



Henrietta Fire District Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 2

Fall 2010

Dear Henrietta Residents,

As promised in the initial issue of the newsletter, the following information will help explain the funding of the Fire District and some of the issues we face.

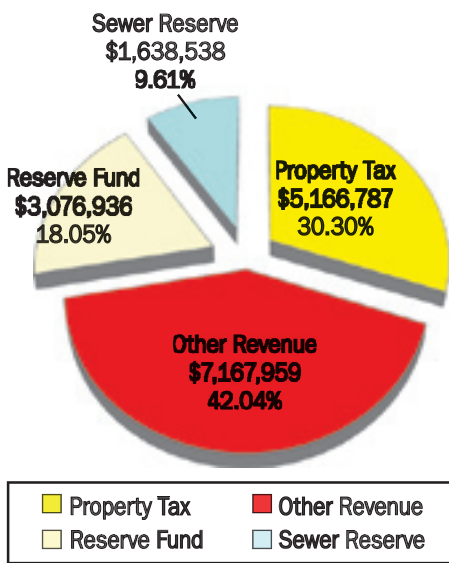
Real Property Tax

Aside from a few grants and some small donations, the real property tax is the only source of Fire District revenue. The Fire District receives 99.44% of its revenue from the real property tax. This is in contrast for example, with the Town of Henrietta which receives only 30.303% of its revenue from the real property tax. The rest of the Town's revenue comes from other taxes such as the sales, hotel/motel and mortgage tax together with fees for service as well as reimbursement from the State for such things as snowplowing for State roads.

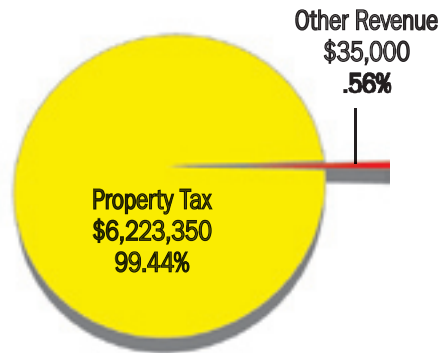
To put that in perspective, if the Fire District received only 30.303% of its revenue from the real property tax, the fire tax would be 62 ¢ per thousand. In an effort to minimize the impact on taxpayers, the Fire District has postponed some programs and purchases, sought grants whenever possible and pursued other funding initiatives.

This is not intended as a criticism of the Town's revenue sources, but to explain how different the funding mechanisms are for the Town and the Fire District, despite the fact that we have the same boundaries and serve the same number of people, residences, businesses, schools, etc.

Town of Henrietta Revenue 2010



Henrietta Fire District Revenue 2010



Grants

We constantly seek grants for the Fire District. Grants are not always listed in the annual budget because they are announced and awarded throughout the year and have separate spending requirements. We can only list guaranteed funding sources when the budget is prepared and adopted. Some require spending the grant money within a few months of the grant award. Others may allow a year or more for spending the grant funds and these can be listed in upcoming budgets.

We make every effort to obtain grants, but there is very limited grant money available to the fire service and we compete for these funds with the rest of the fire service. Between 2001 and 2008 we have been awarded 8 grants totaling \$450,579.00. With this grant money we have purchased:

- Confined space equipment
- Radio equipment
- Firefighter turn out clothing
- Breathing apparatus equipment upgrades
- Exhaust extrication systems for our apparatus
- Backup generators for the fire stations
- Thermal imaging cameras to aid in search and rescue

The grants do not always cover the full cost of these purchases and we must make up the difference from other operating funds.

Other Initiatives

We have had some success with cooperative bidding with other Fire Districts with equipment purchases to reduce costs. Most recently, we made a cooperative purchase of fire hose with the Rush and Mendon Fire Districts at a reduced cost.

We have also tried to be creative in reducing costs and increasing revenue sources, but so far have been unsuccessful. We proposed an incentive based savings suggestion program which would pay 10% of the first year's savings to whomever made the suggestion. If there was no savings, there would be no payment. The second through fifth years, the savings award would be reduced by 2% each year. This was a no cost program however, the State Comptroller said we could not institute such a program as it would be a gift of public funds despite the fact that the savings was to be the source of the incentive payment.

Donations

The three volunteer fire companies solicit donations but the Fire District does not. We occasionally receive modest, unsolicited donations, which are used to further our Fire Prevention Programs.

Tax Exempt Property

The total assessed value of all taxable property in the Henrietta Fire District is \$3,089,519,329.00*.

18% of the property in the Henrietta Fire District is tax exempt and carries an assessed value of \$678,427,279.00*. The payment of the Fire Tax partially subsidizes these tax exempt properties.

The R.I.T. Impact

56.27% of tax exempt property value in the Henrietta Fire District is owned by R.I.T. It has an assessed value of \$381,784,000.00*. The net effect of these exemptions is that 22.52¢ (11%) of the \$2.04 Fire Tax subsidizes the R.I.T. exempt properties. That would mean a house assessed for \$100,000 would pay a

\$22.52 subsidy in 2010.

* Town of Henrietta Assessor

R.I.T. currently makes a voluntary contribution of \$35,000 to the Fire District. That is what a property assessed for \$17,094,050 would pay in Fire District Taxes in 2010, which is 4.47% of their total tax exempt property value.

The Henrietta Fire District responded to 3,633 incidents in 2009, 16.76% or 609 of these incidents were to R.I.T. facilities. We also provide Fire Safety programs, fire extinguisher training, D.W.I. extrication demonstrations, as well as other services to R.I.T. students, faculty and staff.

R.I.T. has made changes to their alarms systems to reduce avoidable alarms, but we see little change in the overall number of alarm responses. While on campus responses have decreased, alarm responses have now shifted to new housing on adjacent properties. They are cited for avoidable alarms and pay fines for certain avoidable alarms. These fines are paid to the Town of Henrietta, not to the Henrietta Fire District.

What Other Colleges And Universities Do

Cornell University makes a payment of approximately \$1,000,000 each year to the City of Ithaca, NY for public safety services.

"Each year, Yale University pays the City of New Haven more than \$10 million in taxes, voluntary payments, and fees - money that helps fund schools, safety, and other citizen services"**.

**Yale website

"Providence's (R.I.) four private schools -- Brown, Providence College, Johnson & Wales University and the Rhode Island School of Design -- agreed in 2003 to pay the city nearly \$50 million over 20 years"***. Providence Mayor David Cicilline is currently seeking to assess a fee on each of the 25,000 full time students.

***Providence Daily Herald

We hope you find this information useful. If you have questions or comments, please use the "Contact Us" tab on homepage. Our website is www.henriettafire.com.

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Who's Who at the Henrietta Fire District

In each edition of our newsletter we will profile of some of our members, so that you will have a sense of the type of person that provides a vital service to our community. Hopefully, when you see them around town, you will mention to them that you saw their profile in the newsletter. In this edition Ryan Barber and Tom Hayes are being profiled.



Ryan Barber Lieutenant

Ryan Barber comes from a long line of firefighters. His Great Grandfather and Grandfather were volunteer firefighters with the West Brighton Fire Dept. His father Ron, is a Battalion Chief with the Henrietta Fire District, where Ryan is also a volunteer firefighter running out of Company #1.

Ryan's older brother Doug is a career firefighter with Henrietta. Ryan started as a Fire Explorer when he was 14 then joined as a firefighter in 2004 when he turned 18. He graduated from Rush Henrietta High School, then earned an associates degree in Fire Protection Technology from Monroe Community College.

Currently, Ryan is a Lieutenant, and once or twice a week, participates with the evening bunk in crew at Company #1. The bunk in crew is made up of volunteers who are on duty at one of the stations at various times during the overnight hours. This is not mandatory, but provides outstanding service to the community by drastically reducing response times.

When not volunteering his time for the Henrietta Fire Dist., he works full time as an emergency medical technician for Brighton Ambulance. He also works part-time for Henrietta and Spencerport Ambulance. Ryan is a newlywed, who's wife Margaret is a paramedic and physician's assistant. Ryan states that he met his wife while volunteering with the Henrietta Fire District.



Tom Hayes Career Firefighter

Tom Hayes grew up in Henrietta watching his Dad go to work as a firefighter at the Rochester Airport. Now, with a family of his own, he heads out the door as a firefighter with the Henrietta Fire District. In 1998 Tom joined the Henrietta Fire District as a volunteer at Company #2. He continued his education at

MCC earning an Associates degree in Fire Science Technology. Tom was hired as a career firefighter in 2002 and works out of Station #4 on Bailey Rd.

Many of you may know or see him around town as Tom is also an Eagle Scout, a lifeguard at Riverton, and a part time bus driver for the Rush-Henrietta School district. He continues to volunteer his time in the community through Son's of the American Legion, at Ely Fagan Post 1151. Tom has lived his whole life in Henrietta, where he is raising two daughters with his wife Wendy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to come and meet your volunteer firefighters at these events. The events listed below are part of the volunteer companies regular fund raising activities, which help support the maintenance of their stations and their operations. We described some of this activity in the first newsletter. The Fire District pays rent for the apparatus rooms in each of the Volunteer Fire Stations, which helps to defray some of the cost of operating these facilities.

West Henrietta Fire Dept. Turkey Party

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, West Henrietta Fire Dept. will hold their Turkey Party at their firehouse, which is located at 774 Eire station Rd. (corner of W. Henrietta Rd.) The party starts at 7pm and runs until? There will be raffles, as well as games, door prizes, free food and refreshments. Admission is free.

Genesee Valley Fire Dept. Turkey Party

On Saturday, November 20, 2010, the Genesee Valley Fire Department will once again hold its annual Turkey Party at the firehouse at 9 Riverview Drive (off River Meadow Drive). The party starts at 7pm and continues throughout the night. In addition to over 40 turkeys being raffled off, there will also be games, free food and refreshments and door prizes. Admission is free. For more information, contact Bill at gvfire@gmail.com.



Acknowledgements

My thanks to the following people for their submissions and other help in the preparation of this newsletter; Lieutenant Brian Krywy, Lieutenant Mike Dinsmore, Battalion Chief Jim Greene, Carol Greene, Municipal Training Officer Bob Hendricks, Firefighter Brian Reynolds and last, but certainly not least Sue Irvine of Messenger Post Media.

Jim McGovern, Commissioner

HENRIETTA FIRE DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

Saturday October 9th

1:00 pm - 4:00 Pm



Henrietta Fire District

Headquarters

850 Bailey Road

Join us for our Open House!

Meet your Firefighters

Tour the Fire House and Fire Trucks.

Watch as the Firefighters cut a car apart with the "Jaws of Life"!

Visit the Fire Safety Trailer.

Learn how to use a Fire Extinguisher!

Have your children participate in our coloring contest.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In addition to their Fire Service duties, District members have a long history of being involved in other community activities.

Scouting

Explorer Post 401 is sponsored by the Fire District. This program is for boys ages 14 to 21. It is geared to introduce the Explorers to the Fire District and what we do. Many of our volunteers and career firefighters began with the Explorer Post. The contact person is Charlie Remelt, 334-5629.

Boy Scout Troop 401 has been sponsored by Henrietta Fire Company #1 for over 40 years. In the past 10 years they have had 20 Eagle Scouts. They meet on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 3129 East Henrietta Rd. The contact person is Scoutmaster Pete Reed.

Boy Scout Troop 7 has been sponsored for a long time by the Genesee Valley Fire Department. Troop 7 has 68 Eagle Scouts - including Firefighters Tom Hayes and Dan Kwiecien

Troop 7 meets Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Genesee Valley Fire Department 3 Riverview Drive. They meet every Thursday as long as there is school that day. Regular meetings start September 16th. The contact person is Scoutmaster Pete Sudlik 585 359-9055.

Firefighters For the Cure 2010

October is the month in which the fire service traditionally promotes fire prevention. It is also the month when those of us who have been affected by breast cancer promote awareness of this disease. The Henrietta Professional Firefighters & Dispatchers Assoc. (IAFF L3738) and the Henrietta Fire District have combined these two very important issues into an awareness and fundraising campaign. If there are more than seven women in your life, chances are at least one of them will hear the words, "You have breast cancer," at some time in their lives. Just as with fire, we can not think breast cancer happens only to other people. Every wife, daughter, sister and mother of every firefighter could face the reality of those words.



To show support for both causes, we are asking that all on-duty firefighters wear our specially designed T-shirt instead of their usual uniform T-shirts through out the entire month of October. Additionally, we would like all off-duty firefighters and their family members to wear Firefighters For A Cure shirts as an additional show of support. Proceeds from the sale of every shirt will be donated to the Pluta Cancer Center, here in Henrietta. Also, the shirt designer is donating \$1 from every shirt printed to the Susan G. Komen for a Cure Foundation.

Shirts will be available at Henrietta Fire District station # 4, at a cost of \$15 per shirt. For more info or questions, please contact firefightersforacure@henriettafire.com.

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Firefighters have a long history of support for the M.D.A. This year was no exception. They conducted a voluntary toll stop at several locations around town. Thanks to your patience and support, this year's "FILL THE BOOT" campaign raised \$17,751.00.



Lt. Steve Hahn



Justin Tam



Battalion Chief Jim Greene

Adopt-A-Hydrant Program

The Henrietta Fire District offers the Adopt-A-Hydrant program to all Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students at all Rush-Henrietta Elementary schools. We ask the children (or family) to "Adopt" a fire hydrant. The children are asked to keep the fire hydrant accessible for the fire department by cleaning weeds and debris from around the hydrant, and keeping it clear of snow in the winter time.

We hope this program will increase awareness of the important role that fire hydrants play in the protection of their homes and additionally foster civic participation in the children.

The children fill out an adoption form and return it to school. The Henrietta Fire District will then issue an "Adoption Certificate" with the child's name and hydrant location on it. In addition to the certificate, one participating child from each school is chosen for a special ride to school in a fire truck.

These pictures are of the winners of the ride to school for the 2009-2010 school year.



Mikaela Porter



Talor Snyder



Spencer Drake



Lucia Berkhof



Brittany Boyd

Pluta Cancer Center

The initial T-shirt (see Firefighters For the Cure 2010) pre-order was placed on Sept. 3rd. for 390 shirts, which is scheduled to be shipped out on Sept. 17th. When those are distributed, the donation to the Pluta Cancer Center at that point will be around \$2,300.

Recruit Classes

We have two recruit classes per year. On May 15th, our first class of seven recruits graduated and was sworn in.

The second recruit class of the year started in May of 2010. The class had been meeting twice a week. This class graduated on October 2nd. We had seven recruits, five from the Henrietta Fire District and two from the Honeoye Falls Fire Dept.



Recruits Shawna Maddocks & Kevin Carpenter were in the Oct. 2 Grad. Class



May 15 Recruit Graduation Class



Night extrication training

Fire Prevention and Safety

New Fire Apparatus

The Henrietta Fire District has taken delivery of 3 new Emergency One (E-One) Rescue Pumpers. They will be assigned to Station #1 at 3129 E. Henrietta Rd., Station #3 at 9 Riverview Dr. and Station #5 at 230 Pinnacle Rd. Two of the apparatus being replaced were 23 years old and the third was 33 years old. The new Rescue Pumpers are identical, which allows for the simplification of parts supply and reduces parts inventory. This purchase updates our apparatus replacement program.

The new apparatus meets or exceeds all current standards. They are equipped with latest safety features such as, a Stability Control System, Automatic Traction Control and a Vehicle Data Recording System, which is similar to an airplane's "Black Box". By purchasing these pumpers in 2010 the District save for an estimated saving of \$45,000. In 2011, additional mandated pollution controls would have added approximately \$15,000 per truck.



What if No One Answered the Call?

What if you called to report a fire or other emergency and no one picked up the phone?

Did you know that nearly 80% of America's fire service is volunteer?

Being a volunteer firefighter takes a person with a desire to do something good for the community – a person with courage and dedication. It takes a person who isn't afraid of hard work and who is willing to accept a challenge.

If you're this kind of person, you're needed as a volunteer firefighter.

For more information give us a call or visit our website at www.henriettafire.com



Smoke Alarms: Up, Down and All Around

In an effort to better educate communities throughout the U.S. about smoke alarm recommendations, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is promoting "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" as the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9, which The Henrietta Fire District is supporting locally. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half, but they must be working properly to do so. The association's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

NFPA and the Henrietta Fire District agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

The Henrietta Fire District offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.
- Change your batteries twice a year. Change them when you change your clocks for day light savings.

To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!," visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Lt. Mike Dinsmore @ 359-7191.

Bus Fire On Thruway

As we stated in the original newsletter The Henrietta Fire District responds to 21 miles of the New York State Thruway. On September 5, 2010, Henrietta Firefighters responded for a bus fire on the NYS Thruway in the area of mile marker 370. When Battalion Chief Jim Greene arrived on location he reported a bus fully involved. The Clifton Fire Dept. responded to the Union St. overpass for a water drop. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



If you have any questions or comments please contact us at Henrietta Fire District

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334-1234 or visit our website and click on the CONTACT US tab

www.henriettafire.com