

# Booster Line

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## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

**O**ur 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.

This month we begin on February 6<sup>th</sup> when Red shift responded to a hotel for a fire alarm. After trekking all their equipment to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor they found that workers had set off the alarm.

Valentine's Day found Black shift go to an apartment complex for the smell of gas. Residents showed the firefighters where they smelled the gas and members began to monitor the area. A faulty gas valve behind the stove was the culprit and the resident was advised to stop using until the valve could be replaced.

A fire alarm on February 16<sup>th</sup> was in a commercial building. Pulling up Gold shift was informed that the sprinkler system had a broken head causing the water flow.

The next day, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Black shift took in the working fire in Norwood Park. Battalion 5 took the Communication Officer role and the Tower Ladder was ordered to vent the second floor windows and get the roof opened. The truck went to the roof and made three vent holes to let the fire gases building up to escape.

Later in the shift a fire alarm caused the shift to respond to a business. Upon arrival the fire investigative team found in the dock area a broken sprinkler pipe.

February 21<sup>st</sup> had a phone call to the firehouse from a translation service indicating that there might be a carbon monoxide leak in an apartment. Red shift responded and found a mom and two children present. The monitoring located in another unit levels exceeding 30 ppm from a stove. The persons were all checked out and Community

Development advised of the situation.

After returning to quarters, dispatch toned out the shift for an accident with injuries. On scene they found 2 cars and six patients requiring the assistance of a Norwood Park ambulance.

Red shift on February 24<sup>th</sup> took in a fire alarm in a commercial bakery. Burnt product set off the alarm. Because we have responded to this location for the same problem several times, Lt. Hatcher and the fire prevention bureau are looking into other options for detection.

February 26<sup>th</sup> had Gold shift take in a fire alarm in a three building office complex. The panel indicated that it was coming from the lower level and after gearing up members descended to the lower level. Near the intersection of the three buildings members found water on the floor. Further investigation found that someone had opened a test valve on the sprinkler system.

Lt. Swiontek and Gold shift on February 28<sup>th</sup> took in a fire in a fryer at a fast food restaurant. Members arrived on scene and found workers claim the fire went out quickly and there was no more fire or smoke. The workers were advised not to use the unit until it could be inspected.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> had a call for Red shift to respond to Norwood Park for a fire. On scene the truck and battalion used their thermal imaging camera to locate any fire extension in the walls and ceiling. Members of our truck company then assisted in the overhaul of the building.

Coming back to quarters, Red shift was then “Stilled” out to a fire alarm. Upon arrival they found the water flow bell ringing. Looking into the street they saw a water main break causing the alarm to sound with low water pressure.

A fire in Elmwood Park on March 4<sup>th</sup> had our on duty fire investigators Cmdr. Leiser and FF/PM Leiser respond and assist with the origin and cause investigation.

Members returned to Elmwood Park on March 5<sup>th</sup> when another working fire had them go to the Box Alarm for investigators. FF/Pm Leiser again responded as the on call fire investigator.

A resident was locked out of their home on March 8<sup>th</sup>. After verifying that it was their residence with police, members were able to gain entry using a special "W" tool. The owner signed a waiver against any possible damage but was unnecessary as the tool left no marks.

A machine shop had a fire alarm on March 9<sup>th</sup>. When members arrived they were told that a pipe on a machine blew spraying water on a detector and setting it off. They will dry or replace the detector and be on 9-1-1 until the system is up and running again.

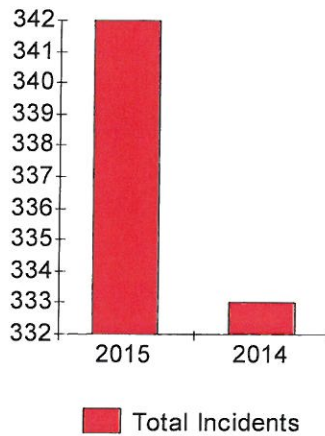
While housekeeping was working in the stairway of a multi-family residence, she set off the smoke detector March 11<sup>th</sup>. The dust from vacuuming tripped it.

Six days later at this same apartment building the same crew set off the detector again when cleaning the stairs. They were advised to perhaps check or replace the detector.

The last call of the period occurred March 20<sup>th</sup> and had Red shift respond to a ticking stove. On scene members found the women cleaning the stove and inadvertently moving the knob on the stove to the electronic ignition position and allowing a small amount of gas to escape without igniting.

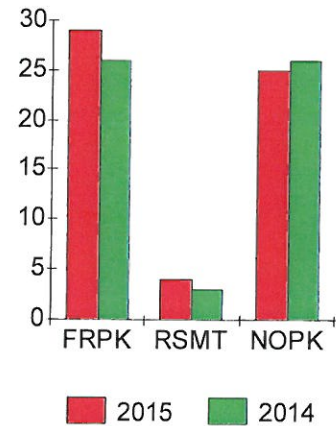
The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2014:

### Total Incidents



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "From" the following communities:

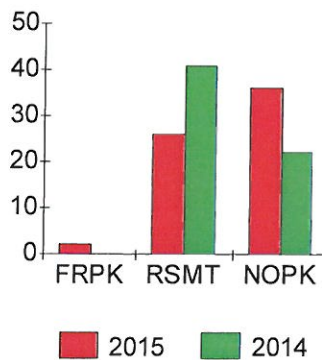
### Auto Aid Received



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "To" the following communities:

	2015	2014
Total Incidents	342	333

### Auto Aid Given



### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	2	0
Norwood Park (NOPK)	36	22
Rosemont (RSMT)	26	41

### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	29	26
Norwood Park (NOPK)	25	26
Rosemont (RSMT)	4	3



## Commander's Cove

*We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

The Governor of Illinois has appointed a new State Fire Marshal. He is Matthew Perez who served with the Aurora Fire Department for 27 years. He was also a former Kane County Deputy Sheriff.

After nearly 36 years on the job, Chief Deegan retires from our department. Chief Deegan started in 1981 and

worked his way up the ranks from Lieutenant to Fire Chief. During his career he held the posts of Training Officer and Administrative Assistant. He compiled Office of the State Fire Marshal certificates in areas from Hazardous Materials to Fire Investigator to Fire Inspector. He worked for many years also in the Housing Department. He created the 2001 Outlook for goals for the department achieving the majority of them in his first five years. He continued to set the course for the department and left a blueprint for the future. A Cake and Coffee was held for him on March 13<sup>th</sup> (see photos) and a formal retirement party will be held in April (see Firefighters Association for details). We congratulate him on his retirement and future endeavors.

Kevin Barr Village Manager for the past 15 years has resigned to take a position in another community. The Village welcomed Brad Townsend as the interim Village Manager for up to six months while a search for a replacement is under way.

FF/PM Ed Gergits also submitted a letter of resignation to take a position with the Joliet Fire Department. His last day on shift was March 19<sup>th</sup>.

With the retirement of Chief Deegan and the resignation of FF/PM Gergits their exists two openings that the Police and Fire Commission are currently processing candidates.

Until the positions are filled we will cover the shifts with overtime. We appreciate in advance your commitment in covering the shifts.

Elmwood Park Fire Department has updated their fire department Box Cards for High Rise and High Risk structures. Schiller Park has moved up to the scene on a Box Alarm with the engine.

All members should currently be

accredited by MABAS with credentials. These allow members to be deployed and have identification with the certifications that they hold.

The Village has also increased the clothing allowance for fire department members to match that of the police department.

An updated time coming list has been posted. If there are any errors please contact your shift officer.

Our congratulations go to Chief Pilz of the Hillside Fire Department who was appointed this past month. He takes over for Chief Kuryla who took a position in Berkeley.

The Firefighters Pension Board has one of the elected positions from the Firefighters up for election this April. The position held by FF/PM Blaine Schneider is up for election or re-election. The term is three years and requires initial education followed by continuing education. Voting will take place in the firehouse.

The 2016 budget is being prepared and presented to the Village Board. The shifts met to discuss ideas, wants and wishes. These were reviewed and prioritized by the Operations Division.

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 continues the widening of Mannheim from Irving north to the Kennedy. Work has already begun. The southbound lanes on Mannheim have been shift to the northbound side as concrete crushing and tear up continues. They are recycling the concrete as they re-build.

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:

Engine 5 returned from the shops this past month and had several modifications done by members. One included reviewing the layout of equipment we carry with us and re-doing the compartments to make it more efficient. We also installed a new intake on the engine that was repaired/replaced under warranty. The headsets that were approved in the budget were recently installed in Engine 5 after it returned from the shops.

Tony Calefati did preventive maintenance on several of our vehicles including 450.

Tower Ladder 5 had its Gas Trac monitor returned after it was checked out for any malfunctions. It remains in the shops for preventive maintenance including having the ladder checked for integrity and rust spots. We hope to have it back by our next issue. Squad 5 currently is running in its place.

Lt. Budnik had our radio people install the Red Center frequency on our

mobile radios. This will allow us to communicate with Park Ridge and Des Plaines who both are requesting us more to respond mutual aid lately. It has been programmed on Ch. 6.

In the firehouse members installed the new hose hoist in the hose tower. This was an item that was budgeted this past year. It is sufficient to carry the loads of wet hose. FF/PM Bertoncini is working on having it capable of using the controls from either the first or second floor. It is larger and faster than the previous model. We will soon be replacing the heater in the tower to dry out the hose along with the exhaust fan. We hope to have in next years budget sand blasting and painting of the tower.

The annual hydraulic rescue tool preventive maintenance was completed by Holmatro. This is a yearly contract for running and repair of our tools on the engine and squad.

The kitchen project moves along as FF/PM Bubis completed the wall time and works with the other shifts on the patch board started from FF Hanlons (ret. dec.) collection and originally built by FF Schuyler (ret.).

Lt. Budnik and FF/Pm Neimand have continued to work on going paperless in the firehouse. As part of this project all the maintenance forms for daily/weekly/monthly will be placed on the ipad devices. We hope to have this up and running by our next issue.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

Tony Calefati worked on all three of our ambulances this past month. The first was to repair the air dump on Ambulance 6 (462). The rear flip step was also broken off on one side and FF/Pm Bertoncini was able to spot weld a new bracket to support the step. Tony completed the preventive maintenance on Ambulance 5 (463)

and a new repaired radio was installed in the rear "box" in the ambulance.

When responding to Lutheran General Hospital be aware that in the ambulance area they may still have a 169 foot crane being used during construction.

Whenever you transport to any hospital as a matter of habit please check to see if we have any backboards that were left there from patient transports. This will help retrieve them and cut down on the time they are out of service and unavailable.

On the horizon is the new Mobile Integrated Health Care System/Plan. If you are not familiar with it begin to explore its impact on the fire/EMS services and the expectations. This is popping up more frequently in the literature and will affect our department. If you want more information see Lt. Swiontek.

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.

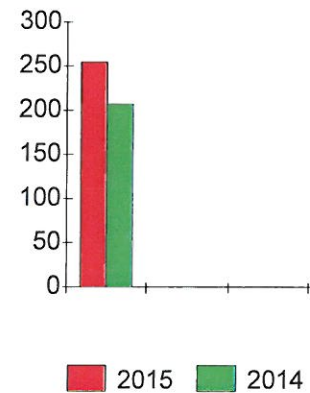
The Northwest Community Hospital website for Continuing Education has a ton of information that can assist paramedics with continuing education and also provide assistance on the monthly training. If you have not had an opportunity to check the website it would be advisable.

During the past month personnel responded to 130 emergency calls. A total of 115 patients were encountered. 73 patients were transported to area hospitals.

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Responses	124	254
ALS Transports	40	85
BLS Transports	28	56

Refusals/MPR's	29	52
Other Non Transports	2	6
Fire Responses	25	55
CPR Students taught	43	47
Mut. Aid to SHPK	5	10
SHPK to others	4	6

## 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 Lt. Budnik or FF/PM Bertoncini.

The firehouse mold remediation on the west wall is complete. The wall is back up and painted. In the Spring FF/PM Bertoncini will install windows on the west side. The tiles on the wall in the kitchen are complete and grouted. After that the kitchen will be re-painted.

Members completed the hoist in the tower and will soon be working on the heater. We expect to possibly have the entire hose tower sand blasted and re-painted.

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 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- mount patches around kitchen
- paint apparatus floor border
- 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*

#### **February Trivia**

When working overtime in Schiller Park, we call that person the fourth man. Why?

When we were two departments, Fire and EMS, we had four paramedics and six firemen per shift. We allowed two firefighters to be off on vacation or personnel days leaving a minimum staffing of four firefighters. If one of those four called in sick or went to the hospital with the ambulance, we would hire back or callback for a fourth firefighter to bring us back to minimum staffing.

There were no correct answers to this months question.

#### **March Trivia**

As we approach Telecommunicators Week April 12-18<sup>th</sup>, our question involves emergency telephone systems.

Where and when was the nations first 9-1-1 emergency telephone system inaugurated?

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.

Probationary Firefighters Dehmlow, Kady, Loch, and Jackson continue their probation.

An Incident Safety Officer class was held for the division March 9-13, 2015, Lt. Hatcher, Lt Budnik and Lt. Swiontek all attended.

Division 20 is again sponsoring a Vehicle Machinery Operations (extrication) class the first week of May. FF/PM Miletta will be attending and Lt. Budnik and FF/PM Leiser will be teaching. We hope to sponsor another class in the Fall. This is a requirement for all our new personnel.

Cmdr. Chiodo attended the Safety and training meeting.

Lt. Swiontek attended the Division 20 EMS Coordinators meeting.

Cmdr. Leiser, Lt. Swiontek, FF/PM Leiser attended the Division 20 fire investigators meeting.

Lt. Swiontek attended the Crude Oil UP Rail tanker seminar.

Cmdr. Chiodo completed the online Freedom of Information officer class.

Cmdr. Chiodo attended the Strike Force Fire Investigators meeting.

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.

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.

Members completed 409 hours of training for the month with 69 training drills. This includes outside classes. Our Paid on Call had 0 meetings for 0 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.

## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge FF/PM Schneider and FF/PM Warden for dividing up Public Relations into Fire Prevention Education and Fire Department Public Relations as our Employees of the Month.

Both are working hard to continue in providing the best programs for the department and the public. They have developed a form that will be filled out to try and give the shifts as much advanced notice of anticipated events. This will include number of personnel needed or requested, program that is to be put on and if any apparatus is requested.

They are also developing guidelines for the presenters of the public

programs so that we have a unified outline for each topic or presentation.

For their continued drive in keeping us at the forefront in public relations we make you our Employees 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 have started their 2015 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.

The Fire Prevention Office now has a dedicated Fax Line for paperwork. (847) 671-8547. Please check the bin for faxes that may pertain to your inspections.

Lt. Budnik, Lt. Hatcher and FF/PM Niemand are all working with Allisa and the Village GIS system to assist with Fire Prevention Inspections and Hydrant flows.

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.

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.

We are also suggesting and strongly recommending that sprinkler and standpipe connections be converted to stortz 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 continue to provide fire extinguisher demonstrations and CPR classes for residents and businesses in town.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is April 12-18<sup>th</sup> we would like to thank and honor those who answer the calls for help and dispatch us.

Members participated in the Dr. Suess Night on February 26<sup>th</sup> reading at Kennedy school to the school kids and their parents celebrating his birthday.

The Fire Department will be delivering the Easter Bunny to Kennedy Park for the recreation Department Easter Egg hunt April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Kennedy school is looking for firefighters to be chaperones to the Cubs game with the school kids. The game is May 15<sup>th</sup> and if interested you will need to contact FF/PM Schneider by April 5<sup>th</sup> so that he can let the school know.

We will also be having an End of the Year Ice Cream Social capping off EMS Week on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7-9 PM. If interested in helping, sign up in kitchen.

Please check the bulletin board in the kitchen for other fire department fundraisers in the area.

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.

## Retiree Row

FF Besch and Lt. Anderson stopped by on February 19<sup>th</sup> after having lunch at the Great Escape. They reminisced about starting or so many years ago at \$19,000 pay rate.

Cmdr. Maher stopped by for lunch on February 25<sup>th</sup>. He was impressed by all the work done in the firehouse and the new firefighters.

We spoke with Chris Kwiat about how his dad Lt. Kwiat was doing, Chet is at home and would not mind visitors. He can not speak any longer but is a good listener. Call Chris before going to the 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@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).

## Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Schiller Park Firefighters Association is looking to sponsor the Bear Necessities Pediatric cancer Foundation this Summer from May-September. We are selling and wearing special department t-shirts.

Members participated in the February Fishes and Loaves at the Community Center. Dinner consisted of salad, pasta, bread and dessert. Thanks to the members for coming out and

helping.

FF/PM Velasco has taken over the task of collecting money for the House Fund. For full time members it is \$60 and for part time members it is \$30. This buys all the common items we use for meals.

## Stork Report

FF/PM Bubis and his wife had a baby girls on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth Nicole Bubis was born at 1:09 PM and weighed in at 6 pounds 2 ounces. Her length was 19.5 inches.



## Letters and Notes

A thank was received from Kennedy school for the actions taken by Gold shift members in helping out a student in medical distress.



## And Finally...

United we move forward

## Deadlines

*The deadline for the next issue of the Booster Line will be 8:00 A.M. April 7th. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the Booster Line c/o Cmdr. Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).*

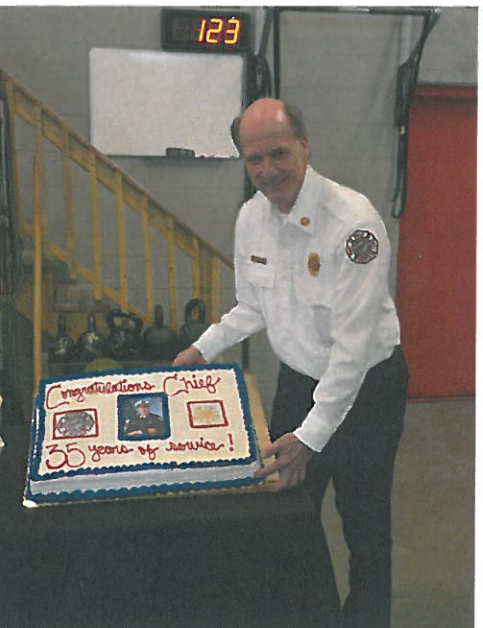
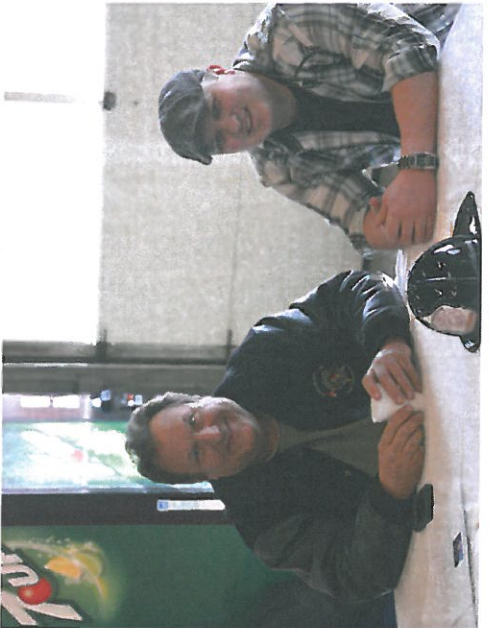
*The Booster Line is published monthly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability.*

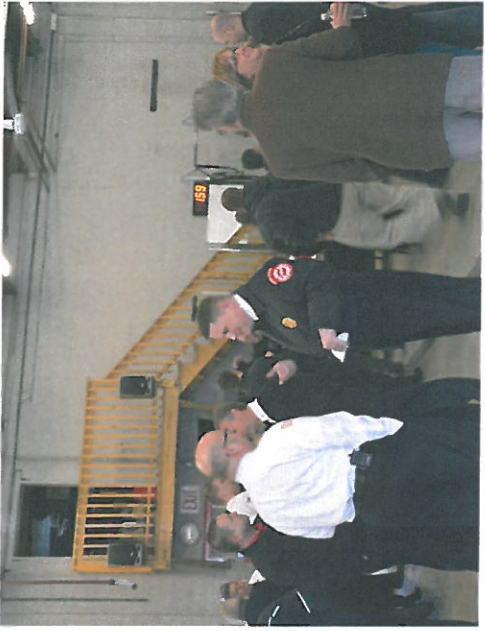


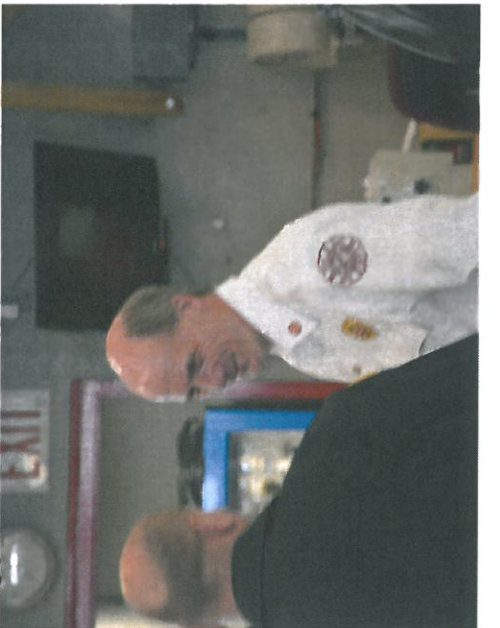
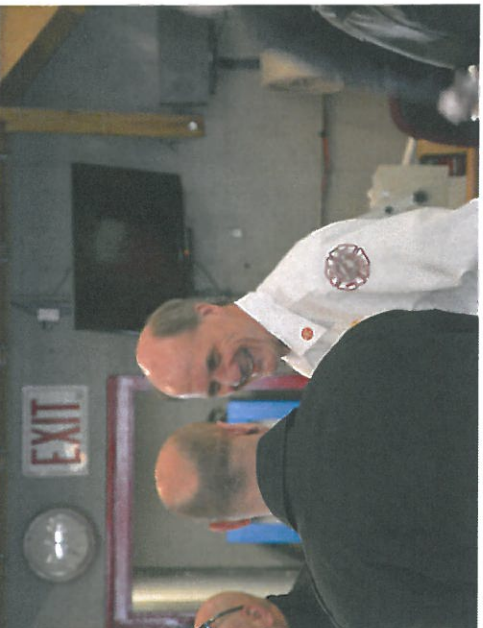
Pictures Courtesy FF/Pm Warden

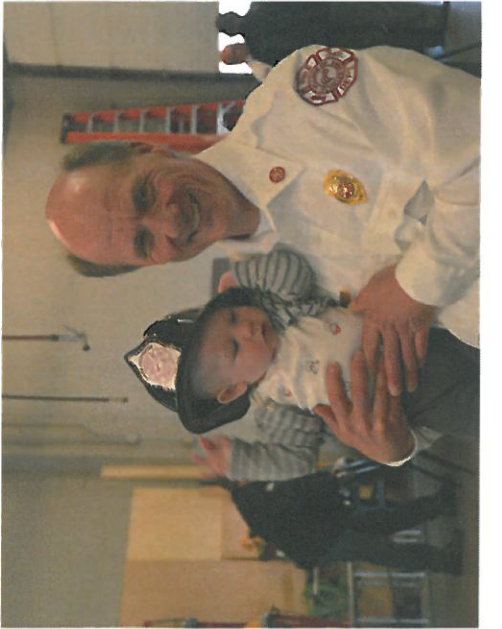
Page 7- Mold remediation has drywall and painting complete in offices, training room and dorm

Page 8-11 Chief Deegan's Retirement Cake and Coffee on the apparatus floor March 6<sup>th</sup>











VILLAGE OF  
**SCHILLER PARK**

Congratulations!  
Fire Chief Tom Deegan  
On Your Retirement after 35 Years

watchFire SIGNS

 **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

W.F. SIGNS