

# Booster Line

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## “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.

This month we begin on January 17<sup>th</sup> for the smell of smoke in the restaurant. On scene Red shift found a slight burning smell which was traced to one of the heating units. The restaurant was advised to call the heating repair company for inspection.

A water flow alarm on January 19<sup>th</sup> had Black shift respond to a multi residential complex. A water leak was found outside one of the units. A sprinkler company showed up and was shown where the leak was and the needed repair.

Black shifts next call was for an elevator rescue. The person was in the ground floor elevator but unable to open the door. Our crew used our drop key to open door and check on the person. The elevator was then taken out of service.

The next day Red shift responded to another person stuck in the elevator. Here they too found a person stuck but on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. The elevators were locked out and tagged out and members were able to access the person trapped and free them.

January 21<sup>st</sup> saw a fire alarm in a hotel. The panel indicated that it was coming from the kitchen. The fire investigative team checked the area and were told by kitchen personnel that the detector activated after the oven was opened and smoke from the oven set it off.

A working fire in a business on January 23<sup>rd</sup> had Red shift respond to find occupants say the fire was in the rear. Lt. Budnik called for the working fire response and Chief Chiodo responded to take over Command.

Members dropped hose to begin the firefight and advanced into the building. Visibility was next to nothing in the building as members moved toward the seat of the fire. Franklin Park and Rosemont arrived to assist with a second line and going to the roof. The commercial occupancy had 25 foot ceilings. Because of the size of the building and amount of smoke the mobile ventilation unit from Chicago O’Hare was brought out by the Chicago Fire Department. After fighting the fire for 30 minutes the fire was under control and overhaul was initiated.

Gold shift took in a call for a small fire behind one of our banks on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Upon arrival it was found that it was a fire pit unattended in a residence behind the bank. We notified the residents of the complaint and the need to always have them attended.

A Box Alarm for fire investigators followed this call on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Maywood and Lt. Leiser responded. En route he was re-directed to Franklin Park to pick up FU-1 (fire investigative unit). He proceeded to Maywood and assisted in the Origin and Cause investigation.

Prior to midnight the crew was dispatched to a fire alarm in a motel. Here the fire investigative team found the infamous burnt popcorn in a micro-wave in the lobby.

January 26<sup>th</sup> saw Red shift take in a fire alarm. At the apartment building workers were using a small grinder which had the dust and grindings set off the alarm.

Red shift responded to a deli on January 29<sup>th</sup> for a fire alarm. On scene a worker was cooking and smoke from the grill set off the alarm. The cook forgot to turn on the exhaust fan when grilling.

Januarys special calls ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> when Black shift responded to a child locked in the car. Our Police verified that the car belonged to the person on scene and engine 5 gained access without any damage.

On Ground Hog day Gold shift took n a fire alarm. When they arrived the fire department was told that it was a pull station that activated the fire alarm. Further investigation revealed that a disgruntled employee had done the act.

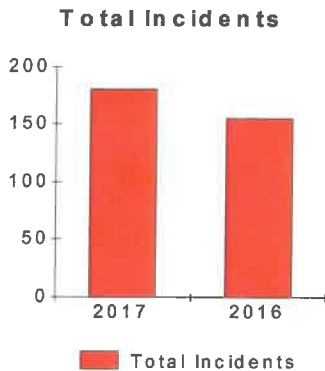
After picking up from high rise firefighting training in Franklin Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Schiller Park was diverted from returning to quarters by a reported structure fire in Franklin Park. Chief Chiodo who was also partaking in the drill responded and took interior operations sector with Franklin Park and Schiller Park firefighters. While operating on the second floor above the fire, Emergency Radio Traffic was declared as the fire burnt through the ceiling/floor. An evacuation order was given and members backed out. Tower Ladder 5 was asked to go to the roof and ventilate above the fire. FF/PM Chung and FF/PM Mileta went to the roof with Chief Chiodo while FF/PM Farias operated the turntable. B/C Leiser took over Communications and ran the sector from Battalion 5. After cutting the 4X4 vent hole members go off the roof. Lt. Leiser responded with FU-1 after the Incident Commander requested fire investigators to the scene. (see photo)

During a party on the 4<sup>th</sup> at a hotel, the fire alarm was set off. B/C Cesaretti and Red shift responded. What our members found was that the disc jockey re-set the alarm after he found that someone was smoking in the restroom and set off the detectors and the alarm.

February 9<sup>th</sup> had a fire alarm in an apartment building in one of our associations. Tower Ladder 5 and Engine 5 found burnt food in a lower unit. They ventilated and re-set the alarm.

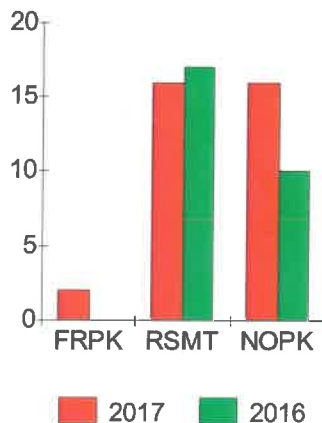
The final call for the reporting period was on February 11<sup>th</sup> when we responded to a motor vehicle accident. On scene Red shift found two vehicles involved in a "T-Bone" accident with four patients. Medics assessed and treated those injured.

The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2016:



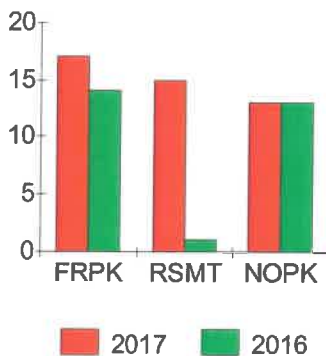
The run summary for Automatic Aid as of January 31<sup>st</sup> "To" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Given



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of January 31<sup>st</sup> "From" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Received



	2017	2016
Total Incidents	181	155

### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	2	0
Norwood Park (NOPK)	16	10
Rosemont (RSMT)	16	17

### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	17	14
Norwood Park (NOPK)	13	13
Rosemont (RSMT)	15	1

## Chief's Corner

*We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

The Fire and Police Commission have posted the Final Eligibility List. They then were able to fill our one vacancy by swearing in FF/PM Jorell Dela Cruz at a Village Board Meeting. (see photo).

The Commission also has set the date for the written exam for the Fire Department Lieutenant exam, March 4<sup>th</sup>. 12 members are eligible to take the exam. The current list expires March 11<sup>th</sup>.

FF/PM LiRosi continues to be off work as a result of an on duty injury.

Congratulations to Chief Stenson (NOPK) who is retired after 31 years of service. Cake and Coffee were served January 26<sup>th</sup> followed by his retirement party. Good Luck in future endeavors. (see photo)

Replacing Chief Stenson is Chief Terry Vavra who has prior Chief's experience in Lisle-Woodridge where he was the Deputy Chief before retiring and taking a job as Fire Chief in Buffalo Grove before retiring again. Chief Vavra brings with him nearly 40 years of experience in the fire

service. We welcome him as our new neighbor.

The Village offered as part of the Employee Appreciation and thank tickets to the DePaul v. Villanova basketball game on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Transportation was provided by School District 81 via bus. Several employees and their families took part, (see photo).

The Village is also hosting a luncheon for all employees on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Community center. It is a big thank you to all for all they do.

As we approach of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a full time department, we have ordered commemorative badges. Those who ordered should have them by May 1, 2017.

We have also re-designed our department t-shirts to have a new logo incorporating all our front running apparatus. These shirts will be available shortly.

The Municipal Consolidated Dispatch Center is coming along. The target date for transferring into it is June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Currently an Executive Director is being advertised for. The application deadline for telecommunicators has passed. The new center will consist of a minimum of 15 personnel. As a side note the second full week of April of each year has been designated National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week.

Du-Comm is looking to dispatch by closest apparatus and move up change quarters companies. The policy is posted. At no time however will we strip our entire community of protection.

The Alliance, part of MABAS 12, had petitioned to become its own division. The other MABAS divisions voted this down at this time.

We have applied for a SAFER grant from the federal government to increase our staffing by three. We will find out within the next year if we are awarded the grant.

Our thanks go out to Eric Oscarsen former director of Public Works who resigned this past month to take a Public Works job in Texas. Eric put us on the right path and we hope to continue down that road.

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.

## 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:

Our Water Department assisted the fire department by coming to firehouse and rodding out the hose tower. It was found that the sump pump was clogged. PLEASE be careful that no rags, bottle caps or other foreign material is dropped in the hose tower that may end up in the drain or sump crock.

My thanks to B/C Leiser who saw a need in the rear command center of Battalion 5 for illumination and was able with his shift to get LED lighting installed for night operations.

Our prized mechanic Tony was able to work on Car 458 which was in need of a rear wheel bearing. The vehicle is now back in service.

Tony also worked on Tower Ladder 5 by repairing the air line and followed up on this with repairing an oil leak.

Lt. Budnik is working with Sensit Gold

to have our monitor repaired. He is also looking at budgeting for a replacement.

Chief Chiodo is limiting the use to calls and incidents only for Tower Ladder 5. We are trying to reduce any additional wear and tear as it is up for sale. Please use 458 for inspections and other non-incident activities.

We will be having our annual maintenance of our Village emergency generator in the next week.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

An update on PM Jim Davis. He is still home recovering from surgery. He will have his final surgery soon. He is anxious to get back to work at both his primary job and here. He hopes to be back by the May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We have had a higher than normal turn over in part time paramedics. Most of this is due to the fact that they are being offered fulltime time jobs as firefighter/paramedics in other communities. Because they lack experience please work with and help them along their journey.

Tony worked on the brakes on ambulance 5 (463) and it is back in service.

All members had the opportunity to take the PALS/ACLS training in Franklin Park. This is a requirement for Loyola. Should you still need these classes see Lt. Swiontek.

The Village had declared Ambulance 461 as surplus and has donated it to the 5-11 Club which provide canteen services to 1<sup>st</sup> responders. They have said that as a sign of appreciation they will respond to any Schiller Park incident when requested.

On the horizon is the Rescue Task Force concept for large scale incidents. All members will be trained and Chief Chiodo is looking into the

appropriate safety equipment. We will work not only with the division but also our police department.

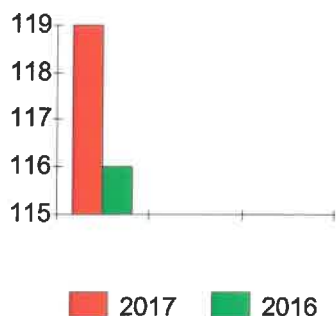
When at the hospital as a matter of habit please check to see if we have any backboards that were left there from patient transports. This will help retrieve them and cut down on the time they are out of service and unavailable.

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.

During the past month personnel responded to 119 emergency calls. A total of 108 patients were encountered. 83 patients were transported to area hospitals.

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Responses	119	119
ALS Transports	54	54
BLS Transports	29	29
Refusals/MPR's	18	18
Other Non Transports	4	4
Fire Responses	14	14
CPR Students taught	3	3
Mut. Aid to SHPK	8	8
SHPK to others	8	8

### 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.

FF/PM Bubis and Lt. Budnik are working on a wireless option to open the doors to station 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. This will piggy back a signal from 4501 25<sup>th</sup> (Community Center).

FF/PM Bubis is looking into a smart board for the classroom.

What's in the works? –

- Painting the outside overhead doors red
- New interior lights at station 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint sta.6 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator
- New high-rise load packing tool

## Trivia

### Answer to last month's Trivia

### January Trivia

Who is the first recorded female firefighter?

The first female firefighter was Molly Williams who was a slave in 1815 in New York.

Two correct answers were received by Chief Richard Belmonte (ret.) Westchester and Jimmy Ziebka.

## February Trivia

What is unique about redwood trees and burning?

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 O'Leary is currently attending the NIPSTA Fire Academy. He will return to shift in approximately 3 weeks. We will provide details as to his graduation date.

Lt. Budnik and B/C Cesaretti are hosting a Vehicle Machinery Operations (VMO) class June 5-9<sup>th</sup>. They will be looking for our own instructors. Please see them if interested in teaching and you hold a VMO and Instructor I certificate.

Chief Chiodo attended the seminar on the use of Drones in the Fire Service.

Both B/C Cesaretti and FF/PM Schneider attended the Decision Making for Company Officers class.

FF/PM Niemand completed Instructor I in the state fire marshal Basic Company Officer program.

FF/Pm Jackson attended the Divisions Honor Guard training.

FF/PM Santiago and FF/PM Velasco attended Technical Rescue training in the division.

This past month members completed the State Fire Marshal classes-

FF/PM Dehmlow completed Rope Operations as part of the Technical Rescue program through the State

Fire Marshal.

The Training Committee is exploring ways of creating a Training Center at Station 6 with props.

All three shifts had the opportunity to participate in high rise firefighting in Franklin Park. The program consisted of both classroom and practical evolutions.

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 321 hours of training for the month with 28 training drills. This includes outside classes.

For the year members completed 28 classes/drills and 321 hours of training. Some of the costs for classes is reimbursable from the State Fire Marshal. B/C Cesaretti is working on the funding document due in March.

The State Fire Marshal and Triton have changed the test dates for 2017. The first half of the year they will be held at Triton on Thursdays, the second half of 2017 they will be held on Wednesdays. Please consult with the Training Officer to sign up at this center or another testing site.

B/C Cesaretti is also authorized by the State to administer exams. As a proctor he must give the State notice and obtain the secure exams. Therefore you can not approach him and expect to be given an exam on a short notice.

Please fill the Outside Training Form on Target Solutions 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 as our Employee of the Month FF/PM Mileta.

Mike is currently working on the next Association fundraiser. We will be supporting Autism this year and Mike has worked on the design of the t-shirts both front and back. Chief Chiodo will allow them to be worn until September 1<sup>st</sup>. A flyer will be distributed shortly.

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 Chief Chiodo.

## Fire Prevention

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

Shifts are working on their 2017 inspections. Each shift received 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections were rotated so that over a three year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses.

Kennedy school will have the older section of the school renovated starting soon and to be completed by the beginning of the new school year.

A letter has gone out to all the businesses with sprinkler systems. After asking for voluntary compliance we are now mandating that all sprinkler connections be outfitted with a stortz connection. Because of our hose lays it is easier to support the system with more water and less friction loss. B/C Leiser is heading

this up and it should be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

We have also verified which elevators that our stretcher will fit in. The elevators have been labeled.

B/C Hatcher is also checking and verifying all truss buildings that they are marked appropriately. With the majority of new buildings using lightweight construction and there being nearly 15 types of wood trusses, we are now primarily focusing on bowstring trusses.

We are looking to bolster and strengthen our fire inspectional program. We are looking for our members to take the Inspector I certification program. All new firefighters will be required to take this class.

B/C Hatcher is working with Community Development on keeping communications open and resolve problems. There are several major inspections that are jointly being worked on. The majority of businesses are in compliance.

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 B/C 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 B/C Hatcher.

## Public Affairs

*Saving Lives Through Education*

Kennedy school and School district 81 have asked us to participate in the

Dr. Suess Night on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Several members of our department signed up to read to parents and children.

We were also invited to the dedication of the new Kennedy school wing on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Chief Chiodo and Gold shift attended (see photo).

We continue to provide fire extinguisher demonstrations and CPR classes for residents and businesses in town.

We are also planning a celebration May 6<sup>th</sup> of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our fire department being full time.

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.

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## Retiree Row

This past month we were able to re-live a disaster that took place 40 years ago when four CTA rail cars fell off the tracks in the loop. EMSD Nosek (ret.) who was a part of Emergency Preparedness in Chicago was on WGN relating the story of his involvement. He told his story from what he saw and what he did. At that time he was an EMT going to school to be a paramedic. Rick did a great job in the interview and how that preceded his coming to Schiller Park. Thanks for making us proud to see you on Chicago's Very Own.

Our second encounter was with Chief Fire Inspector Jim Swierczynski (ret.) While Chief Chiodo was shopping at Menards he ran into Jim who came to visit his daughter in law. I had time to spend with one of my mentors from the fire prevention bureau and tell him how instrumental he was in helping form a young fireman. Jim is doing well and realized he knows only a few of the current members. He will try to

stop in if time permits, otherwise he sends his best (see photo).

Chief Chiodo also had the pleasure of visiting Lt. Chet Kwiat (ret.) this past month. While Chet can no longer speak he is well aware of his surroundings. The two talked for over an hour (see photo).

Lastly most of us have seen Lt. Scot Anderson (ret.) when he came to the firehouse prior to the pension board meeting. Scot is looking better than ever and still feels at home in the firehouse.

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 Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us). I

## Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Schiller Park Firefighters Association will be sponsoring Autism this coming summer. We will be selling t-shirts to the public and also allow the firefighters to wear them on shift to show support.

For more information see the flier in the kitchen or contact one of the Association officers.

## Stork Report

The stork stopped by this reporting period to let us know of three births.

Our congratulations to the Velascos on the birth of their son. For privacy reasons we are not giving the baby's name. Know that mom, dad and son are doing well!

Please forward any info of upcoming Stork Visits.

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## Letters and Notes

A note was received from PM Kidd who has resigned as a part time paramedic in order to take a job in another community as a firefighter/paramedic.

A letter to all employees of Schiller Park was received from Eric Oscarsen who wanted to reach out to all during his short stay here and thank everyone for the welcome and allowing him to pursue goals for the betterment of Schiller Park.

Lastly a letter was received from Stericycle thanking the fire department for the quick response to a fire in their building on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They appreciated the professionalism and also inquired as to wanting to have fire extinguisher training for their employees.

## Emergency Management

B/C Leiser continues to work with the Village Administrators in trying to get them to complete their NIMS certification. This is necessary for future funding opportunities.

Chief Leiser awaits feedback from the Village Board on revising the Village disaster plan. It is 287 pages and is being reviewed by the Village Board prior to being submitted to Cook County Homeland Security.

We were awarded a grant from IDPH for 1 AED to be placed on our vehicles. We had budgeted for 3 AED's and will purchase a second immediately. One will go on the Truck and the second in Battalion 5. Eventually the third will be placed in the Chiefs car.

We are applying for a grant from Firehouse Subs for a zodiac boat, motor and trailer. We hope to replace the one stored at the water tower which is cumbersome and not practical.

We continue to move forward with the 9-1-1 consolidation. The steering committee is working with all three communities and our consultant.

We are working on a beta version of a tweeter account that we hope to see up and running soon.

## Special Operations

Lt. Leiser continues to coordinate our special operations division. This includes Technical rescue, Fire Investigations and Hazardous Materials.

## And Finally...

The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience.

## Deadlines

*The Booster Line is published monthly. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the Booster Line c/o Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).*



Page 7- Top photo Chief Chiodo spends time and visits with Lt. Kwiat (ret.)

Middle photo- Chief Chiodo and Chief Inspector Swirezynski (ret.) meet and talk over old times at Menards (where you save big money).

Bottom photo- Chief Stenson (NOPK) retires after 31 years.

Page 8 – Firefighter/Paramedic Dela Cruz is sworn in and is congratulated by Commissioner Rawski, Chief Chiodo and his family.

Page 9 – Top photo- Employees and members of their families attend the DePaul-Villanova basketball game as part of employee appreciation.

Bottom photo- Maywood gets a new fire engine.

Page 10- Chief Chiodo and Gold shift attend the dedication of the new wing at Kennedy school. Trustee Fitz and Trustee Klug sit with the Chief. Chief Chiodo and mayor Piltavor discuss the new wing..









**MARION**—Maywood (IL) Fire Department pumper. Spartan, Metro Star cab and chassis; Cummins ISL 450-hp engine; Hale Qmax 1,500-gpm pump; 500-gallon polypropylene tank; Extend-a-Gun deck gun; enclosed pump panel. Dealer: Tony

**Schiller Park Fire/EMS**



Photos by Warren Schuhrke

