



FLASHPOINT

Summer 2012

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow firefighters:

It's time again for another one of our newsletters. We are still in search for a person for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be awarded to that individual at our yearly convention at the banquet. Names should be submitted before August 10, 2012. For more information please visit our website at www.msfff.org.

Our yearly MSFFF, Inc. Convention this year is to be held in our beautiful Town of Freeport. Convention dates are September 7th, 8th, and 9th. Let's show our support for the Town of Freeport. Also a big help would be to register early. If you need information, you can ask your local Vice President or me. All information about the Officers of the Federation can also be found on our website.

This year was a tough year at legislation. If we could work together, we could make a huge difference for our State of Maine in the Fire Service.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every one of you throughout the State of Maine for your get well wishes, phone calls, flowers, concerns, thoughts, visits and especially prayers, during my recent illness. I could not believe the support I received

throughout the State and beyond. I received a tremendous amount of get well cards. For this I want to thank each and every one of you. It made it a

little easier to see that so many people care. I'm recuperating well at home and anxious to see all of you at Convention.

Richard A. Cyr President
of the MSFFF, Inc.

HANCOCK COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY GRADUATES 20 STUDENTS

On Saturday, June 16th, the Hancock County Firefighter's Association Fire Academy held its 2012 graduation with 20 students from four counties in the state of Maine representing 20 communities with 16 of those communities in Hancock County.

Lisa Winger, Captain, Trenton Vol. Fire Department and Chair of the HCFA Training & Education Committee was the emcee for the evening introducing the speakers and graduates. To start off the graduation, the Ellsworth Fire Department's Color Guard presented the colors which was followed up by a short video of pictures that were accumulated through the five months of training. Mrs. Winger, extended a thank you to the attendees, to the County Commissioners, Chiefs, Instructor for their support of the academy.

And a big thank you for the families and friends for their support as the students spend not only every other weekend at training, but also book time plus their department responsibilities.

The students, family, friends and guests listened to State Representative Louis Luchini as he talked about how important what the students were doing, how he was learning more about the fire service from one of his fellow representatives and he discussed being the sponsor of LD 1636, An Act To Extend Certain Insurance Protection to Emergency Responders. http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_125th/chapters/PUBLIC493.asp

Bill Guindon, Director, Maine Fire Service Institute spoke regarding the importance of training

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FIRE ACADEMY GRADUATES (CONT'D)

and how it does not stop here at the academy level, but this is just the beginning. There is more to learn and that things are ever changing in the fire service, either the tools we use, or what we are up against. He also remarked on the tradition of the Hancock County Fire Academy and that the County should be proud.

Richard Tupper, Chief, Ellsworth Fire and President, Hancock County Firefighter's Association also spoke on the importance of training and how this training is important not only to the students themselves, but also to their communities and surrounding communities. He also stressed that no matter how long you are in the fire service, you can always learn – and that someone will always be second guessing what you do. But a trained firefighter knows what it takes to be safe and to go home at the end. He stressed that it is important to work as a team and to always be safe. Chief Tupper thanked the Chiefs, the County Commissioners and everyone else involved in making this a continued success.

Robert Grindle, Chief Franklin Fire Department was introduced as one of the founding members of the Hancock County Fire Academy as well as a mentor and advocate for training firefighters. His department is host to the fire academy during their Class B weekend in Franklin. Chief Grindle talked



about how important this training is to the departments in Hancock County because Chiefs, like himself, know that when mutual aid departments are called, those that have gone through the academy are on the same page, and you can ask them to do something and you know it will get done and done right. He thanked all of those involved from the Training & Education Committee to the instructors, chiefs and students.

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Jake Underhill, HC Fire Academy Class President, also spoke regarding his experience and what it meant to be part of the 2012 Fire Academy, how far they had come and the camaraderie that had been built, not only amongst the students, but also with the instructors. Jake mentioned once that it was not easy and if it was everyone would do it.

Kevin Bland, HCFA Fire Academy Lead Instructor & Lt., Bangor Fire, spoke to the graduates stating that they had come a long way from the first class and that he was proud of the class. He spoke about how it was stressed at the beginning of the academy, many students were told that they would have to step out of their comfort zones to do the training, just like at a scene, you will be asked to do a task to get the job done – and you will do it.

Kevin Bland also presented an award, decided on by the instructors to the student who displayed improvement, dedication and enthusiasm throughout the academy, to Steve Corson, Assistant Chief, Trenton Vol. Fire Department.

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Following the presentation of the certificates and congratulations by attending chiefs and instructors, the Class President Jake Underhill asked the class to recite their class motto one more time: "The Desire to Serve, The Ability to Perform, and The Courage to Act" .



Kevin Bland

As this 2012 Hancock County Fire Academy closes out, we are proud to boast that over 200 firefighters in Hancock County that have gone through the Fire Academy.



Bill Guidon

Congratulations to the 2012 Hancock County Fire Academy graduating class:

Bar Harbor FD - Michael Bailey; Brooklin – Adrienne Burton; Deer Isle – Zach Carter & Chris Hutchinson; Ellsworth – Steve Kirby, Alex DePrenger & Taylor Conlyn ;Franklin - Greg Schaneville; Lamoine – Nathan Dandurand; Isleford – William Palmer & James Amuso; Surry – Reggie Winslow; Trenton – Steve Corson & Keith Orr; Milford – Andrew Brogden & Jesse Bieluch; Hope- Jason Underhill; Milbridge – Allen Leighton; Holden – Eric Jameson & Clay Gordon



Rep Louie Luchini addressing the graduates

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HANCOCK FIRE ACADEMY WRAPS UP THEIR EIGHT YEAR!

"The Desire to Serve, The Ability to Perform, and The Courage to Act" is the motto of the 2012 Hancock County Fire Academy. The student body of this year's academy is from four counties in the state of Maine representing 20 communities with 16 of those communities in Hancock County.



At the end of this academy, there will be almost 200 firefighters in Hancock County that have gone through the Fire Academy. Under the direction of Lt. Kevin Bland and his staff, the academy curriculum meets the requirements of the State of Maine Bureau of Labor and as well as those that allow the students to earn the certification of Firefighter I & II from the Maine Fire (Service) Institute.

The students take 12 weekends, both Saturdays and Sundays, away from their daily lives to complete the course that has

classroom instruction to understand the fundamentals of fire education and prevention, smoke alarms, fire service history and the dynamics of fire. The toughest part of the curriculum comes from the hands on time that the students, a mix of some seasoned veterans and some new to the fire ser-

vice all of whom are looking to earn their state certification, spend in the field. From the hose lays to extinguishers to ladder work to search and rescue, it all comes down to the Class A and Class B burns that really pull all they have learned together. The team



work, the camaraderie, the skills and loyalty to their profession all comes together at the end of the five months. It is always interesting to listen each year as the students get nearer to the end of the academy that has taken a lot for each student and their families: they will miss the weekends that they don't have to come to the academy and they will miss seeing each other. But again, we hear it each year: it is something they would do over again because they have learned so much about themselves, about the fire service and they have met some great people along the way. All of us involved in the fire academy, students, staff and Training & Education Committee members, never forget those that have come through. Some of those we meet will be back to visit; some will keep in touch at meetings or incidents, but all

will remember the academy and that it taught us that we all have a job to do, and we need to do it safe so that we can all go home to our family and friends. Congratulations to the 2012 Hancock County Fire Academy graduating class: Bar Harbor FD - Michael Bailey; Brooklin - Adrienne Burton; Deer Isle - Zach Carter & Chris Hutchinson; Ellsworth - Steve

Kirby, Alex DePrenger & Taylor Conlyn ; Franklin - Greg Schaneville; Lamoine - Nathan Dandurand; Islesford - William Palmer & James Amuso; Surry - Reggie Winslow; Trenton - Steve Corson & Keith Orr; Milford - Andrew Brogden & Jesse Bieluch ; Hope - Jason Underhill; Milbridge - Allen Leighton; Holden - Eric Jameson & Clay Gordon



WHEN DUTY CALLS THEY SERVE

'Tis a spot of exquisite beauty
Where a trig station stands
Brook and lake veil fern-clad ravine
In the spray a fine bridge spans.

Clang; and the swift scream of siren
Shrills across the silent street
While dawn creeping over hillsides
Fears to disturb town sleep.

Doors of station swing wide open
From the neighboring homes come men,
Quivering engine throbs impatience
As each takes his place again.

Clang; and the swift scream of siren
'Tis noon now with traffic high,
Flame and silverflin their message
As the firemen hurry by.

Night falls; and the same men gather
For this is no hour to shirk,
Maybe hurt, a broken shoulder,
Yet a smile; "Boys, 'twas quick work."

So the long town rests in comfort,
In the care of a very few,
Skill..devotion..well..it may be,
For you to see, 'tis home and you.

Lilian True Bryant

COUNTY NEWS

Androscoggin County

Recently Deputy Chief Michael Robitelle step down as Deputy for Lisbon Fire Department as he was promoted to Interim Chief of Yarmouth Fire Department. Capton Robert Robitelle was promoted to his position as Deputy Chief.

In a recent town meeting the voters of Poland voted to allow Poland Fire Department to double the size of their station.

In Minot the voters at their town meeting voted to buy a new pumper for Minot Fire. Bids will be going in the near future for this pumper.

Blue Hill

On 04/18/12, Blue Hill F.D. received a call from Hancock County Regional Communication Center for response to a fully involved structure fire at 223 Mountain Road.

First due was Blue Hill E8, a 1250/1250 pumper, with four fire fighters and the Chief. The garage that was 30' from the house was fully involved, and the house was charring badly. One firefighter stretched a 1.75" line and began to knock down the heat of the garage fire and switch back and forth to cool the house. The Chief and the remaining crew were in rescue mode seeking the residents. They were found away from their structure at the preplanned area of safe haven.

Blue Hill E4, a 1000/1000 pumper arrived with 1 driver and immediately began to nurse E8. Mutual aid was requested from Surry, Penobscot, and Sedgwick for equipment and personnel.

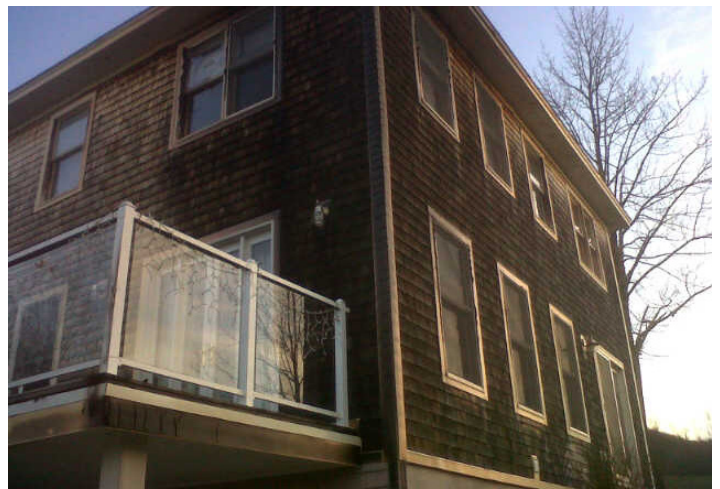
More Blue Hill firefighters arrived and formed an interior attack team to check the inside of the home for possible extension with a thermal imaging camera, hand tools and a 1.75" line. More lines had been advanced outside at this time with good cooling knock-down and exposure protection.

The garage and two cars within were a total loss and 5000 gallons of water were used with Class A foam to extinguish the tempest.

Due to the extent of damage the Fire Marshal was unable to get a cause and the fire remains undetermined.

There were no firefighter or civilian injuries.

For questions contact Chief Denny Robertson at 207-374-5561



Brooksville Vol. Fire Dept.

2012 International E-1 pumper/tanker

- 1250 pump
- 1000 gals. h20
- 33.2 gals. Foam
- December 8, 2011 put into service
- Built in FL
- Brooksville Vol. Fire Dept.'s Truck #1, replacing 1979 Chevrolet FMC



BROOKLIN

Fire Claims Brooklin Home

By Jennifer Osborn

A Brooklin family was left homeless after a fire ravaged their two-story house on Rob Road Jan. 4.

"It's a real sad thing and a hard time to lose everything," said Brooklin Fire Chief Sam Friend.

The residence belongs to Brian Clarke and his wife and child, who have been staying with friends. The property was insured.

The Maine Fire Marshal's Office said the damage was too extensive to determine a cause, Friend said.

No one was injured.

The Fire Department was called at 10:04 a.m. to respond to a report of a garage on fire.

Brooklin Capt. Tom Morris was first on the scene just a couple of minutes after the call and relayed to department members who were en route that the garage was fully involved.

The first fire truck arrived about 10 minutes after the call. By that point the fire had already spread to the house, Friend said.

Complicating the firefight were the cold temperature and the location.

"It was about 12 or 14 degrees," Friend said. "You go through firefighters really quick when it's that cold out."

A nozzle on a hose broke as well.

Fire departments from the towns of Sedgwick, Blue Hill and Deer Isle provided aid.

The Rob Road, which is a town-owned road, is too narrow for more than one fire truck at a time. The residence is about two miles down the road.

"It was a tough spot down there," he said.

While it took just minutes to spread, the fire took a couple hours to put out. Firefighters were on the scene until 6 p.m.

An excavator from M.E. Astbury in Blue Hill had to be used on the site to make sure all the hot spots had been eliminated.

The Brooklin School community is planning a fundraiser for the family, but no date has been set.

FORT KENT

Putting it all on the line to save lives

• News • Local News | Julie Daigle | 27 March 2012

Fort Kent Police Officer Richard Martin was the first responder at the scene of the Fort Kent fire in the early morning hours on Sunday, March 25, saving lives and evacuating tenants in a heroic rescue effort, along with the help of seven or eight brave citizen responders.



Firefighters from nine towns worked together to contain the massive fire early Sunday morning that destroyed a section of Fort Kent's downtown business area. The close proximity of the buildings made it a difficult fire to battle and the building housing Acadia Home Care was ultimately destroyed by the flames. Crews did save the neighboring structure housing The China Garden and several businesses across the street which suffered minor cosmetic and structural damage. - Julia Bayly image

By the time he arrived at the scene and started evacuating tenants from the upstairs apartments at Nadeau's House of Furniture, the situation had already become life-threatening.

Martin said he could hear the rumble of the fire in the walls during the evacuation.

"I didn't have much time to think," he said. "The first thing we think about is, 'Is there anyone in there?'"

Martin was on East Main Street when he received a call from Matt Bard, a Fort Kent Public Works employee who was checking the pumps on the dike that night. By the time the police officer drove by the Daigle Oil Company gas station, he could see the smoke from the fire. He pulled up to the burning building, called dispatch for the fire department, and ran up the stairs, followed by Travis Jones, son of Tina Boucher and Lee Jandreau. Jones had followed the police officer after he pulled over to let Martin go by at the intersection by Quigley's.

Martin first knocked on the door of Katie Levesque and John Kilcollins and their 18-month-old baby, entering the apartment and waking up the sleeping family with a yell when he didn't get an immediate response at the door. They were still gathering things for the baby when he told them, "It's time to go."

While Martin was ensuring the family's safety, a group of five or six tenants, who live in the apartments above Radio Shack, and John Nadeau, who lives with his wife Loni in an apartment across the street from the burning buildings, helped Katie and John Kilcollins rescue some of their baby stuff, the young couple's computer, and at least one of the family's cats, said Loni. She said she had word that another cat had turned up today, but couldn't say for certain whether it was the young couple's other cat or Sue Gnyla's.

It was only minutes after the rescuers pulled everyone from Nadeau's that they saw flames burst out of the bank of windows in front of the furniture building, said Martin.

"When the windows busted out, the whole building went to flames," he said.

The heat from the Nadeau's fire was intense and began threatening buildings across the street.

"I could see it was going to be touch and go," he said, about the chances the apartments above Radio Shack would ignite.

At that point, rescuers evacuated the remaining residents in abutting buildings and in the Radio Shack

apartments, kicking in the doors of some of the apartments when there was no answer. Martin's concern was that tenants were present but unresponsive.

"If they've been drinking, they can be hard to wake up," he said.



Smoke, flames and steam frame a firefighter surveying the damage early Sunday morning as a massive fire spread through several historic buildings along West Main Street. - Julia Bayly image

Rescue efforts were helped by the fact that some of the college students were not there, and that other tenants were out late, said Martin. In the midst of the rescue efforts, one tenant, Jenna Roy, received a text message from a friend in Bangor, who saw news of the fire on Facebook, alerting her to the situation.

Fort Kent Police Officer Tony Enerva described the overwhelming pressure to get everyone out of the steaming building safely during evacuation efforts above the China Garden. One of the Clair, New Brunswick firefighters had to pry open doors that opened into the hall with a crowbar-like fireman's tool. In one instance, the threat from the burning buildings next door required Enerva to wake up one of the tenants, who was still in bed, and to evacuate the woman with the bare minimum of clothing for the sake of decency.

Chad Pelletier, who lived with his fiancé Danielle Guerrette in an apartment above Nadeau's House of Furniture, wanted to go back into the building to retrieve keys to his truck, but rescue workers would not let him. Twenty minutes later, as the Nadeau's building collapsed, the heat had badly scorched his truck. He said he was unsure if he could salvage it.

Sue Gnyla, who lived above The Soggy Doggy, left the burning block of buildings without her glasses, and Tommy Daigle left without anything but the clothes on his back, said Martin. Sue Gnyla's cat is still presumed missing.

When Tommy Daigle's ex-wife called from out-of-town and didn't return a call back, Martin grew concerned that Tommy's young daughter was missing.

Martin said John Nadeau and the other citizen rescuers helped the police by letting him know who was still in town, assisting with the evacuation of tenants after

Nadeau's burst into flames, and helping to perform a final sweep to make certain that everyone, including Tommy's daughter, was safely out of the buildings.

Loni Nadeau described the moment when she heard that her husband was inside one of the burning buildings.

"I started screaming. It was really scary. I was really scared," she said. "I was in shock for most of the night."

Taking photographs was the only thing keeping her from becoming completely hysterical, she said. Those photos are now part of the State Fire Marshal's investigation. One of Loni's photos appears on the front page of this week's Fiddlehead Focus.

She said her husband just kicked into rescue mode. When he wasn't in the burning buildings, he was in the adjacent parking lot moving the cars he could find that were unlocked with keys still in the ignition. Because he was behind the burning buildings when the fire department showed up, the Fire Marshal's office and the Fort Kent Police Department interviewed him the next morning for information about where the worst and likely initial damage had occurred.

Brave people, from Officer Richard Martin, Travis Jones and John Nadeau to the unnamed citizen rescuers, trained law enforcement and emergency personnel, all participated in helping to save lives and property during the rescue efforts.

"I think if I'd been a little further away, North or South Perley Brook, some people would have died," said Martin.

Martin thanked the fire department, his fellow police officers, and all the people who helped for their efforts.

Grand Isle

Investigators say Grand Isle restaurant fire was arson
By Jen Lynds, BDN Staff | Posted March 27, 2012, at 4:35 p.m. | Last modified March 27, 2012, at 5:33 p.m. | Don Eno | St. John Valley Times

Firefighters from multiple communities work Thursday morning, March 15, 2012, to extinguish a blaze at Cravings restaurant in Grand Isle. A neighbor across the road said he noticed smoke sometime before 9 a.m. and called 911. Despite firefighters' efforts, the structure was a total loss.

GRAND ISLE, Maine — Officials with the state fire marshal's office said Tuesday that arson was the cause of a fire that gutted a Main Street restaurant on March 15.

No arrests connected to the fire at Cravings Restaurant have been made, according to investigator Tim Lowell.

The restaurant was a total loss after a fire destroyed the structure just before 8:30 a.m.

COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

Fire Chief Gary Campbell said firefighters believed that the fire started in the cellar, but they called in an investigator to determine the exact cause.

Campbell said a neighbor reported the fire after seeing smoke billowing from the building. Firefighters from Van Buren and St. Leonard, New Brunswick, joined their counterparts from Grand Isle to help extinguish the blaze at the restaurant, which Campbell said was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

The chief said the owner, Lee Beaulieu, had remodeled the business after he bought it a few years ago because it had caught fire under a previous owner.

Lamoine Fire

March 19, 2012 – by Stu Marckoon, Asst. Chief & Incident Commander At 8:00 AM Hancock County RCC received a call from the homeowner/occupant at 698 Douglas Highway in Lamoine reporting that her house was on fire. Four members of Lamoine VFD responded immediately on the tone, two had to drive by the scene to reach the fire station and observed fire coming from a 1st story bedroom of the approximately 160-year old farm house which featured a red and white striped exterior on the street façade. Mutual aid was automatically dispatched from Hancock, Trenton and Ellsworth.



First responding units were on scene at 8:07 AM and observed heavy fire now coming from both sides of the middle section of the residence. A state trooper who happened to be driving by the scene had stopped and confirmed the homeowner was safe and there was no one else in the house. The Lamoine crew made an initial exterior attack with a pair of 1.75" lines on the Delta side of the house, set up a dump tank at the pumper and began an incident command system utilizing Lamoine's primary frequency for fire ground operations, Trenton's frequency for water supply and keeping Hancock County fire repeater frequency open. Hancock's pumper arrived and set up attack lines initially on the Bravo side, with lines extending to the Alpha and Charlie sides as the fire quickly advanced and consumed the entire structure. Two water sources were set up for a tanker shuttle. Additional manpower and tankers were called in from Sullivan and Sorrento

and manpower was requested from Surry.



Ellsworth FD assumed accountability and staging operations, rotating crews to give them some rehab time. A very limited interior attack on the Alpha side was made, long enough to remove oxygen and acetylene tanks from the building. The fire was controlled at approximately 11:45 AM. An excavator was requested from a local contractor to knock down two large and potentially unstable chimneys, then tear apart the debris pile to be soaked down. Approximately 50 firefighters responded at some point during the call, and Chief George "Skip" Smith, who was the primary pumper operator for the call, estimates at least 150-thousand gallons of water was pumped into the burning structure. The debris pile rekindled at approximately 1:20 AM the following day, and the fire crew quickly knocked that down, returning at 10:00 AM with the excavator operator to make the final extinguishment, clearing the scene at 12:00 Noon. The Red Cross assisted with sheltering. The State Fire Marshal's Office sent an investigator, but the cause could not be determined due to the destruction. The homeowner reported the fire was first spotted in her bedroom. The family, which includes two elementary school aged boys, is staying in a donated summer rental cottage for a few months while rebuilding plans are under way. The community made a tremendous outpouring of support and donations. They were insured. The building was a total loss, but several out-buildings were saved.



COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

Orland

The Orland Fire Department conducted joint Cold Water Rescue in mid March with members of the Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry Fire Departments at Toddy Pond in Orland. Orland Fire Captain John Gray led the training which was well received by all that attended, especially by the "first timers".



The Orland Fire Department conducted a live fire training burn on the last weekend in March with members from the Bucksport, Surry, Penobscot, Brooklin, and Sedgwick Fire Departments attending, as well as apparatus support from Bucksport, Surry and Penobscot. Approximately 50 firefighters and support members participated in fire attack, ventilation, RIT, scene accountability and rehab and staging area operations. Six fire attack companies were comprised of members from the various departments and worked seamlessly together to safely and effectively conduct each evolution. Newly elected Orland Chief Bob Conary was overall Incident Command, with Penobscot Chief Dennis Roberston as Incident Safety Officer. Newly elected Orland Assistant Chief Julia Clark and Captain John Gray performed roles as interior Safety Observers and Surry Captain Jeff Grantham was the Staging Officer. All personnel that attended did a great job.



Orland Names New Fire Chief | By Jennifer Osborn

ORLAND -- An Orland native is now leading the town's fire department.

Bob Conary was voted the new chief last week. Conary replaces John Gray, who is still serving with the department as first captain.

Gray is a career firefighter with the city of Bangor and needed to lighten his volunteer service a bit, Conary explained.

Julia Clark replaces Conary as assistant fire chief.

Although Conary went away to serve in the Navy for 20 years, he got his start in the department in his youth.

It was the late '70's when Conary and Gray and a few other guys joined the Fire Department as junior members.

Conary recalled that they had all been in Boy Scouts together. One of the Scout leaders was a Fire Department officer who recruited them.

After a few years of serving the department as a junior firefighter, Conary joined the Navy in 1983.

"I didn't really want to work in the mill," he said.

The training in the military seemed like a good deal.

"It was a good opportunity to see some neat places,"

Conary said.

During his 20 years in the service, Conary was stationed in numerous ports, including Rhode Island, Alabama, Virginia, San Diego, the Mediterranean and the Pacific as well as a tour in the Persian Gulf.

In the Navy, Conary was a fire control man, which is not what it sounds like. Fire in this instance refers to firing ammunition. Conary ran electronic combat systems on small destroyers to shoot down enemy aircraft.

"We did get a lot of shipboard firefighter training," Conary said.

Conary met his wife of 26 years while home on leave early in his Navy career. Mary Lou (formerly Tait) is a Bar Harbor native and he was introduced to her at his ex-girlfriend's house.

When Conary retired from the Navy in 2003, he and Mary Lou moved back to Orland. They have two grown children, a son, Jonathan, who just joined the Ellsworth Fire Department, and a daughter, Christina, who lives in New Hampshire. There is one granddaughter who is just past her first birthday.

As new chief, Conary is focused on leading the 34-member department and how to handle its needs.

For example, the station, which is housed in an energy inefficient metal building, is too small for the size of the fire trucks being built.

"Pretty much everything out there is too tall for the station now," Conary said.

The department also has aging trucks that will eventually need to be replaced.

The department's education focus has changed this year since there is no longer a school in Orland.

Southwest Harbor

Southwest Harbor Fire Department took delivery of its new Quint on New Year's Day 2012. This is the third Ferrara in their fleet.

Chief Sam Chisholm and Deputy Chief Jack Martel accompanied Maine sales rep. Ed Pollard on a visit to the Ferrara plant in December. The plant is located in Holden, Louisiana.

Some features of the 2011 Ferrara are:

- Igniter custom cab with seating for six
- 107 ft. 4 section aerial ladder with 1250 gpm. monitor
- Creeper controls at the tip
- 162 ft. of ground ladders
- 500 gal. water tank
- Waterous 2000 gpm. pump
- Foam Pro system
- International Maxxforce 13 engine
- 6 kw hydraulic generator
- 200 ft. electric cord reel
- Firecom intercom with 6 headsets
- 3 Federal Signal cameras - sides and rear

Front jump line
LED lighting



Trenton

Trenton Fire Department Proud of New Gear and Thanks Towns People

One year ago, Trenton FD members stepped in front of their Select Board and explained why it was important for gear for structural firefighting to meet the NFPA Standards and why they were unable to secure other funds through grants. With the information set in front of the Board and the towns people, the TVFD were given funds to purchase PPE for all of their structurally certified firefighters. Left to right - (Back row: Lt. Aaron Graham, Lt. Bob Mealey, Lt. Keith Orr, Captain Kevin Hallett and Lt. Adam Molnar. Front row: Deputy Chief Steve Corson, Captain Lisa Winger and Assistant Chief Steve Heckman)

Thank you to the Trenton Town Residents for your continued support.



Come Join the Trenton Vol. Fire Department in our summer fundraisers.

Great time at our Blueberry Pancake/French Toast Breakfasts.

The dates are Saturdays, June 9, July 7, August 11,

COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

September 22 6 a.m - 10 a.m. and October 27th (Hunter's Breakfast) 5a.m. - 10 a.m.

Location: Trenton Fire Department, Rt 230/59 Oak Point Road

It is all you can eat - Pancakes and French Toast, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, juice. (Hunter's Breakfast includes eggs, potatoes & homemade baked beans)

It's always fun - come meet some new people and support Trenton Volunteer Fire Department!!

Trenton Vol. Fire Department donates Tanker Truck

to Islesford Vol. Fire Department

The Trenton Vol. Fire Department and Town of Trenton Selectboard recently donated their 1982 Chevrolet Tanker Truck to Islesford Vol. Fire Department.

The 1982 Tanker was built by Trenton Vol. Fire Department members with former Chief Kelton Muise and Herbert Clement spearheading the project. The truck has a 2000 gallon tank with a 750 Daryl gallon per minute pump and was in service for Trenton for 29 years.

Trenton Vol. Fire wishes Chief Howland and the Islesford Vol. Fire Department many years of use with the tanker. Pictured here with some department members. Pictured from left to right are, Jason Pickering, David Thomas, Allen McCormick, Chief Richard Howland, Asst chief Jeremy Alley, Nick Hadlock Rick Alley and Bruce Fernald)



WINTER HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Winter Harbor Fire Department has been quite busy lately; some good and some bad. Unfortunately, there was a structure fire in Winter Harbor on April 13, 2012. The garage and house burned so fast there was no chance for an interior attack. This home was located outside our hydrant system so once a water supply was established, the firefighters were able to contain the fire to the buildings, keeping it away from

the dry brush and neighboring trees. Also, a few personal items were retrieved for the homeowner. Much appreciation goes out to Gouldsboro, Sullivan, Sorrento and Hancock Fire Departments for their mutual aid and assistance.

A few new people have joined our Department lately and are becoming trained and very active. This is good news for our Department as we prepare to build the new Municipal Public Safety Building. The new building will house the Town Office, Police and Fire Departments in one desirable location. A4 Architects are still preparing the designs and plans and the project should be advertised for bids shortly.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to allow the Fire Department to use the last section of the old grammar school for training purposes ending in a final burn. This has been a rare venue for extensive and comprehensive fire training as well as saving the Town the expense of demolition. The firefighters have trained in fire behavior, interior attack, search and rescue, RIT training and ventilation. The final burn of the building will be June 9-10, 2012.

At our last meeting a new Fire Chief was elected, Wayne "Bull" Archie. Bull has been a firefighter Training Officer, Fire Captain and Assistant Chief in Glenburn and Kenduskeag for over 20 years. He has tirelessly served the Town of Winter Harbor for the last two years as our Chief Engineer and Training Officer. Without his knowledge, effort and dedication the Winter Harbor Fire Department would not be as well situated and prepared as we are today. A huge thanks to Jeffrey Alley, Jr. for serving as Fire Chief for the past two years.

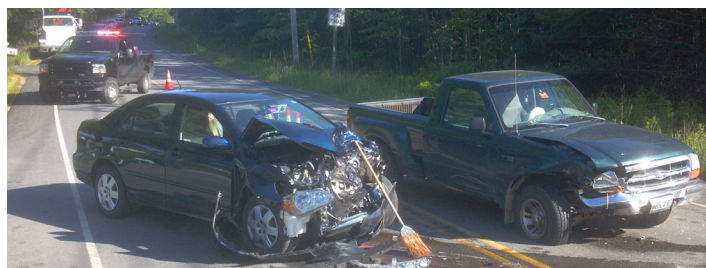
Submitted by, Cathy J. Carruthers, Secretary/Treasurer, WH Fire Department, Town Manager

Bucksport & Orland Fire Departments

"The week from ..."

The second week of June 2012 proved to bring a hectic and straining string of events in the Bucksport/Orland area after a series of serious calls were responded to throughout the week.

On Saturday, June 9, the departments responded to a two-vehicle crash on Rt. 1 in Orland that ended in the death of a local woman. Crews worked together in an attempt to extricate the woman from her vehicle but after doing so, she was later pronounced dead at the scene.



Several "routine" calls occurred over the next couple

COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

of days until at 1:00 PM on the following Tuesday, the same crews responded to a report of a capsized boat with several people in the waters of the Penobscot River, somewhere south of the Penobscot Narrows Bridge. It was reported that some victims were stranded on a ledge outcropping in the bay and that one person was still with the capsized boat, which was headed out to sea with the current. Bucksport Fire & Police and Orland Fire, along with a boat from Webber Tanks Fuel Storage Facility and the Harbor Masters office all responded. They were met with 5-6 foot waves with about a 40 MPH wind once they got beyond the bridge.



As the rescue was occurring, Orland & Bucksport crews responded to a reported School Bus Fire in Orland, on which more than a dozen students and chaperones were riding. All the occupants were removed safely, but the bus was fully involved in flames upon arrival and is considered a total loss.

On the other side of the river, crews from Prospect and Stockton Springs, who were also assisting in the boat rescue, were toned out for a report of a 7 year student from Bucksport that had fallen approximately 20 feet from a wall of the Fort and was seriously injured. Life Flight crews responded as well and transported the boy to EMMC where he was treated for several broken bones and facial injuries but is recovering well.

Meanwhile, the 5 victims of the capsized were safely retrieved nearly two miles out into the bay beyond the bridge, along with their craft, and were returned safely to shore.

After numerous other calls the next couple of days, Bucksport and Orland crews responded on Thursday to a single vehicle vs. pole accident on the River Road in Bucksport, where 2 occupants got out on their own, but the driver of the vehicle was partially ejected and was trapped beneath the full size SUV in a ditch. The female victim's upper body and her head were trapped beneath the front fender of the vehicle which was laying on it's side in the ditch, while the rest of her body was still inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle. She was conscious and alert and talking to the responders as they attempted to perform extrication without causing the vehicle to completely crush her. The crews spent nearly 2 hours but were

able to remove her safely and transported her to the hospital, where she was treated and later released. Life Flight also responded to this call and their crews went with Bucksport Ambulance during the transport.

That afternoon, responders were called to the scene of an ATV rollover accident in Bucksport at which a female was injured and was transported to the hospital. During this incident, additional crews responded to a head-on two-vehicle crash on the River Road in Bucksport at which one female was injured and transported and both vehicles were considered a total loss.

Late that night, both towns responded to a single vehicle vs. pole crash on Verona Island where a single occupant was trapped in a severely mangled vehicle that crews worked for nearly an hour to unwrap the vehicle from around him. Amazingly, this subject was also treated and released from the hospital with minor injuries.



At the end of this call, the Orland Fire Department responded to the Town of Surry with their rescue boat to retrieve a seriously ill patient off from an island in a local lake. Emergency personnel responded to a half-dozen other calls during this same

NORTH YARMOUTH

N. Yarmouth taps public safety assistant as fire chief

By Alex Lear | The Northern Forecaster

The town's public safety assistant will soon be wearing the fire chief hat, too.

Ricky Plummer of Biddeford, who was hired late last year in his current position, has held fire chief positions in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida.

The Board of Selectmen voted last week to hire Plummer as part-time fire chief. He will replace Clark Baston, who will continue as road foreman for the Public Works Department, on July 1.

"I'm honored," Plummer said last week. "It's great to

carry on a tradition of a department that's come a long way."

Plummer's proposed annual stipend as chief, \$8,000, as well as funding for an increase in his weekly public safety assistant hours from 20 to 30, will be voted on at Town Meeting June 16. The increase would add nearly \$10,000 to Plummer's annual wage, bringing it to about \$28,000, according to Steven Palmer, vice chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

"(Plummer) has been embraced by the people that he's worked with through the year, and that relationship has just gotten better as time has gone on," Palmer said Monday. "...We've been very happy with his performance as public safety assistant, and we have no reason to doubt that there should be any reason for him to have anything but great success as a fire chief."

The Board of Selectmen voted 4-1 to hire Plummer as chief. Darla Hamlin, who voted in opposition, noted Monday there were "three excellent candidates" for the job, and that "I actually feel personally that Ricky is very well qualified ... and I was just leaning toward somebody who had been a resident of the community for a long time, and (who) I felt had more of a connection to the community...and was every bit as qualified."

She added that she feels "very comfortable with the decision" to hire Plummer.

Plummer's hiring as public safety assistant last year followed the transition of the town fire company to a fire and rescue department, a change approved at the June 2011 Town Meeting.

The 55-year-old, who is married and has four children and three grandchildren, has been a full-time firefighter for 35 years. He has served in that capacity in North Yarmouth, and was chief of the Marlborough, Mass., Fire Department from April 2010 through August 2011, when an illness convinced him to take things a little easier.

He then saw an ad for the North Yarmouth job and was attracted to working in a smaller department.

"Having a few months off, and then working here part-time" has given Plummer a good opportunity to recuperate, he said last week, and he is ready to tackle the job of chief.

"I wish (Baston) was going to stay a bit longer, because I like working with the chief," Plummer said. "He's a great guy."

He noted that his two roles will blend together, and that "a lot of stuff that I do is stuff the chief would normally do."

There will be no set hours for his role of chief; "whatever it takes to do the job," Plummer said.

Plummer previously was fire-rescue chief and public safety and emergency management agency director in Gray (2007-2010), fire-rescue chief and emergency

management director in Cocoa, Fla. (2005-2007), and Biddeford (2003-2005), and fire chief and public safety and EMA director in Standish (2001-2003).

In New Hampshire, he was town manager of Milton from 1995-1996 and fire chief in Portsmouth from 1996-2001. He has also served as a forest fire warden and instructor for a firefighter rookie school.

FREEPORT

Suspect faces arson charge in Freeport business fire

By Amy Anderson | The Northern Forecaster

A 21-year-old man was arrested Tuesday and charged with arson and burglary in connection with a fire that destroyed a Route 1 plumbing and heating business late Monday night.

According to the state fire marshal's office, Christopher Veysey was arrested by Fire Investigator Danny Young at a bus station in Portland. Veysey was allegedly boarding the bus for South Carolina at about 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Fire Chief Darrel Fournier said the fire at Bob Miles & Sons, 1162 Route 1, was reported at 11 p.m. Monday night. He said the department received assistance from Brunswick, Topsham, Yarmouth, and Pownal and had the fire under control within about an hour and a half.

The last firefighters left the scene at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"I'm very pleased with the cooperation on scene from all the area fire departments," Fournier said.

Fournier said the building, valued at \$170,000, was a total loss; the value of its contents was estimated at \$300,000.

Fournier said investigators, with the help of the Freeport Police Department the fire marshal's office, were able to link evidence at the scene to Veysey.

"Working together helped lead to a quick arrest," he said.

Fournier said there were three burning vehicles in the rear of the building and one that had self-extinguished. There were four other cars that had broken windows and appeared to be broken into, he said.

According to the fire marshal's office, Veysey, who is originally from Hartland, was charged with one count of arson and nine counts of burglary. He reportedly did not have a vehicle, but made his way to Portland. He is also suspected to have committed burglaries on Monday in Guilford, according to the state Department of Public Safety.

Freeport police Lt. Susan Nourse said many officers assisted in the investigation including Detective Gino Bianchini, Sgt. Nathaniel Goodman, and Officers Tom Gabbard, Michael McMannus and Matt Moorhouse.

"This was a very active investigation," she said.

Veysey is being held at the Cumberland County Jail. His bail is set at \$300,000.

YARMOUTH

Yarmouth's only full-time chief retiring after 55 years of fighting fires

By Amy Anderson | "The Forecaster"

Fire Department Chief Byron "Pat" Fairbanks has seen it all.

He has made hard decisions, saved lives, trained thousands of people, lost coworkers and now, at 68, is ready to spend uninterrupted time with his wife Patricia and his family.

Fairbanks, who has been a career firefighter for 55 years, will retire on Feb. 3.

He started his career as a junior firefighter in Cumberland in 1957, when he was a freshman at Greely High School. He served in the military after high school and when he returned, found work in the Portland Fire Department. In 1975 he moved to the Yarmouth Fire Department and in 1996 was appointed chief.

He is the only full-time chief the town has ever had.

"I am fortunate to have worked with a lot of good people and had the support of the Town Council and (Town Manager) Nat (Tupper)," he said. "It is difficult work. You have to be in shape, you have to make hard decisions, and you are pulled from your family at any time."

He said couldn't have done it without the support and understanding of his wife of 45 years.

"In the older days we were much more 'drop everything' when the bell rang," he said. "Now, I encourage people that the family comes first. In the old days, the Fire Department came first."

In 2000, Fairbanks merged Lila fire and rescue departments, which is now known as Yarmouth Fire-Rescue. He also helped make the training facility at the transfer and recycling station used by the Coastal Mutual Aid Association, a coalition of 16 local communities, what it is today.

Cumberland Fire Chief Dan Small has known Fairbanks for 26 years. He said Fairbanks has been like a second father to him, available to answer questions and willing to share his years of experience.

He said the training facility championed by Fairbanks has been invaluable to area firefighters by helping to build their confidence and giving them real-world fire experience.

"This facility allows people to crawl before they walk and walk before they run," he said. "Tens of thousands of people have been through there."

The facility is a four-story house with two controlled-burn rooms and obstacles for firefighters to use for

training purposes. There is a kitchen for firefighters to practice putting out grease fires, and propane tanks for gas fires.

Fairbanks said thousands of training sessions have been held at the facility, and it has been used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; police SWAT teams and fire departments from other states.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Robitaille has worked with Fairbanks for seven years. He said Fairbanks has been a mentor to many people in the department, and is progressive in his approach to technology.

"He does a good job keeping resources and financial backing," Robitaille said. "He has a great rapport with the community, he knows everybody and everybody knows him."

Robitaille said while there has been a significant increase in fire and emergency medical calls — from 600 in 1996 to nearly 1,500 in 2011 — Fairbanks has kept the safety of the residents in Yarmouth and neighboring communities his top priority.

"He has been very fiscally responsible to the citizens while keeping them safe," Robitaille said. "And he has done all this with the support of his wife Patty, who has stood by him over the years."

Deputy Chief Bill Goddard has worked with Fairbanks for 15 years and has served as a firefighter for about 52 years.

"I have truly enjoyed working with (Fairbanks), it has been a pleasure and he will be missed," Goddard said. "He is a very talented firefighter and Yarmouth has been very fortunate to have him. Whomever the new chief may be, has tough shoes to fill."

Freeport Fire Chief Darrel Fournier has known Fairbanks since the early 1970s. He said his honesty and integrity is "second to none."

"What I like about (Fairbanks) is that he tells it like it is," Fournier said. "I appreciate that about him."

He said when Fairbanks was promoted to chief he was instrumental in increasing the mutual aid between Yarmouth and Freeport, so much so "it sometimes seems like we are one department," Fournier said. "It has been excellent working together."

Fairbanks turns 69 this month, and said he likes to garden, hunt and fish. He said he and his wife are looking forward to "doing whatever it is we want to do."

"I've been fortunate to work with good people," he said. "I'm going to miss it and a lot of the people. You know the story, you surround yourself with good people and it makes you look good? That's what I've got."

Music,
Music,
Music!

A walk down memory
lane, featuring live
music from
the fabulous
forties & fifties!

(featuring *The Memphis Belles*
and talented local vocalists & musicians)

Sponsored by the:

Ellsworth Fire Department/
Senator Hale Hose Company

Dates: August 17, 18, 19, 2012

Time: 7PM Fri/Sat - 2PM Sun

Place: Ellsworth High School PAC

Tickets: \$20.00 Adult - \$15.00 Over 60/Under 18

FOR RESERVED SEATING

General Bleacher Seating \$10.00 per person

Tickets Available at: Ellsworth City Hall or from
Ellsworth Fire Department Firefighters.

All proceeds to benefit the
2013 50th Annual Maine State
Federation of Firefighters Convention
Fundraising Campaign



Greetings!

The Ellsworth Fire Department/Senator Hale Hose Company will proudly host the 50th Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention here in Ellsworth, Maine from September 13th through 15th of 2013. Activities over the course of the three day event include; a spectacular parade, a variety of social events, dances, a firefighter muster field day competition, a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, displays by convention vendors, and a big name entertainment event.

To raise the necessary funds to host this event and all the planned activities, the Ellsworth Fire Department/Senator Hale Hose Company have held several fundraisers and are now in the process of preparing to put on a show!

On August 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2012 the Ellsworth Fire Department/Senator Hale Hose Company will sponsor a musical variety show called "Music, Music, Music!" at the Ellsworth High School Performing Arts Center. The show will feature the fabulous music of the 1940's and 1950's, performed by talented local singers from the Ellsworth and Bangor areas, as well as the local Andrews Sisters/McGuire Sisters style singing trio known as *The Memphis Belles*.

We hope you will consider placing a business promotion/advertisement in the Program Booklet for this musical extravaganza and show your support for Ellsworth's Fire Department and their commitment to hosting the 50th Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention in September of 2013.

This booklet contains everything you will need to place your advertisement. If you have any questions please feel free to contact show coordinator Penny Weinstein (Administrative Assistant for the City of Ellsworth) at 669-6616 or pwenstein@ellsworthmaine.gov or Fire Chief Richard Tupper at 669-6611 or rtupper@ellsworthmaine.gov.

ABOUT THE SHOW!

The fabulous music of the 1940's and 1950's continues to be as prevalent on today's radio stations as it ever was. Who could forget the songs from such great performers as: Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, the Andrews Sisters, Tony Bennett, Rosemary Clooney, Doris Day, Patti Page, Nat King Cole, Julie London, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Cash, Elvis, Jo Stafford, Johnny Mathis, Etta James, Patsy Cline, The Platters, the McGuire Sisters, the Everly Brothers, and too many more to mention.

"Music, Music, Music!" will be a nostalgic style variety show featuring some of the best and most memorable music of the 1940's and 1950's. The show will incorporate music and trivia from each year from 1940 up through and including 1960, twenty years of beautiful music! The show will pair local musicians and singers with wonderfully memorable songs, showcasing the talent of performers from both the Ellsworth and Bangor area. Maine trio, the Memphis Belles will take to the stage after a 3 year hiatus!

The firefighters will be featured in a number or two and there are sure to be a few other surprises incorporated into this fun-filled "walk down memory lane". The show will have a broad appeal to the young and young-at-heart and every age in-between.

"Music, Music, Music!" will take place at the Ellsworth High School Performing Arts Center in order to take advantage of the facilities ample parking, backstage space, seating and air conditioning. Three performances are planned — August 17th, (at 7PM) the 18th (at 7PM) and the 19th, (at 2PM) 2012.

We hope you will support this fundraising effort by advertising in the program AND purchasing tickets to the show!

THIS IS THE SIZE OF A “FULL PAGE” ADVERTISEMENT. Cost of a “Full Page” advertisement is \$200.00.
(All advertisements will be printed in Black and White.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

To reserve business promotional/advertising space, please fill out the reservation slip on the last page of this “sample program booklet” and be sure to sketch out a rough layout of what you would like in your advertisement. When possible send an electronic copy of any copy or logo’s to be included via email to Penny Weinstein at the City of Ellsworth at **pweinstein@ellsworthmaine.gov**. Also be sure to indicate any specific typestyles or other requirements that you may have. Your ad will then be electronically designed and sent to you via email for approval before being printed in the final program. The advertising message can be all business related or can convey an appreciation message such as “XYZ Company wishes to express it’s appreciation to the Ellsworth Fire Department for their service and dedication to the City of Ellsworth” or “XYZ Company is proud to support the Ellsworth Fire Department”.

Attach rough hand drawn layout to the reservation slip or send electronic camera ready copy if available and forward along with a check made payable to: City of Ellsworth.
(Indicate “Firefighters Convention” on the check.) Mail or deliver to: Ellsworth City Hall
1 City Hall Plaza
Ellsworth, ME 04605

All money collected from program advertising and ticket sales for “Music, Music, Music!” will go to the 50th Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention Campaign Fund. **DEADLINE for ad copy: July 20th, 2012**

YES! I want to reserve space and place a business promotional advertisement in the Program Booklet for the Ellsworth Fire Departments production of "Music, Music, Music!"

Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____

Contact Person Phone/Extension: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

FAX Number: _____

SIZE OF AD:	FULL PAGE @	\$200.00
(Circle Size)	HALF PAGE @	\$100.00
	QUARTER PAGE @	\$ 50.00
	BUSINESS CARD @	\$ 50.00

****Inside Front or Inside Back Cover FULL PAGE @ \$300 ea.**

(Back Cover reserved for the Ellsworth Fire Department)

Enclosed is my Check made Payable to: City of Ellsworth

DEADLINE for sending ad copy will be: July 20th, 2012.

Send rough sketch of desired ad, this registration form and check to: City of Ellsworth, 1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605. If you have camera ready copy or copy/logo's in electronic format, send them to: pweinstein@ellsworthmaine.gov. A "proof" of your ad will be sent to you for approval before the Program Booklet is printed. Thanks for your support!

MSFFF ANNUAL RAFFLE

The drawing will take place on September 9th, 2012. Please contact your County Vice President or Jeannie Conway at 863-9946 for tickets. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Prizes are as follows:

- 2 Nights stay at Tidewater Motel, Vinalhaven, Maine
- Dinner for 2 at The Haven Restaurant, Vinalhaven, Maine
- Lunch for 2 at The Harbor Gawker, Vinalhaven, Maine
- 30 Minute Scenic Flight from Penobscot Island to Owls Head
- \$50.00 Gift Certificate at Damariscotta Lake Farm, Jefferson, Maine
- 30 Minute Scenic Flight by Penobscot Island Air
- 1 Night Stay at Baxter Park Inn, Millinocket, Maine
- 1 Moose Tour from Moose & Photo Tours, Millinocket, Maine
- \$50.00 Mobile Gas Card
- 3 Nights & 4 Days at Fieldstone Cabins, Madawaska Lake Township, Maine
- 1 \$50 Mobile Gas Card
- 2 Free Nights or \$100.00 off Any Weekly Rental, Bar Harbor Camping Resorts
- \$25.00 Gift Card from Carrier Mainely Lobster, Bucksport, Maine
- \$180.00 Certificate at The Anchorage Inn, York Beach, Maine
- 2 \$25.00 Gift Certificates at Norma's Restaurant, York, Maine
- 2 \$25.00 Gift Certificates at Union Bluff, York Beach, Maine
- 2 \$50.00 Gift Certificates at The Barn Seafood & Grill, York, Maine
- 15 passes York's Wild Animal Kingdom, York Beach, Maine

A FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

We call upon You for strength and guidance.

Look kindly upon us in our needs.

Teach us to look always to You for assistance, as our fellow citizens look to us.

Give us courage, that we may impart courage to others. Make us studious, and give us pride and joy in our work.

When the gong sounds, calling us to duty, give us speed and efficiency.

As our siren wails, ride with us through the city streets, shielding us from danger.

On the fire scene, may our officers and men always work as an honorable, courageous and victorious team.

Walk with us through the terror of flame
and explosion.

May our hearts be always ready if we should be summoned before our Eternal Chief in the midst of our labors.

Through our ministrations to our suffering fellow-men, we dedicate our lives humbly to Your praise and glory.

In joy or sorrow, we ask only that You may be pleased with our service, that when the Last Alarm shall have sounded for us, we may receive our eternal assignment with you.

AMEN

-Author Unknown

A FIRE CHIEF'S PRAYER WHO IS THAT MAN?

(In memory of L. Marvin Mokma, Chief, Holland Fire Dept.)

I am called to many duties, Lord
And now I've been called home.
I've had to leave the ones I love
To stand before your throne.
I'll not complain, it's not my way
But there are some things I'll ask
And please, Lord, grant them to me
For the loved ones I hold fast.
I dare to ask because I know
How you've blessed in the past.
I've learned to trust your grace, O Lord
That's how I've come this far.
So now, O God, I humbly pray, Hear this Fire Chief's prayer.
Bless my wife and family—so often left alone,
They knew where I was going and
Trusted you to bring me home.
Well, now I'm home and wait for them
Keep them within the faith—that one day,
Someday, we'll be together in this place.
And O dear God, bless my men.
I trained them as best I could.
I tried to do your will with them
And lead them as You would.
I need to know You're with them Lord
Or else how can I stay
And peacefully enjoy this place of endless day.
This heaven where there is no night,
No fire to kill and burn.
I guess that's why it's now my rest, my place, my turn.
And Lord, be with my community
And keep it safe as it can be
For all its folks are special, and very dear to me.
They are all my friends, and by your grace
I served them as best I could
So hear this Fire Chiefs prayer, O Lord
And grant it please — I already knew You would.
AMEN

- Dennis B. Wilcox, Chaplain, Holland Fire Department

He's the guy down the street; your next door neighbor; the little boy with a dirty face and skinned knees you watched grow into a fine, strong man.

He works a 40-hour week, but won't miss the training session Friday night and Saturday. He works on the fire trucks for hours after a "hard day at the office," but still makes it to his kids' little league games.

He enjoys a Sunday afternoon nap, but can be dressed and out the door in fifteen seconds, out of a dead sleep, at the sound of the fire tone

He's loved and respected, and worried about, by his wife, kids and mother; but seldom thought about by those who can't see firsthand the dedication he has to the department, to his brother fire fighters, to mankind.

He's the one you know will be there when he's needed — to find a lost child, to assist at the scene of a car accident or flood, to fight a fire, to lay his life on the line to save yours.

He's like a fine-tuned piece of machinery, trained in first aid, fire fighting and life saving, with a keen perception of all the equipment and techniques. But amid all that knowledge, there's compassion, and concern, and a willingness to give of himself to help others.

He doesn't look any different from any other man; you couldn't pick him out of a crowd. But he's on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He hopes you don't need him, but he's there if you do.

He's a volunteer fire fighter.

Becky Shultz Sellars Edgerton, Missouri