



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 3, Issue 4

Winter 2015-16

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.

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Adopt-A-Hydrant

Please remember to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and clear a path from the fire hydrant to the street for emergency access.

From the Chief



David S. Riddle, Chief

It is with sadness that I share with you the passing of our former trustee and 34 year member of the fire district, Mr. Denny Bennett. Denny died suddenly on November 13th after dropping off raffle prizes he had collected for the annual Turkey Raffle scheduled for the next evening. On behalf of the Fire District I'd like to thank his family for "lending" Denny to us for so long and for the difference he made in the lives of so many residents of our district and beyond. He'll be missed.

Please join us in welcoming our newest Board of Trustees (BOT) member, Mr. Robert Baish. He was appointed at the November BOT meeting to fill a vacant seat on the board. There were three highly qualified applicants to fill this seat and after serious deliberations the board made the unanimous appointment of Mr. Baish. We look forward to further strengthening the pursuit of our mission with the filling of this vacancy.

Our Fire Prevention Week Open House was another success thanks to all of you who were able to share a part of your day with us. We had almost 1,000 residents of our fire district attend and along with our personnel who helped plan, organize and deliver our programs, this annual event is becoming something not-to-miss! Plan ahead for Saturday, October 8, 2016 and we hope to see you here.

We hope you've had your wood burning fireplace cleaned in preparation for the winter season and ask you to practice sound fire safety when using your home fireplace. You can always contact us for any specific questions regarding fire safety in your home and please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We've had our last "Chat with the Chiefs" for 2015 and look forward to seeing more of you at the 2016 quarterly "Chats," the first of which is Wednesday, January 27th at the Plainfield Police Department. This is an opportunity for you, our residents, to meet with and ask questions of your chiefs; John Konopek, Plainfield Police Department, Mike Veseling, Oswego Fire Protection District and myself.

We have started the work to refresh the strategic plan for the fire district and have included 3 citizens on the committee for this effort. We look forward to a first quarter completion of the rough draft for consideration by the Board of Trustees approval and adoption.

You're also invited to visit our "new" website at plainfieldfpd.com at your convenience. We believe you'll find the updated site more user-friendly and loaded with information and valuable links that will be of interest to all of you.

We've all made it through our first significant snowfall of winter and as a reminder (continued on page 2)

Please Keep the Wreath Red



Along with area fire departments and districts, the Plainfield Fire Protection District is participating in the holiday fire safety campaign called "Keep the Wreath Red." Fire station's are decorated with a holiday wreath that has red lights on it. If there's a fire caused by a holiday decoration, a red light will be replaced with a white light. With everyone's help, remembering fire safety while decorating, we can keep the wreath's red this holiday season. For more information about holiday fire safety please see page 2.

Pictured from the left are Firefighter/Paramedic's Bryan Gallup, Matt Mullins, Lt. Andy Scott, Jenae Williamson, Steve Hawkinson, Andrew Urbancic, Paul Gal, James Neuman and Lt. Chuck Kraft.

On The Scene, Page 2

From the Chief

(continued from page 1) from our last issue of *On The Scene* we want you to consider what happens to the fire hydrant in front of your home or on your block when the snow accumulates. Remember, if you can't see it, neither can we. Please think about "adopting" your hydrant. Call our Fire Prevention office at 815.436.5335 for further information on how you can help us help you.

With winter continuing her steady grip upon us please remember to **Stop the Texts and Stop the Wrecks!** Texting and phone calls can wait.

And as always,

Be careful out there....

David S. Riddle, Chief

New Fire District Trustee Bob Baish



Bob Baish was selected to fill a vacancy on the Fire District Board of Trustees that was created when Mark Reynolds stepped down to accept the (part-time) Assistant Chief position. Bob Baish was one of three candidates the Board of Trustees interviewed. Upon hearing that he was selected, Bob Baish said he appreciates the confidence the rest of the Board has in

him and he hopes to do a good job and looks forward to serving on the Board of Trustees. The Plainfield Fire Protection District is governed by an elected board of 5 Trustees. For more information about the Board of Trustees please visit our website at plainfieldfpd.com.

You Can Text to 9-1-1 in Will County



Will County "Text to 9-1-1" service is now available. Major wireless carrier customers can text to 9-1-1 in an emergency. Calling 9-1-1 directly is still the most efficient way to request emergency services. Texting should only be used for situations when talking is not an option. Be aware that texting to 9-1-1 is not yet available in all areas. If you text to 9-1-

1 when or where the service is not available you will receive a message indicating that texting to 9-1-1 is not available and that you need to contact 9-1-1 by other means. To place a text to 9-1-1 call, enter the numbers "911" in the "to" field, in your message state the location and type of emergency, and send the message. Please note that texting can take longer to receive or may not get received. The text to 9-1-1 service is not available if you're phone is roaming. Photos and videos cannot be sent and the text cannot include other people. A text or data plan is required to place a text to 9-1-1 call. For more information about text to 9-1-1 please call Caryn DeMarco with Will County 9-1-1 at 815-725-1911.

Holiday Fire Safety



Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 38% of home Christmas tree fires. Only use lights with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Don't use light strings with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Follow the manufacturers instructions on how many sets of lights can be connected. Make sure lights are rated for outdoor use if using them outdoors.

Help us to "keep the wreath red" this holiday season by taking steps to prevent holiday decoration related fires. Make sure your artificial Christmas tree is labeled, certified or identified as flame retardant. If you have a fresh Christmas tree, cut 2 inches from the base before placing it in the stand. Locate your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles. Do not block an exit with your tree. Make sure you water your Christmas tree every day. A tree that is not kept watered will dry out and a dry tree is a fire hazard. Once a tree becomes dry, remove it from your home and store it away from your home and/or garage. Turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving your home or going to bed.

When decorating with candles, use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over. Put candles on surfaces free of clutter and at least 12 inches away from anything that will burn. Never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle. Always blow out candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

For more information about holiday fire safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association's Project Holiday website at <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/seasonal/winter-holiday-safety>. Statistics are from the National Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Administration.



Half of December home decoration fires are started by candles. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns. Never leave candles unattended; blow them out when leaving a room or going to bed. Avoid using candles in bedrooms, where more than 1/3 of home candle fires start. Consider flameless candles, pictured above, as an alternate to traditional candles.

CO detectors, smoke alarms, escape ladders and fire extinguishers are great holiday gifts!

Give space heaters space! Keep 3 feet of clearance around space heaters at all times.

On The Scene, Page 3

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Lt. Bob Knowles



Lieutenant Bob Knowles joined the Plainfield Fire Department in January of 1989 as a Paramedic and eventually became a Fire District employee. During his time with Plainfield he has been a Paramedic, Firefighter, Fire Investigator and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, Bob is responsible for supervising the Firefighter/Paramedics assigned to work on his shift at Fire Station One. Bob was inspired to join the fire service because his Dad was a volunteer firefighter with the Plainfield Fire Department. The variety of the job is one of the things Bob likes about his career saying "there is something different everyday." His most memorable call remains the Plainfield tornado in August of 1990. One of the things that struck him about the tornado were the weird things he saw during the aftermath, for example, playing cards that were stuck into a tree, a downspout from a gutter wedged several inches into the side of a door and a pair of scissors that were stuck into a table. Bob said you hear about things like that after a tornado but it is hard to imagine them until you see it firsthand. Bob grew up in Plainfield and graduated from Plainfield Central High School. He is married to Renee and they have 4 children, Karla, Seth, Kyle and Melissa. When Bob is not working he enjoys fishing, snowmobiling and spending time with his family.

Have you Ever Wondered?

Have you ever been out shopping and wondered why do the firefighter/paramedics take the fire engine or ambulance with them to go grocery shopping? The firefighter/paramedics take the fire engine or ambulance with them everywhere they go so they are always ready and available to respond to emergency calls. Towards the beginning of each shift day they plan their meals for lunch and dinner and they all contribute their own money for the cost of their meals and when time allows throughout the day they go to the grocery store.

Have you ever wondered what the firefighter/paramedics do when they are not responding to an emergency call? Every day they participate in training drills on various topics including fire training, emergency medical training and special operations training. They also clean the fire stations and take care of the landscaping. They have a schedule of what chores need to be completed for each day of the week and they make sure to get the chores done each day. Everyday they also inspect the fire engines, fire truck and ambulances. The firefighter/paramedics also give fire and life safety presentations at schools, at various community events and during fire station tours.

Call us at 815-436-5335 with your Fire District questions or send an email to onthescene@plainfieldfpd.com.

Fire & Life Safety for Kids



Winter fun includes sledding, skiing, ice skating and building snowmen! To be safe while having fun always follow safety rules. When going sledding, choose a sled hill that has a long flat area at the bottom for you to stop. Don't sled on hills that end at a street, parking lot, ponds or an area of trees. Don't walk on, or ice skate on frozen ponds in your neighborhood. The ice may not be strong enough to hold you and you could fall through the ice.

Dress warm when going out to play in the snow and go indoors to warm up if you begin to feel cold. If you have a fireplace or space heater inside your home give them space. Stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace or space heater. Keep anything that can catch fire and burn at least 3 feet away from the fire place and space heater at all times.

Have a safe and fun winter! To play games and learn more about fire and life safety visit Sparky's School House at <http://sparkyschoolhouse.org/>.



Plainfield Fire Protection District
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You may receive this newsletter even if you live outside the boundaries of the Plainfield Fire Protection District.
In order to save on costs, everyone in certain carrier routes will receive this mailing.

Board of Trustees

Bill Barnes
President

James R. Lehmann
Secretary

Douglas Shreve
Treasurer

Tom Paul
Trustee

Bob Baish
Trustee

Fire Chief

David S. Riddle

Dates to Remember

December 25, 2015, Christmas Day

January 1, 2016, New Year's Day

January 12, 2016, PFPD Board of Trustees Meeting

January 18, 2016, Martin Luther King Day

January 27, 2016, Chat with the Chiefs

February 9, 2015, PFPD Board of Trustees Meeting

February 15, 2016, Presidents Day

Adopt-A-Hydrant

Please remember to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and clear a path from the fire hydrant to the street for emergency access.

Winter Travel Safety

Avoid or limit travel during winter storms. Don't travel during low visibility conditions. Let someone know where you're going, you're route and when you expect to arrive. Keep your vehicle's gas tank full or near full.



Merry Christmas!
Happy Holidays!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season
from the Plainfield Fire Protection District!

