Plainfield Fire Protection District
2014 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

THE PLAINFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS
DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE
QUALITY OF LIFE BY SAVING LIVES AND
PROTECTING PROPERTY THROUGH
EFFICIENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREVENTION.

Plainfield Fire Protection District Administration and Training Facility
23748 W. 135th Street, Plainfield, IL 60544
815-436-5335
Plainfieldfpd.com

Fire Station One
14415 S. Coil Plus Drive
Plainfield, IL 60544

Fire Station Two
23806 W. 135th Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

Fire Station Three
25001 W. 119th Street
Plainfield, IL 60585

Fire Station Four
15930 S. Frederick Street
Plainfield, IL 60586

Letter from the Chief

Dear Residents:

I'm honored to present the 2014 Annual Report of the Plainfield Fire Protection District. This report is a summary of the wide variety of activities our fire district has engaged in during the past calendar year. We recognize and appreciate the respect and honor we have to serve our residents and all of our efforts are permanently focused on that mission.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District is staffed with over 115 men and women who serve you with skill, experience, pride and integrity. Our teams and personnel represent expertise in a wide variety of emergency service disciplines including fire suppression and advanced life support (ALS) with our emergency medical services (EMS); swift water rescue; above-grade, below-grade, high-angle and building collapse skills; hazardous materials response; fire origin and cause investigation; juvenile firesetters intervention; fire prevention and public education. Our car seat technicians and CPR instructors are kept busy throughout the year as well. We are fortunate to also rely on an exceptional administrative support staff as well as a skilled facility maintenance group. We continue to adjust our "full-service" efforts which are dictated by the demonstrated community needs, balanced against our mission and resources.

2014 saw a number of changes in the district including the retirement of 40-year member and 30-year chief, John D. Eichelberger. Chief Eichelberger guided this organization from the predominately volunteer force it was when he entered, to the complex and devoted career/part-time/contract organization it is today. We have to thank the Chief once again for his steady hand at the helm over his many years of selfless commitment. Rest easy and enjoy retirement Chief, we'll take it from here.

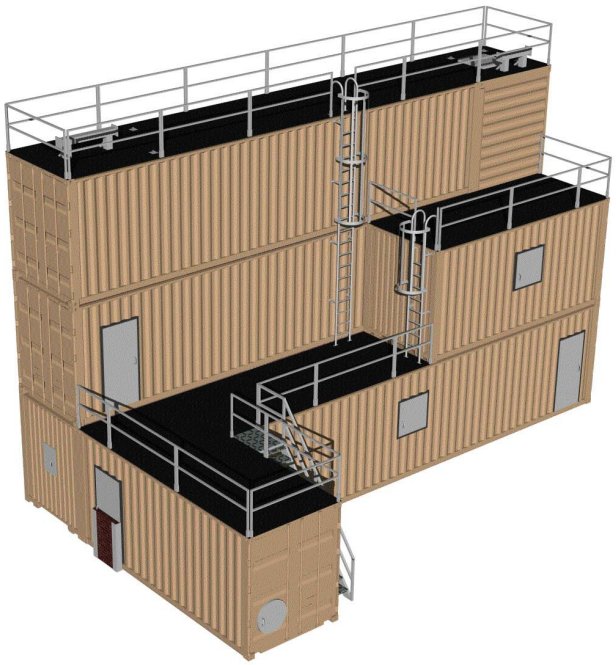
The district, in collaboration with our career members worked to create the position of Battalion Chief which was inserted into the supervisory chain-of-command and have quickly adjusted to the new, dynamic role they have assumed. Our district has also added 8 firefighter/paramedics to fill vacancies in our staffing. We are proud to say that all of our 2014 hires will have successfully completed their probation period by the time you read this report.

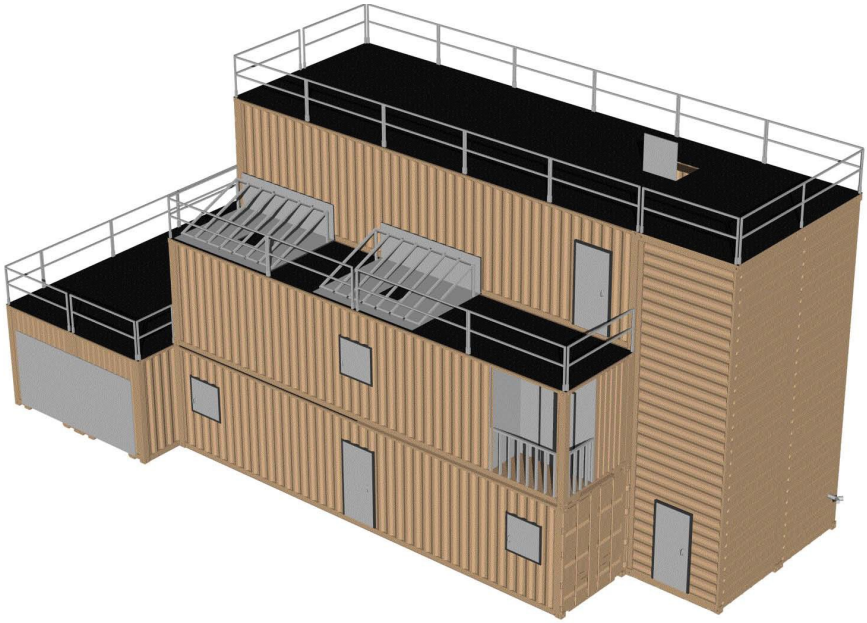
As part of our strategic plan, the district is moving forward with the build-out of the training facility on our Headquarters campus. This will include a facility that will allow small, controlled burns in the interior as well as another component building that will provide for hands-on technical rescue and other training scenarios. Our hope is to have these facilities up and being used by the 4th quarter of this year. We have held a neighborhood meeting to respond to questions and any concerns and then moved forward with our plan approval by the Village. This capital project is being overseen by Deputy Chief Jon Stratton and Lieutenants Votteler, Murphy and Jensen as part of the training division responsibilities.

This is just a brief overview of a few of the 2014 highlights of your fire protection district that helps demonstrate our commitment to you, our residents. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance, to answer questions or to give you further insight what we're doing for you, every hour of every day.

Respectfully submitted,
David S. Riddle, Chief

Pictured below are images of what the new training facilities will look like. Pictured left is the Non-Burn Specialty Training Building. Pictured right is the Class A Combustible Fire Training Building.





Personnel

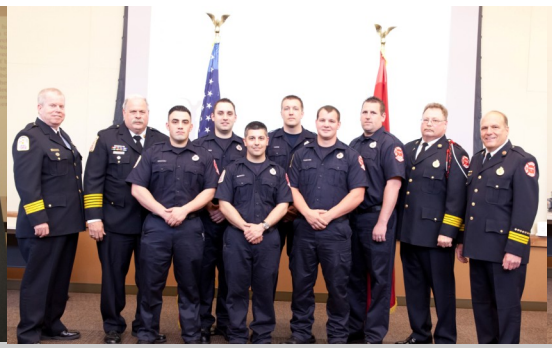
2014 was a year of significant changes for the Plainfield Fire Protection District. After 40 years of service Fire Chief John Eichelberger announced his retirement. His official last day on the job was Friday, January 2, 2015. A "Retirement Celebration" was held for Chief Eichelberger on Thursday, December 11, 2014 that was attended by hundreds of residents, fire service personnel from Plainfield and surrounding communities and local officials. On January 2, 2015 an Honor Guard Flag Ceremony was held for Chief Eichelberger's last official day of service.

Pictured left: Chief Eichelberger shares memorable moments from his career with Deputy Chief Riddle and attendees during his Retirement Celebration. Pictured center: Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Gallup presents Chief Eichelberger with an American Flag at the Honor Guard Ceremony on January 2, 2015. Pictured right: Firefighter/Paramedic's applaud Chief Eichelberger as he walks with his wife, Ruth Eichelberger, after completing his final day on the job.

A swearing in ceremony was held on December 18, 2014 for Fire Chief David Riddle, 3 new Battalion Chiefs, 3 new Lieutenants and 2 new Firefighter/Paramedics. Fire Chief David Riddle was promoted from Deputy Chief to Chief upon Chief Eichelberger's retirement. The position of Battalion Chief was a new position added to the ranks within the Fire District and the first three Battalion Chief's were promoted from their previous positions as Lieutenants. The Fire District's first Battalion Chief's are Vince Baudek, Mike Obman and Scott Moore. As a result of the Battalion Chief promotions 3 Firefighter/Paramedics were promoted to fill the Lieutenant positions. Firefighter/Paramedics Robert Davanon, Andy Scott and Jered Zubaty were promoted to Lieutenants. Two new full-time Firefighter/Paramedics were hired and sworn in also on December 18th, they are Brian Moody and Jenae Williamson.

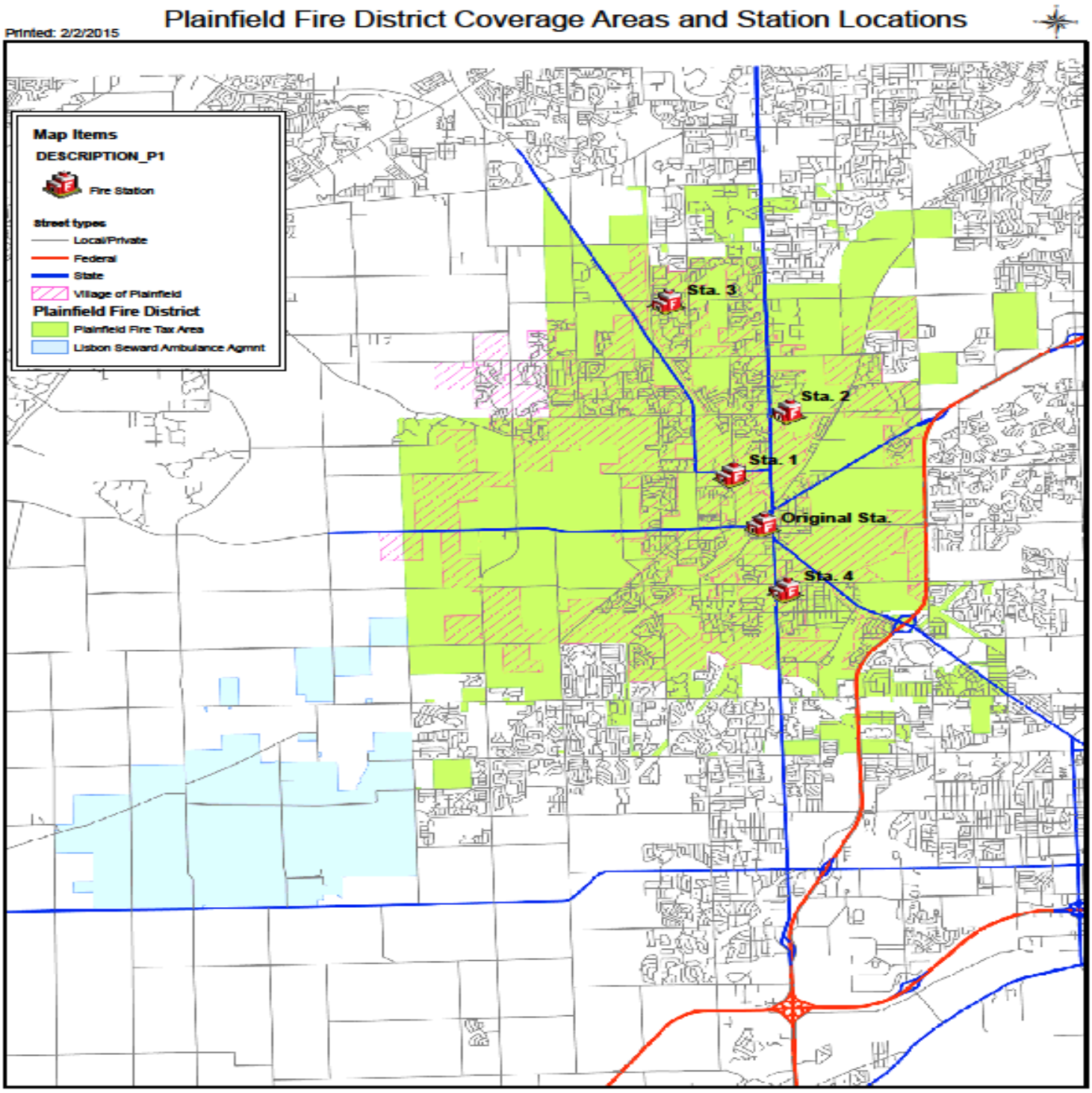
Pictured from left to right during the swearing in ceremony on December 18, 2014: Fire Chief David Riddle was sworn in as the 8th Fire Chief in the history of the Plainfield Fire Protection District since it's inception in 1935. Newly promoted Battalion Chief's Vince Baudek, Mike Obman and Scott Moore were sworn in as the Plainfield Fire Protection District's first Battalion Chiefs. Newly promoted Lieutenant's Jered Zubaty, Robert Davanon and Andy Scott were sworn in.

Also hired in 2014 were Firefighter/Paramedic's Ed Eddy in October and Dennis House in August. In May of 2014 Joseph Baber, William Cascone, Jason Ewing, Mike Lough, Joshua Serrato, Rocco Zoccoli, James Neuman, Ryan Cihak, Matt Gallagher and Michael Hammerstein Jr. were hired as Firefighter/Paramedics. Chad Johnson, Patrick Murphy and Brandon Wright were promoted to Lieutenants and sworn in on May 12, 2014.



Pictured from left to right: Brian Moody and Jenae Williamson are sworn in as full time Firefighter/Paramedics on December 18, 2014. Newly hired full-time Firefighter/Paramedic's are pictured with the Chief's after the swearing in ceremony on May 12, 2014, pictured from left to right: Deputy Chief David Riddle, Chief John Eichelberger, Rocco Zoccoli, Joseph Baber, Joshua Serrato, Michael Lough, William Cascone, Jason Ewing, Deputy Chief Jon Stratton and Assistant Chief Larry Mores. Newly promoted Lieutenant's Patrick Murphy, Chad Johnson and Brandon Wright are pictured with the Chief's after the swearing in ceremony on May 12, 2014, pictured from left to right are Deputy Chief David Riddle, Chief John Eichelberger, Lt. Patrick Murphy, Lt. Chad Johnson, Lt. Brandon Wright, Deputy Chief Jon Stratton and Assistant Chief Larry Mores.

District Overview, Map and Facilities



The Plainfield Fire Protection District serves an area of approximately 54 square miles including the majority of the Village of Plainfield, a portion of the City of Crest Hill and some unincorporated areas of Will and Kendall Counties. The District is comprised of suburban and rural areas. The area shaded in light green represents our district boundaries. The area shaded in light blue represents an area where we provide mutual aid response to the Lisbon Seward Fire Protection District by a formal agreement.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District has four fire stations. Fire stations are staffed with a combination of full-time, part-time and contract Firefighter/Paramedic's 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A total of 109 employees serve as Firefighter/Paramedics. There are 3 shifts for emergency response staffing. Each shift works for 24 hours and then they are off for 48 hours.

District Overview, Map and Facilities

Administration and
Training Facility
23748 W. 135th Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

Maintenance Facility
23810 W. 135th Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

Fire Station One
14415 S. Coil Plus Drive
Plainfield, IL 60544

Fire Station Two
23806 W. 135th Street
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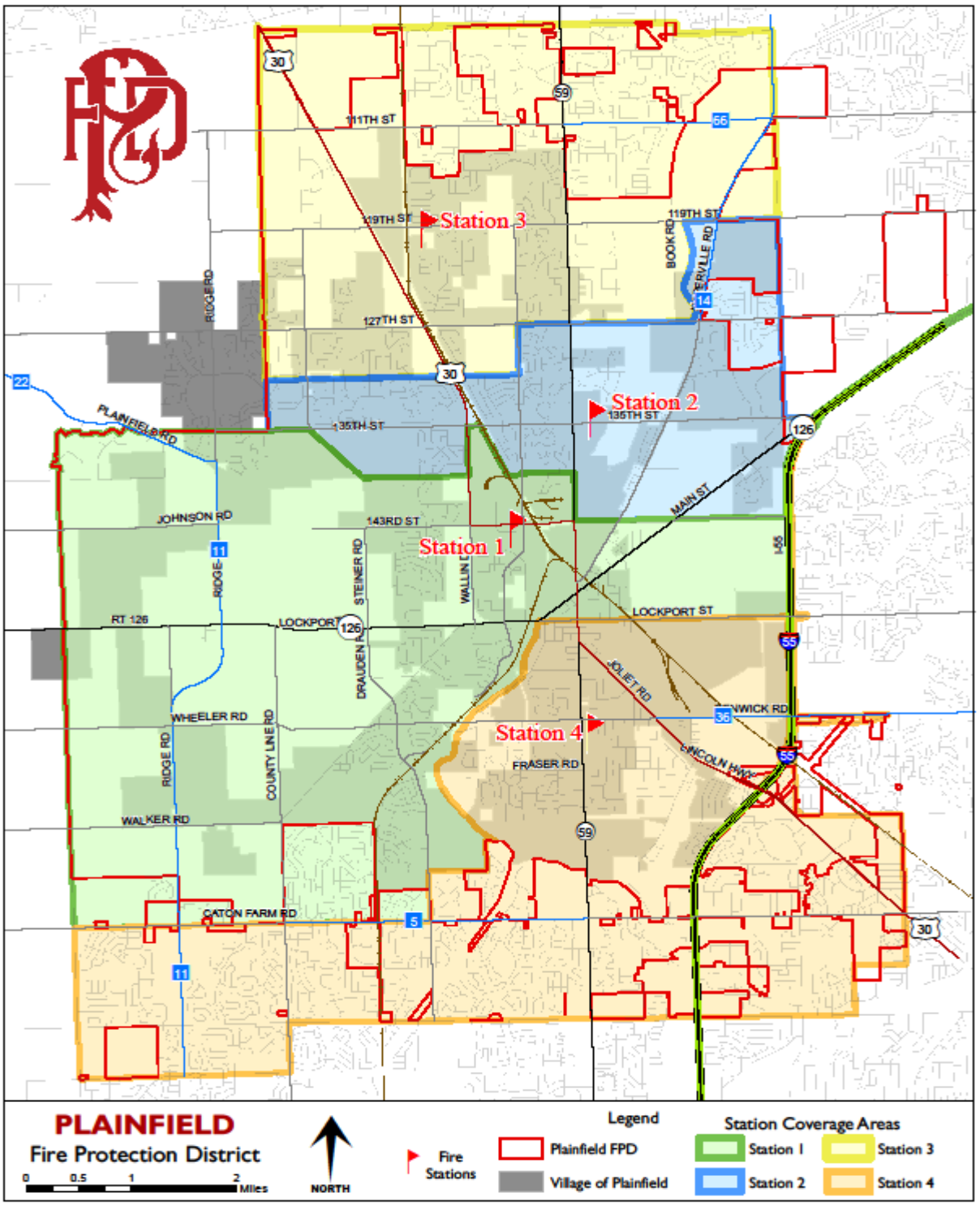
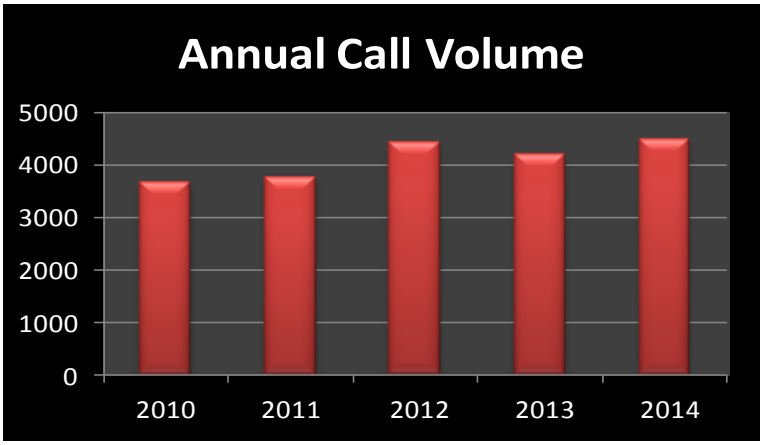


Fire station locations and their primary coverage areas are shown on the map above. Fire Station One serves the area shaded in green and is equipped with a fire engine, a squad, a ladder truck, an ambulance, a tender (tanker), and the brush truck. Fire Station Two serves the area shaded in blue and is equipped with a rescue squad, an ambulance, a tender (tanker), a battalion chief vehicle, the dive truck, 2 rescue boats, a reserve engine and a reserve ambulance. Fire Station Three serves the area shaded in yellow and is equipped with a fire engine, an ambulance and the Combined Area Response Team (CART) rescue truck. Fire Station Four serves the area shaded in gold and is equipped with a fire engine, an ambulance, the investigation unit and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) hazardous materials decontamination truck. The Fire District's Administration and Training Facility houses our offices and training classrooms for in-house and regional training classes. The Maintenance Facility is where all of our fire apparatus, ambulances, vehicles and equipment are maintained and repaired.

2014 Emergency Responses



Annual call volume has been steadily increasing.

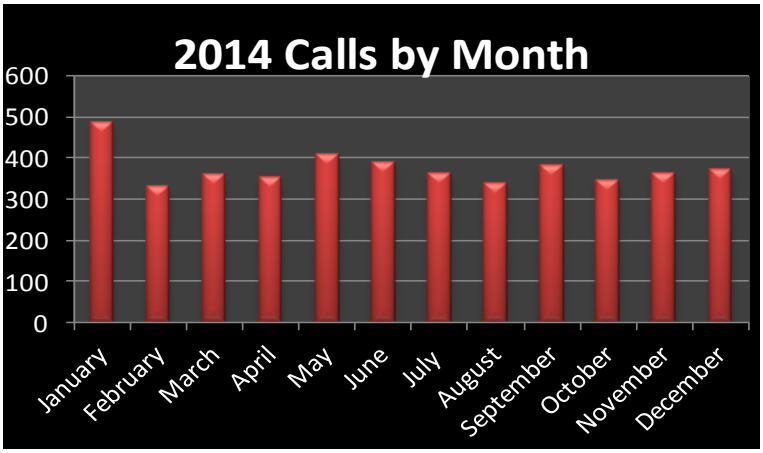
In 2010 we responded to 3,657 calls for service.

In 2011 we responded to 3,727 calls for service.

In 2012 we responded to 4,430 calls for service.

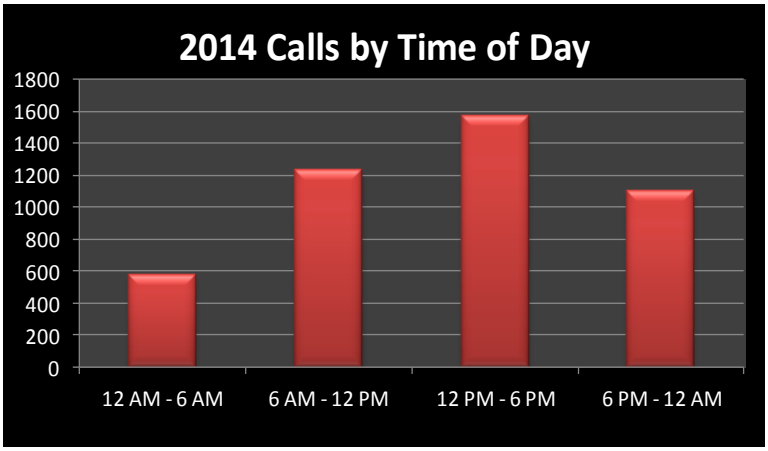
In 2013 we responded to 4,173 calls for service.

In 2014 we responded to 4,462 calls for service.

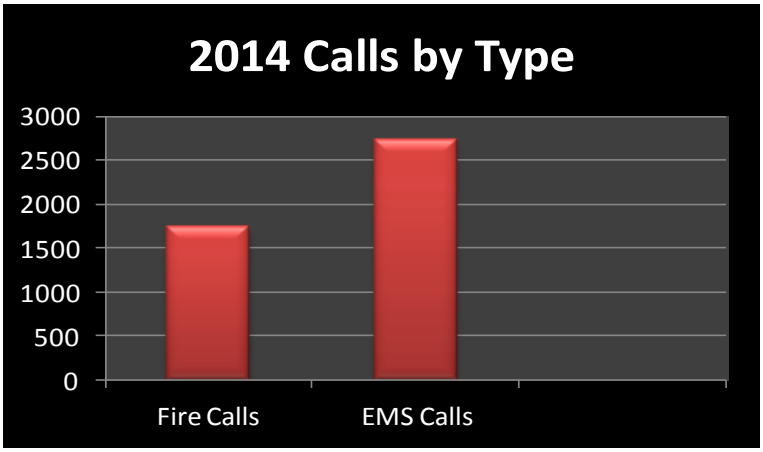


2014 call volume was highest during the month of January then remained steady for the rest of the year.

January = 484
February = 328
March = 358
April = 349
May = 406
June = 387
July = 361
August = 337
September = 381
October = 343
November = 360
December = 368



Call volumes are highest between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm. Daytime call volume is the highest due to our higher day-time population.



There were 1,736 calls for fires and fire related calls including smoke and/or odor investigations, service calls, fire alarms, hazardous materials incidents, special rescues and severe weather related emergencies. There were 2,726 calls for emergency medical services.

Emergency Medical Services

The Fire District has 4 front line advanced life support ambulances, one reserve advanced life support ambulance and one reserve basic life support ambulance. Our first out fire engines, squad and ladder truck are also equipped as advanced life support responders which is why you may see fire apparatus responding to a medical emergency. The Firefighter/Paramedics can begin treatment while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. There are 106 Emergency Medical Responders at the Fire District, 87 of them are Paramedics and 19 are Emergency Medical Technicians—Basic.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District is part of the Silver Cross Hospital Emergency Medical Services System located in New Lenox. This is a network of emergency responders and hospitals that coordinate pre-hospital patient care. The medical services system provides education, quality assurance and administrative support to network agencies and providers, all EMS providers within the system work under the medical license of a project medical director.

On May 23, 2014 members of the Plainfield Fire Protection District received "Outstanding Call Awards" at the Silver Cross Hospital Emergency Medical Services Awards Banquet. One award was for a heat stroke call and was presented to Lt. Vince Baudek, FF/PM Chad Krnac, FF/PM Michael Lough, PM Jim Pubentz and FF/PM Mike Smego. There were 2 awards presented for successful resuscitation of cardiac arrest victims. One award went to Lt. Vince Baudek, PM Karyn Eichelberger, FF/PM Randie Hillison, FF/EMT-B Randy Krnac, FF/PM Chad Krnac, FF/PM Damien McCarron and PM Jim Pubentz. The other award went to Lt. Joseph Schroeder, FF/PM Robert Davanon, PM Craig Rundle, FF/PM Carl Schultz and FF/PM Jason Stone.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District received a grant of $35,583 from the Illinois Public Risk Fund to purchase Power Load cot fastener systems by Stryker for our four front line ambulances. This system automatically lifts and lowers cots into and out of the ambulances with the touch of a button. The cot is either lifted into the ambulance and automatically steered and fastened into place, or released and lowered to the ground. The purpose of the power-load cot fastener system is to prevent back injuries to personnel while lifting the cot. The power-loading cot fastener system has been proven to be safer for both the patient and our Fire and EMS personnel. Since the system supports and guides the cot into and out of the ambulance it is safer for the patient during loading and unloading and secures the cot during transport. Fire and EMS personnel appreciate the reduction in back strain that the system provides to them.

Paramedic Jim Pubentz and Firefighter/Paramedic Randie Hillison demonstrate the Power Load cot fastener system.

The Fire District's workers compensation insurance carrier, Illinois Public Risk Fund, supports the power-loading cot fastener system because of the proven reduction in back injuries these systems are able to provide. Fire and EMS personnel have a significant risk of developing musculoskeletal disorders through work related activities such as patient loading and unloading from ambulances due to the awkward posture positions of these activities combined with high loading forces. Use of this system is proven to reduce injuries and disabilities to Fire and EMS personnel.

American Heart Association®

Learn and Live

The Plainfield Fire Protection District is an authorized provider of American Heart Association Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) courses. In 2014 we held 63 courses and trained a total of 398 people. The courses that were taught included 35 Basic Life Support Healthcare Provider classes, 15 Heartsaver AED classes, 2 Heartsaver Adult First Aid & CPR classes, 2 Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid & CPR classes, 1 Friends and Family CPR class and 8 CPR & AED skills testing sessions. Classes are offered throughout the year and we also offer personalized classes for businesses and groups by request.

During 2014 we hosted 3 blood drives at our Administration and Training Facility, 23748 W. 135th Street. During these blood drives a total of 86 donations were received. The 2014 blood drives were held on April 23rd where 19 donations were received, August 27th where 50 donations were received and December 30th where 17 donations were received.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District Child Passenger Safety Team checked a total of 290 child passenger safety seats during 2014. Of the 290 seats that were checked, 61% were new installations, 30% were incorrectly installed and 9% were found to have been installed correctly. The Child Passenger Safety Team also participated in 6 child passenger safety seat regional inspection events where a total of 367 child safety passenger seats were checked for proper installation. Of the 367 seats, 54% were new installations, 37% were incorrectly installed and 9% were found to have been installed correctly. Properly installed child passenger safety seats help protect children from injuries and death in the event of a vehicle accident. To make an appointment to have your child's safety seat installation inspected please call us at 815-733-7333. Safety seats are inspected by appointment only.

Our first out fire engines, squad and ladder truck are also equipped as advanced life support responders which is why you may see fire apparatus responding to a medical emergency. The Firefighter/Paramedics can begin treatment while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. Pictured from left to right are Ladder Truck 1919, Fire Engine 1931 and Ambulance 1944, one of our 4 front line advanced life support ambulances.

Specialty Teams

The Plainfield Fire Protection District has 3 specialty teams that respond to specific incidents that require specialized tools, rescue equipment and training. Members of these teams participate in regular training and have specialized certifications in addition to their Firefighter/Paramedic training and certifications.

Combined Area Rescue Team (CART)

The Combined Area Rescue Team (CART), also referred to as the Technical Rescue Team (TRT), is responsible for specialized rescues in incidents that involve structural collapse, trench rescues, confined space rescues and high angle rescues. Some examples of specialized rescues CART would handle include: stabilizing a building collapse in order to conduct search and rescue, rescue of a person trapped in a trench collapse, rescue of a person down within a tank or similar confined space, rescue of a person working on a cell tower or water tower that needs medical assistance. CART is made up of members from multiple agencies and the team the Plainfield Fire Protection District is part of covers a geographical area of approximately 1,000 square miles. The Combined Area Rescue Team regularly trains to keep current on their specialized rescue skills and certifications including training with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150. Pictured left, in June of 2014, are CART members during a training drill where they were simulating a rescue from the confined space of a sewer. CART members actually had a similar rescue in September of 2014 when a student at Ira Jones Middle School fell 10 feet into a storm drain while running outside.

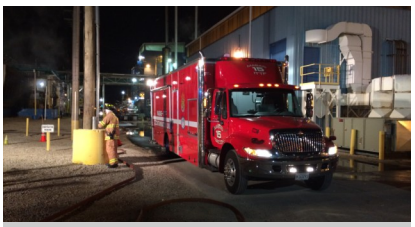
Hazardous Materials Team

The MABAS 15 Decontamination Vehicle

The Plainfield Hazardous Materials team is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 15 Hazardous Materials Team. The team roster consists of 10 members from the Plainfield Fire Protection District along with members from the Troy Fire Protection District, Elwood Fire Protection District, the Will County Emergency Management Agency, and other Division 15 Fire Departments.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District currently staffs and responds with the MABAS 15 Decontamination Vehicle which is housed at Fire Station 4. The vehicle is equipped to serve as a mobile decontamination/shower unit. Decon 15 responds to incidents within Plainfield, surrounding fire districts and statewide for deployment to hazardous materials incidents, terrorism incidents and natural disasters as requested. The vehicle is also equipped with reference materials, science manuals and equipment used to assist in the mitigation of these incidents. Along with Decon 15, the MABAS 15 Hazardous Materials Team is equipped with several other vehicles and assets to assist in the management of incidents.

In 2014 Decon 15 assisted the Elwood Fire Protection District with a hazardous materials incident at Stepan Chemical as well as other minor incidents within the Plainfield Fire Protection District and surrounding fire departments. Plainfield Team members also participated in a full scale drill at the Lyondell Refinery in Morris simulating a mock tornado that struck the facility causing a simulated chemical leak of a railcar. Team members are certified in Hazmat Operations, Hazmat Technician Levels A & B along with Hazardous Materials Incident Command.



The Hazardous Materials Team at an incident in Elwood.

Team members training during a drill with the chemical leak simulator.

Water Rescue Team

Water Rescue Team members routinely practice their rescue skills during training drills.

The Plainfield Water Rescue Team has developed from a basic dive team that was started in 1984 into a highly trained multi-discipline Water Rescue Team. The Plainfield Water Rescue Team is currently operating with 15 members. Team members are certified in Public Safety Rescue Diver, Surface Ice Rescue, Sub Surface Ice diving, Swift Water Rescue, Water Craft Technicians, as well as certified tenders and SONAR equipment technicians. In order achieve this high level of training its members have committed countless hours in obtaining certification and continuing education. Members also bring in top level instructors from across the county to stay current with best practices in these disciplines.

In 2008 the Water Rescue Team was approved to replace its 30 year old vehicle with a custom specialized rescue vehicle that not only carries equipment but also functions as a rehab area as well as a command post. The Water Rescue Team has 2 aluminum Jon boats as well as an inflatable Zodiac rescue boat. Team members are also equipped with modern rescue gear, including wireless and hard line underwater communications equipment and side scan SONAR.

In 2009 the Water Rescue Team started to move towards being the MABAS 15 Team. Currently the active members of the MABAS 15 team are made up of Channahon, Minooka, Braidwood, Wilmington, Coal City, Troy and Morris. Together these Departments responded to 10 incidents in 2014. These incidents ranged from drowning, assisting boaters in distress and evidence recovery with one incident requiring a joint rescue operation between the Water Rescue Team and CART. In 2015 the MABAS 15 Water Rescue Team participated in two separate MABAS validation drills and the team passed both with flying colors. The MABAS 15 Water Rescue Team is recognized as a Class A Water Rescue Team within the state of Illinois and has been deployed to other regions of the state as their assets were needed.

Due to the nature of the different types of calls the Water Rescue Team responds to, it actively works with multiple government and private agencies including Federal, State, Multiple County, and Local Law Enforcement, County Corners Offices, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the US Coast Guard, Canine Search Teams (both private and government), and private search organizations.

Training

Plainfield Fire Protection District Firefighter/Paramedics participate in weekly training drills that cover multiple aspects of their jobs. Training is conducted to maintain certifications and to stay up to date. Some examples of training topics are vehicle extrication tools and techniques that are updated for the changing technology of vehicles (from air bags to electric cars), structural firefighting tactics and strategy including updated tools for the job and modern building construction methods, fire protection systems built into buildings including fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler systems, crude oil rail awareness, disaster response, driver training and updated medical equipment and procedures for patient care. In addition to weekly training, classes and seminars are also available through colleges, organizations, other departments and specialized training facilities like the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the National Fire Academy. Plainfield Fire Protection District personnel regularly participate in training to be able to provide the best service possible. During 2014 Plainfield Fire Protection District personnel logged over 60,000 hours of training. In 2015 we will add a training tower behind our Administration and Training Facility at 23748 W. 135th Street. The training tower will allow us to supplement classroom instruction with additional options for hands-on demonstrations and training involving live burns and rescue scenarios.

Plainfield Fire Protection District Firefighter/Paramedics during training on fighting propane tank fires in May of 2014.

Fire Prevention Bureau

Prevention is part of our mission statement. The Plainfield Fire Protection District, Fire Prevention Bureau strives to prevent fires through fire code enforcement and fire and life safety education. There are approximately 1,700 commercial and multi-family properties within the Plainfield Fire Protection District. Fire inspections are routinely conducted on these properties to ensure compliance with established fire and life safety codes and standards. The Fire Prevention Bureau also partners with county and municipal building and code enforcement departments within our jurisdiction to ensure buildings are constructed, used and maintained in accordance with applicable sections of fire and life safety codes for the safety of building occupants and firefighters. In addition to routine inspections the Fire Prevention Bureau reviews plans for new construction and remodeling projects for all commercial and multi-family properties, inspects buildings during construction, witnesses tests of newly installed fire protection systems, follows-up on malfunctioning fire protection systems to ensure repair and proper operation and follows-up on complaints received about potential fire code violations.

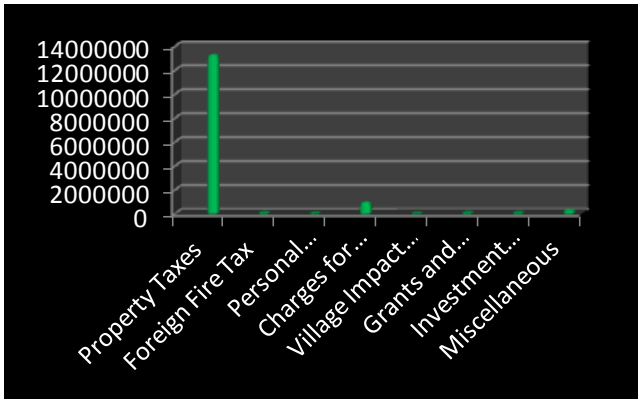
Fire and life safety education is an integral part of fire prevention. Inspections are seen as an opportunity to teach the importance of fire code compliance. To enhance fire and life safety the Fire Prevention Bureau also teaches businesses how to use fire extinguishers, witnesses fire drills and reviews emergency plans. Another component of fire and life safety education is community outreach through public education and information. Fire safety presentations are conducted in preschool and elementary schools throughout the Fire District to teach children about calling 9-1-1 for help along with fire safety messages and education about firefighters gear. In addition to the Fire Inspectors, Firefighter/Paramedics also assist with fire and life safety education presentations and other outreach events. The Fire Prevention Bureau also shares fire and life safety information through participation in community events, various press releases, digital sign messages and our Fire District newsletter "On the Scene." In 2014 the Fire Prevention Bureau was staffed by one full-time Fire Inspector and three part-time Fire Inspectors.

500 people attended the Fire Prevention Week Open House on Saturday, October 11th. There were numerous displays and demonstrations including a children's firefighter challenge and a rappelling demonstration. Pictured below is the side by side fire sprinkler demonstration. The fire on the left side engulfed the room in less than 3 minutes. The fire sprinkler protected room on the right had the fire sprinkler activate and put out the fire in less than 1 minute. The 2015 Open House will be on Saturday, October 3rd.

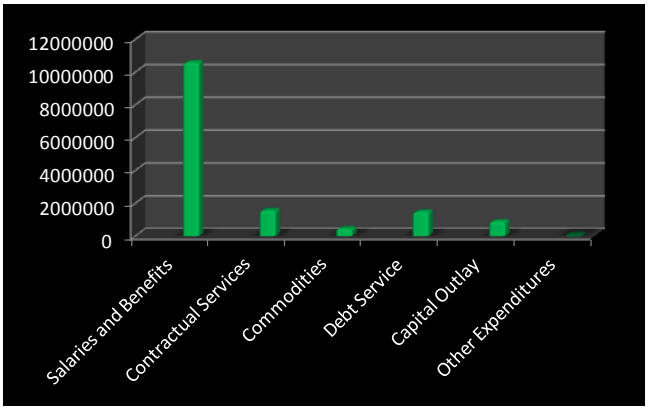
Financial Information

The Plainfield Fire Protection District continues to maintain a balanced budget while providing the best possible service to our community. Our budget process emphasizes fiscal responsibility and complete transparency.

Revenues by Source	2013	2014
Property Taxes	$ 13,344,584.00	$ 13,297,304.00
2% Foreign Fire Tax	$ 74,576.00	$ 73,144.00
Personal Property Tax	$ 11,192.00	$ 12,808.00
Charges for Services	$ 1,071,440.00	$ 967,513.00
Village Impact Fees	$ 6,425.00	$ 6,575.00
Grants & Contributions	$ 80,672.00	$ 75,324.00
Investment Income	$ 245,225.00	$ 79,963.00
Miscellaneous	$ 235,585.00	$ 277,202.00
	$ 15,069,699.00	$ 14,789,833.00



Expenditures by Function	2013	2014
Salaries and Benefits	$ 10,035,510.00	$ 10,599,422.00
Contractual Services	$ 1,491,145.00	$ 1,575,498.00
Commodities	$ 461,191.00	$ 468,117.00
Debt Service	$ 1,746,018.00	$ 1,485,040.00
Capital Outlay	$ 861,087.00	$ 895,746.00
Other Expenditures	$ 22,000.00	$ 4,250.00
	$ 14,616,951.00	$ 15,028,073.00



Governance

Board of Trustees

Bill Barnes, President

Dennis Bennett, Secretary

Douglas Shreve, Treasurer

James R. Lehmann, Trustee

Mark Reynolds, Trustee

The Plainfield Fire Protection District is governed by an elected board of 5 Trustees. At the end of 2014 serving on the Board of Trustees were Bill Barnes as the Board President, Dennis Bennett as the Board Secretary, Douglas Shreve as the Board Treasurer, James R. Lehmann as a Trustee and Mark Reynolds as a Trustee.

In June of 2014 a board vacancy was created with the acceptance of the resignation of Charles Robinson. In September of 2014 Mark Reynolds was appointed and sworn in to fill the board vacancy until the next election in April of 2015. During the 2014 awards banquet, held in February of 2015, Charles Robinson was recognized for his dedicated service to the Plainfield Fire Protection District from March of 2008 through May of 2014 and he was presented with a plaque.

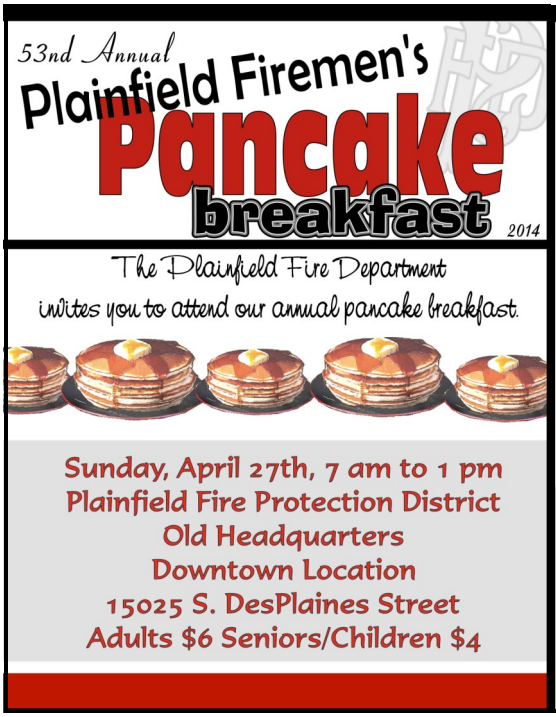
Pictured from left: Deputy Chief Jon Stratton, Assistant Chief Larry Mores, Charles Robinson and Chief David Riddle.

Pictured from left to right are the Plainfield Fire Protection District Board members. Board President Bill Barnes, Board Secretary Dennis Bennett, Board Treasurer Douglas Shreve, Trustee James R. Lehmann and Trustee Mark Reynolds.

Plainfield Fire Department

The Plainfield Fire Department consists of past and current firefighters and paramedics of the Plainfield Fire Protection District. Today it is a charitable association that supports members, the community, and the fire service. The history of the Department reaches back to 1888 with the original volunteer fire fighters in Plainfield.

The Department holds three community events each year: Pancake Breakfast in March, Pig Roast in August, and the Turkey Raffle in November. Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast and Turkey Raffle go towards a scholarship fund for local students and towards the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's "Camp I Am Me" for children who were victims of burns. The Pig Roast is held to thank the local supporters of the Plainfield Fire Protection District and public officials from surrounding fire departments. The Department also helps organize events for all of its members including an annual Awards Banquet, a picnic for families of members, and a Christmas party for children of members. Below are flyers for the Fire Department's popular annual events, the Pancake Breakfast, the Pig Roast and the Turkey Raffle that were held in 2014.



Plainfield Firefighter's Women's Association

The Plainfield Firefighter's Women's Association (PFWA) was formed in February of 1977. Four of PFWA's founding members are still active participates, they include Ruth Eichelberger, Cheree Lewis, Cindy Obman and Marcia Gray. Current members also include Cassie Krasuski (President), Kate Lehmann (Vice President), Karen Obman (Treasurer), Nicole Irwin (Secretary), Pam Angelus, Jamie Bickerton, Julia Corkey, Jen Crompton, Joyce Hartley and Stacey Stofko. Membership is open to all women that want to support the Plainfield Fire Protection District.

PFWA Mission

- **To promote and create good fellowship amongst its members and their families.**
- **To assist the PFD/PFPD when formally requested or in time of need.**
- **To provide support to victims of fire's within the Plainfield Fire Protection District.**

The goal of the PFWA is to give back to the community and the firefighters. Two of their main fundraising programs are the Fire Victims Fund and the Scholarship Fund. The Fire Victims Fund provides immediate financial assistance to Fire District residents impacted by fire. In 2014, $4,950 in assistance was provided to local residents from the Fire Victims Fund. The Scholarship Fund is for the firefighters children to further their education. PFWA also strives to create fellowship between the firefighters and their families and they help the community in times of need by staffing luncheons and warming centers.

In the past PFWA held Spaghetti Dinners, Craft Shows and Spa Days to help raise money for the Fire Victims Fund and Scholarship Fund. In 2015 they are going to try a different type of fundraiser. The 2015 fundraising event will be a Craft Show at the Plainfield Fire Protection District's Administration and Training Facility, 23748 W. 135th Street in Plainfield from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 17th. They hope this event will become a regular fundraiser for years to come.

Giving Back to our Community

The Plainfield Fire Protection District and staff participate in a variety of charitable opportunities as a way to give back to our community.

Funds were raised for the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance burn camp known as "Camp I Am Me" through the pancake breakfast and fill the boot. "Camp I Am Me" is accredited by the American Camp Association. The camp is for children in Illinois from 8 to 16 years old who have had a burn injury that required out-patient treatment or hospitalization. For one week the children are able to experience a summer camp environment that allows them to build their self esteem while having fun. "Camp I Am Me" is offered at no-cost to the families. For more information visit www.ifsa.org.

Ride to School in a Fire Engine!

During 2014 the Plainfield Fire Protection District donated "Ride to School in a Fire Engine" certificates to the following organizations for raffles and auctions: St. Mary Immaculate Parish School's "Dare to Dream Gala," Central Elementary School's "Sweat Heart Dance," Innovation Dance Company's "Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser," Plainfield Junior Women's Club "2014 Spring Fling," Plainfield Lion's Club "23rd Annual Silent Auction and Dinner," St. Mary Immaculate "Galabration 14: Rock the Red Carpet" fundraiser, the YMCA "Giving Gala" and Ready Set Ride's "9th Annual Auction." Certificates were issued by request and were only valid within the boundaries of Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202. Both the residence where the child was to be picked up and the child's school had to be located within the boundaries. The "Ride to School in a Fire Engine" is granted for one child to any/all public or private schools within the boundaries of School District 202. This continues to be a popular program throughout the community.

On March 16, 2014 a group of Plainfield Fire Protection District Firefighter/Paramedics volunteered to assist with the annual Plainfield St. Baldrick's event hosted by the Knights of Columbus during the annual Village of Plainfield Irish Parade at our former fire station in downtown Plainfield. Team "Plainfield Fire" members included Lt. Brian Joseph (the Team Captain), Lt. Andy Scott and his son Drew, FF/PM Mike Williams and his son Noah, FF/PM John Antos, FF/PM Robert Underhill and PM James Pubentz. Members of team "Plainfield Fire" did a fill the boot during the Irish Parade and got their heads shaved to raise money for the annual St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser. In 2014 team "Plainfield Fire" raised $2,032. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity dedicated to raising money for life-saving childhood cancer research. For more information about St. Baldrick's please visit their web site at www.stbaldricks.org.

Every year we hold a Toys for Tots drive and pictured above are the toys collected for the 2014 holiday season with (from left to right) FF/PM's Jason Stone, Ryan Angelus, Lt. Chad Johnson, FF/PM Mike Walden, Deputy Chief Jon Stratton, EMS Coordinator Cheryl Hansen, Assistant Chief Larry Mores, U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Justin Goodman, Chief John Eichelberger, U.S. Marine Corporal Jawan Odis, Deputy Chief David Riddle, Fire Inspector Mary Ludemann, FF/PM's Chad Krnac, Jim Brereton and Mike Lough.