



July – December 2020

## **President's Message – Ken Desmond**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

What a year that we the fire service has gone through with COVID-19. Hope all are staying safe and healthy through this. I want to introduce our new Treasurer to Maine State Federation of Firefighters Lisa Archer from Woolwich Fire Department. See below her BIO.

Please be safe and looking forward to 2021 and meeting all of you at our Fire Convention on Sept. 10-11-12, 2021 in Waldoboro Maine.

About our new Treasurer.

Lisa is a native to Maine and owned her own Bookkeeping and Consulting business directly out of college for 20 years and has worked in the nonprofit community in Bath as the Community Services Coordinator for a number of years. This experience gave her a deep appreciation for how nonprofits seek to improve the quality of life for the Midcoast region; one program at a time. She have made many connection and is very familiar with area resources. Lisa received her BS in Business, a BS in Mental Health and Humans Services, and as AS in Justice Studies from UMA as an adult learner and is currently pursuing her Master's in Adult and Higher Education at USM. Lis is also a graduate of the Communication Across Barriers Poverty Institute. This training helped Lisa to understand that everyone's life situation is unique, and she wholeheartedly keeps that in mind when providing services. Her biggest goal is empowering Maine's people.

When Lisa is not at work she enjoys playing in the Maine Public Safety Pipe and Drum Corps as a tenor drummer. This band honors all our public safety personnel and military bother locally and nationally by providing Scottish music for funerals and memorials without any cost. Lisa is also a mother of three ranging from 15 to 26 and a grandmother to an amazing, smart and funny 5 year old grandson.

Lisa now works for New Ventures Maine, a statewide community outreach program of the University of Maine At Augusta, which helps people all over the state venture in new directions by offering tuition free programs for career, business, and financial education both on site and online.

## Who to Contact

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## Membership:

**Be on the lookout for your MSFFF Memberships for 2021-2022 which will be mailed out to your County Representatives next month.**

**For detailed information about membership benefits, visit our website at:**

**<http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html>**

**Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!**

**<http://www.nvfc.org/join-nvfc/>**

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### **Advertising with the MSFFF:**

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need:

[http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet\\_MSFFF\\_2018.pdf](http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf)

### **County News**

## *Androscoggin County*



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**Leeds Volunteer Fire Department  
Asst Chief Steve Page Sr 1954-2020**



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Assistant Chief Steve Page. Steve was a dedicated member of the department for 51 years. He served 2 years as the chief and 32 years as the Assistant Chief. Steve spent many a day at the station keep everything running smoothly. Steve was an intricate part of our counties basic fire training school, he touched the lives of not only the members of his department but many mutual aid department members as well. Steve's love of children made him a favorite of fire prevention day at LCS. The passing of assistant chief Page has left a great void in his department and his community. Our love is with his wife Deb and his family



## Lisbon Fire Department



The Lisbon Fire Department is proud to announce the promotion of Lt. Ryan Guay to the position of Deputy Chief. He will be assigned to ET Smith Hose Company.

Deputy Guay has been on the Lisbon Fire Department since 2005 and has served in both companies. He has been a lieutenant since 2016 and has also served as engineer.

Guay brings a vast wealth of knowledge and experience, with him, into this position. Along with his years of experience with the Lisbon Fire Department, he is also a career firefighter with the City of Lewiston. Not only is he certified Firefighter I & II, but is also a certified Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, and holds a degree in Criminal Justice.

## Mechanic Falls Fire Department:

### Chief (RET) Donald Patterson 1934-2020



It is with heavy hearts and regret that we at the Mechanic Falls Fire Rescue announce the passing of past Chief Donald Patterson. Chief Patterson was fixture of the department and always had a story to tell. Our sympathies and condolences go out the the Patterson family as they celebrate the life of and remember our former Chief. Patterson was also the department delegate to the Maine State Federation of Firefighters.

## Poland Fire Rescue:



December 17th 2020  
Just before 0200 this morning PFRD was dispatched for a vehicle fire, this call was quickly upgraded to a 2nd Alarm structure fire. Initial crews did a fantastic job preventing further damage in the residence. Thank you to all of our mutual aid companies for their assistance at the scene as well the companies that covered our firehouse. This



morning was a great example of how important staffing is, and how public service needs to continue to grow just like the community around it. Job well done, with no injuries reported to the residents or the firefighters.

## *Arroostook North:*



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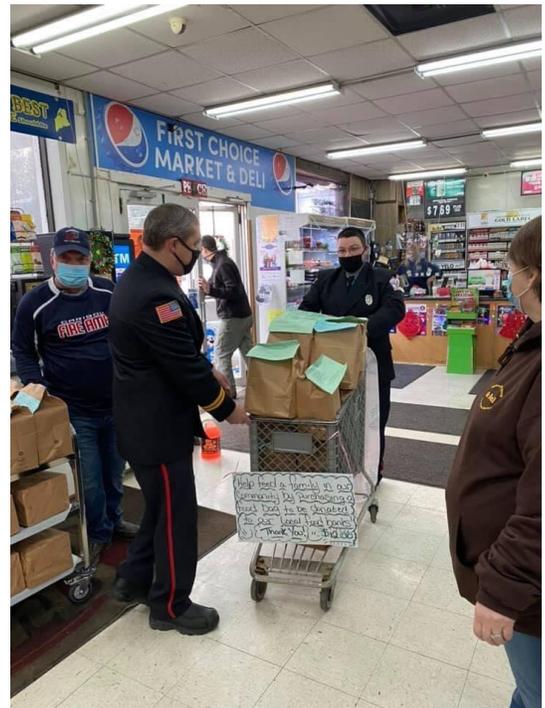
### Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department:



Caribou Paid Call Firefighters Lance Longley, Derrick LaMothe, Dan Randolph, and Chip LaMothe were able to participate and help out this morning with the delivery of 146 bags of food to the Caribou Food Pantry. Thank you to First Choice Market for allowing CFD to participate.

Message from First Choice Market:

A big shout out and thank you to the customers of First Choice Market & Deli and Mikes Family Market who today donated 146 bags of food to the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry. A total of 1290 lbs of food equaling \$1750.00. Thank you to the Caribou Fire



Department who allowed us to stuff one of their ambulances and helped with the delivery. This food will help feed our community this holiday season





On November 24, 2020 Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department had the opportunity to present their tribute of the late Nate Randolph to his family members. Nate Randolph worked for CFAD for 43 years as a firefighter, EMT, Fire instructor and public safety educator. Nate created and developed the “Learn not to Burn program at CFAD to what it is today and cared about each child he was able to teach about fire safety. Nate was a dedicated member of CFAD and after his passing the department wanted to remember him in some way and came up with the idea of dedicating a truck to him and his “Learn Not to Burn” program that he was so dedicated to. His famous saying around the firehouse whenever he would stop into visit was “Keep the Faith Boys”, this saying means so much too many members.



### Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at approximately 12:15 a.m. the Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue was called to 125 Fort Hill Street for a report a structure fire. As fire personnel arrived to find the home completely engulfed in flames.



of



A teen boy, who escaped through a second-story window, suffered severe injuries. Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue transported the juvenile to Northern Light A.R. Gould where he was treated and flown to Boston Shriners Hospital for children. The boy has been listed in critical but stable condition. Two adults and another boy, age thirteen, escaped the blaze unharmed.

Twenty-three firefighters from Fort Fairfield, Easton, and Caribou, fought the blaze for over six hours. Chief Browning said, “due to the frigid temperatures, it was a difficult fire to fight. Fortunately, no firefighters were injured while fighting the fire. Working smoke detectors in the home alerted the family to the fire.”

Chief Browning said, “the home, which wasn’t insured, is a total loss. The American Red Cross placed the family for the night.”

A GoFundMe page has been established and can be found on the Fort Fairfield Police and Fire Rescue Department’s Facebook pages. Cash and check donations will also be accepted at the Fort Fairfield Town Office or checks can be mailed to Chief Shawn Newell, Fort Fairfield Police Department, 18 Community Center Drive, Fort Fairfield, ME 04742; payable to Matthew and Tanya Turcotte. Chief Newell said, “we will be accepting clothing and personal items at the police department for the family and we will deliver them to the Turcotte’s. This community has always been very supportive in times of need and this is just another way we can help. It’s unfortunate for such a tragedy to occur so close to the holidays.

## *Arroostook South:*



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## Mapleton Fire



On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 the Mapleton fire department held a training burn with this house that was donated to the department, Washburn fire and Presque Isle fire were invited for the training



## Presque Isle Fire

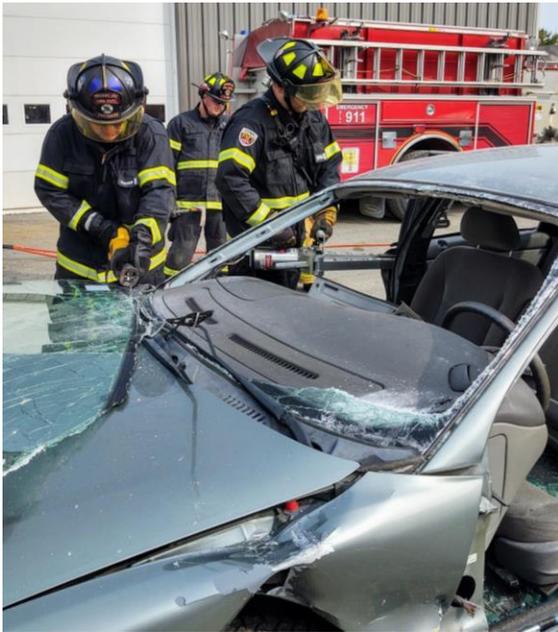


Early Friday evening Presque Isle fire received a call for a fire in a garage that was close to two other buildings on arrival the garage was fully involved and was connected to the house trailer crews from Mapleton fire and Easton fire provided man power and tanker shuttle to this fire which was out of the city limits, Caribou fire provided station coverage.





Every Sept Presque Isle fire department is required to do training for the airport they cover they do 40 hours of airport training to keep up their certs for the FAA part 139 requirements, the cutting of the cars is to simulate a plane as they don't have one to cut.



## Washburn Fire



Washburn fire was called to a report of a lot of smoke in the area of the Presque Isle road in Washburn, on scene the department found a large sawdust pile on fire, A tanker was requested from Presque Isle fire to the scene to help haul water while equipment was brought in to spread the pile out crew were on scene for about 4 hours



# *Tumberland East*



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## Freeport Fire Rescue:



A newly-installed wood stove, that may have malfunctioned, is suspected as the cause of a fire that destroyed a home in South Freeport Sunday night. A photo of the burning South Freeport home was taken only five minutes after firefighters arrived. Luckily, the two adults and two children who live in the home all got out safely. Freeport's fire chief says when an adult opened the door to the attached garage, where a wood stove had recently been installed, fire burst through the door and into the home. A state fire investigator was at the home Monday, to determine if the wood stove caused the fire, and if so, why. "Typically, we would shy people away from putting an open

flame in a garage, because there's gasoline vapors either from your car or from gas cans, and they can ignite," Peter McVety of McVety's Hearth and Home said. Firefighters aren't saying yet who may have installed the wood stove, but McVety, who sells and installs stoves for a living, says having them professionally installed is the safer way to go. "If you don't know what you're doing, you shouldn't do it," McVety said. "A lot of the time, we'll go in to look at a stove for a safety check and find a bunch of things that were wrong on the installation." Local firefighters agree that when it comes to wood stoves, or any type of stove, it's important to have them professionally installed. "When it's installed correctly by a professional, you're better off and you're less likely to have incident," Yarmouth Deputy Fire Chief Dan Masselli said. Masselli says there's a minor risk with every heating system, including wood stoves, which put out a lot of heat. "There are some that we've seen over the years that are definitely more dangerous than others," Masselli said. "Our big suggestion with people is just make sure there's nothing around it, because it puts out so much heat." "This fireplace here, you're not supposed to have anything within three feet of the front of the opening," McVety said. McVety says some exhaust pipes need as much as 18 inches of clearance. If you're not sure

about your stove, ask your local firefighters or a fireplace professional to inspect it. "There's no room for error here," McVety said. Firefighters say it's also important to clean your chimney flue and correctly dispose of your ashes.

## *Cumberland West*



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## Waterville Fire Department



*Rich Abrahamson/Morning Sentinel*

### 2020 November 25 – Two Died in Vehicle Fiery Crash

At 10:22 a.m.

Waterville Ambulance 5-8 and Engine 3 were dispatched for a motor vehicle roll-over in the medium with possible personal injury, near Mile Mark 128, northbound on Interstate 95. Responding units would leave Central Fire heading to Exit 127 to then head north on the Interstate.

While responding to this call, at around 10:25 a.m., the responding crew heard on the radio a call for a vehicle that had crash and went over the overpass guardrail at Exit 127, landing on Kennedy Memorial Drive and was resting in the ditch. They also heard that Engine 2 and the Rescue Squad would be dispatched to this accident. While coming off Silver Street onto Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville Communication Center stated that the accident at Exit 127 was now on fire. Lt Holst, responding with Engine 3 made a radio communication to Central Fire stating that they would be taking the Exit 127 call since they did not want to drive pass a burning accident. He requested that Engine 2 and the Rescue Squad take their original call in the Interstate at Mile Marker 128.

Upon arrival, Ambulance 5-8 and Engine 3 found a full-size puck-up truck fully involved in fire. Waterville Police on scene stated to the arriving crew that the occupants of the truck were still inside. Oakland Fire would also be dispatched to the call to assist Engine 3.

Two Sanford residents would die in the car accident on Interstate 95 after their vehicle rolled over the guardrail and then caught fire, State Police stated.

A news release issued stated Maine State Police responded to the report of a single-vehicle rollover on I-95 in Waterville. When troopers arrived, they learned that a 2003 Chevy pickup truck was traveling north at mile marker 127 and left the roadway during a snowstorm.

The vehicle went over the interstate guardrail near the overpass above Kennedy Memorial Drive and landed on its roof in the westbound lane of KMD before going over another guardrail. Just after the crash, the vehicle was engulfed in fire.

The operator, Gary Capehart, 71, and Susan Pope, 63, both of Sanford, were found deceased in the vehicle after the first responders extinguished the fire.

Westbound traffic on Kennedy Memorial Drive was closed for about two hours while the crash was investigated. Speed, weather conditions and traffic congestion from another crash have been deemed factors in the accident.

Maine Department of Transportation crews were maintaining the roadways at the time of the crash, and advisory warning signs were posted warning motorists to reduce their speed to 45 mph, the release said.

Assisting at the scene were Waterville Police, Waterville Fire Department, Oakland Police Department, Oakland Fire Department, Delta Ambulance, Kennebec County Sheriff's Office and Ace towing.

## 2020 December 7 – Improper Installation of Woodstove

The recent, improper installation of a wood stove caused a fire at 37 Carey Lane that destroyed the structure the stove was in and heavily damaged the adjacent house, according to fire officials.

A couple, ages 32 and 25, and their children, ages 7 and 2, lived in the house, and the father of one of the couple lived in an upstairs apartment, according to fire Battalion Chief John Gromek.

He said two other children lived in the house part-time, but were not there when the fire broke out. An aunt of one of the tenants owns the home, and the family had a contract to rent it, he said. The family members, whose names he did not know, were helped Thursday by the Red Cross, he said.

The barn or garage was a workshop used for the family construction business and all the construction tools inside were destroyed by the fire, according to Gromek. Asked

if the house was destroyed, Gromek said he would say so, but that determination is up to the insurance company. The exteriors of two other nearby houses were damaged as well.

Houses are very close together on Carey Lane, and there is little frontage to the street itself. When firefighters arrived after the fire was reported at 12:20 a.m. Thursday, the 32-year-old tenant on the first floor was throwing Christmas presents out of the house and into the street, which made it difficult for firefighters to access the area, Gromek said.



“When the on-duty crew got there, the downstairs tenant was trying his best to get as many Christmas gifts as he could ...” he said. “He was throwing stuff out the front door into the road.”

Firefighters from several other towns helped fight the fire. Gromek said there was heavy fire damage to the back half of the house and smoke damage throughout the home.

“The biggest thing is getting the message out on the proper installation (of wood stoves) and following manufacturer instructions — that’s the big message, especially this time of year,” Gromek said.

He cautioned that many people are still without power from the weekend storm and are using older wood stoves, fireplaces or alternative heating systems. It is important that systems that have not been used in a long time be checked before use to make sure they are safe.

At Carey Lane on Thursday, former City Councilor Karen Rancourt-Thomas, who lives next door, said the fire department got to the scene very quickly. Most of the homes on the street were built around the same time, and her own house was built in 1850 by her great-great-grandfather, she said.

Rancourt-Thomas’ house is just a few feet from the one that burned, yet there appeared to be no damage to her house.

“If the fire department hadn’t gotten here as quick as possible, my house would have gone up,” she said. “We’re very grateful.”

Carey Lane is a short, one-way street off Water Street that loops in a sort of half-circle back to Water Street.

The Waterville Fire Department Facebook page says firefighters from Waterville, Winslow, Skowhegan, Fairfield, Oakland, Vassalboro, Clinton and Albion worked at the scene and Delta Ambulance and the Waterville Public Works Department also assisted.

From WMTW

## 2020 December 31 – Kennedy Memorial Drive Fire

A fire early Thursday, caused by spontaneous combustion of rags soaked with oil-based stain, heavily damaged the former United Way of Mid-Maine Office on Kennedy Memorial Drive that was being renovated to become an audiology practice.

The fire at 105 Kennedy Memorial Drive was reported just before 5:31 a.m., according to Fire Battalion Chief John Gromek who was at the scene.

Kevin and Jennifer Rancourt and their daughter, Becca Rancourt, bought the building in December and were renovating it to become Waterville Audiology, which Becca Rancourt operates on Silver Street. She purchased the practice in August 2019 from Anne Pratt Giroux and is renting that space.

Jennifer Rancourt, speaking just before 9 a.m. at the scene of the fire, said that they did not know rags containing oil-based stain could spontaneously combust, and she wanted people to be aware that it does occur. They are a fire prevention-conscious family and regularly unplug appliances such as toasters when they are not in use, she said.

“I had no idea rags on the floor could cause this devastation,” she said. “It’s pretty much a total loss downstairs.”

She said her husband had spent the last



two weeks sanding and staining the original hardwood floors in the building, constructed in 1952, with an eye toward moving the audiology practice there in June.

**Waterville Fire: October 2020** – Waterville City Council approves a joint emergency EMS agreement  
Councilors voted to approve an emergency EMS agreement between the city and Delta Ambulance. The emergency medical services agreement is a plan to have both the Fire Department and Delta provide transport services. The Waterville City Council approved the agreement 6-0. City Manager Michael Roy and fire Chief Shawn Esler said the agreement had been a long time in the making.

The agreement started “live” on October 12<sup>th</sup> and the plan is off to a great start. The EMS calls are shared between the City and Delta. A primary Waterville Ambulance is supported by a Waterville A-EMT along with a Delta A-EMT. A Medic fly car is attached to the ambulance in the case where a Paramedic is needed.

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# Oxford County

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Buckfield Fire Department:



## Vehicle Rescue Training Buckfield, Oct 18 2020

It takes a whole community to keep fire training happening and that was well proven in Buckfield on October 18<sup>th</sup>.



Firefighters from Buckfield Fire Department and EMS personnel from Buckfield Rescue practiced vehicle extrication with a locally donated car. Buckfield Rescue explained their medical size up and protocol to the firefighters and firefighters showcased their vehicle stabilization tactics along with extraction equipment, knowledge, and skills. Both Departments came away with a better understanding of how cross training improves vehicle crash response.

The training was held at the Buckfield Public Works Department and Win's Towing donated services to tow and dispose of the vehicle after training was completed.



**Dixfield Fire Company:** Dixfield Fire Company has received a new Utility truck, U-34. The utility body is built on



a Ford F450 chassis and will be used for a variety of tasks, including tree/wire down calls, traffic control, forestry, personnel & equipment transport, and many additional uses.

The chassis arrived in November from White Ford in Bangor and we had the roof and hood painted to match the new department color scheme by Wil's Autobody in Dixfield. The utility body was built & installed in December by F3 Manufacturing (now DuraMag) in Waterville. The amazing graphics were done by Erik Designs of Rumford.

A lot of additional work has been done by department personnel, with more to come. Additional items to be installed include a front Reese hitch (for

mounting a winch when needed), a battery conditioner, and a railing mount system (for securing miscellaneous equipment in the bed area). Once the radio & siren installation is complete driver training will commence and then be placed into service. We are grateful for the opportunity to obtain this truck - quite an upgrade from a borrowed '67 Maine Forest Service surplus truck. We look forward to many years of service to the citizens of Dixfield.

**Fryeburg Fire:** The Fryeburg Fire Department was pleased to graduate 12 members of southern Oxford County departments to include Fryeburg, Lovell, Saco Valley, Denmark, and Bridgton from the Fryeburg Fire Department Summer 2020 Recruit Program on October 8, 2020. The recruits completed all modules and hours required to be certified interior firefighters to the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards Basic Firefighter level. We thank the instructor staff and assistance we received from Maine Fire Service Institute to make this program successful. This is the second program to be hosted by the Fryeburg Fire Department and we hope to continue with future programs.

The Fryeburg Fire Department was also fortunate to offer a propane emergencies class in the spring of 2020 with the second class, a live fire practical skills class on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This program was presented by the PGANE and allowed students to study propane properties, theory, delivery, and a tour of a delivery bobtail truck. Students then put that knowledge to work fighting propane fires on PGANE props at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds. We thank PGANE for bringing this dynamic training opportunity to Oxford County.

The Fryeburg Fire Department is planning a Firefighter I/II program for spring 2020 along with a Rapid Intervention impact program thanks to FEMA Fireact Grant funding which we plan to invite our mutual aid partners to join. More information with dates and schedules will be released in the next couple months.

We have had a few retirements this year and want to thank Chief Clyde Watson, Captain Marcus Fox, Captain Moe Baillageon, and Captain David Richardson for their many dedicated years of service to our community. They were honored in an award ceremony with individual years of service awards on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Mexico Fire



On October 20th the Oxford County Commissioners honored Raymond Broomhall as a recipient for the Spirit of America Award. He was nominated by the Town of Mexico for his outstanding volunteerism and service within his community. Due to Covid19 there was no public ceremony, so Raymond was ask to attend next years Ceremony where the commissioners will recognize him again in person.



Raymond Broomhall is a member of the Mexico Fire Department with 50 plus years.

## Norway Fire



Norway Baptist Church showed their support to the First Responders in our community with some personalized New Testaments and John and Romans. They are planning on handing out more as they get them.



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Cathance Lake, Maine



*A FIRE on October 20 destroyed a camp on Cathance Lake that was being renovated by its owners, Sandra and Russell Garnett and son Wayne. No one was home at the time of the fire. The heavy equipment being used for renovations was saved, but the building was a total loss. Responding were the Cooper Volunteer Fire Department, the Dennys River Fire Department and the Meddybemps Fire Department. (James Hassen photo)*

## Unitarian meeting house is destroyed in fire

by Edward French

The Unitarian Church in Eastport has burned a second time – the first time on December 29, 1946, when the magnificent 127-year-old church building burned in a fire caused by an overheated furnace and then almost 75 years later on October 26, when the parsonage and replacement meeting house were completely destroyed in an early-morning blaze.

The October 26 fire was called in around 2:30 a.m., and Eastport Fire Chief Richard Clark says it was fully involved when firefighters arrived. “I could see it when I left Quoddy Village,” he notes. About 25 firefighters from the Eastport, Pleasant Point and Perry departments fought the blaze, with the Eastport and Pleasant Point ladder trucks positioned on both sides of the building, on Shackford and Third streets.

Although there was little wind, Clark says the fire was very hot and embers coming off the building were threatening nearby houses on Third Street when firefighters arrived. They were able to keep the fire from spreading and put out a couple of small grass fires. Around 4:30 a.m. they called Earle Stanhope of Robbinston, who had an excavator in Eastport, to knock down the walls that were still standing so firefighters could put the blaze completely out. They were at the scene until about 7:30 a.m.

Clark has no idea how the fire started, but he notes there was still power to the building. He believes the blaze may have begun in the basement, since everything was burned in that section. Firefighters wanted the excavator there to remove the timbers so they could put out any fire down there. The only part of the building left standing was the shed, which does not have a basement. Clark says the fire was

so fully involved one will never know the cause.

In recent years, the church has been not been that active, with David Gholson of Eastport and Texas serving as caretaker. “Whatever all the members want is what we will do,” he says. “It will take a while to figure out where we go from here.”

The first Unitarian Church building was finished in July 1819 and was considered the finest public building in the eastern part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It was one of the city’s grandest landmarks, with its spire clearly visible out to sea. According to William Henry Kilby’s *Eastport and Passamaquoddy*, the building, which could host large crowds in its deep side galleries, was used regularly for Fourth of July celebrations and other public occasions, and many other congregations had been welcomed to hold services at the church. In 1831 it had the first church organ used in eastern Maine. The adjacent parsonage was built in 1857 on a lot that had once been the parade ground of the Light Infantry.

The church was destroyed on December 29, 1946, by a fire caused by an overheated furnace. David Orrell, who still lives down the street, remembers that he was about 12 years old and that the custodian, to heat up the church for Sunday morning services, had put Christmas greenery in the furnace, which overheat-

ed. Orrell watched the fire from an adjoining lot and recalls that, when the steeple fell, the church bell rolled down the slope and stopped right next to him.

Samuel Chamberlain, who wrote several books on New England architecture, wrote that he was saddened by the loss of such a magnificent building and that, with its loss, Eastport, in his view, went down a notch in stature.

Nancy Raye of Perry, whose family were members of the church for a long time, recalls that Sunday school was being held in the basement when the fire started. Her father, H. Wadsworth Raye, was instrumental in designing the small meeting house that replaced the church and was attached to the parsonage, which had not burned.

The congregation continued to be very active, with a Unitarian Alliance and the hosting of fairs, suppers and teas, and, in more recent years, art exhibits, concerts, films, lectures and discussions. The church also administered the Partmon Houghton Fund for the benefit of the elderly in the community.

Raye notes that, over the meeting house’s nearly three-quarters of a century, the congregation has “welcomed newborns, celebrated marriages and said our goodbyes to loved ones. Now I say goodbye to this building that was built with love and was our sanctuary for many years.”



### **Fire guts Jonesboro House on November 20<sup>th</sup>**

No one was injured during a fire that destroyed a single-family home in Jonesboro early Friday, November 20. According to Mike Schoppee, the Jonesboro-Roques Bluff Fire Department fire chief, a fire broke out at 13 Looks Point Road, “right across from the Jonesboro Union Church.” His department was toned out at 2:11 a.m., and brought four fire trucks and nine firefighters to the scene. Fire Departments from Addison, Epping, Machias, Machiasport, and Marshfield sent another eight fire trucks and probably 20 firefighters, Schoppee told County Wide News. Firefighter’s hauled water from the Stored Solar power point on Rt. 1A in Jonesboro to fight the fire, which gutted the two-story house. “we got hold of the fellows at the power plant, and they came in. They have a fire-suppression system” supported by “a small standpipe that probably holds close to 100,000 gallons,” Schoppee said.

“They turned their pumps on at the well, too,” he said. “It’s very nice to have that water supply, a nice bunch of fellas. The house is burned out on the inside” and cannot be repaired, Schopee indicated.”

“The homeowners said he was not going to rebuild it.” The house was insured.

“The fire went into the walls and up into the attic, and we have to be there to make sure all the hot spots were out,” Shcoppee said. “Our truck was the last one cleared” at 11 a.m.

He contacted the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office around 6 a.m. Two investigators arrived and later went into the house to see if they could find the cause of the fire.

"The fire marshal ruled it accidental, electrical" in nature, Schopee said. "It was down cellar and involved some stuff in the cellar and it was plugged in, and that was where the problem was."

Ironically a fastmoving fire seriously damaged a two-story house and an adjacent garage at 19 Looks Point on Sunday March 29. Nobody was injured in the fire either.

Article written by Brian Swartz

County Wide Free Press

## Machiasport Fire:



*A tall column of black smoke hung over Corn Hill last week. Machiasport, Machias, East Machias and Marshfield Fire Departments responded to the blaze, which consumed the home. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon*

## No one injured in fire that claimed Machiasport home

For two hours, firefighters battled a Machiasport house fire fearing someone was trapped inside. Fortunately, no one was.

"The fire marshal was called right away and as time went on, the owner of the building showed up," said Machiasport Fire Chief Dave Nielsen. "What a great relief." The home at 58 Corn Hill is owned by Kenneth Faas and burned on the

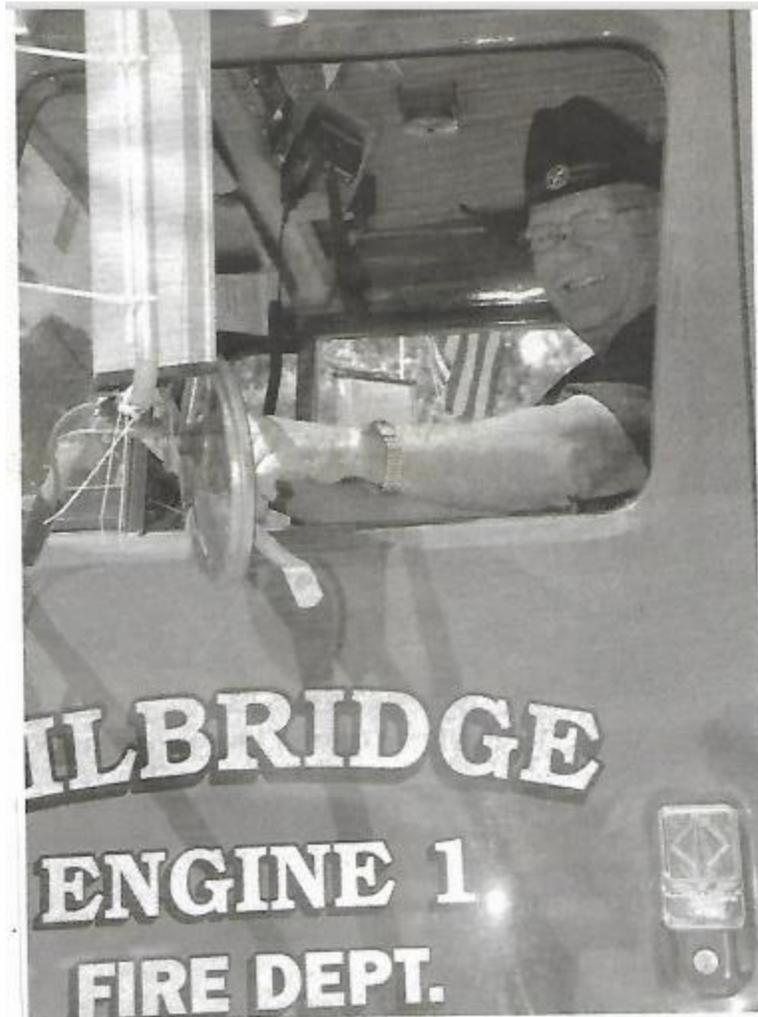
afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Machias, East Machias and Marshfield fire departments rendered mutual aid at the fire which took five hours to bring under control. Maine Fire Marshal Sergeant Mary MacMaster said the cause of the fire remains undetermined because the investigator is unable to rule out multiple accidental causes.

## Milbridge Fire



*Leland Beal was named Milbridge Volunteer Fire Department Chief in early November. He takes over for Peter Sawyer who just completed 55 years as Maine's longest serving fire chief. For more details see Ramona Phinney's "Milbrdge Moments" to the left of the photo . . . County Wide file photo by Robert M. Berta*



**By Robert M. Berta**  
*County Wide Free Press*

**MILBRIDGE** - Maine's longest serving fire chief retired Monday, October 19th. Milbridge Fire Chief Peter Sawyer after 55 years as fire chief and over six decades with the department.

It was reported over the scanner, "Thank you for your 61 years of service, including 55 years as chief of the Milbridge Fire Department," said a dispatcher from the Washington Regional Communication Center who just happens to be his granddaughter. "Enjoy your retirement. We have it from here. Love you pop."

Sawyer began with the department at age 21. After two years he was drafted into the US Army. After serving in the military for two years, at 25 he returned home and at age 26 he followed in his father's footsteps and was appointed fire chief for the coastal town.

He told the Fox TV Bangor affiliate, "I gotta thank my family for letting me dedicate that many years to the fire profession," Sawyer said, standing outside of the fire house earlier Monday.

Five years ago the Milbridge fire house was named the Peter S. Sawyer Safety Complex. It was named in his honor after he served 50 years with the department as chief.

The fire department was named the Peter S. Sawyer Safety Complex five years ago after he had served the department for 50 years as its chief.

Sawyer told *County Wide Free Press* at that ceremony, he truly enjoyed all the people he has worked with.

He told Fox TV news, "Unbelievable people that I've worked with since 1960," Sawyer said. "There's no words to explain it other than they're super great people."

Sawyer will continue with the Department as a volunteer. He also thanked his family for allowing him to work with the Milbridge Fire Department all these years.

**Robbinston Fire Department** — The Maine State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fatal fire that happened in Robbinston Wednesday night.



Wayne Morrill, 66, of Robbinston died of smoke inhalation.

The fire started around 6 p.m. in a single-family home at 88 Ridge Road in Robbinston.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The State Fire Marshal's Office said it started near the kitchen and entryway of the building.

**Griffin Stockford (NEWS CENTER Maine)**

## *York North*

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# York South



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Nothing submitted by the VP

## MSFFF Fundraising:



Challenge coins available through any County Vice President. \$5.00 each plus \$1.00 for shipping. Click on the link to contact your County Vice President.

**If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising for the Federation, please contact President Ken Desmond.**

**Classifieds:**

Androscoggin County VP Jared Blake is collecting challenge coins. He can be contacted at [ffemtjblake@gmail.com](mailto:ffemtjblake@gmail.com) if you have any to trade or he can buy.