

ST. JOHNSBURG FIRE COMPANY, INC

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NEWSLETTER ~ SUMMER 2010

The St. Johnsburg Fire Company...who we are

The St. Johnsburg Fire Company was established in 1926 by a concerned group of citizens who felt there was not adequate fire protection within the town. The St. Johnsburg Fire Company is one of five volunteer fire companies within our town that serve our residents with volunteer professionalism 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Over the years our membership has grown and changed, just like our town has changed. We have diversified our response portfolio to include not just responding to fires, but also motor vehicle accidents, EMS calls, Carbon Monoxide calls, HAZMAT calls, water/ice rescue and service calls.

So, who makes up our ranks? Everyday citizens like you, with specialized training and a desire to serve their neighbors. We are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. We hold jobs, have families and several members are enrolled in local colleges and universities. We are just like you...until the tones drop. Then we drop what we are doing to help those around us, knowing we may be answering our final alarm. *"Firefighting: One of the few professions left that still makes house calls" - unknown*

Visit us online!

You can visit us online in two ways. You can visit our website at www.stjohnsburg.com for valuable information on upcoming events and department information or become a friend on our **Facebook** page! We are always accepting donations on our website. Donations to our department are quick and easy with our PayPal feature, and are always greatly appreciated!

STAY SAFE THIS 4TH OF JULY

When celebrating this 4th of July remember to exercise fireworks safety if you plan to include fireworks as part of your festivities. While we don't advise the use of fireworks by untrained persons, and do not advise to use fireworks where prohibited by law, we do want to share some safety tips for everyone's safety:

- € Children should never use fireworks
- € Never use fireworks under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- € Use care in lighting the fireworks
- € Don't continue to light a "dud" firework
- € Be aware of windy conditions
- € Have water close by
- € Only use in a wide open area
- € And above all...use common sense!





OPERATION SAFE DRIVER

The St. Johnsburg Fire Company is worried about a growing epidemic on our roadways and wants your help in changing it. With our 24/7 lifestyle and multitasking nature we have become too good at driving while talking on the phone, eating, reading reports, and even sending text messages and emails! We are asking everyone to take a personal pledge to stop using your phones while driving, and to pass along this message and pledge to everyone you can.



Some facts about texting and driving:

- € People who text and drive are 23% more likely to be in a car accident
- € A study of dangerous driver behavior released in January 2007 by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company found that of 1,200 surveyed drivers, 73% talk on cell phones while driving, and 19% of motorists text while driving.
- € The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis released a study in 2002 that calculated that 2,600 people die each year as a result of using cell phones while driving and another 330,000 are injured.
- € Studies have found that texting while driving causes a 400% increase in time spent with eyes off the road.
- € A truck driver texting while driving is 23.2 times more likely to get into an accident than a trucker paying full attention to the road.
- € Of all cell phone related tasks-including talking, dialing or reaching for the phone-texting while driving is the most dangerous

Courtesy of Edgar Snyder & Associates Law Firm

Courtesy of a study conducted by the [Virginia Tech Transportation Institute \(VTTI\)](#)

When driving remember: safe driving doesn't happen by accident, we are all responsible for safe roads. So next time you are driving and want to send that email or text just remember to ***"Honk if you like us, txt if you want to meet us"***.

Chief's corner

By Chief James Kish, Jr. - St. Johnsburg Fire Company, Inc.

I would like to personally introduce myself to you, my neighbors and citizens of the Town of Wheatfield. My name is Jim Kish, Jr. and I am proud to serve as your Fire Chief. I would like to personally thank everyone that has supported the St. Johnsburg Fire Company over the past several years. Our company, like all emergency services, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for any type of emergency. From motor vehicle accidents, fires, EMS calls to storm related service calls we are here for you, our neighbor.

As this town changes so has our department. Over the past several years I have been proud to lead our department through some very big changes both in operations and in equipment, and I look forward to keeping that forward momentum going over the next several years. If you are interested in joining our ranks to serve the community or know someone that is interested please contact me at 693-3131 or you can send an email to our **Public Information Officer** at publicinfo.stjohnsburg@gmail.com.

What is a volunteer firefighter?

By: Philip R. Richardson, 3rd Assistant Fire Chief & PIO

Volunteer firefighters are people just like you. We have families, wake up in the morning and head to work or school. We take care of our homes, cars and kids. We are a diverse group of people who come from all different walks of life, just as our town is a diverse group of citizens who have lived here their entire life or have chosen to make Wheatfield their new home.

A volunteer firefighter is a person who chooses to serve their community with no hourly wage. Volunteer firefighters take on the daunting task of responding to alarms at all hours of the day or night, complete required training and keep current each year on firefighting skills. In addition, most towns have a limited tax base and cannot afford to pay for all of the expenses a fire company incurs to keep current with training, equipment and other overhead costs. A volunteer firefighter is also a committee chairperson, a fundraiser and a marketing associate. A volunteer firefighter works not only on the fire ground, but also in the bingo hall, wedding hall and on other special fundraising events to keep our equipment current and standards of service high for you, our neighbors.

Over the past several years we have been bombarded with new stories of shrinking governments, shrinking budgets and escalating costs. The dedicated volunteer professionals at the St. Johnsburg Fire Company have taken an oath not just to serve you in your time of need, but to also ensure our equipment is current and ready for use anytime day or night. Our members each year work countless events and raise thousands of dollars to supplement what we receive from our taxpayers, which is reinvested into our equipment and facilities to better serve you.

If you would like to see what your fire company has to offer and the equipment we have ready to respond please contact us and we can arrange to meet you at our station. We also do block parties and children's birthday parties!

"Only a life lived for others is worth living" – Albert Einstein

Training

Just like in the workplace we must keep current with mandated classes each year and keep current with our firefighting and emergency response skills. Our company trains every Thursday evening starting at 7pm on various topics. Most of the drills are held at our hall, some are held at other locations such as the Wheatfield Fire Tower or at other fire companies in the town. If you see us training you are welcome to stop by and observe firsthand what we do and how we train.

Auto Extrication Drill – Jaws of Life and Struts used
(combined drill with St. Johnsburg and Frontier Fire Co)



New ISI airpaks have arrived!

In June we placed our new ISI airpaks in service after extensive department-wide training with the new equipment. We purchased a total of 18 new airpaks to replace outdated and aging airpaks. These new paks have many new features which make our job as firefighters easier and safer. Airpaks are a necessity for safe fire ground operations, as well as uses on HAZMAT calls, reports of unknown type odor calls, Carbon Monoxide calls and any situation where the air quality is unknown.

Amanda's Law

Amanda's Law, which was signed into law in August 2009 went into effect on February 22, 2010. This law mandates the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all homes in New York State. This law is named for Amanda Hansen, a 16 year old girl from West Seneca who died on January 17, 2009 due to a carbon monoxide leak from a defective boiler while she was sleeping at a friends house.

Under this law, all homes in New York State must have a carbon monoxide detector. Homes built before January 1, 2008 are permitted to have battery operated detectors while homes built after this date are required to have the detectors hard-wired.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that cannot be detected by human senses.



- € Odorless, colorless, tasteless gas
- € Never run a car in an attached garage
- € Regularly inspect vents for proper connections, debris
- € Always run gas powered equipment in the open outdoors
- € Remember Carbon Monoxide **and** Smoke Detectors installed in every home reduces the risk of needless injury and death

Keep informed about *your* fire company

If you would like to receive quarterly electronic newsletters from the St. Johnsburg Fire Company and receive immediate news releases on current Emergency Services events within your area you can sign up by sending an email to publicinfo.stjohnsburg@gmail.com. Please include all email addresses you want to have included in this program, and your name. Your email will be used only for information and quarterly newsletters from the St. Johnsburg Fire Company and will never be sold or given to another entity. Once entered into our system you will receive a confirmation email from us.

Going Green!

The St. Johnsburg Fire Company has started to go green, and will continue to help reduce the amount of paper and other resources we use. We have transitioned our training records and some of our fundraising records and reports to electronic records. We are looking to continue this trend in other areas of the company as well!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingo every Sunday night
starting at 7:30pm

Chowder Sale – First Saturday
of each month (excluding
summer months)

Fire Prevention Open House
during Fire Prevention week –
October (Dates and Times
TBA)

CONTACT US

Station Phone – 693-3131

Station Fax – 693-3044

Website:
www.stjohnsburg.com

Email:
publicinfo.stjohnsburg@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT GOVERNANCE

Chief – Jim Kish Jr.

President – Michael Hefferon

Vice President – Robert Walker

Treasurer – Greg Martin

Board Chair – Al Dworzanski

JOIN US!

If you are interested in joining
our ranks please stop by our
station, call us or send an email
to our public information email
address for an application! We
can send you an application via
mail, drop one off to you, or
send it as a .pdf file to your
email.

What is a Firefighter?

He's the guy next door...

He's a guy like you and me with wants and worries and unfulfilled
dreams.

Yet he stands taller than most of us.

He's a fireman...

A fireman is at once the most fortunate and the least fortunate of men.

He's a man who saves lives because he has seen too much death.

He's a gentle man because he has seen the awesome power of
violence out of control.

He's responsive to a child's laughter because his arms have held too
many small bodies that will never laugh again...

He doesn't preach the brotherhood of man.

He lives it.

-Author Unknown