village Board meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. (see photos). Our congratulations to Greg and his family.

To balance shift seniority Director Deegan has made one shift change for 2014-2015 year. FF/PM Gergits will be reassigned to Black shift and FF/PM Rupsis will be transferred to Gold.

FF/PM Santiago who enlisted in the military can be reached at:  
Recruit Santiago, Nicholas  
MI2RD Bn Fox Co. Plt.  
2131 35051 Midway Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92140-2142

The Schiller Park and Franklin Park Lions Club honored Cmdr. Ladonsky of the Schiller Park Police Department as the Police Officer of the Year and Cmdr. Chiodo as the

Firefighter of the Year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. (pictures next issue).

Other promotions in the surrounding area include Lt. Stewart n Franklin Park being promoted to Battalion Chief along with Lt. Brehm being promoted to Battalion Chef. Our congrats to both men.

As a result of promotions and retirements in Schiller Park, the testing process will begin in January with the application period January 3-February 15<sup>th</sup>. The orientation will be February 27<sup>th</sup>, Written-March 1<sup>st</sup>, Agility March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Orals the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The fire department also held its Foreign Insurance meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting members approved the following purchases—workout equipment, step cribbing, portable hose tester, callback system, and recurring expenses. A change to the by-laws was tabled to change the dates of the meeting.

Fire Director Deegan is also looking to see if there is any interest n an indoor golf league. Details on the league and how it works can be found n the firehouse kitchen.

The Itasca Fire Protection District has revised its Box Cards and moved us up on several Box cards to the 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm.

Director Deegan is also beginning to work on next year's budget and s looking at what we need. Any suggestions from the troops at the shift meetings would be helpful.

Members have started wearing their Centennial Badges on their uniforms. This coincides with the Village Centennial celebration. Director Deegan also is coordinating selling Centennial merchandise.

One of our uniform vendors, VCG, has developed for us an on-line way of ordering uniforms and clothing allowance items. They have our current policy and will soon be out to measure everyone and keep those sizes in their database. This will allow you to order items anytime. If the item is not on the approved list, you must get permission from the Chief.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has given final approval for the Elgin-O'Hare western access project. Part of the project will also be the ring road by-pass for the toll way. The project and infrastructure will start shortly.

IDOT has approved funding for the widening of Mannheim from Irving north to the Kennedy. Work has already begun. Eventually a southbound ramp from Mannheim to Balmoral will be added for access to southbound I-294. The Balmoral ramp from northbound Mannheim is now closed as part of the project. It will be closed for several months.

The Village has removed the sand bags from station 6 and placed them in the Emergency Sandbag Container located outside this firehouse. It is one of three containers n town with sandbags.

We are looking at getting voluntary compliance with numbering or lettering the stairways in our multi-story buildings. This would aid residents and firefighters in identifying the fire attack and evacuation stairways.

Another project is to identify which elevators our stretchers can be fit in by placing a Star of Life on the elevator(s) that we can get our stretcher into. A blue bar under the Star of Life will indicate that the stretcher can be fully vertical in the elevator.

# Tools / Equipment and Other FYI's

A number of items have been worked on this past month.

Items worked on and happenings around the firehouse this month include:

The hose tester which was authorized was received. Lt. Budnik is working on placing it in service.

Members also worked on repairing the foam pump drain assembly on Engine 5.

All carpeting, fabric chairs and bedding was cleaned this past month of dirt and allergens.

FF/PM Bubis also worked on the rear door lock entry system by repairing the FOB mechanism.

A repair to Engine 5 crankcase was repaired along with the rear passenger door.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

The traffic arrow stick on Ambulance 5 was repaired on shift this past month.

The Pulse Ox on Ambulance 5 was replaced.

We were able to retrieve one of our backboards from Christ Hospital on the far south side of Chicago. Somehow our board was able to bounce from hospital to hospital before someone there called and let us know that we did not transport there but that our equipment was there.

We are also now able to transmit 12 lead ECK to the hospital. Please consult the policy and protocol on this procedure.

We have also replaced the shoreline for ambulance 461 on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue firehouse.

We would like to remind all personnel that when they are exchanging or retrieving drugs from the hospitals, that you check and verify the dosages. With different manufactures and packaging we must make sure that the correct dosages are picked up.

FF/PM LiRosi has taken over all of the CPR classes and instruction. He will coordinate both the private and the village sector. FF/PM Niemand, Bubis and PM Jenkins and Kosar are all still instructors helping out. We are averaging 3-4 classes per month with 50 plus students.

When doing run sheets please verify that you have the correct incident number. All incident numbers from Schiller Park dispatch are seven digits. Also to help prevent the computers from overheating, leave the lid open.

Worldwide there continues to be a shortage of certain drugs that we administer. It may be impossible to exchange certain drugs at the hospital because of the shortage. I will be coming out with an FYI to inform you of any developments.

Please remember that any unused or empty controlled substance vials must be brought into the hospitals for them to replace. If you have any questions or concerns, please see EMSD Nosek.

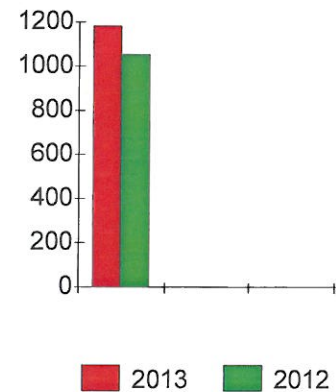
The Northwest Community Hospital website for Continuing Education has a ton of information that can assist paramedics with continuing education and also provide assistance on the monthly training. If you have not had an opportunity to check the website it would be advisable.

During the past month personnel responded to 93 emergency calls. A total of 91 patients were encountered. 64 patients were transported to area hospitals. 44 patients required Advanced Life Support care.



	2013	2012
Total Responses	1184	1052
Cardiac	74	82
Medical Emergency	592	566
Accidents/Trauma	317	249
Fire Responses	189	145
False Alarm/Standby	12	12
Mut. Aid to SHPK	42	24
SHPK to others	50	33

EMS Total Responses



## Projects in the Works

All the shifts are encouraged to take on new challenges. If you have a project or an idea, please run it past Director Deegan, Lt. Budnik or FF/PM Bertoncini.

We will be working on also adding emergency strobes on the exterior of the building on the east side of the firehouse.

We are looking at insulating the old entrance to the firehouse from the radio room to make it more sound proof.

What's in the works? –

- New lights at station 2
- Additional outlets at station 2
- Emergency phone outside sta. 2

- mount patches around kitchen
- paint apparatus floor border
- Install window in TV. Room
- Paint sta.6 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator
- New high-rise load packing tool
- fully sprinkler the firehouse

## Trivia

### *Answer to last month's Trivia*

#### **November Trivia**

Where and when was the first Heavy Rescue used in the United States?

The first rescue company was organized in New York, New York in 1915.

No correct answers were received

#### **December Trivia**

What incident led to the widespread use of mercaptan as an odorant for natural gas?

Please submit your answers in writing to the *Booster Line* in order to be eligible for the prizes. Winners will be selected randomly from all correct entries.

## Office of the State Fire Marshal and Training

### ***Failure to Train is Training to Fail***

The training division has been active in defining and charting a course for our department.

FF/PM Niemand and FF/PM Werner completed the Fire Service Vehicle

Operator class this past month in the State Fire Marshal program.

Cmdr. Chiodo and Cmdr. Leiser attended the Division 20 Safety and Training Officer meeting.

Lt. Budnik is a certified third party non-CDL instructor through the Illinois Secretary of State.

OSHA is implementing new package identification labels for hazardous materials shipment. The new labels will be phased in within the next two years. Examples of the new labels and terminology can be found in the classroom and this issue.

Cmdr Leiser has received a DVD training simulator where we can use pictures of buildings in town and I will be able to set up different scenarios.

We are looking into the possibility of hosting some State Fire Marshal classes including technical rescue and fire apparatus engineer. I will notify personnel if openings occur.

I have signed up several members for OSFM classes as part of their job requirements. If you know that you need a class please let me know, I will try to find one, however if you find one on your own please submit the paperwork and maintain a copy for yourself.

I have also obtained railroad ties for training in using different techniques for cutting, i.e. chopping with axes, mauls, saws. They are located behind the firehouse.

Members completed 207 hours of training for the month with 24 training drills. This includes outside classes. Our Paid on Call had 4 meetings for 8 hours.

The second Thursday of each month the State Fire Marshal has a testing site at Triton College. They have also instituted a new policy of a government issued picture ID at the test site. If you cannot produce one you will not be allowed in. Likewise they are requesting that all phones be left in the test takers car to help with the integrity of the test (too many camera phones). If you would like to

sign up see Cmdr. Leiser.

Please fill an Outside Training Form whenever you attend a class, seminar or training session outside of Schiller Park. This allows for accurate record keeping in those areas and credit for the hours you put into training.

Signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment. If you can't attend see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

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## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge Cmdr. Chiodo as our Employee of the Month.

Cmdr. Chiodo was nominated to receive the Firefighter of the Year Award through the Lions Club of Schiller Park and Franklin Park. He was also instrumental in getting the Illinois Department of Transportation to make two emergency turn arounds on Irving Park road west of Mannheim. This request came as a result of fire calls in Bensenville where after we crossed Taft we were committed if a train was at York road. The continuous curb prevented us from crossing over and trying to go back to Green Street.

For your time, persistence and endeavor in trying to make responses quicker we make you our Employee of the Month

Thanks for your time and dedication, you make us proud to be firefighters and in the fire service and village employees.

If you would like to nominate a firefighter, paramedic, officer or other persons for recognition, please submit the action or the incident in writing to the editor Cmdr. Chiodo.



# Fire Prevention

## *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Shifts are completing their 2013 inspections. Each shift received 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections are rotated so that over a three year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses. To date about 370 total inspections have been completed.

According to the Daily Herald newspaper Pancakes Eggcetera is looking to relocate to Schiller Park from Rosemont. There are also plans for a possible renovation at Aerospace and the Indian restaurant is proceeding on track. A new possibility is also in the works for vacant land in the cemetery.

Sexton Pond owners have purchased a Knox padlock for the gate/fence on their property should we need to gain access. Our thanks to Lt. Hatcher.

We also received a letter from Knox that as of January 1, 2014 all Knox boxes in the 3200, 4100 and 4400 series will have mandatory tamper switches. Lt. Hatcher has all the new applications for Knox Boxes or the client can go to the Knox Box website.

As a reminder when we go on trouble alarms we need to contact the owner to report that the alarm went into trouble and document that on the incident report and in the trouble alarm binder. Midwest may also be doing this as a back up to our call.

We also want to ensure that all PRE-PLAN sheets are returned and handed in to FF/PM Niemand. These are ESSENTIAL for us to try to complete our computer based pre-plan program. When you bring back your fire inspections, make a copy of the pre-plan forms and submit to FF/PM Niemand. He is CAD drawing the diagrams with the information. He is also using satellite imagery in each

of the files. This process will take a year of more to import, draw and download to our laptops. IT IS IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THIS PAPERWORK AS IT IS PART OF THE PRE-PLAN THAT IS ISO NECESSARY.

If you are interested in any plan review in Fire Prevention, please see Lt. Hatcher. He will review what is coming into town based on what plans Community Development sends over.

Any member wishing to attend the monthly meeting of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association should contact Lt. Hatcher Maher.

We are also suggesting and strongly recommending that sprinkler and standpipe connections be converted to storz fittings.

The State Fire Marshal is instituting a new certification program Inspector I. Cmdr. Leiser is looking into the program if this should replace the Fire Prevention Principles as required before third year of hire. Cmdr. Leiser will advise those needing the class when it is available.

## Public Affairs

### *Saving Lives Through Education*

We have been very pro-active in Public Relations during the past month.

We have purchased fire extinguisher literature in both English and Spanish. We have noticed that we are doing more presentations and instead of using translators where we can't assure the correct messages are being given. We also got DVD's in both English and Spanish.

We will include the Fire Prevention pictures omitted last month.

The Illinois Fire Inspectors Association has decided to move its Public Education Conference from Galena to East Peoria next year. The dates will be April 30-May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Other ideas being explored include

our next Citizen Fire academy, Jr. Fire Academy, Employee thank you.

We are also coordinating with other a fire service organizations the implementation and publicizing the "ICE" program (In Case of Emergency) for people's cell phones.

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## Retiree Row

With the retirement of Cmdr. Maher our ranks of retirees grows.

Thanks to Cmdr. Jeffrey (ret.) on being Santa's "helper" on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Santa House.

Please drop a line as to how any of our retirees are doing. This is an opportunity to let others know what you are doing and how you are doing. Please email to Cmdr. Chiodo at [pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com).

## Stork Report

FF/PM Farias announced that he and his wife are expecting in April.

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## Notes

A note was received by mayor Piltaver from a guest who required our EMS services while staying at one of our hotels. He thanked us for the professional and courtesy service we provided. The Mayor passed it on to us along with her thanks for a great job and making Schiller Park proud.

A letter was also received by the Village thanking paramedics for treating their mother. The children updated us that mother recently passed away however they wanted to thank us for all the times we were there. Mother liked the paramedics very much and spoke often and highly of them. In a time of sadness they made her smile and be happy.

Resignations from Collette Hudecek and Jeremy Solana thanked all the members and the Village for the support they received while employed

here. They are now on to other opportunities.

Cmdr. Maher also sent in a thank you to all the current and past members who he has worked with and the professionalism the department showed over the 32 years.

Dan will be missed.

The Northlake Fire Protection District also sent a thank you for help with their Hazardous Materials incident on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We were able to provide them with several personnel trained to the hazardous materials technician level.

Our last note was from a boy in Prince William County, VA who visited our firehouse when the family was passing through. He thanked us and drew a picture of our vehicle. (see photo).

## Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Association s planning on Ringing the Bell to support the Salvation Army on December 18, 19, 20<sup>th</sup> at Walgreen's.

The Association is also going to support a Schiller Park family this Christmas as part of our Angel Tree project.

Because of some extenuating circumstances we had to cancel the Annual Christmas party this year. We know that Santa did not by-pass anyone and will stop by your homes on Christmas Eve.

FF/PM Werner will also be taking over the House Fund for 2014. Thanks to FF/PM LiRosi for handling it for the past few years.

## And Finally...

Being happy doesn't mean that everything is perfect. It means that you've decided to look beyond the imperfections.

## Deadlines

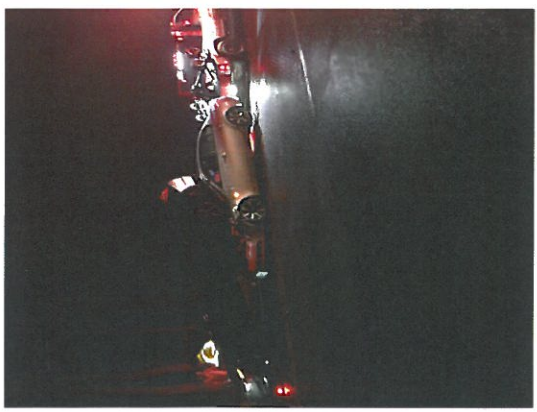
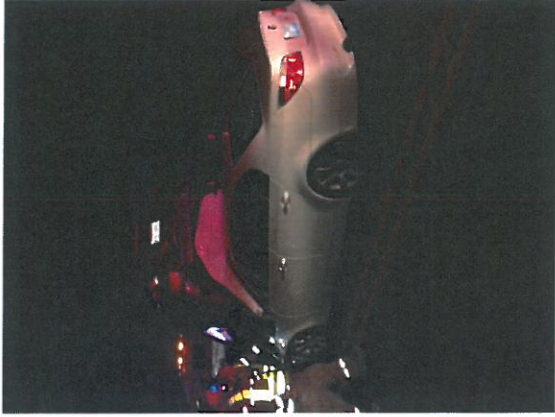
The deadline for the next issue of the *Booster Line* will be 8:00 A.M. January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the *Booster Line* clo Cmdr. Chiodo at [pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com)

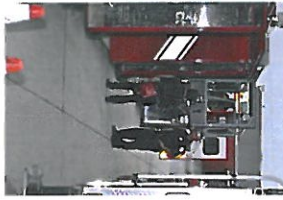
*The Booster Line is published monthly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo, reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability.*

Photographs-

- Page 7- Members with Santa at Santa House
- Page 8- Vehicle on top of one another Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Page 9- FD Open House October 2013
- Page 10- Cmdr. Maher cake and coffee
- Page 11-Lt. Swiontek is sworn in













Engine 455

