



Ocean City Fire Department

Volunteer & Career

United to Serve

Volume 1; Issue 2

A Message From The Fire Chief



To All Members:

This *Newsletter* gives us an opportunity to improve communications within the Ocean City Fire Department. We will discuss issues that are relevant to our operation or personnel. Throughout my tenure, I have been committed to all means of improving communication and will continue to implement efforts to fulfill this promise. Additionally, we are finalizing a formal "distribution list" that new policies, guidelines, etc. will be uniformly and regularly distributed. As such, I am grateful for this opportunity to write directly to every member.

Last week, with the remnants of IDA rolling over Ocean City, our Department was again put to the test. As usual, you responded with continued dedication to our citizens. I thank each of you for your service.

We responded to a variety of incidents that required your skills and talent. To see each of you working side-by-side through various challenges makes me proud. "*Volunteer and Career, United to Serve*" is not simply a catchphrase; it is an increasing reality!

Our calls did not increase as they usually do during most storms; however, with portions of downtown closed and Route 90 still closed, it took intelligent operational planning and execution on everyone's part. From November 12-15 our department responded to:

Automatic Fire Alarms - 13
Boat Service Calls - 3
Medical Calls - 15

Please remember that my office is always open. If you have a concern, or simply wish to chat, I am available to you. You have my respect and thanks.

H1N1 By Chief Barton

H1N1 Influenza vaccine will be provided to Fire Department personnel beginning on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. The vaccination process involves receiving a single intramuscular injection in the upper arm. The process takes just a few minutes. In addition to the injection, there is some paperwork that must be completed for the Health Department.

For members of the Volunteer Division, vaccination will be provided during the regular business meeting scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, November 17th.

For members of the Career Division, vaccine will be provided during your regular shift as follows:

11/17/2009	Tuesday	A Shift
11/18/2009	Wednesday	B Shift
11/19/2009	Thursday	C Shift
11/20/2009	Friday	D Shift
11/21/2009	Saturday	Part-Time Staff/Others Needing Vaccination

Part-time personnel working from 11/17 to 11/20 may receive vaccine while on-duty. In addition, vaccination will be offered on the morning of Saturday, 11/21/2009 for part-time staff and those members of the department who are unavailable at other times to receive vaccine. On Saturday, 11/21, vaccination will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at the Public Safety Building.

For members of the Fire Marshal Division, vaccination will be scheduled on an individual basis through Assistant Chief Hartley.

If you have questions about this, please contact Deputy Chief Barton.



2009 Duty Crew Season– By Asst. Chief Bo Duke

The 2009 Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company duty crew season has come and gone, but will not soon be forgotten! This season was one of the most successful in recent memory. Success can be measured on many fronts, such as the following statistics:

***In 2009 we had to fill 108 shifts, we filled all 108.**

***In 2009 we had to fill 108 shifts with a minimum of a driver, officer and 2 SCBA qualified firefighters. That means a minimum of 4 shifts per night.**

***4 shifts per night X 108 nights = 432 shifts, we filled all 432 and then some.**

***In 2009 volunteers actually filled 878.2 shifts, more than twice the required number.**

***In 2009 a shift was 7pm to 7am or 12 hours per shift. 12 hours X 432 shifts = 5184 hours to fill, we filled all 5184 and then some.**

***In 2009 volunteers actually filled 10538.4 hours, more than twice the required amount.**

Success can also be measured in experience gained and training received. Many duty nights found the officers giving hands on demonstrations in the parking lot behind headquarters. The training was as simple as how to throw a ladder, to more advanced SCBA drills, or drills on rescue equipment and techniques.

Our duty crews ran a variety of calls for service, from the average alarm bells call, to CO incidents, from trash can fires, to building fires, and the occasional water rescue. This experience is invaluable when we are trying to maintain a staffing of volunteers held to the highest of standards.

Finally success can be measured by the ability of a group of individuals, coming together for a common goal, even in the face of adversity and change.

On behalf of the chiefs, I would like to thank each and every member who volunteered time this duty crew season. Not only did we achieve the goals that were set last May, we far surpassed those goals. These accomplishments help us move the entire Department forward towards continued success.

“Success can also be measured in experience gained and training received.”

Asst. Chief Duke Commented regarding the 2009 Duty Crew Season

Canned Food Drive

The Ladies Auxiliary has decided to start a food drive. We are requesting assistance from anyone willing to assist with collecting non-perishable food items for families in need.

Any one interested in participating can take non-perishable food items to headquarters and place them in the holiday box near the office. The last date for donated items will be 12/5/09. All food collected will be donated to St. Paul's By the Sea Episcopal Church for their food pantry.

Ladies Auxiliary–

Update on Officers Election

President: Jessica Cropper
Vice President: Laura Anderson
Corresponding Secretary: Dawn Feldman
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Nottingham
Treasurer: Joanne Wagner



Ocean City University Visits OCFD– By: Asst. Chief Kevin Kirstein

Ocean City University was established in 2004 to provide public education and information regarding government services, public policy, organizational structure, and operations. The curriculum covers all facets of municipal government. Students enrolled in Ocean City University receive a better understanding of our Government's role and relationship with its citizens, and also gives them a sense of participation and ownership in government actions. Informed citizens and government, working together, improve the quality of life for Ocean City residents, and make a difference in the community.

Once a week classes are two hours and offered in two 8-week semesters. One class hour equals one credit. Students can earn a total of 32 credits, which will earn them a Bachelor's Degree in Municipal Citizenship. An advanced degree can be obtained by completing the Citizen's Police Academy for an additional 33 credits. This _____ will earn the student a Master's Degree in Municipal Citizenship.

On October 28, 2009, approximately 15 Ocean City University students visited Fire Department Headquarters to learn more about the newly combined Ocean City Fire Department.

Kathleen Mathias, Ocean City University "Chancellor," reports that students always look forward to field trips that demonstrate the capabilities of Ocean City. Chief Lar-more welcomed the group with a brief overview of the transition from three autonomous groups to one combination department. He emphasized that we exist to serve the citizens and visitors of our community at the highest possible level and, that by combining our resources, we have created a world-class fire and rescue system.



Deputy Chief Charles Barton of the Career Fire/EMS Division treated students first to a presentation. Students were impressed with the amount of training and calls for service handled annually, as well as by the broad spectrum of emergency services provided.

Chief Villani's Fire Marshal Division then gave a presentation by Deputy Fire Marshal Cliff Christello. Students learned about the dramatic increase in reported suspicious packages and HAZMAT calls since September 11, 2001, and received an update on carbon monoxide detector code compliance.

President James Jester and Assistant Chief Kevin Kirstein represented Chief Cropper's Volunteer Fire Division. The history and traditions of the Volunteer Fire Company were thoroughly detailed, and then the students were able to observe a sample alarm dispatch. Our state-of-the-art radio, CAD, and MCT systems were demonstrated to show the students our capabilities, as well as thank them for their financial support through taxes and donations.

The evening concluded with hands-on demonstrations of the bomb robot, and new fire and EMS apparatus. Several students indicated it was their favorite Ocean City University session.

F. Michael Sacca Scholarship Awarded

The F. Michael Sacca Scholarship Committee recently named it's 2009 Award Recipient as Ocean City Firefighter John "JB" Bunting. Currently employed as a municipal police officer for nearby Berlin, MD, Bunting is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Fire Science at University of Maryland, University College. Bunting is an active volunteer firefighter with the Ocean City Fire Department, and the lead instructor for the department's Cadet program, which provides an introduction to the fire service for teens aged 14 to 18, a program from which he began his fire service involvement in Ocean City.

Deputy Fire Marshal F. Michael (Mike) Sacca, a third-generation Ocean City native, died in 1991, at the age of 38, from colon cancer. Before his death, he expressed to his family the desire to have a scholarship fund established to perpetuate the study of fire science through qualified applicants. As a member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company and employee of the Ocean City Fire Marshals Office, Mike believed that fire prevention was a 365-day a year job and wanted to maintain the ideals he had established and preserve the Ocean City he loved. Thus, the F. Michael Sacca Scholarship Fund was created. Since Mike's death, the program has provided scholarships focused on collegiate-level fire science education, totaling over \$7,000, awarded primarily to local firefighters.



Interested applicants for the 2010 scholarship award can find out more information and download an application by visiting the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company web site at www.ocvfc.com and click on "Scholarships" on the main page.

Pictured: (L-R: Scholarship Committee Members Josh Bunting, Liz Sacca Kuczinski, Recipient John Bunting, Scholarship Committee Member Joe Sexauer)

Fire Station Updates By: Asst. Chief Bunting

The following is a general overview of completed tasks as well as projects still in the works from the Ocean City Fire Department Building Committee.

Just as our fire department have witnessed the changes of joining services and becoming one “combination” department, so has our building committee. Our committee’s make-up has evolved to include: Volunteer Members and Career Members as well as representation from the Town of Ocean City, all operating under the same motto “united to serve.”

This year started off with the normal amount of general and preventative maintenance projects that accompany the five “seasoned” fire stations our committee oversees and then quickly turned into a season of major projects. Due to the age, overcrowding and costs of maintaining these facilities our committee was tasked to complete concept drawings to replace our Montego Bay fire station and working drawings to replace our Keyser Point Road fire station. Due to the sheer size of these projects, sub-committees were established for each project.

The Keyser Point Road fire station committee consisted of 21 members, 89 total meetings and 834 total volunteer hours. The committee presented working drawings approved by the board of directors and fire chiefs to the membership on November 3rd.

The Montego Bay fire station committee consisted of 12 members, 23 total meetings and 111 total hours. The committee presented concept drawings approved by the board of directors and fire chiefs to the membership on November 3rd.

Other notable projects included:

- The interior re-painting of our Dorchester Street fire house.
- The addition of two bathroom and shower facilities to the volunteer bunkroom at our Headquarters station.

With the two station design projects behind us, the attention of the committee is now directed toward a new layout of the volunteer bunkroom at our Headquarters station that will incorporate private suites with hopes of enticing new members to join our “live-in” program.

A special “Thank You” to all committee members for a job well done.



To submit photos or stories to this newsletter, please contact a member of the Public Information Office.

PIO Ryan Whittington– 410-251-1253

PIO Steve Price– 410-430-5155



November '09 Storm

