

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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

March 2021

*Fire Chief Don Shoevlin*

*Editor Sheryl Drost*

Fires Continue . . .  
Pages 6 - 9



*Photos by Sheryl Drost*



Hello Spring

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK  
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

Welcome to the beginning of spring. The snow is melting, the days are becoming longer, and wildlife is returning. I do not know about you, but I am tired of snow and ice. It is time to think green. As we enter this month there are three events that might help us do this. On March 14th we push our clocks ahead. (Spring forward) Don't forget to replace your batteries in your smoke detectors and CO alarms as well. On March 17th it good ol St. Patty's Day. Everyone thinks and wears green on that day. Then throughout the month there is Spring Break for schools.

This past month our personnel were given a rare opportunity to assist in a joyous occasion. They are professionally trained in childbirth, though it is exceedingly rare that they experience this in the field. I would like to congratulate the crew of Lt. Sam McNames, Brandon Sherban, Chris Witcik, and EMT student Aaron Morley. On Feb 16th at 8:45 pm we were dispatched for a woman with pregnancy problems. Upon our arrival the crew discovered she was in labor. I am proud to say that they delivered a new baby girl into the world. Mother and daughter were transported to the hospital and doing well.

As we begin to see some sense of normalcy that we may be used to, I ask that we remain vigilant towards our health, well-being, and respect the thoughts of others. The members of HRFD are still responding and wearing the protective equipment we started a year ago when this pandemic started. We do this not only for ourselves and our family's protection but yours also.

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](http://www.harlemroscoefire.com), we can also be found on Facebook, so go ahead and follow us.

Be Safe, *Chief Shoevlin*

## NEW AMBULANCE BY CHIEF SHOEVLIN

I am proud to announce the arrival of the department's newest ambulance. After much research and planning the committee decided to purchase a Horton Type I ambulance. This is the second Horton in our fleet of four ambulances. It replaces one of our other ambulances. As with our previous committees, their focus is getting an ambulance that will serve the residents needs and being reliable for years of use. With the experience of our first Horton purchased in 2017, we have found it to be reliable and cost effective in maintenance. This new ambulance looks the same on the outside, but has some changes to the interior of the patient care area along with our decision to go away from a diesel motor to a gas engine. I would like to thank the committee for all their due diligence and hard work with the design and layout. I am proud of the way they worked and the finished product that we received. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees for their continuous support to assure we provide the utmost professional care to the citizens of our district.



2020 Ford F550 4x4 Horton Type I Ambulance - \$232,008

## PUSH IN CEREMONY PHOTO BY SHERYL DROST

The new ambulance was officially put into service on March 9, 2021 with the time-honored tradition of a "Push-in" Ceremony. The ceremony dates back more than 100 years to a time before fire trucks were motorized and operated with horse drawn equipment. In those days, firefighters had to actually push their trucks into the station after a call.





## RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIDE OF THE HELMET

BY BC JOHN DONOVAN

I did not write the article below, but I ran across it the other day and I think that it really explains the pride and responsibility that comes with working or volunteering on a fire department and puts it into perspective for someone who is looking to begin a career in the fire service.

This article was originally written by Andy Marsh of the Aspinwall VFD. <https://community.fireengineering.com/m/blogpost?id=1219672%3ABlogPost%3A713064>



“Do you remember your thoughts or feelings when you put on a fire helmet for the very first time? Maybe your feelings were different than the ones being written about here, but you can follow along and reminisce.

On that day, there may have been happiness, excitement, exhilaration, and anticipation on what was yet to come. Calls for help, emergency responses. Red lights, sirens, and air horns oh my! There may have been some angst, nervousness, and shyness, even though you would eventually fit in with your Type A personality. Maybe there wasn't a feeling. I doubt that, but it is a possibility. You were proud that you made the decision to be part of a fire department. From that first day and throughout your firefighting career, be it volunteer, paid or combination, you grow into that helmet and that growth will continue until you retire.

The helmet is meant to keep your head safe, but it provides much more. It presents as a symbol of

protection and safety. It's symbolic of actions like rescues and advancing hose lines, throwing ladders, and more. It is also symbolic of sadness, destruction, injuries, and loss of life. Those are some of the reasons behind the calls that go to 911, which cause us to respond. It is symbolic of a brotherhood, of leadership and tradition. It is symbolic of heroism and a duty to serve. That duty to serve is what caused us to put on the helmet in the first place, no matter what our underlying reason was at the time.

There is a lot of responsibility that goes with wearing that helmet. Responsibility adds weight to the helmet. You maintain that sense of pride by washing the trucks, checking, and maintaining the trucks, tools and ensuring your self-contained breathing apparatus, face pieces and flashlights are in good working order. We work to save lives and protect property because that is our primary mission. That mission statement itself contains a lot of responsibility in and of itself. It is not only civilian lives and property that we concern ourselves with, but those of our fellow brothers and sisters who serve with us. We train to perform and perform as trained. That helmet helps contain the knowledge from leaking out from the many, many hours of fire academy and in-house training, to which we know we are responsible for on test days, but especially responsible for during our responses. And so, the helmet has gained some more weight since we first put it on.

Your helmet may or may not change colors in your time. The color changes indicate a higher level of rank. And with that rank comes increased responsibility. Strategy, delegating tasks and managing the risks that go along with them. There is crew integrity, crew development, resource management and most importantly crew safety. If your helmet is white, then those responsibilities grow to department wide and the helmet takes on even more weight. However, with helmet color changes, increasing responsibilities, commitments, delegation of duties, also comes an increased sense of pride. One that you feel personally, not just for you, but for your crew and your department. You see, they too have grown and shared in the times of loss and in the times of great success with you. Responsibility and pride are in place to help set the example and to keep your head from getting too big to wear that helmet. In fact, I would bet that pride will help offset the weight of the helmet. Be responsible. Be proud. Most of all, stay safe.”



## SPRING SAFETY TIPS BY DIVISION CHIEF JAY ALMS

Spring is just around the corner!



**GRILLING** will begin. Be sure to have grill at least ten feet from your home. We respond ever year to structure fires because the grill is too close to the home. Siding melts and burns. Soffit burns and extends into the attic space. Homes are destroyed because once in the

attic the fire burns unchecked. The drywall which is a fire barrier, keeps the fire above the living area of the home. Often the homeowner is unaware until the roof burns away and the fire is exposed, many times by a neighbor or passer-by! There are many charcoal grills in use as well. Be careful to empty used coals into a metal container or a fire pit, never into a paper bag or a plastic container even after several days. The coals can remain hot for many days after grilling. The same is true for fireplace ashes!



**CANDLES** are burned all year long. We suggest that candles be extinguished when leaving your home. Unattended candles burning is one of the leading causes of house fires.

## BURNING



Spring gets everyone outdoors after the long winter. We all want to clean up our yards. Gather the sticks and leaves and burn in our fire pits. Again, we have to assure that there is 10-15 feet of clearance from any structures. The wind plays an additional fear that increases the reach of the fire and embers. We strongly recommend that you don't burn in windy conditions, in those villages that allow burning at all.

## BURNING ORDINANCES

- The Village of Machesney Park allows burning in the months of April and November until 9pm.
- The Village of Roscoe is allowing burning.
- Those in the County of Winnebago: Burning Sat. and Sun. between 10am - 7pm from April 15 - May 15th

No burning on non-sunny days when the wind exceeds 10 m.p.h. No burning within 25 feet of any building, structure, or property line. No burning upon sidewalks, right-of-way, streets, highways, or other public roadways.

HRFD recommends that all open burning be attended to at all times. A garden hose should always be within reach of the fire.

**SMOKE/CO DETECTORS** - Daylight Saving Time - Spring forward. A good reminder to check your detectors. If you still have an older smoke/fire detector you may need to replace the battery. The newer detectors have 10-year sealed batteries. Peace of mind for years to come. We strongly recommend that you install combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, or at least one carbon monoxide detector near the bedrooms. Carbon monoxide is a deadly odorless, tasteless gas that's emitted from gas fired appliances, bon fires and automobiles. The detectors old and new still have alert features to replace a low battery.

We are all glad to see the warm weather arrive. Take care to be fire safe. Check on your elderly or disabled neighbors and family members. 2020 is history. Let's enjoy a healthier and prosperous new year.

**Spring Forward**  
**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday**  
**March 14th, 2021**



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
Can you find the 25 things missing?



# GARAGE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a fire in a detached garage on a farm on Middle Road on Feb. 13th. First in units reported the garage was fully involved with fire with a vehicle inside. A MABAS Box 12 to the Box alarm was pulled to bring Tenders to shuttle water to the scene, to help rotate crews in the below-zero wind chill, and to cover HRFD fire stations.

The fire was contained to the garage and extinguished with no extension to other structures or equipment. No one was injured and the cause is still being investigated. A big thank you to the mutual aid departments that assisted at the scene and covered other calls that had come in during the fire.









# HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched on Feb. 16th for a working structure fire on Glen Forest Dr. Fire Chief Don Shoenlin says, "Upon the arrival of the first unit it was reported we had an active fire of a single family structure which had fire through the roof.

After verifying that the structure was clear of residents, a quick attack was made to extinguish the fire while water supply was being established.

A request was made for mutual aid due to the size of the fire and weather conditions. The owners of the home were away at the time of the fire. The fire was discovered by a family member who had stopped by to check on the dog.

The home is uninhabitable and a complete loss. There were no injuries to any firefighters. The family pet dog did perish in the fire however. Thank you to all the mutual aid companies who assisted us this morning. The fire is under investigation at this time."





02/12/21 I-90



02/27/21 McCurry Rd and Love Rd.



03/02/21 Main St.



03/02/21 Main St.



02/26/21 Perryville Rd.



03/06/21 I-90



New grandma, HRFD Community Education/Fire Prevention Coordinator Jen Anderson, is proud to announce her daughter Becca Sprague and her finance, Ryan Barker, are new parents to Owen William Robert Barker. Owen was born on Jan. 9th and measured in at 8lbs. 9oz. and 20 inches long. Baby and mom are doing great! Congratulations Jen, Becca and Ryan, he is adorable!



# hAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MARCH 2021

- 4th John Donovan
- 4th Melissa Whiting 40<sup>th</sup>
- 9th John Donahue
- 11th Allen Watts
- 16th Aaron Miller
- 22nd Jay Alms
- 22nd Tyler Young
- 29th Sheryl Drost

## APRIL 2021

- 3rd Nate Sarver
- 7th Chris Witcik 30<sup>th</sup>
- 10th Colleen Bloyer
- 14th Tom Vojtech
- 17th Zeb Wolfe
- 22nd Aaron Morley
- 25th Ryan Sarver 30<sup>th</sup>
- 29th Cecilia Ster



**Chris Witcik - 30th  
April 7th**

## The Firehouse Scene

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

Fire Chief - Don Shoefflin  
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.

E-mail submissions to Sheryl: [hrfbsdrost@gmail.com](mailto:hrfbsdrost@gmail.com)

# Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter's Association Annual Golf Play Day



**~July 2, 2021~  
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, July 2, 2021
-  Atwood Golf Course
-  8:00 a.m. Shotgun start (Registration starts at 7:00 a.m.)
-  Register Online: [WWW.HRFD-GOLF.COM](http://WWW.HRFD-GOLF.COM)
-  \$120/golfer     
(\$480/foursome)

#### What's Included?

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Lunch at the Turn
- An "all-inclusive" 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.hbfd-golf.com](http://www.hbfd-golf.com)

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

**Don't golf but would still like to support our Educational Grant?  
Sponsorships & Donations are also accepted online!**