

Hot Calls

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Honoring Frannie

On the evening of June 30, 2015, a contingency of members of the Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company went to Grove Cemetery in Trumansburg, NY to visit the grave of beloved member Francis "Frannie" Furcha, and see the recently installed grave stones. The family placed the headstone, and the members of the Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company sponsored, in her honor, the footstone. Long time fire company member and groundskeeper of Grove Cemetery, David Allen, took the lead in getting the project organized and completed. George E. Hoare Memorial Company, Inc. in Watkins Glen donated the stone and the fire



company sponsored the inscription. In spite of the rain, members stood around Frannie recalling her many conversations, and her impact on all of the volunteers. In

spite of her selfless nature, everyone agreed that Frannie would be honored with the tribute to her life as a volunteer firefighter.

Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Hector Fair	July 23, 24, 25
Tyrone Gun Raffle Tickets \$20	On-going thru September 19
Mecklenburg Sportsman Raffle Tickets. \$10ea	On-going thru October 18

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Firefighter Profile: Billy Kennedy, Jr.

Although all nine departments in Schuyler County are volunteer, we have a fair share of our ranks that have made a career in Emergency Services. Schuyler County has provided career firefighters to the cities of Corning, Ithaca and Elmira, as well as several to other states. In addition there is career staff working, or have worked in the past, at Elmira Heights, West Elmira and Big Flats supplementing the volunteers there. This edition we are highlighting one of these members that started his career here as a volunteer - and continues to volunteer.

Bill Kennedy, Jr. started as a junior firefighter in Tyrone. While a junior he felt the calling to make it his career. After high school Billy entered Corning Community College's (CCC) Fire Protection Technology program. As part of his college studies he was able to take the Basic Recruit Training 11-week program at the NYS Fire Academy, graduating with recruit class 52. Billy was hired as a part-time firefighter for the city of Corning in 2006. While he finished his college program he also worked for WGI doing fire-rescue and

flagging. Upon graduation from CCC with his Fire Protection certificate he went to work for a short stint at Trumansburg Ambulance then Tyler Fire Equipment before moving on to LaFrance Fire Equipment doing fire extinguisher checks and repairs.

While working these fire service related jobs, Billy continued to seek a full-time firefighter career. Testing for the local city departments, as well as traveling to South Carolina, Maryland, and Connecticut, Billy's break came in 2012 when he was hired as a full-time firefighter at the Canandaigua VA Center. The VA houses its own fire department with an Engine, Ladder and Rescue Truck. There is a crew of four working a 24 on, 48 off shift. Billy now works as a full-



time firefighter with the VA and continues to work part-time for the City of Corning. He also volunteers with Tyrone Fire Department, where he holds the position of 2nd Assistant Chief, and is a State Fire Instructor assigned to Yates County. Most recently, he was promoted to Assistant Chief at Canandaigua VA and is in charge of his shift.

Billy lives in Tyrone with his wife Jamie (also an EMT with Tyrone) and their 5 year old son Bryce.

Odessa Firefighter Receives Award

Horseheads High School student Makayla Griffin (*right*) -- an Odessa Fire Department volunteer -- has received a \$1,000 prize from First Heritage Federal Credit Union as part of its "Everyday Hero Award," an honor it has sponsored now for 10 years. Griffin, who has also done in-service training with Schuyler Ambulance, was nominated by teachers based on academic achievement and community service. Other honorees -- from schools around the Twin Tiers -- received a plaque; Griffin won the money through a drawing in which the honorees were entered. Griffin, described as "very active in the Odessa Fire Department," wants to be a career firefighter and paramedic.

**Story and
Picture by
Odessa File**



Burdett FD: House Fire

A structure fire involving a attached garage and single story home was a challenge to Burdett and their second alarm companies. The garage was fully involved on arrival and a good aggressive attack kept the fire from gaining to much headway into the house. With the wind in the favor of the firefighters they were able to keep the damage to the house to the south end of the structure. A 5" line was laid up the driveway and supplied from County Road 7. Watkins, Odessa, Montour Falls and Mecklenburg were assisting Burdett.

The above fire in Burdett and the one below in Odessa were about two weeks apart and very similar in the fact that they were both attached garages and well involved when companies arrived. Aggressive transitional attacks were made in both cases and each of the attached houses were saved. Both owners were home and were alerted by both smoke alarms and someone passing by. The garages and contents on both fires were total losses but the homes were spared with some smoke and fire control damage.

A great job to both companies and their second alarm partners.



Burdett



Odessa



Odessa



Odessa FD: “Yes we still rescue cats in a tree”

Odessa Fire Department (OFD) was called to Cayutaville Road to rescue what was called a sick cat in a tree. They assisted Animal Control to get the cat down. OFD Fire fighter Aubrey Tomassi made the rescue without incident.



Joint Training in Hector

Hector, Burdett, and Lodi held a joint training at the Hector Fire Grounds. A classroom session was held to discuss safety and tactics. Videos of car fires gone bad were viewed. Then it was outside for live fire training. Three sets were made at different times. 1403 live fire training standard was followed with safety officer, command, backup lines and a RIT team. John Jelliff and Rick Churches from Odessa were the instructors.



Shared Training: Tyrone Hosts Beaver Dams

DUMP OR PUMP?

Combined training between Beaver Dams and Tyrone allowed members to practice rural water supply operations. Beaver Dams had their new apparatus (Pierce) 3000 gallon pumper-tanker and new engine. They were the attack group with Tyrone being the mutual aid company. The initial response brought 4000 gallons of water to the scene with Tyrone adding an additional 2500. This prompted training on the first due tanker pumping to the engine while the pond was being set up for drafting operations. The goal was not to run out of water. There was also a fill site set up and it made for a very good drill. You would hope that 6500 gallons of water would knock down any fire to the overhaul stage. Good job.



Learn Not to Burn Wraps Up Another Year

Thanks to all the departments that participated in the Fire Trucks Day.



Dry Hydrants

Do your mutual aid departments know where they are?

Have you flushed them and drafted out of them?

Can you get apparatus to them in all weather?

They are a great tool if they are maintained.



Emergency Services Council Moving Around the County

The council is now meeting in different stations around the county. This gives all an opportunity to see what other companies are doing. Lite eats have been provided.



State of Emergency: Flash Flood

The rains passed and the flooding receded in many areas of Schuyler County on Monday, June 15, but damage was left behind. Some roads were washed out or damaged, basements were still flooded, and the water on the lakes was up, carrying debris.



The roadway on Bailey Hill in the Town of Tyrone was covered with mud after the storm. The Lamoka and Waneta Lake Roads had similar results. *(Photo by Emily Grimmke)*

The photos here -- showing aspects of the flood and the damage -- were provided to *The Odessa File* by readers.

Story and Pictures by Odessa File



Above: The Harley Davidson business at Alpine Junction was flooded. *(Photo provided)*



Left: Monday cleanup included shoveling mud and gravel from the Valero gas station lot, and then hosing it down thoroughly.

State of Emergency...Continued...



Left: Water rushing along an intersection above Watkins Glen. *(Photo by Kevin LeRoux)*

Right: Floodwaters chewed away at the road on Bailey Hill in the Town of Tyrone. *(Photo by Emily Grimmke)*



Swan Hill Road near Alpine was covered with water after the storm passed through. *(Photo provided)*



Franklin Street in Watkins Glen was flooded at its northern end, below the curve into downtown. *(Photo by Kevin LeRoux)*



Various roads like this one, the turnoff above Watkins Glen leading to Tyrone, were closed Monday for repairs by road crews.

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Last Alarms



None

Upcoming Classes

- *HazMat First Responder Ops Refresher (8/18)*
- *EMT Refresher (9/10)*
- *Pump Ops*
- *Aerial Devices*
- *Intelligence Liaison Officer*
- *Strategy and Tactics for the Initial Company Operations*

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

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www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
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Send Us Your Photos, News, and Suggestions!

To send information, or if you want us to visit your station, contact the Emergency Management Office at 607-535-8200 or Rick and Shirley Churches at 607-594-2189 or rickshirlc27@gmail.com