



FULLY INVOLVED

JUNE 2025

ORCHARDPARKFIREDISTRICT.COM

District Chief's Notes

What's new

Duty Shifts started May 1st. Members will be available and respond from Taylor Rd. for all calls throughout the district. You may see them out and about:

Tim Bender
John Benevento
Greg Bienias
Matt Coons
Christine Davenport
Dakota Jarka
Jordan Lambert
Chris Pieri

If you are looking to pick up duty shifts, please see your Chief or Jay.

Commissioner's Corner



As you may be aware, the District Officers have been working with the Board of Commissioners to Update and re-establish our state Occupational Safety and Health (O.S.H.A.) requirements, as well as the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) and Insurance providers recommendations. While the Officers researched modern and current information on Incident Management, the Board of Commissioners has contracted w/ Safety Management Solutions, Inc. to re-write the Occupational Safety and Health Policies and Trainings. Our hope is that these projects will be completed by the end of 2025. These Policies and Programs are specifically designed to protect all District Fire, EMS and Employees, from unnecessary harm in the workplace.

As part of this project, several manuals have been established to help inform and educate the Fire and EMS personnel. First is the District Incident Operations Programs, Procedures and Training Guidelines. This manual established Incident Operational Procedures as a guide to Officers and Firefighters alike to more effectively respond to and mitigate emergency incidents.

The manual is a "Living Document" which will be overseen by the District Officers and to be up to date on incidents and Procedures.

Secondly is the Districts Training Unit Programs, Policies and Training Guidelines. This manual(s) comprises information on District Training Office responsibilities, Training Evolutions, New Member Orientation and Training Bulletins which covers information on district equipment. As a new piece of equipment comes into service, a training procedure will be established. Our hope is for this manual to take some of the stress of developing drills and training on equipment off the Training Officers. We hope that soon, these manuals will be placed on the district's web site for members' use and review. If you have any comments or concerns, feel free to notify myself or any Board member.

Bill Hanrahan
whanrahan@opfiredistrict.org

Jr. FF of the month – Zachary Restorff - Hillcrest



Zach has been working hard in his training for the past year. One element that all first responders must learn in this line of work is what we call "making themselves comfortable with the uncomfortable." Zach has certainly learned this and has continually demonstrated he has what it takes. Several months back I was contacted by a Cheektowaga Resource Officer that wanted to commend Zach on an incident that happened at Zach's high school several weeks back.

A fellow student had an issue and decided to put his arm through a glass display window severing an artery in his arm and showing significant blood loss. As one would imagine, the scene was chaos with several teachers afraid to engage and the Resource Officer trying to assist the patient while Emergency Responders were contacted to respond. Zach saw what was going on and immediately engaged the officer and asked to assist. Zach aided the officer by putting a tourniquet on the patient's arm to stop the bleeding and calm the student down.

The officer was incredibly impressed by the way Zach was able to stay calm in a chaotic circumstance and knew how to act. The patient was transported and survived the incident thanks to the quick work of the Resource Officer and Zach Restorff. Zach is a 3rd generation firefighter to come through Hillcrest being the son of Hillcrest firefighter Roger Restorff and grandson to Hillcrest firefighter George Slocum. Zach, while still attending high school, still finds the time to make 150 calls and 12 drills in 2024 and on pace to surpass that in 2025. Zach has become what we strive to find in the next generation of fire fighters coming up. This coming October Zach will turn 18 and will immediately be made a firefighter of the Hillcrest Fire Company. We look forward to watching Zach's development serving his community.

Chestnut Ridge Park

District Drill



May 19, 2025, members of Central, Windom and Hillcrest participated in a OPFD District drill honing those rope skills for the inevitable slip and fall at the park.



ORCHARD PARK SCHOOL PROM DRILL



*From the Desk of Chris Couell:
District Fire Training Officer*



1. The county has changed the application process for state courses. We have now added the state course number and a pre-filled Training Authorization Letter for each class to the County Fire Safety webpage. It is now mandatory that a TAL is provided for each student **PRIOR** to being officially enrolled in any state course and filed in the state Learning Management System (LMS). We are working closely with the state to make this an easy transition for our county firefighters. PLEASE USE THE STATE COURSE ID NUMBER ON THE TALs. If anyone needs assistance, please contact me. Chiefs, you will need to sign the TALs after approving that your firefighter is taking a class. This is due to having the students covered from the time they get in their car to go to their first class, to the time they return from the last class.
2. The June District drill will be Monday June 16th. We will be doing Live Fire training at Chestnut Ridge starting at 19:00.
3. I would like to congratulate Captain Steve Majstorovic from Orchard Park for completing the NYSAFC's training at the "Rock". That's the FDNY Training Academy in NYC. Steve did 2 days of intense Live Fire hands on training led by a cadre of FDNY Instructors. He did a total of 16 hours of Truck Company & Engine Company training. Steve is looking forward to sharing those skills with our district members at upcoming drills.
4. I want to congratulate the following Orchard Park Fire District members who completed the GRIT Self Survival weekend at Getzville this year. This 2-day training takes firefighters through brutal self-survival skills, and challenges them to the point of failure or success. We are proud to say our OPFD firefighters did a great job. Congrats to Maria Rosa Dinehart, Alex Aubrecht, Tim Bender, Joe Piehler, and Connor Moran.
5. Thank you to all those OPFD Firefighters who attended FDIC 2025. This is a huge commitment to take a week out of your personal life, and train for the benefit of our community. Those who attended this year were: Bill Hanrahan, Mark Szczepanik, Jay Knavel, Rob Germano, Jake Leckel, Rick Zawislak, John McAvoy, Ernie Matthews, and Eric Knavel.
6. As always, if there is training you want to attend or have us provide, please let me know and we will try to make it happen.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



From The EMS Desk:

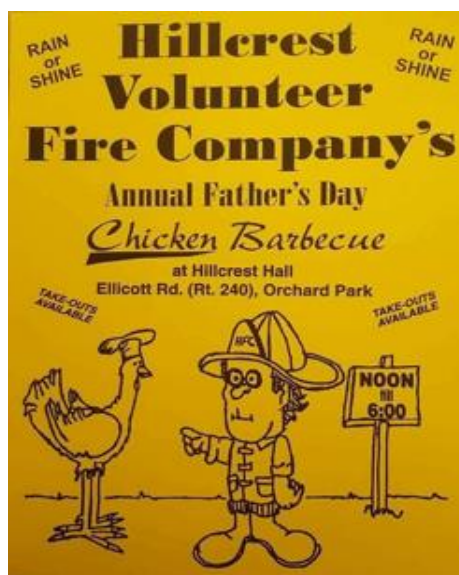
I want to start off by saying how excited I am about having a Fire District newsletter. I feel this will be an important resource for District information and we will utilize this column as a communication tool related to the EMS side of things.

I would like to encourage any district member to help with EMS calls. It is a great way for the newer members to learn how valuable the EMS side of the Fire District is and where tools are located. Generally, 80% of the calls are EMS related and there are always things for members to do on scene.

As a reminder, any Fire District member can ride in the ambulance to the hospital if they choose to. Just let the OPEMS provider know that you are interested, and they will be more than happy to have you accompany them.

Thank you for your dedication to your community.

Eric Knavel
Director of EMS Operations
OPFD EMS



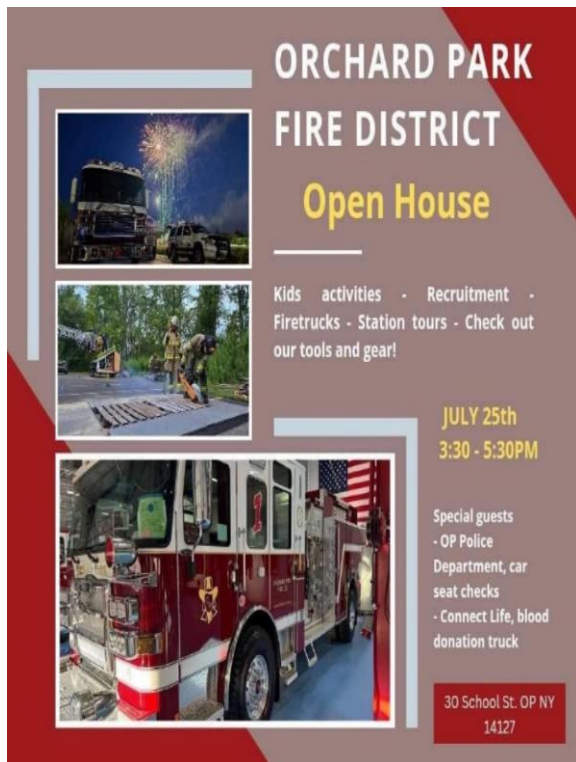
*Chicken B-B-Q on June 15th, Father's Day.
Come out and support Hillcrest.*

*Hours: Noon - 6pm
Take out Available*



ORCHARD PARK:
Jordan Lambert – Duty Firefighter
Alex Saxon – Jr. FF

HILLCREST:
Kiley Dearborn – Jr. FF



FIRE DISTRICT Open House

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND
BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS – WE
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!**

*On your way to the Ice Cream Social, stop by
and join us for an exciting and family-friendly
afternoon at the firehouse!*

Date: Friday July 25, 2025

TIME: 3:30pm – 5:30 pm

LOCATION: 30 School St., Orchard Park, NY 14127

Activities Include:

- **Fun Kids Activities**
- **Police Car Seat Checks** to keep your little ones safe
- Explore real **Firetrucks, Tools and Gear** up close
- Enjoy delicious eats from a **Food Truck**
- Stop by our **Recruitment Table** to learn how you can get involved
- **Connect Life** *Blood Drive* from 1pm - 5:30pm!

This is a free event and open to the community.

Whether you're curious about becoming a firefighter or just looking for a fun activity out with the family, there's something for everyone!

Questions: Mdinehart@opfiredistrict.org



Steve
Majstorovic –
Central, at State
Fire Chief's "Hot
on the Rock"
weekend.



**Erica Michael – Windom,
won the \$50 Amazon gift
card. The Board
anonymously chose her
suggestion for the new
OPFD newsletter.
Congratulations Erica!!**

TOP RESPONDERS

Jan – April 2025

Richard Zawislak – Windom 208 Calls

Ronald Durcholz – Central -193 calls

Larry Brand Sr. - Hillcrest – 176 calls

Ernie Matthews – Hillcrest – 159 calls

Rosa Dinehart – Central – 142 calls



**You are
never
too old
to set
another
goal or
to dream
a new
dream.**

Anonymous



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kim Gretka – June 1 – Windom

Miranda Kranz – June 2 – Windom

Michael Carey – June 14 –
Windom (Flag Day)

Matt Szczepanski – June 17 –
Central

Jonathan Gill – June 28 – Hillcrest

Paul Held – June 28 Windom

