

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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

December 2022

Fire Chief Don Shoenlin

Editor Sheryl Drost







**FROM THE CHIEFS DESK  
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN**

Wow, I don't know how to start. My very first article was in January 2008, and this is my 180th and final article for you. Every month over the years I have challenged myself to keep you informed on what "your" fire department is doing, and to share the many accomplishments each of our members have achieved and sometimes a bit of myself.

I have been very blessed throughout my life beginning as a child. My parents, grandparents, siblings, and others were very loving & supportive and taught me right from wrong and how to learn from mistakes. Those early teachings, lessons, and traditions also gave me the basis for my full path in life and helped shape me into the man, husband, and father that I am now.

I am very lucky to have found a partner in Tammy who continued to share those core values with me for over 44 years now. It brings us great joy and pride to see our children carry on the same love, support, and traditions with their families as well. And for those who understand the "icing on the cake" of having grandkids, where the meaning of LOVE begins an entirely new chapter and feeling inside yourself that you never expected, with the best part . . . you are absolutely PERFECT to them and where your ever-growing belly is just the best pillow ever in their eyes! Ho! Ho! Ho!

So why do I share this? Well, as I begin a new chapter and retire from my fire career of nearly 35 years, my family then and now, have been my rock. They have pushed and supported me throughout these years including helping me achieve the position I hold. They are my silent heroes who are not on the front lines with me, and I owe them all an enormous amount of gratitude and love. Throughout their lives, they have made sacrifices for me, and for that, I will forever be grateful. I have been one lucky and truly blessed individual.

So on to my fire family. As I look back to my first article I wrote "It is an exciting time for myself as well as the department. I have been presented with the opportunity of a lifetime in my eyes. I am truly committed to the continued growth and success of the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District." I cannot find the words to genuinely thank the members of this department other than look them in the eye, shake their hand, and say thank you. They are the ones who are on the streets providing professional care and service. They all have made my job fun, interesting, challenging at times, and enjoyable most of the time while adding to my lighter hair color (hahaha!). I am honored and proud to be a member of them. We are who we are because of all of them.

It is hard to believe that I am coming to the end of my fifteenth year as the Fire Chief. It truly feels like it was just yesterday that I started my journey. And over these years, the support from my fire family and the communities has been abundant. I have always been proud of how our members and the fire department continue to adapt and improve as we face new challenges every day.

We have looked at challenges as opportunities. Our continuous training, updated apparatus, and equipment, along with state-of-the-art buildings have been just a few accomplishments during my years here. We are no longer the sleepy fire district relying solely on volunteers. We now staff our stations with personnel 24 hours a day, and still rely on them to respond from home for large incidents and when we encounter multiple calls at one time. Our fleet has grown which now includes 26 pieces operating out of 3 stations. Our call volume has doubled with responding to 12-plus calls a day becoming the norm.

We all know, volunteers are hard to come by in today's world, but as I reflect, I see so clearly that our greatest asset is and has always been our people. I may not show or thank them enough, but I am truly grateful for them every day. It has been my honor to have had the opportunity to lead work alongside such wonderful, caring, and giving human beings over the years at HRFD. I am truly humbled.

Lastly, Thank you, the residents we serve, for all your support over the years, your vote of confidence, and for allowing me this privilege. I hope I represented it with integrity and professionalism and continued its history of being a progressive fire department providing professional service. I can only hope for everyone that your blessings are as bountiful as I have realized mine have been.

A simple wish for everyone this Christmas: Take time to celebrate and reflect upon those blessings we have, especially our loved ones. Cherish that time and believe in your dreams and yourself.

From Tammy and I along with our entire family,  
*"May the Christmas Season fill your Home with Joy,  
Your Heart with Love & Your Life with Laughter"*



## FIRE CHIEF DONALD SHOEVLIN



On December 15 of 2001, Fire Chief Donald R Shoevlin began volunteering with the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District. He will be retiring Dec. 30, 2022,

During his early 20's, he had become a volunteer firefighter, paramedic, Lieutenant, and Captain with the Cary Fire Department while he worked with his parents in a family-owned business located in Cary, IL. A move to Roscoe for a job change led him away from the fire service for a few years. After the attack of 911, his family encouraged him to go back to being a volunteer firefighter and join HRFD. Now in his early 40's, starting again as a yellow helmet "probie", he quickly became part of the team and by February 2004, was promoted to Lieutenant. A few months later, an opening came up and in September of 2004, was promoted to Captain of Station #3 on Willowbrook Road. During this time as Captain, he oversaw a large remodel with station #3, began a system for personnel to man the stations on a 24/7 basis, and was chosen as the first recipient of the Fire Fighters Choice Award for Good Service voted on by his peers.

On January 1, 2008, Donald Richard Shoevlin became the 8th Fire Chief for the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District since its establishment in 1940.

He received a Citation Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2008 for their Expression of Sincere Appreciation and Full Praise for Services Rendered to the Community and received a Certificate of Appreciation for Special Recognition and Highest Praise for Alertness, Personal Courage, and Ever Efficient Guardian of Life and Property in 2009.

Chief Shoevlin also began promoting higher education for everyone and has led by example by obtaining many certificates. Some include but are not limited to; University of Illinois National Fire Academy Management I & II, IL State Fire Marshal, Firefighter I, II & III, IL State Fire Marshal, Fire Officer I, II & III, IL State Fire Marshal, Fire Service Instructor I & II, IL State Fire Marshal, Technical Rescue Awareness, IL State Fire Marshal, Hazardous Material First Responder of Operations, IL State Fire Marshal, Fire Service Vehicle Operations.

Over his tenure as Chief, he has always pledged to stay abreast of new technologies and techniques, seek out creative solutions to issues that arise, and always communicate and teach the public regarding safety for themselves and their properties and how to remain proactive in their daily lives. He has worked tirelessly in providing members with the most up-to-date facilities, equipment, staffing, and current fleet possible and has always offered and made training a high priority as well as encouraging them to broaden their leadership skills.

Chief Shoevlin also instills awareness of the importance of mental health and how it plays a significant role in a member's ability to remain focused and ready to take on any day's challenges. This is evident in the current Chaplain program and (EAP) employee assistance program in place today.

Chief Shoevlin was President of the Illinois Fire Chief Association from 2020 to 2021 and served 13 years on the executive board. He is now a lifetime member of the IFCA. He also was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Winnebago County 911 ETSB board, member of the Winnebago Chief's Association, and the MABAS Division 8 board. He was presented with a special gift for his Commitment & Support from the Greg Lindmark Foundation in 2022.



The Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District  
Invites you to Celebrate the Retirement of  
Fire Chief Donald Shoevlin on  
**Friday . December 30 . 2022**

Stop by at anytime during the day to say . . .  
"Stan Lean" "Adios Amigo" "Hasta La Vista, Baby" "Goodbye Friend" "After While Crocodile" "So Long"

☕ **Coffee & Chat with the Chief** - Between 8:00am & 11:00am  
HRFD Station #1 - 10544 Main Street . Roscoe . IL

👣 **Walk Out & Pinning Ceremony** - Begins at 11:30am  
HRFD Station #1 - 10544 Main Street . Roscoe . IL  
Full dress blues required for HRFD fire personnel.

**Duty ~ Pride ~ Tradition**





## REFLECTION OF 2022

BY LT. NATE SARVER

As it comes to the end of the year, it's natural to think back and reflect on what's been accomplished as well as what we have learned. The number of calls for help we've responded

to this year has been near what it was last year, keeping us busy while still allowing us the time to give back to the community that supports us so well. We had another successful HRFA Golf Play Day that raises money for the local schools to provide technologies and other resources for their students. The Roscoe Fall Fest was in full swing, with the exception of being rained out for a day, that provided us another opportunity for a successful fundraising for our Firemen's Association. We saw the return of a dine-in version of our annual Turkey Dinner that provides a home cooked style Thanksgiving meal for the senior citizens of our community.

The weather of 2022 has been near ideal so far, at least relatively speaking for Northern Illinois. This has provided us the chance and eagerness to get out and perform more in depth training throughout the whole year. We've been gifted several structures this year to train in by members of our community. These structures have given our crews the chance to practice techniques concerning searching for victims, fire attack, MAYDAY drills and firefighter survival, improving knowledge of building construction, as well as several other topics that are crucial to what we do. These structures provide a level of training that is very hard to replicate in our type of training facilities that we maintain at our Station #3. Across the state we've seen training programs and classes return to near pre-2020 quantity and with most certainly improved quality. Many of our members have taken part of what has been offered, including basic firefighter fundamentals, leadership development, incident command, scene safety, and fire investigation to name a few. It has been refreshing to see the return to training after having the limitations and restrictions of 2020 and 2021 we had experienced.

This past year we've been preparing for some changes in the coming years. We had our current Fire Chief, Chief Don Shovelin, announce his retirement effective at the closing of this year and the selection of our new Chief,

current Battalion Chief Patrick Trollop, to begin Jan 1st to lead us into 2023. We've ordered another ambulance to replace an aging one within our fleet. With our call volume increasing just about every year and with roughly 75% of our calls being EMS related, our fleet of ambulances are our workhorses and provide the tools our great EMTs and Paramedics need to provide the services our community expects. Across the nation we've seen staffing shortages and it has been no different with us and across the EMS and Fire industry as a whole. We've had to learn and adapt to working with fewer people on an incident. We've adapted our way of training and bringing in new members. We currently have a small group of individuals completing their training and will be joining us as full fledged firefighters this coming year. We've increased our outreach into local high schools to build upon our Cadet program that begins basic firefighter training with those 16 and up. Nearby Fire Departments and EMS agencies have both created agreements amongst each other to respond to each other to provide assistance at incidents as well building upon current agreements. We have seen plans for the continuation of growth in the area we serve and protect, with both new residential neighborhoods as well as new businesses coming to the area.

A more somber reflection of the year though is to remember those we have lost. At the time of this article there had been 85 reported Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths across the nation. Each of those firefighters are not only remembered by the family and friends they've left behind, but also by their brother and sister firefighters across the country. Those deaths, although tragic, should be teaching us something. Whether it's how to be a better human being by the example of those who paid that ultimate price left behind, or how to be a better firefighter by learning about and training on the events that lead to that death.

2022 has been an interesting year to reflect on. It has been a refreshing year after experiencing the restrictions and limitations of 2020 and 2021. 2022 as I think back as well as look forward has been a year of preparation to the future. I know that can seem a little obvious, because isn't that what every year or day is for, preparation for tomorrow? But this past year in particular has given us the chance to catch a breath so to speak, reaffirm our positions, build upon some fundamentals, and give us some reprieve with a chance to reflect and decide what is important to us. HRFD is preparing for the future, its members are committed to this community. Happy Holidays and bring on 2023.



## HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to Brentwood Dr. on Nov. 10th for a report of smoke in the basement. The fire was found on the rear wall of the home and quickly extinguished. Cause is under investigation. Thanks to our auto aid departments for their assistance.



## DOG RESCUE

PHOTO BY BC BRIGGS

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters donned their Mustang Cold Water Suits on Nov. 27th to rescue a stranded dog off an island in a pond. A resident on Nan Dr. found a stray dog stranded on the island and called 911. The owner was located after the rescue.





# HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin reports, "Firefighters were dispatched for a possible structure fire at 9:44pm on Nov. 18th on Dorothea Avenue in Machesney Park. Upon arrival of the first unit, they discovered a single-family home with heavy fire engulfing the majority of it. The residents were not home at the time of the fire and discovered it when they returned. Command then called for a MABAS Box 12 to the 2nd Alarm for assistance with water supply with Tenders since it was an area with no fire hydrants. It took approximately an hour to bring the fire under control. There were no injuries to firefighters. The home is a total loss and unfortunately, two family pets perished in the fire. The fire is still under investigation at this time. Thank you to our neighboring fire departments that assisted at the scene and covered our fire stations."





## KEEP THE WREATH RED PROGRAM

BY CRR JEN ANDERSON



This holiday season we will once again participate in the IL Fire Chiefs Assoc. (IFCA) adopted Keep the Wreath Red Program. The program was established in 1954 by Naperville IL paid-on-call Firefighter Paul Boecker.

Annually the Keep the Wreath Red Program is endorsed by the IFCA to alert residents of fires cause by holiday decorations. The Keep the Wreath Program is a visual reminder to citizens to take additional safety precautions during the holiday season to make this a safe and holiday season. As the holiday season begins, each of our fire stations place in public view a holiday wreath decorated with red bulbs. The wreaths are illuminated constantly. If a fire is directly caused by the holiday decorations, one red bulb will be changed to a white bulb.

All three of our fire stations will have wreaths. Please use them as a reminder to have a fire safe holiday. Help us "Keep the Wreaths Red!"

## CALENDARS ARE IN!

The yearly HRFD calendars are in. Pick up your copy at the admin office at Station #1.



## SMOKE INVESTIGATION

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

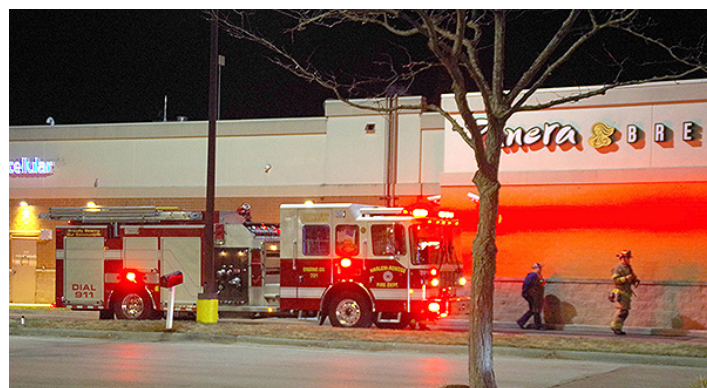
Firefighters responded to Loves Truck Stop on Quality Dr. for report of a smoke smell on Nov. 15th. The culprit was found to be a smoking motor on a rooftop heating unit.



## SMOKE INVESTIGATION

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to Panera Bread for a fire alarm on Dec. 3rd. A broken sprinkler was the culprit.





ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY DUTY OFFICERS



11/13/22 Williams Dr. and Hwy 251



11/14/22 Love Rd.



11/22/22 Love and McCurry Rd.



11/22/22 Gleasman Rd.



11/24/22 Forest Hills and Hwy 251



# Out in the Community



**Beloit Lighted Christmas Parade** - Nov. 25th



**HRFD kids Christmas Party**  
December 3rd. Santa arrived on a firetruck.



**THANK YOU HRFD!**

The Harlem Roscoe Fire Dept. presented a donation of \$12,000.00 to the Kinnikinnick CCSD #131 at the November BOE meeting. The funds were raised from the HRFD annual golf play day. The District has earmarked the funds for the replacement cycle of interactive whiteboards for the classrooms.

## Lions Club Senior Dinner

It was so great to see so many of our seniors today as we hosted the annual Roscoe Lion's Club's Senior Turkey Dinner at Station One. Almost 400 local seniors enjoyed a full sit down turkey meal with all the fixings!





# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



## PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



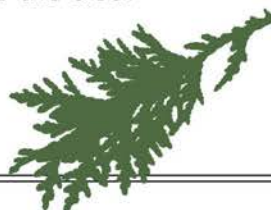
## PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



## LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2019





**DEAR COMMUNITY BUSINESSES,  
CHURCHES & GROUPS,**

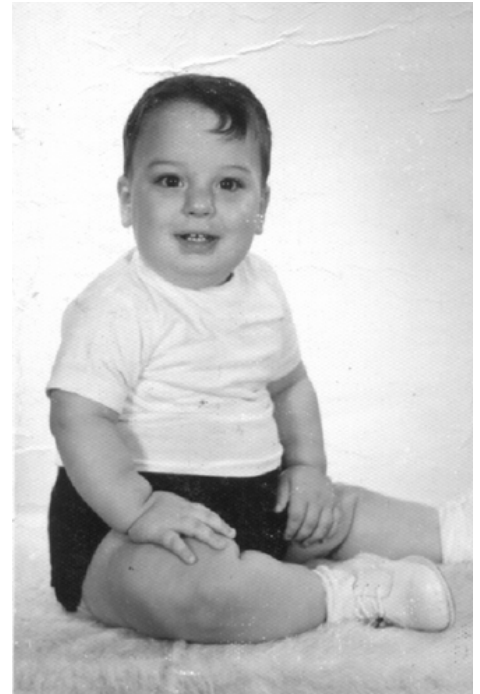
The holidays are once again upon us and the Harlem Roscoe Fire Department is looking for your help with our food drive. For decades, we have provided families and our local seniors who are in challenging times, a complete holiday feast with plenty of extras to fill their pantry.

Yearly, we have surprised over thirty households (with an average of 75+ children) during this time with a holiday feast, wrapped toys, clothing and many other items of need for each home. Better than a sleigh, delivery to each home will be made by one of our fire trucks and handed out by your HRFD Firefighters Saturday, December 17th, 2022.

This year, we will once again be collecting nonperishable boxed, bagged and canned goods. Examples of items needed would be Macaroni and Cheese, Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Canned Goods, Pasta and Sauce, Cereal, Etc. (Send us a photo or we will take one if we pick up and we will be certain to get it on our Facebook page too!)

To avoid collecting all the same items, please let our coordinator know what your team has in mind for this year's food drive. Our target date for food to be dropped off to our station or picked up from your business is now until December 14th. (Pick-up can be arranged by calling 815-623-7867 if needed)

Please contact HRFD Deputy Chief John Bergeron for participation or any other food drive questions at 815-623-7867, Monday thru Friday, 8am to 4pm or Email him directly at [hfrdjbergeron@gmail.com](mailto:hfrdjbergeron@gmail.com)



**Matt Bush - 60th  
January 5th**

**hAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**DECEMBER**

- 11th Harold Danger**
- 18th Kathy Marinelli**
- 26th Patrick Trollop**
- 26th Kyle Swanson**

**JANUARY**

- 5th Matt Bush 60th**
- 11th Ryan Donner**
- 16th Angel Indoal**
- 22nd Everett Peterson**
- 28th Brett Whiting**
- 31st Mark Soppe**

**The Firehouse Scene**

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

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 at: [sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org](mailto:sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org)





## EMT-B EMT-P FIREFIGHTER

HRFD is currently accepting applications for part time EMT-B or EMT-P and Firefighters.

Are you a caring individual looking for an opportunity to grow in the public safety world? Are you a person looking for challenges and working with a superb group of individuals as indicated above? If you are, then we are looking for you.

Applications may be filled out online at our web site or picked up at Station #1 which is located at 10544 Main Street in Roscoe.

Any questions should be directed to the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department at 815-623-7867

# EMERGENCY