

Hot Calls

Volume 6, Issue 3

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May/June 2019



Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

Applications for the VFA program are out. Fire departments eligible to apply may receive grant funding up to \$1,500 for the purchase of firefighting equipment. Fire departments are required to equally match (50/50) the amount of the grant award. As an example, a fire department is required to spend up to \$3,000 on the purchase of approved firefighting equipment in order to be reimbursed an equal grant amount up to \$1,500. The application deadline is June 28, 2019. For more information, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>



Calendar:

Montour Falls
Fire
Department Fair June 6 –8

Beaver Dams
FD Car Show July 13

Emergency Services Meeting

The Emergency Council meeting was held in the “New Burdett Fire Station”. A small agenda was covered by Coordinator Kennedy.



Emergency Personnel From Around Schuyler County

MONTOUR FALLS, April 20, 2019 -- They came from around Schuyler County Saturday -- members of fire departments, Emergency Management and ambulance service personnel, and a deputy sheriff.

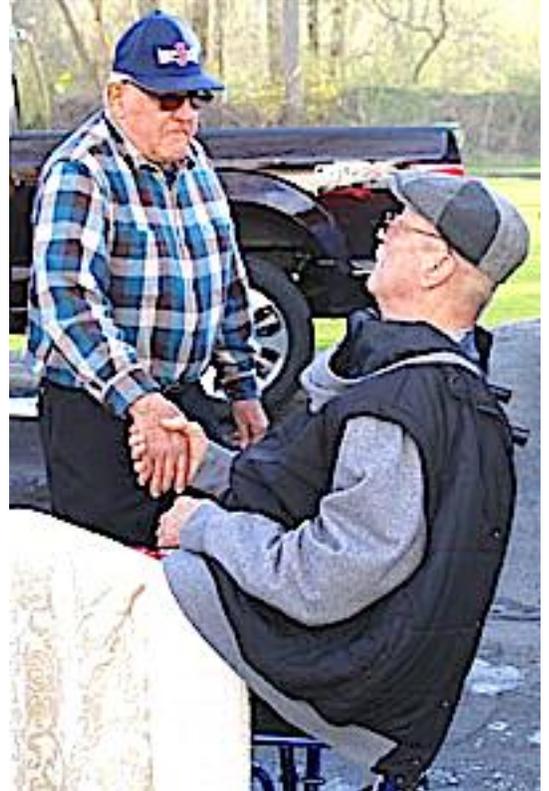
They were responding to a call issued from the Odessa Fire Department to pay their respects to Tom Carson, longtime firefighter, former Montour Falls Fire Department chief and frequent emcee at fire department banquets.

"Tommy," as so many of them call him, has been known around these parts since a stellar high school basketball career. He has been volunteering in fire service operations -- Montour and, later, Odessa -- for five decades. And he was a patrolman in Montour when it had a police department for a while years ago.

"He's always taking the time to talk to people," said one firefighter who gathered with about 60 others late Saturday afternoon outside the Montour Falls department -- the chosen staging area. From there, a caravan of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles made the short trip down Montour streets to the corner of Owego Street and Mary Layton Drive, where Tom lives -- and where he's currently undergoing hospice care as he continues a long battle with cancer.

It was that propensity of his to mix with other people that prompted this particular event. "Tommy has been wanting to come up to visit us in Odessa, have some coffee, but he hasn't been feeling up to it," said Odessa Fire Chief Mike Tomassi. "His birthday is May 20, so we wanted to do this at that time, but he's been struggling. But he's on a new med, and that seemed to perk him up, so I asked his wife if members of the department could come visit him today. Then we sent out word to other departments, and everybody wanted to participate, wanted a chance to see him." There were representatives there Saturday from the Odessa, Watkins Glen, Montour Falls, Tyrone, Mecklenburg, Valois-Logan-Hector, Monterey, Burdett and Beaver Dams Fire Departments, and from Emergency Management, Schuyler Ambulance and the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Tomassi addressed the gathering in front of the Montour Falls Fire Department bays before the visit, explaining how they could travel to Tom's house with sirens blaring and



lights flashing. "I don't care," he said of any strictures that might mitigate against such a show. "It's not my fire district."

The bottom line, he said, was that "we give our love and support to Tom before something happens."

And travel that way they did, the sirens and lights bringing some residents out of their homes to see what was happening on their streets.

After parking on Mary Layton Drive, the visitors made their way on foot to the nearby Carson driveway and backyard, and watched as Tom was brought out of the house in his wheelchair, scanning the assembled throng -- a much larger one than he had expected. All he knew was that the Odessa department was coming. He was lifted, in his chair, down the steps and pushed to a spot on the driveway, near his garage, where he greeted each visitor, one by one. As the sun waned and the temperature dropped, he was provided a hat and jacket.

As each person shook hands with or hugged and kissed Tom Carson, those who had already done so watched from a short distance, smiling. Said one: "It makes so much sense to do this before someone's gone."

At the end, everyone gathered at the end of the driveway, near the trucks parked on the street, posing as a group with Tom Carson front and center.

Then, when the event born of love and respect ended, Tom was pushed back to the stairs leading to his back deck, and lifted in his chair by four men to the deck. He spoke briefly to them from that perch, and then was pushed inside.

And the crowd, some smiling and some somber, headed to their vehicles. And with sirens blaring once again, the caravan pulled onto Owego Street and west, past the front of Tom Carson's house and back into service.

**Story and
Picture by
Odessa File**



Hector Banquet

Hector Responded to 168 Alarms for 2018. The New Hector Library was multipurpose last August during the flooding. It was used as part of the command center during the flood in August and also entertained the children of evacuated residents. They made a donation to the fire company along with Auxiliary. The night as filled with honors for the many deeds accomplished during the flood. The company also took possession of an UTV vehicle that they purchased after the flooding. Many organizations in the community made donations towards the unit



Congressman Tom Reed speaks at the recent Hector Banquet



Congressman Reed Recognizes the Three Firefighters who rescued eleven people from the flooding last August.



2019 Line Officers for 2019

Montour Falls Banquet

Change at the top for Montour as Mathew (Jake) Burns was sworn in as Chief. Bill Thomas retired after serving for four years as Chief and nine years as an officer. Firefighter Cliff Croft was the top responder. Montour responded to 342 calls for service.

Mathew Burns	Chief
Brian Swartwood	1 st Asst.
Andrew Yessman	2 nd Asst.
Joel Husted	Captain
John Horyczun	Lieutenant
Mike Hines	Lieutenant
Jason Overhizer	Rescue Captain



Chief Burns is sworn in and with his Dad to his left.



Officers were sworn in By Coordinator Bill Kennedy.

Good Stop in Monterey

Fire in the afternoon of March 25th brought out the Monterey Fire Company and their second alarm partners. On arrival they found a working fire on the front porch of a residence on CR 16. Quick action with an 1 ¾" inch line knocked the fire down. Second alarm companies were continued non-emergency. Quite a bit of damage to the porch but it did not extend inside the structure.



Companies take up after a good knock down.



Monterey engine was operated by Dominick Smith the original operator stretched hand line on the fire.

FESTIVAL

Montour Falls Fire Department 63rd Annual

JUNE 6th-8th

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

on the Cayuga Health System Stage

JACOB BRYANT Friday, June 7th

RJ SCOUTON Friday, June 7th

RUST Saturday, June 8th



PARADE OF BANDS

JUNE 8TH 5:00PM

High School bands to appear...

**Canaseraga • Addison • Jasper Trousburg
• Prattsburg • Canisteo • Corning-Painted
Post • Dundee Steel Drum**

CHICKEN BBQ SATURDAY

Noon till gone. 1,000 Dinners

RIDE WRIST BANDS

Thursday 6pm-10pm, Sat. Noon-4pm



**FOOD - RIDES - GAMES
BINGO - CLAMS - BEER
FREE ADMISSION**

Working Fire Montour Falls

March 26th at a little after midnight Montour responded to a reported working fire on the Mills Road. Just elected Chief Jake Burns arrived to find a converted wood-tex building well involved. A second alarm was already in motion. On arrival of Montour engine 16 a good knock down was made. This building was converted to a residence for two adults and three small children. They all got out safely. Four dogs were lost in the fire. The family credited the County Learn Not to Burn program for teaching the children the need to have and practice the home evacuation plan. Water supply was established in the village of Montour.



E-16 hits fire



Tankers were looped around to the fill site



Overhaul of the home.

Learn Not to Burn

Those in the LNTB program have always felt that it is worth more than we can ever imagine the lives and property saved from the effort we put in. Once in a while we get feedback on a job well done from the public, teachers, fire departments and the students themselves after they have become adults. The fire in Montour Falls became one of those times. The statement from newly elected Chief Jake Burns says it all!

Good morning

As you know last night we responded to a structure fire on Mills Rd in the town of Montour. The structure was a 12X40 woodtex style shed that had been converted into a residence, to house a Family of 5 (2 adults and 3 children ages 7,5,3). This was a fast moving fire due to the lack of room and fire load inside the structure. I'd like to point out that there were no smoke detectors in the residence at anytime. An adult was alerted to the fire when she found it difficult to breathe while sleeping, woke her husband, and he walked out to discover the fire in the front of the residence. After alerting the rest of the family the children exited the structure and went to their meeting place. This action is a direct result from the learn not to burn program we provide in our schools. The 7 year old a 1st Grader at B.C. Cate recently had to fulfill an assignment mapping out her residence and practicing her EDITH drill with her Family. If these Skills and Drills had not been taught the outcome of this fire could have been much worse.

I am extremely proud of the learn not to burn program that Schuyler County EMO provides to our school aged children, and thank each and everyone involved for dedicating their time and efforts to this cause. Without this program we as a department, the homeowners, and the family would have had to deal with a much worse outcome.

Please pass this on to Donnie and Rick and Shirley as they as always our representatives in our protection district. A representative from OMCS contacted me first thing this morning after speaking with the family, and expressed how grateful the Mother was for the program.

Thanks,
Jake Burns
Chief Montour Falls FD



Fire where five people lived.



Dasia Herрман instructs students on Learn Not To Burn. Dasia is one of our new and younger instructors form Odessa Fire Department. Other instructors are Donnie Daylrimple, Shirley and Rick Churches

Fatal Accident Occurs Near Alpine Junction

A 50-year-old Campbell woman, Annette M. Osborn, was pronounced dead at the scene Thursday following a three-vehicle accident at 12:56 p.m. on Route 13 in the Town of Cayuta, near Alpine Junction. The Schuyler County Sheriff's office said Osborn's



Photo: Traffic was directed at Alpine Junction away from the accident scene, located a mile north on Route 13.

southbound

car crossed the center line and struck the side of a car driven by Corrine B. Taylor, 25, of Elmira, and then struck, head-on, a truck driven by Douglas M. Collins, 34, of Cayuta. Taylor was transported to Cayuga Medical Center and treated for minor injuries. Collins and his passenger, Brian L. McClean Jr., 22, of Cayuta, were transported to Robert Packer Hospital for treatment of several fractured bones.

Responding to the scene were the Odessa, Montour Falls and Community Fire Departments; Schuyler County, Erway and Bangs Ambulances, and Guthrie Air Helicopter. A State Police Accident Reconstruction Team assisted in the investigation.

**Story and
Picture by
Odessa File**

Code Enforcement Very Important!

The code enforcement officers have a very difficult job. The fact that is important to firefighters is this directly effects the safety of us doing our job. Recently I attended two working fires in the county one in Mecklenburg and one in Montour Falls that the outcomes of the fires could have been much different. The reason being code was not involved in either fire prior to the call. I felt very strongly that the fire in Meck could have easily trapped firefighters doing their job and the other could have been fatal to five persons including three children. How can we make a difference in this process is to support the code officer in their work. The other part is to have code officers available when the need arises even in the middle of the night. Through the good work of fire prevention, code enforcement, and working alarms, both co and smoke alarms lives can be saved and property conservation accomplished. I get it that a

person's property is theirs and most don't want to be told how to do things. We do no favors by allowing people to continue to have unsafe conditions when we have been on a call. Then if something happens after we leave its on us. Recent positions for code officer have become vacant for several reasons, but for the most part there is not a lot of support.



The two fires are examples of where code could save both firefighter and civilian lives!

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

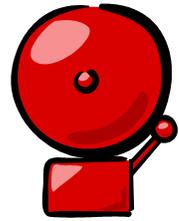
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Last Alarms



*Anne Bebout
Beaver Dams FD*

*Tom Carson
Montour Falls/Odessa FDs*

*Gerald Krebs
Tyrone FD*

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

Tentative:

- *Traffic Incident Management (3 classes: 6/1, 6/22, 7/20)*
- *Engine Company Ops (8/20)*
- *BEFO (early September)*
- *School Bus Rescue (Fall)*

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

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

**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