

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

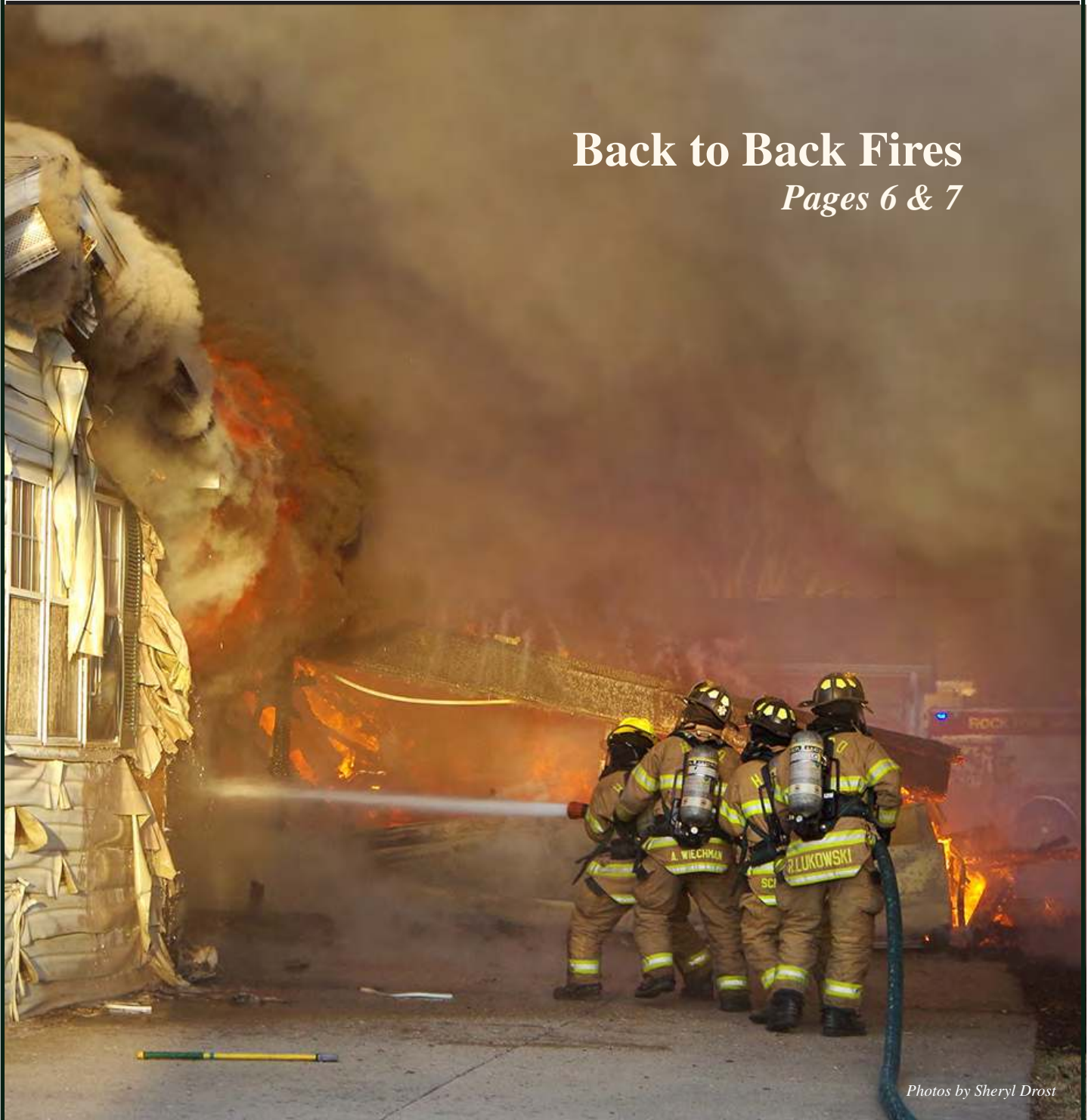
*is a publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District*

March 2020

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost

Back to Back Fires *Pages 6 & 7*



Photos by Sheryl Drost



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

On April 4th, 2020, Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1 will be celebrating our 80th anniversary. My, how so much has changed in those 80 years. But then again, some have not. The people may have changed, but our mission remains to provide the highest standard of service to our communities through prevention, training, education and emergency services. Our purpose is to save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property. Our history has enriched us to be who we are today, and drives us to adapt and improve in all of our services. The people are the foundation of this organization. Over the upcoming months, in this newsletter, we will have articles and stories sharing our history and growth over the past 80 years.

This past Saturday (March 7th) we held a much deserving appreciation dinner for our personnel to recognize them for their achievements and a recap of our past year.

Thank you to the Trustees for a great evening. We had a full room of deserving members and their significant others and were provided with a fantastic meal. I was honored to recognize everyone and hand out a few awards, and was delighted to see everyone relaxing and enjoying the company of one another. They are all deserving of this event for their commitment and accomplishments throughout the year. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with these individuals and the Board of Trustees. Without their commitment and support our accomplishments would be hard-pressed.

You will find pictures and awards that were handed out elsewhere in this newsletter. I also want to thank Rockton Fire, North Park Fire and Metro Ambulance for covering our district during this event.

Well thankfully we had a little relaxation. On Sunday March 8th at approximately 4:30 in the afternoon, we were dispatched to a single family house fire. Upon arrival of our first unit, it was reported that we had a fully involved attached garage fire spreading into the home. The strong winds were also spreading the fire to a neighboring structure.

Then as we were finishing up on that fire, and at approximately 6:15, we were dispatched for a fully-involved fire to the west of our location. First unit on scene reported two garages fully involved with fire spreading into two homes.

Two consecutive fires, no down time, and a job well done by all. In fact, not a job well done, an outstanding job by all. These two wind-driven fires had an effect on six structures. We were all highly challenged physically and mentally, but we worked as a team where we accomplished our tactics safely and efficiently. I have nothing but praise for all the responding help we received from neighboring departments to assist us. I would also like to thank the neighbors in the areas for reaching out to see if they could help and assuring that everyone was out of the structures. It is unfortunate for the families affected by these fires, but we are grateful that non of them were hurt.

Be watching your mail in the next couple weeks. It's Spring Dinner time. The event which will be held at Station #1 on Saturday 4/18 is fast approaching. I look forward as do all the members of serving you a wonderful meal. I assure you, that you won't go home hungry.

Your continuous and generous support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me, this is your fire department. Don't forget to keep up on the progress of your fire department by visiting our website www.harlemroscoefire.com and be our friend on Facebook.

Be Safe,
Chief Shoevlin

2019 APPRECIATION AWARDS DINNER

PHOTOS BY MCKENNA DONOVAN

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Trustees hosted the Annual HRFD Appreciation Awards Dinner on March 7th at the Venetian Club. Numerous awards were presented along with special recognition for years of service to the district and the communities within.

Special Recognition was given to Deputy Chief John Bergeron for 35 years of medical service and to Firefighter Tim Schrader for 30 years of fire service. Harlem-Roscoe Fire Chief Don Shoefflin, "A year of service and longevity is something that should not be taken lightly with individuals receiving recognition. Harlem Roscoe Fire District relies on personnel working part-time along with paid-on-call. Paid on call is the modern way of saying volunteer. These members stop what they are doing and respond from their work place or home when notified and they are able. Deputy Chief Bergeron has seen and experienced many changes over the past 35 years in EMS. The hours needed to maintain your license, equipment changes and medical treatment changes. Tim Schrader has seen a plethora of changes in the fire service as well, from training requirements, to equipment, and tactics. The one thing that can be said about both of these individual's is their tenacity to help others while serving their community and the ability to adapt to change. They have both played an important part and contributed immensely to the success of our fire district."

Other Fire Years-of-Service Recognition: 10 years to Lt. Josh Hoffland and Dispatcher Jen Anderson; and 5- years to Dispatcher Ron Canode and Chaplain Harold Danger.

Other Medical Years of Service Recognition: 5 years to Lt. Nate Sarver and Firefighter David Leslie.

Recognition was also given to new EMS Paramedic Dylan Lackey and Brett Whiting and new EMTs: John Hawkins, Hanna Benard, and Tyler Young.

Other Awards:

- The Firefighter Good Service Award - Capt. Patrick Trollop.
- Each Fire Station voted on a Most Valuable Member Award: Sta. 1 – Engineer Marty Green; Sta. 2 – Capt. Patrick Trollop; Sta.3 – Lt. Jordan Stark.
- Chaplain of the Year - Chaplain Harold Danger.
- Dispatcher of the year - Dispatcher Melissa Whiting.
- Fire Bureau of the Year - Jim Purpura.
- Most Trainings Award for the third year in a row went to Firefighter Andrew Weichman.
- CERT Volunteer Member Award went to John Huddleston.
- A new Pride Award went to Firefighter Greg Wernick.

Most Volunteer POC Fire Runs: Firefighter Chris Witcik at 89, Firefighters Aaron Miller and Cecelia Ster at 78, Firefighter Austin Schwarzbach at 74, and Firefighters Jalen Johann and Alyssa Nicosia at 73.

More photos from the dinner can be seen on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/harlemroscoefire>



Left, Deputy Chief John Bergeron - 35 years Medical. Right, Firefighter Tim Schrader - 30 years Fire.



Left, Lt. Josh Hoffland and Dispatcher Jen Anderson - 10 year fire pin. Middle, Chaplain Harold Danger -5 year fire pin. Right, Lt. Nate Sarver and Firefighter David Leslie - 5 year medical pin.



Left, Capt. Patrick Trollop - FF Choice Good Service Award. Right, Sta#2 Capt. Trollop, Sta#1 Engineer Marty Green, and Sta# 3 Lt. Jordan Stark received the Most Valuable Member from each station.



L-r, Chaplain Harold Danger, Dispatcher Melissa Whiting, and Fire Bureau Jim Purpura received Most Valuable Awards for Chaplain, Dispatch, and Fire Bureau.



L-r, Most Trainings - Firefighter Andrew Weichman, CERT Award - CERT member John Huddleston, New Firefighter Pride Award - Firefighter Greg Wernick.



THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

BY BATTALION CHIEF JAY ALMS

Duty, Pride, Tradition has been a motto of the fire service for many years. That duty began centuries ago in New Amsterdam now called New York when fire brigades were formed to protect communities. In 1736 Benjamin Franklin started the first organized fire department. Many traditions began early and have been preserved to this day. Pride has kept these traditions alive. Although science and technology drives the fire service today, many traditions have remained and are relished by those that serve.

As the fire service evolved, pre-planning and prevention became a necessity to allow firefighters to establish safe tactical strategies to protect the first responders, those that reside or work in these occupancies and those neighboring the incident. Pre-planning involves everyone in the fire house from the firefighters to the Chief and everyone in-between.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with gathering information such as: building components used in construction, walls and ceilings are intact, whether they're constructed of drywall or cement blocks so to contain a fire, safe electrical and heating practices, exit plans, safety action plans and proper housekeeping. We assure that these businesses have fire extinguishers to keep the small fires from becoming big fires. We offer fire extinguisher training to assure proper application to suppress a small fire.

We confirm working exit signs and emergency lighting in case of power failure. We enforce codes that require the number of exits regarding the number of potential occupants. The ability to escape a building by employees and visitors is a priority, assuring the number of exits that allow everyone to exit safely whether it's your cell phone store, the movie theater or our children's school.

Sprinkler systems are required in many of the businesses we inspect. Although we can't test the system, we check to see that the annual inspection has been completed by a State Certified Inspection Company.

The restaurants and fast food establishments also require a special suppression system over the stoves and fryers to keep the kitchen fires in check. Again we assure the systems have been certified.

Proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials assures the safety of employees and firefighters.

Technology plays a big role in the advances we have made, but some of the simple things we can do have also contributed to a comforting, peaceful mindset.

We will continue to supply and install smoke / CO detectors and perform safety checks to residents of our fire district.

Duty drives us to fulfill our mission, as we continue to take steps to create a safer community.

All in all, I take Pride in the Fire Prevention Bureau's responsibility to assure that preplans are established and life safety inspections are completed. The actions of the Fire Prevention Bureau help to ensure the Tradition of the fire service in our community....



Currently Battalion Chief Jay Alms leads the current Fire Prevention Bureau. L-r seater, Jim Purpura, Ken Kelly, Everett Peterson, and Ken Krause. L-r standing, Al Watts, BC Jay Alms, and Bill Gindhart.

Fire Prevention Bureau Beginnings

In the 1970s, Lt. Terry Pitkus and Firefighter Virgil Johnson started a fire prevention program, the first in the area. Fire Prevention Week was always the busiest and they would take the week off of work. Several of the firefighters would visit the schools in the fire district during that week for fire drills and to train each teacher how to use a fire extinguisher. They also taught the fire extinguisher refresher class to all the local businesses as well as hosting displays at the local mall.

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book



Terry Pitkus shows a poster that they used during Fire Prevention Week.



FIREFIGHTER RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

BY CAPT. TIM BERGERON

Our firefighters rely on a two-way portable radio as an integral part of their firefighting and personal safety.

This two-way radio is referred to as a portable in the fire service. The portable radio plays a large part in fireground communication. Firefighters use this radio to talk with the Incident Commander while on scene, to talk to other team members, dispatch and most importantly, to declare an emergency or “May Day” as it’s called, if the firefighter gets in trouble and needs immediate help. Our portable radios have a May Day button that the firefighter can push if they are trapped, lost, disoriented in smoke, low on air, or for anything that endangers the firefighter’s safety. Once they push this button, the radio sends an audible alarm over the air and an alert to the dispatch center. The dispatcher then acknowledges the alert and contacts the Incident Commander to advise them an emergency has been declared and who declared it. We have a Standard Operating Guideline we use when a Mayday is declared.

Fireground scenes can present difficult conditions under which you will be talking over the radio. Communications on the fireground can be fast-paced and noisy. Firefighters could be working with loud power saws, ventilation fans, PASS alarms and low air alarms.

The environment can be smoky and the firefighter’s visibility can be restricted or totally obscured. Add an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and full turnout gear to adverse working conditions, and it’s easy to see why it can be challenging to talk and be heard on the radio.

Our radios have an audible tone when you key up the mic. This is a 1-2 second delay that allows the channel to open and the radio to connect with our repeater system. Once the tone stops the firefighter can start to speak their message. We teach our firefighters to speak slowly and use short, clear and concise messages when talking on the radio. We try to avoid screaming into the radio, which can increase the stress level of other members and lead to garbled and inaudible messages.

Our firetrucks have headsets that the crew wears while responding to an emergency call. They provide hearing protection and have intercoms built into them so the firefighters can talk with one another to form a plan while en-route to a call. The driver/ pump operator has a wireless headset that they wear. The wireless headset transmits just like the portable radio does. The nice thing about wireless headsets is that the pump operator can wear them while they are working on the fireground and communicate with other trucks on scene through the headset if they need more water or to adjust pressures, etc.

Communications play an integral part in the safety of our firefighters, so having the proper radios and training are an important piece to complete the communication puzzle.



Due to CDC, IDPH, and Winnebago County Health Department recommendations with regards to the Covid 19 Virus, Harlem-Roscoe Fire has made the difficult decision to “postpone” our Annual Spring Dinner that was scheduled for April 18th, 2020.

Public Health officials are recommending not having gatherings of 25 people or more, at this time. While there are no known cases at this point in our community, Harlem-Roscoe Fire is taking the necessary measures to ensure our community is as safe as possible. It is our hope and expectation to have the dinner this year at a later date. We do thank you for your understanding, as again your safety is our number one priority.

MULLINSHIRE HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to Mullinshire Way in Machesney Park for a report of a garage on fire on March 8 at 4:36pm. First in units reported that the attached garage was fully involved with fire extension into the home as well as the neighboring home. The residents were safely outside and no one was injured.

A MABAS Box was pulled and a big thank you to all the departments that assisted with this fire and covering our fire stations in case of more calls. Firefighter fought hard to shut down the wind-driven fire and overhaul for hot spots. The winds also rekindled the fire several hours later and crews were once again dispatched to the scene. The fire is believed to be accidental with the cause unknown at this time.



More photos from both fires can be seen on our website - harlemroscoefire.com



MULTIPLE STRUCTURE FIRES

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

A second fire came in at 6:12 on March 8th. Firefighters were dispatched to Dutch Elm Ct. in Roscoe for multiple structures on fire. Two un-attached garages were found fully-involved with fire with major fire extension into two homes. Neighbors and Roscoe Police Officers had alerted the residents of the burning homes and nearby neighbors, and all were safely outside when units arrived.

AMABAS Box 11 to the 3rd Alarm and then Box 12 to the 2nd were pulled. Firefighters fought the wind-driven fire aggressively to keep it from spreading, and worked hard to extinguish the fire in both homes and garages. Again, many thanks to the responding mutual aid companies for their assistance on both fire scenes. Two homes and two detached garages were destroyed in the fire. At least three other neighbor's homes received siding and smoke damage.

One firefighter was transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation and released. Fire Investigators have not released causes of either fire at this time but they are believed to be accidental.



Celebrating 80 Years

The Beginning



HARLEM-ROSCOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 1940 - 2020

On April 4, 2020, it will be 80 years since the old Roscoe Fire Department became officially known as the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1.

In 1940, Elmer Porter, Harry Hardy, and John P. Brown worked on a project requested by the Roscoe Improvement Association (RIA) to form a fire district.

A petition with 108 signatures put it to a referendum and a special election was held on March 30, 1940. The voters of Roscoe Township and the northern half of Harlem Township cast 181 votes, 167 voters approved while 14 opposed. On April 4, 1940, the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1 was officially documented.

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book

Next month's Issue - *Stations*

EARLY ROSCOE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1910-1940 Reprinted from the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District #1 75th Anniversary Book

In 1910, the Roscoe Improvement Association (RIA) formed and equipped the early Roscoe Fire Department with ten buckets and a ladder. The RIA was a volunteer group that was funded by the Roscoe Fall Festival as well as member dues. They disbanded when Roscoe was incorporated and took over running the village in 1965. The buckets and ladder were put into service by anyone on the scene with neighbors helping neighbors to save whatever possible. Lifelong Roscoe resident Jim Cummings remembered, "I was a kid in the 1920s when the town hall on Broad Street burned. My mom and I walked over there to watch the bucket brigade of neighbors send water up to the men on the roof of the house next door. They actually saved the house from catching fire."

After a fire at the Burr Oak School interrupted a RIA meeting in September of 1924 and the Masonic building block burned to the ground on November 26, 1926, the RIA saw the need for more firefighting equipment. A motor and pump equipped with 1,000 feet of hose with a nozzle and a hose cart for moving equipment was purchased in 1929 and cost \$544.00. The equipment was mounted on a hay wagon that could be pulled by four men or hooked onto the bumper of a car with leather straps. It was housed in a firefighter's garage.

A local newspaper, "The Beloit Daily News", reported on a meeting of the RIA in 1930 where they discussed the fire department, "The new fire truck is to have ladders added to the equipment. The personnel of the Roscoe Fire Department have been announced as follows: Watson E DeGroff, Fire Chief; W. E. Huston, Deputy Chief day squad; Fred Snell, Deputy Chief, night squad; W. S. Richardson, George Karsletter, Robert Belden, and Wayne Little, hose men night; George McDonald, R.C. Smith, Leon Cummings and Lee Wilcox, hose men day or night; Jake Pea and Earl Busker, suction hose men night; Elvin Karstetter and Roy Cummings, suction hose men day or night; Charles Reed, J.W. McDonald, Archie Belshaw, and Harry Hardy, nozzle men, night; and Otto Ratzlow and Jake Spielman, nozzle men, day or night. The Deputy Chiefs are making themselves familiar with locations for the engine at the creek or at cisterns and a map is being prepared showing such locations." Ralph Bunting and Harry Evans also served as Fire Chiefs of the early fire department.

With times being tough, Firefighters Cobby Rogers and Hartzel Flagg built a fire truck by splitting a Packard car in half. After putting a tank on the body, they acquired a pump off an old fire truck in Rockton. The truck could draft water out of the creek. Jim Cummings remembers the time a building burned on Main Street. "Trucks from Rockford Fire, Rockton Fire and South Beloit Fire came to help. Roscoe didn't have hydrants, so water had to be drafted from the creek. The Roscoe Packard converted to a fire truck was the only truck that could draft. So that was the truck that was used and the firefighters from the other departments manned the hose lines."

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
WINNEBAGO COUNTY } ss: IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF SAID COUNTY.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF
HARLEM-ROSCOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1.

ORDER.

And now on this 4th day of April, A.D. 1940, the hearing regarding the results of the election in the above-entitled cause coming on to be heard, and it appearing to the court that on the question of organizing and establishing the territory bounded and described as follows, to wit:

All that part of the Townships of Harlem and Roscoe in the County of Winnebago and State of Illinois, bounded and described as follows, to wit: Commencing at the point of intersection of the Easterly bank of Rock River with the South line of the Northeast Quarter of Section Seven, Township Forty-Five, North Range Two, East of the Third Principal Meridian; thence West to the Southwest corner of said Quarter Section; thence North on the West line of said quarter Section to the Northwest corner thereof; thence West on the North line of Section Seven in the Township and Range aforesaid to the Northwest corner of said Section; thence North on the West line of Section Six in said Township and Range to the Northwest corner of said Section Six; thence East on the North line of said Section Six to the Northeast corner thereof; thence North to the Northwest corner of Section Twenty, Township Forty-Six, North Range Two, East of the Third Principal Meridian; thence East to the Northeast corner of Section Twenty-four, Township and Range last aforesaid; thence South to the Southeast corner of Section Twenty-four Township Forty-five, North Range Two, East of the Third Principal Meridian; thence West to the point of intersection of the South line of Section Nineteen, Township and Range last aforesaid, with the Easterly bank of Rock River; and, thence Northerly along the Easterly bank of said Rock River to the place of beginning;

the vote was 167 for the fire protection district and 14 against the fire protection district; that a majority of the votes cast at said election within Voting Precinct No. 1 was in favor of the incorporation of said fire protection district, and that a majority of the votes cast at said election within Voting Precinct No. 2 was in favor of the incorporation of said fire protection district.

DUTY, PRIDE, TRADITION

By Fire Chief Don Shoevlin



We have a duty to act when we are called upon. To make a commitment to be fully-trained and prepared to answer that call.

Take pride in yourself, the department you represent, and the belongings placed in your possession to allow you to be successful in completing your duty. Take pride in the country you live in. It is unfortunate that in the world today we find negativity, blame, and deceit. Always remember, *“To the world, you may only be one person, but to one person, you may be the world. Be that one person!”*



The customs of beliefs from generation to generation. The fire service has a rich and strong tradition. Every fire department has the same. Numerous times I speak or refer to our foundation, that is building our tradition. 80 years ago a little gravel was spread to begin building what we have today. I urge all of you to take the time to read about the history of the fire service. But I strongly encourage everyone to learn the HRFD tradition which can be found in our 75th Anniversary Book. The Association still has copies for sale.



02/06/2020 251 west frontage rd.



02/01/20 Hwy 251

02/09/2020 Belvidere & Swanson Rd.

02/17/2020 Old River Rd.



02/17/2020 Tall Pines Rd.

02/23/2020 Elevator Rd. and Main St.



02/03/2020 Hwy 251 & McCurry Rd.



03/03/2020 Belvidere Rd & Swanson Rd.

03/04/2020 96000 block Belvidere Rd.

STATELINE CHAMBER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



The Stateline Chamber President John Broda stopped by Station One on Feb. 28th to present Harlem-Roscoe Fire with their 2020 Community Service Award. Fire Chief Don Shoenlin accepted the award for the department.



PRAIRIE HILL SCHOOL AWARD



Battalion Chief Jay Alms accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from the Prairie Hill School District for the Association's Chromebook donations from funds from the HRFD Golf Play Day.

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT CLASS

HRFD was honored to host 31 attendees from the area who attended the Senior Officer Development Class held at Station#3.. Thank you Assistant Chief Ledig, Chief Fennel, Chief T. Kinney and Chief Hoeffle. Great day of knowledge sharing and networking.



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Little 4-year old Evie Monette stopped by Station One on Valentines Day to wish the firefighters Happy Valentines Day and to present them with a home-made card and cookies. Thanks you Evie!



Birthdays



March 2020

4th John Donovan
 4th Melissa Whiting
 10th John Donahue
 11th Allen Watts
 16th Aaron Miller
 22nd Jay Alms
 22nd Tyler Young
 29th Sheryl Drost

April 2020

Nate Sarver 3rd
 Chris Witcik 7th
 Ron Canode 8th
 Colleen Bloyer 10th
 Tom Vojtech 14th
 Jalen Johann 20th
 Aaron Morley 22nd
 Ryan Sarver 25th
 Cecelia Ster 29th

The Firehouse Scene

The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Prot. Dist. #1

Fire Chief - Don Shoenlin
 Editor & Layout - Sheryl Drost

The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department's website after the second Sunday each month: You can now sign up on the home page of our website to receive the newsletter by email. www.harlemroscoefire.com
 E-mail submissions to Sheryl: hrrfdsdrost@gmail.com



**HARLEM-ROSCOE
FIREFIGHTER'S
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GOLF PLAY DAY**

**JUNE 26, 2020
AT
ATWOOD HOMESTEAD
GOLF COURSE**

Please join us for the "Ignite our Youth's Future" Golf Fundraiser for the Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter's Educational Grant. The grant is awarded annually to in-district schools to assist students in their educational needs in the 21st century.

-  Friday, June 26, 2020
-  Atwood Golf Course
-  8:00 a.m. Shotgun start (Registration starts at 7:00 a.m.)
-  Register Online: WWW.HARLEMROSCOEGOLF.COM
-  \$120/golfer (\$480/foursome)   

What's Included?

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Lunch at the Turn
- An "all-inclusive" steak dinner at pavilion (Free alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at dinner!)
- A gift certificate for a free future round of golf, cart included, at any of the Winnebago County golf courses!

What Can You Win?

- Longest Drive, Longest Putt, and Closest to the Pin winners will be awarded a TV or Grill.
- Putting contest winner will be awarded a Grill
- Door prizes, raffle baskets, and 50/50 golf ball drop!

50/50 Golf Ball Drop Raffle



Golf balls will be dropped onto a green at Atwood Golf Course from our aerial truck's ladder on the day of the play day. If your ball lands in the hole you win! 3,000 balls are available, so the raffle prize could be very significant!!!

\$5 per ball or \$20 for 5 balls

Purchase Online at www.harlemroscoegolf.com

Do not need to be present to win. Winner will be notified.

Don't golf, but would like to support our Educational Grant?
Sponsorship and donations are also accepted.!