

Bloomington Volunteer Fire Dept. Bloomington, N.Y

Fire Chief
Fred Harries

www.bloomingtonfiredepartment.com

Company President
Joseph Hafner Jr.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229218973797083/>





IN MEMORY
OF

OUR DECEASED
MEMBERS.
THOSE WHO HAVE
LED THE WAY
TO WHERE
WE ARE TODAY.

Organized May 1941

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the Rosendale Library, Our Fire Dept. Historic Committee (Chairman Joe Hafner Sr., deceased member Les Evory, deceased member Rev. Wilhelm Haysom, deceased member Warren Prandoni), our Ladies Auxiliary, Mr. Richard Hermance for putting together our 75th anniversary slide-video show and providing technical assistance as well as helping to put this publication together for our website, Mr. Dave Massimi for proofing this history of our Fire Department, Lt. Rebecca Harries, Chief Fred Harries, and Darlene Moylan. We would also like to thank William Lyons for taking the membership photos on June 6, 2016 as well as all of the other members and people who assisted us with putting this event together.

Fred Harries
Chief

Joe Hafner Jr.
Company President

Board of Directors:

- Mike Hines
- Michael Schabot
- Erik Hines
- Alan Brown
- Brian Phillips

BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

To begin our historical tour of the Bloomington Fire Company, we might start out with some comments about the average small town in the era of time around the early 1900's. There were many small villages, communities and hamlets that were in many ways almost identical with the exception of name and location. They all had houses, general stores, perhaps a post office and railroad station and, in many cases a Church. However, one facility was missing from the scene in some of the communities, that being a fire house. Bloomington was no exception at the time, because we had no fire company. If a place caught on fire, the neighbors would all get together to try and throw enough water on the fire to extinguish the blaze. Many times they failed. The alarm in those days was to yell as loud as you could, or the women would bang pots together to try to attract some attention.

As our community moved into the late 1930's, an attempt was made to organize a volunteer fire company, however, not enough interest was received at the time. However, as fate would have it, a local disaster occurred which would once again get the minds of the community thinking in the direction of the necessity of a volunteer fire company.

The church bell began to ring at a very unusual hour which attracted the attention of the town's people. Upon their investigation, they witnessed one of their most dreaded occurrences. Another house was on fire! This time it was the Parsonage of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church. They all gathered around the scene and watched helplessly as the building burned to the ground because there was no fire company to call to assist.

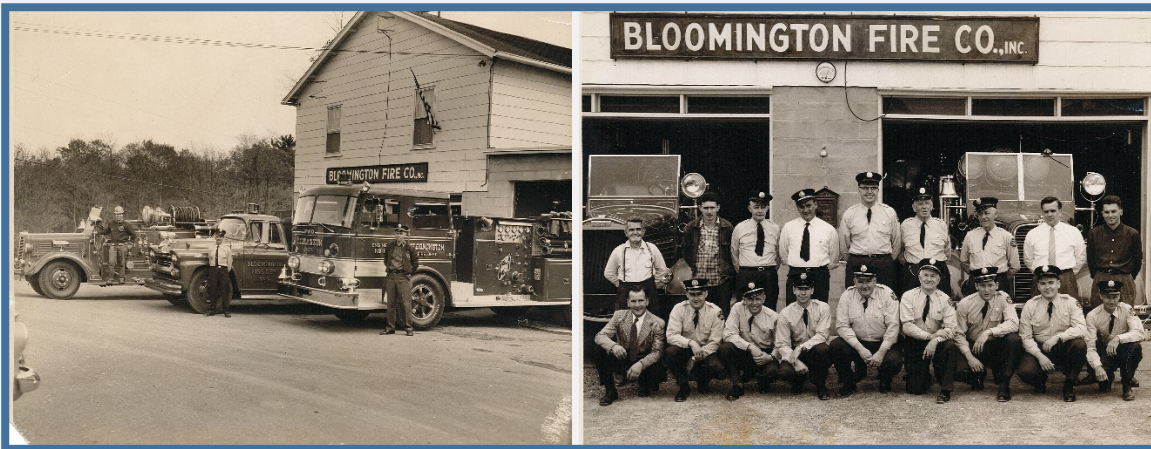
Following this disaster, a group of local men met at the home of Joseph Yunker to discuss the possibility of obtaining some form of fire protection for the area. The time was May, 1941. At this first meeting, the group decided to attempt to form a local fire department and the call went out for volunteers. The following are the Charter Members of the Company: James Coutant, Edmund Dession, Walter Fatum, Ernest Grafe, Reverend Wilhelm Haysom, Edward LeFever, John "Charlie" Markle, Frank McElrath, Joseph O'Connor, Robert Racicot, Charles Reilly, Theodore Riccobono, George Rorebeck, Fred Sauer, Adolph Sterbenz, Walter Swarthout, Roy Taylor, Joseph Yunker, Henry Yonnetti, and Leo Yonnetti.

The second meeting of this group of volunteers resulted in the name of the Bloomington Fire Department being adopted. Officers were also elected. Reverend Haysom was elected the Company's first Chief. Joseph Yunker became Assistant Chief, Edmond Dession, Captain and Edward LeFever, Secretary/Treasurer. Also, at this meeting the group voted to spend \$60.00 with which to purchase its first piece of apparatus from the Tillson Fire Department. We were an authentic fire department now for we owned a marvelous 1931 converted Hudson passenger car which carried a load of two 40 gallon chemical tanks on it. To get water out of a hose line on this rig, acid contained within the tanks was mixed with the water in the tanks producing pressure. This truck served as the only piece of Bloomington's equipment for years. Most of that time it was stored in Assistant Chief Joseph Yunker's garage. This in effect was our first fire house. We might add at this time, that our first unofficial tanker was a pick-up truck owned by Ed LeFever. Onto this truck, he would load as many milk cans as possible to shuttle water to the scene.

Through the first several years, the company had no set meeting place and the members would alternate from one member's house to another, the Creek Locks School, and other locations. Also, during the early years of the company's growth, the Ladies Auxiliary came into existence. Throughout the years, they have truly been a valuable asset to the company's growth.

The company continued to exist in its early stage of growth until 1945 when a decision was made to establish the office of the President. This was done and Fred Sauer was elected the first President, a position that he held until he retired at the June 3, 1966, meeting.

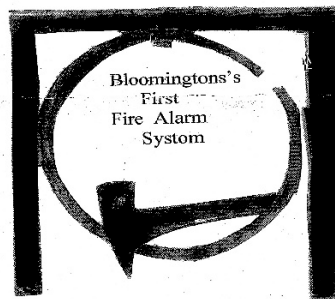
Throughout these early years of the company's existence, it was a known fact that a fire house would eventually be needed. To this necessity, a portion of the Sagar Estate was purchased in 1946 for a sum of \$500.00. During that same year, footings were poured and a concrete block drive was set up which netted the company over \$1,200.00. With funds borrowed from John and Edith Bordenstein and other financial contributions, enough money was raised to build the fire house which was completed and dedicated on June 3, 1947. Co-incidentally, the first fire house was located approximately 1,000 feet from the parsonage which burned.



**Yonkers Grocery Store &
Gas Station.**

Located on the corner of
Main St. & Rt. 32. Was
The temporary home for the
Bloomington Fire Companies
First fire truck, (a converted
Hudson Touring car.)

Frank Yonnetti .
Became the owner and
Operator of Yonkers
Store & gas station.



This is an old
advertisement,
spelling errors and
all, that shows our
first alarm
notification system.

The recently organized Ladies Auxiliary assumed the payments of personal loans secured for the building. Also, in 1947, we find the Bloomington Fire Company becoming incorporated under the Membership Corporation Laws of the State of New York. In addition, for the sum of \$500.00 a newer piece of apparatus was purchased to replace the old Hudson.



In 1948 we find the company proposing the formation of a fire protection district which was approved by the Rosendale Town Board which resulted in the fire company receiving an annual income of \$1,000.00. In 1949, a similar arrangement was made with the town of Ulster for fire protection in the Eddyville area which gave the company an additional \$500.00. With the monies received from the town contracts and a \$5,000.00 loan from Adolph Sterbenz, the company bought its first piece of fairly new fire apparatus from the Monsey, NY fire department. The truck was a 1937 Sanford pumper.

In 1950, the company undertakes a campaign to increase the limit from 2 miles to 3 miles from the fire house for reduced insurance rates. In 1954, a new law was passed in New York State increasing the limit as proposed by the Bloomington Fire Company which received credit for initiating the new law.

In 1951, a United States Savings Bond drive was conducted at every meeting and the additional income was used to purchase needed equipment. By the end of the year 1951, the Director's annual report revealed the Company's net worth to be close to \$24,000.00.

In 1952, another fire truck was purchased. This truck came from the Saugerties Fire Department and was funded by \$100.00 loans from 20 members of the fire company.

In 1954, the Company borrowed \$7,000.00 from the Kingston Trust Company to purchase a 1939 Sanford Pumper and to equip the apparatus with a 1,000 gallon tank and other equipment.

During this time, the financial status of the Company was boosted by increases from the town boards of Rosendale and Ulster for fire protection coverage.

In 1956, the Company implemented its annual coin card drives and with this additional revenue, the mortgage was paid in full. To celebrate this milestone, a party was held and the mortgage was publicly burned.

1957 found the fire company adding many pieces of miscellaneous firefighting equipment to their growing inventory.

In 1958, a loan was once again obtained to install steel stairs on both sides of the fire house for general use and also as a safety exit from the building.

During 1959, we find the Company conducting its last self-organized and manned carnival, an annual event which began in 1946. The wooden booths, canvas wraps and various shelving and platform units that had served us so well for many years were finally retired. Do you remember the parades we held to announce our carnivals? Other fund raising events were undertaken including pancake suppers, barbeques, clam bakes, clam chowder sales, raffles and any other methods we could think of to raise much needed funds. Fund raising events have continued through the years to the present time which has included many events sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.



BARBECUEING CHICKEN AT FIRE COMPANY CLAMBAKE
FIREHOUSE GROUNDS
SEPTEMBER '62

During the early 1960's the Bloomington Fire Company became part of the newly formed Ulster County Fire Control System thereby allowing for all dispatches to originate from one central control station located on Golden Hill in Kingston.

Fatal Plane Crash in Maple Hill

Shortly after 10a.m. on Sunday, March 20, 1960, a Piper Tri-Pacer circled twice near the New York Thruway and then dove straight down hitting the ground off Alberts Avenue, about 200 yards from the Thruway.⁷⁴ The impact blast was heard a mile away in Bloomington.⁷⁴ Killed and dismembered were Ralph R. Peters, age 63 and the flying instructor, Oliver T. Rex, age 37, Karl H. Schmuldt, age 33 and his daughter Linda Schmuldt, age 16.⁷⁴ Leaving Allentown-Bethelhem-Easton Airport at 9:15 a.m. that Sunday morning, the group, all of whom were from Allentown, were on their way to Schenectady.⁷⁴

Ulster County Coroner Francis J. McCardle and Arthur H. Brown, Ulster County Investigator, praised the 20 volunteer members of the Bloomington Fire Company, under the command of Chief Oscar Hahn, who assisted with the removal of the bodies from the wreckage and who stood by with fire fighting equipment.⁷⁴ They also praised these volunteers for protecting the downed plane from hundreds of inquisitive spectators.⁷⁴



Photograph taken by Les Evory



In 1960, we find the fire company involved in sponsoring its own marching band.

In 1961, Engine #3, a 1936 Sanford pumper, was taken out of service. Several pieces of equipment were salvaged and installed on a recently purchased Chevrolet chassis with a rear mounted portable pump thereby giving the Company its first 1,000 gallon tanker.

In 1962, an addition was added to the fire house which would eventually become the home of Bloomington's first NEW piece of fire apparatus, an F.W.D. 750 gallon per minute cab forward pumper, delivered May 12, 1963.

In 1963, the Company was presented its first trophy at the Ulster County Fire Chief's Competition. Since then, numerous competitions and parades in which both the Company and Auxiliary have participated which have resulted in an excess of 130 trophies and plaques adorning the meeting room of the fire house.

In 1964, the Company installed a new telephone alarm system for added protection. This system allowed for the siren to be blown from fire phones located in certain member's homes, a much quicker method than the previous ones which required someone going to the fire house to set off the siren which in itself was an improvement over the first alarm system which was an iron railroad locomotive wheel ring that had to be hit with a sledge hammer.

The year 1965 found the Company selling its old tanker and its 1937 Sanford pumper to purchase a Chevrolet chassis onto which was installed a new custom built 1,500 gallon tank, complete with a 1,500 gallon portable folding reservoir. Also, during the same year, a new 10 horse power, cycled alarm system was installed on the fire house.

In 1966, an extensive building renovation project was begun. The meeting hall was renovated including new paneling, and a suspended ceiling which provided indirect lighting for the entire second floor of the building. Plans were also being completed for updating the engine bays. It was also during this time that the Company purchased its first new complete set of regulation uniforms.

On Sunday, May 22, 1966, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrated its 25th Anniversary. At that time, the Company had a roster of 120 members, owned two pumpers, a tanker with a total water carrying capacity of over 3,000 gallons and was valued according to the last annual report at close to \$70,000.00. The year 1966 also finds the Company expanding its fire protection coverage as we are now responding to calls on the New York State Thruway covering that portion of the Thruway located in the Town of Rosendale from milepost 81.1 to milepost 87.7. We have been dispatched to the Thruway many times since our first call on August 22, 1967 to a truck fire at 5:12 AM, located at milepost 81.9 northbound.

In 1969, the Company purchased its second new piece of apparatus, this being a Pierce 1,000 gallon per minute pumper with a 1,000 gallon booster tank for a sum of \$39,000.00. This truck was initiated into service on May 28, 1970. During March of 1969, a used 1967 Ford four wheel drive pick-up truck was purchased and converted into a brush truck. It carried a tank with 200 gallons of water and other brush firefighting equipment. To make room for our new pumper, the 1939 Sanford was sold to the Big Indian Fire Department.

In 1970, the Thruway crash gate opened up allowing our apparatus and firefighters to respond directly onto the New York State Thruway.



In 1973, the Company bought a 1973 International truck chassis and built it into a 1,500 gallon tanker.

Due to the previous years of growth, the year of 1977 finds the Company requiring additional room for expansion. As discussions were held to decide whether to expand the current building or build a new one, an opportunity arose to purchase 3 acres of land for \$7,500.00 situated on Taylor Street near State Route 32. A decision was made and the property was purchased.

During 1977 the Company established a policy proclaiming that young men at the age of 16 with parental consent could join the fire company. They would be trained to perform many firefighting related techniques with the older members but would not be allowed to drive the equipment.

The year 1978 finds the Company obtaining a loan from the Farmer's Home Administration for the amount of \$92,000.00 to build a new fire house on Taylor Street. With this loan and the money received from the sale of our fire house on Main Street for \$28,000.00, we were able to build and equip our new fire house. The new firehouse was dedicated on September 10, 1978.



In 1980, the Company once again took delivery of a new pumper equipped with a 1,500 gallon booster tank, 1,000 gallon per minute two stage pump and various other pieces of equipment. Also, a used Peter Pirsch 65 foot aerial ladder truck was purchased, therefore, entering the fire company into a new phase of firefighting ability.



In October, 1982, a used air compressor was purchased for the purpose of filling our air bank system and the bottles used by individual firemen due to the requirement that self-contained breathing apparatus is required for all fire ground operations. This purchase has saved the Company a considerable amount of money that would be expended for filling these bottles.

In January, 1983, members of the Company began training to provide medical emergency service to the district. The first call was responded to in April of that year. Medical calls would soon account for roughly 2/3 of our calls for service.



During the years 1983 through 1988, various pieces of used apparatus were purchased of which four were still in service through 1991.

In May, 1987, the Bloomington and Binnewater Fire Companies voted to merge. This provided better coverage for the combined fire districts. The merger became official in July of 1988. This merger resulted in the Bloomington Fire Company now operating out of two stations, one located in Bloomington known as the Bloomington Station, and the other located in Binnewater, known as the Binnewater Station. The subsequent cooperation between the two former companies has proved the wisdom of the merging action. We currently maintain a complete fleet of firefighting apparatus at each station and are planning upgrades in Binnewater as the Williams Lake project moves forward.



In May, 1989, the final payment was made to the Farmer's Home Administration on the loan for the new fire house located at 14 Taylor Street. During July of the same year, two new Pierce Arrow, 4 door, 1,000 gallon per minute pumper were put into service, one in the Bloomington Station and the other in the Binnewater Station.

In May 1991, the Company celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an open house held that year. At the time, the Company had a roster of 103 members, owned 4 Engines, a Tractor Trailer Tanker, an 85 foot Platform Aerial Truck, a Light Rescue Truck, a fully equipped Heavy Rescue Truck, a Mini Pumper, a fully equipped Rescue Boat which gave the company the ability to respond to a fire call with almost 13,000 gallons of water reaching the scene on the initial dispatch. A Chiefs car was also purchased.

Over the years with eager anticipation, the children of the fire district have participated in Easter egg hunts on the fire company property; they have been educated by our volunteers during Fire Prevention week; they have been thrilled by ghosts and goblins that have visited the firehouse on Halloween and have most anxiously awaited the arrival of Santa Claus on a fire

truck during our annual Commitment to Kids Toy Raising event and Santa's Tour of the District just before Christmas.

In March 1991 a 1991 International chassis was purchased onto which the rescue body from our older rescue truck was installed.

In August 1994 the fire company purchased two new Chevrolet 4WD Suburban's. One replaced our old light duty rescue truck, and the other replaced the Chief's car.

In 1996 the company purchased a used 1995 Pace fully enclosed double axel trailer for the purpose of carrying hazardous materials equipment and other emergency equipment.

During the year of 1997 a lot of activity took place with some of our older pieces of apparatus. A used 1982 Haun heavy rescue truck was put into service in May. This replaced our International rescue. A 1974 Mack 70' tower platform truck was put into service late in the year which replaced our 1972 platform truck. Our tractor-trailer tanker was sold in April 1997. Also, in 1997 a second door was added to the rear of the Bloomington station, therefore giving us a 6 bay station. Also, new air compressor was purchased to replace our old one. This was a 5000 PSI maximum pressure, compare Mako air compressor.

In April 1998 following a very disastrous ice storm in upper New York State in January of that year, we find the fire company giving our 1970 Pierce fire truck which we were trying to sell, to a company called the Meriden Fire Company, from Meridan, NY. They lost everything they owned during the ice storm from a fire at their firehouse.

February 1998: The fire company took delivery of a 1998 Pierce Quantum Tanker/Pumper with 2500 gallons of water and a 1500 G.P.M pump.

During the year of 1998, a new phase of firematics was begun by the fire company. This was a group of highly skilled and trained members that would be known as the "Fast Team". This group would be standing by at all major calls to respond at once to assist a fire person or persons who might run into trouble at the scene, whether it be interior or exterior.

October 1998: Finds members of the fire company beginning to remove the old section of the Binnewater Station, which is the start of our refurbishing of the station. (Work on this project continues at this time of publishing.)

May 1999: The fire company installs a 10,000/12,000 Watt generator at the Bloomington Station to provide emergency power, etc. during power failures.

March 2000 finds the fire company considering a website. Also, on March 23, 2000 we have several members trained and qualified onto brand-new automatic external defibrillators. These two units went into service on March 23, 2000. One unit in the Bloomington Station and the second unit in the Binnewater Station.

September 5, 2000: At this monthly meeting President Robert Tolfson sets up a "Long-term Building Committee". This committee will begin the process of forming the details for a new building, which would include a meeting hall, air-conditioning, new kitchen facilities, etc. The members assigned to this committee were Les Evory, Joe Hafner, Sr., Fred Harries, Jr., Mike Hines, Dick Keller, Al Schmidt, & Alan Tyler. Representing the Ladies Auxiliary will be Estelle Hafner and Judy Hines. The first meeting was held on October 16, 2000. Basic discussions

were held on the size and location of our property. There was also some discussion about erecting a pavilion.

December 2000: The fire company members begin construction of an office-computer room above the maintenance crib in the engine bays. This was changed to include a small conference room. June 2001. A central air-conditioning system was installed in the Bloomington Station to cool the office, meeting hall, and kitchen. The cost of this, approximately \$6000. Completion of this project was September 2002.

May 2001: The fire company signs up with the adopt a highway program of the New York State Highway Department. By doing this we volunteer to clean up approximately 2 miles of Route 32 in the Bloomington area.

November 21, 2002: The fire company takes delivery of a new 2003 Ford F-550 mini pumper. This new apparatus was put into service on Saturday, December 7, 2002. The cost of this mini-pumper alone was \$128,000.

December 19, 2002: The Fire Company puts into service a new Thermal Imaging Camera made by Scott. This new piece of equipment enables us to see heat and hot spots. Equipment was purchased with funds obtained through a grant.

July 1, 2003: At this monthly meeting it was discussed and voted in favor of, that the Fire Company purchase a used 12' fiberglass rescue boat equipped with a 25HP Mariner, electric start outboard motor; also with the trailer to haul it for the cost of \$2000.

August 26, 2005: The layout for the foundation of a steel/aluminum fabricated 30' x 60' building was done at the rear of the main firehouse in Bloomington. On September 27, 2005 the Fire Company takes delivery of the components of the steel aluminum fabricated building. September 2006 all major construction of the building is complete.

November 2006: A new exhaust system made by Air Vac is installed in both the Bloomington and Binnewater Stations to remove exhaust fumes from the apparatus as they startup.

January 6, 2007: A used 1989 Pierce heavy rescue truck was bought in Pennsylvania and drove to Bloomington. The cost was \$97,500.

April 14, 2007: A 12,500 gallon tank was put into the ground at the southwest corner of the parking lot near the deep well that was drilled. Once it was hooked up the tank supplies us with water for the fire calls. The tank was free. We just had to pay for trucking it from IMAR to Bloomington.

March 6, 2008: The Fire Company picks up a new 2008 Ford F-350 Super Duty 1-ton pickup truck onto which will be put a box similar to contractor's utility box which will be used as our light rescue truck. The cost was around \$30,000 on a state big deal. This new rescue truck went into service on April 4, 2008 and will replace our current 1994 Chevrolet Suburban.

November 3, 2008: At this monthly meeting a vote was taken to purchase two 2009 Twin Pierce Arrow XT pumpers for combined price of approximately \$841,856.00.

For the past several years the fire company has hosted the annual "Commitment to Kids" event

which collects hundreds of new toys to be distributed to the needy children throughout Ulster County at Christmas time.



June 2009: The two new 2009 Pierce Arrow XT Pumpers arrived. They were both put into service on July 9, 2009. They each have 1200 gallon GPM pumps.

September 20, 2009: the Fire Company held an open house to dedicate into service the two new pumpers.

May 2010: The Fire Company takes delivery of a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe to be used as the Chief's car. The cost was approximately \$26,545.75 on the state bid.

June 23, 2010: Herbert F. Faurote, the Fire Company Chief for 45 years passed away. A very nice firematic funeral service was held at Moylan's funeral home on Sunday, June 27, 2010. The reception followed at the firehouse. Intermittent was in Rosendale Plains cemetery.



Also in 2010, our Dept. website www.bloomingtonfiredepartment.com and YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqeYTimh1cHkGI0xvZv-ytw>. went online. Our website was put online, designed and maintained by Richard Hermance. It is a full service site which outlines all of our equipment, members, fire calls, events, etc. We also post photographs and video clips of fire calls and events as they are available. Video clips are also posted to our YouTube channel and fed into the website from YouTube.

On January 20, 2011, some members travel down to Long Beach, Long Island and picked up a used 1986 Mack 95' aerial platform ladder truck for the price of \$83,000. This piece of apparatus was put into service on Thursday, February 24, 2011.

On February 14, 2014, we lost Deputy Chief George J. Moylan. Deputy Chief Moylan had served the Fire Department for a long time and was instrumental in acquiring our new rescue boat which was dedicated in his honor. A full firematic service was conducted on February 19, 2014 in the middle of a major snow storm.



April 12, 2011: Following a ballot vote held at the Bloomington firehouse the L.O.S.A.P. "Length of Service Award" program was approved by a 3 to 1 vote in both the Town of Rosendale and in the Town of Ulster.

June 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2011: Some members and representatives from Herzog's and Benjamin Moore paint put down an epoxy type paint surface on the entire engine bay floor. Approximate cost was around \$20,000.

January 1, 2012: The Fire Company begins the L.O.S.A.P. program.

January 2013: The Fire Company purchases a new Mako high-pressure air compressor. This can pump up to 6000 PSI. The cost of this was approximately \$20,000.

April 23, 2014: The Fire Company takes delivery on a new rescue boat. It's called "Rescue One Connector Boat". It is made out of aluminum. It is powered by a 40HP Mercury 4-stroke jet powered engine. The total cost is estimated at \$20,540. The boat made its first call on June 21, 2014 at 1:16 AM when we removed three females from a boat that ran aground on a sandbar across the creek from Roberti's Marina on Route 213. The male occupant onboard remained to wait for high tide.



June 6, 2014: The Fire Company voted to start the proceedings to switch from a Fire Protection District to a Fire District, effective January 1, 2016.

November 11, 2014: The Fire Company approve the refurbishing of our 1998 Pierce Quantum Pumper at a cost of approximately \$158,000.00. It was put back into service March 2015.

November 11, 2014: The executive board of the fire company approved our "Code of Ethics. The executive board met again on May 5, 2015 after our monthly meeting in the names of those people picked by the President Kevin Hines to be on the record as those to enforce the code of ethics were approved by those of the executive board who were present.

May 5, 2015: The Fire Company ordered a new New Holland Workmaster 35 tractor to replace the tractor we now mow the field with. It is a 4 x 4 with hydrostatic transmission and power steering. We took delivery on 5/25/15 and it was put into service on 5/26/15. The cost was \$13,810.20. It was bought at Chambers Tractor Sales in Montgomery, New York.

May 12, 2015: The footing and concrete support was poured for the fireman's helmet display at the front of the firehouse. The bronze helmet and fieldstone veneer was completed November 2015. Total cost was \$4500 for the helmet and \$500 for the foot base.

July 10, 2015: Took delivery of a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe to be used as a Chief's car to replace our current car 18-1, which was a 1994 Chevrolet Suburban. The cost would be approximate \$39,250.94.

October 10, 2015: The members from Maple Ridge building built and installed a new roof assembly on the Route 32 sign. They also refinished all of the woodwork.

Many upgrades are anticipated as the Williams Lake project moves along. In the fall of 2015, demolition was approved and they allowed us to utilize the old hotel for live burn training prior to demolition. As such, we conducted live burns at the hotel over several weeks in the fall of 2015 with many surrounding agencies.

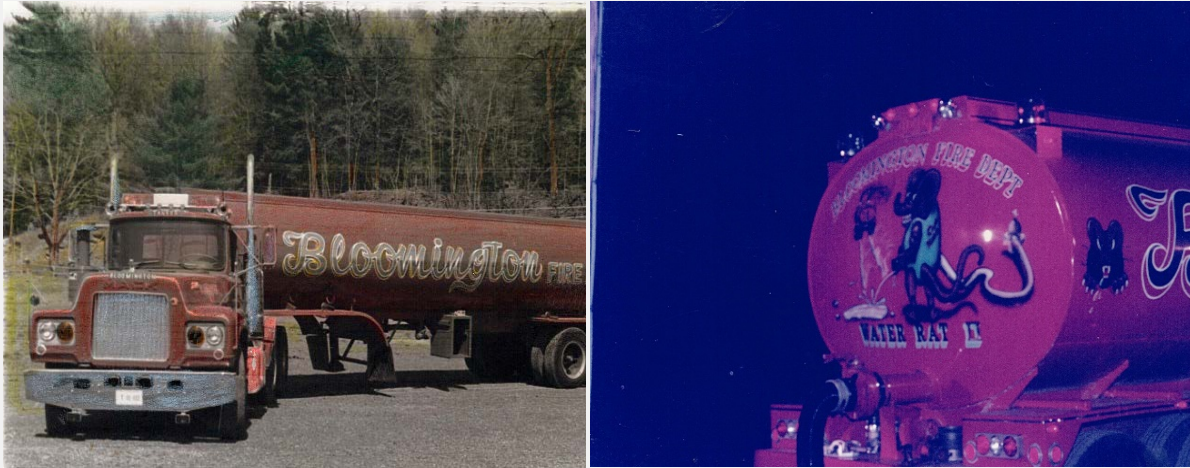


SOME ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 1983-2005

To list some of the accomplishments between 1983-2005, our 1967 F250 Ford brush truck was converted to a rescue. We took the body, tank, and pump off and purchased an old NY Telephone enclosed utility body that was in rough shape, changed the rear end to accommodate dual wheels, added new leaf springs with helpers, completely refurbished it in our station with several members doing the work. We installed a 6 bottle air cascade system. All work was done for free. The paint was donated by Quality Auto Body Supply. The color 660 red. We had many fundraisers and we were able to purchase the Jaws of Life, all with money raised by the members. The same holds true for our purchasing of the air bag system and much needed rescue and medical equipment. We worked hard with Las Vegas Nights, 200 Club drawings, raffles, and coin drops. It was not long before the truck was greatly overloaded so we purchased a 1964 Chevy Heavy Duty Rescue 18 foot walk in with a 10KW generator from Pequannock NJ. We installed our completely refurbished cascade system in it and painted it our 660 red. As time went on we had to replace the chassis. We then bought an International cab and had our body put on it. During this time frame we had also purchased a 65 foot Peter Pirsh ladder from Ulster Hose. The engine had blown after we had it for a couple years so we completely rebuilt the engine in house, sold it and purchased a 1968 85 foot open cab snorkel from Union City NJ that went in to service. The automatic transmission went bad so again we pulled the transmission and rebuild it in our station. That truck was sold to a Painting contractor and we purchased a 100 foot Seagrave ladder truck retired from NYC.



We then acquired a 6,000gal trailer and a 1962 Mack tractor. The trailer was from Schuck van Lines, and the tractor from Vans Express in Kingston. We did a quick paint job and this was when our logo the "Water Rat" was born.



Every vehicle had a Rat logo airbrushed on it in various scenes like a rescue rat dressed in a nurse uniform, another using the Jaws of Life, another with water, whatever fit the need of the vehicle. Thanks to Capt. Fantastic who did most of our Gold Leafing and striping. We purchased a used Mack Tractor from Provan in Tillson and Hess donated a 10,000gal oil tank. We cleaned it up and installed all the plumbing including a 5 inch dump valve, replaced all the brakes, springs, tires, and that truck then became the "Water Rat #1". We also purchased a chiefs car, 1974 Ford station wagon, from Moylan's funeral home for 300 dollars which became necessary due to the larger volumes of calls. The Chief's car also was painted 660 red at our station. Hand tools, first aid supplies, and forced entry tools were put into place. Eventually in the later years it was equipped with an AED and a Gas meter. That vehicle was replaced a few years later by a 1975 Chevy Suburban with 4WD that was purchased from Bucks Junk yard and totally rebuilt with new brakes, new engine, and painted 660 red. In the mean time we sold our 1974 100 foot ladder and purchased a 1972 75' Mack Tower that took almost a year to complete and rebuild and it became the Tower Rat. We then traded our International Heavy Rescue, the 1972 Mack for a 1984 Hahn Heavy Duty rescue with a 12 KW generator, cascade system, and HD winch along with a 1974 Mack Tower that had an automatic transmission. After our merge with Binnewater we purchased a 1976 Dodge Mini pumper that also was completely rebuilt in house and painted 660 red. We did all repairs in the station, from clutches springs, brakes, axles and engines. The last big job we did was a 1989 Pierce lance HD rescue with a 1000GPM pump and a 300 gal tank that was purchased from Fairview FD in PA which also has 100 foot reels for our Jaws, 6 bottle 6000 PSI cascade, and a HD winch. Due to the higher volume of EMS calls, in 1994 we purchased 2 Chevy Suburban's, one for EMS and the other to replace the 1974 Chiefs car. We always took pride in doing everything we could from all of our talented members and continued to bring fourth our forefathers dream and saving the tax payers money as we were on a very limited budget. We hope that many years down the road our members can see the dedication and pride we took in our department.

SOME OF OUR FIRE CALLS

Here are a couple of photographs from the Yonnetti Garage Fire on Route 32 at Main Street

Fire destroys Bloomington autobody shop

Flames quickly spread through Rt. 32 business

By KIRSTEN SMITH
Freeman staff


BLOOMINGTON — Fire destroyed Yonnetti's autobody shop on state Route 32 Tuesday night, gutting a structure that had served as the family's business for more than 30 years.

Flames were first spotted toward the rear of the structure and quickly spread into the roof and a second-floor apartment, witnesses said.

No one was in the apartment, fire officials said.

Flammable paint containers in the rear of the building posed an initial threat, but firefighters were able to contain the fire before it reached them, fire officials said.

Firefighters spent about an hour bringing the flames under the control.



Freeman photo by Bob Haines



Back in the 70's, Martins Restaurant which was the old Alpine Lodge burned to the ground.



Bloomington Fire Department
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Bloomington Fire Department
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In 2004, the Grange Hall in Rosendale on Main Street burned. Bloomington provided manpower and the tower ladder on a zero degree day. Our Ladies Auxiliary provided hot food and drinks to the many surrounding departments that were there all day.



On Saturday May 18, 2013 at approx. 0655hrs, we were dispatched to a serious auto accident on Route 32 by Blacks Lane. On arrival, we found a Mobile Life Ambulance and pick-up truck that were involved in a head-on collision. Our members extricated the patients, rendered first aid, and controlled the scene.



COMMITMENT TO KIDS PROGRAM

Volunteer keeps toys coming in

■ Rachel Schabot, a Bloomington firefighter, takes up the torch for the Commitment to Kids program.

By BLAISE SCHWEITZER
Freeman staff

WHEN Rachel Von Ahn married Mike Schabot two years ago, she knew she was getting involved with a man who took his duties as an officer in the Bloomington Fire Co. seriously, even when it came to such matters as the fire company's annual toy drive and parade.

"We had to plan the wedding around the toy drive," she said, laughing.

AS A volunteer firefighter herself, Von Ahn, who took Schabot's last name when they wed, said she didn't begrudge him the toy-drive accommodation.

In fact, she was so much in favor of the Commitment to Kids parade and toy drive that when it came time for someone else to run it this year, she accepted the position.

"He handed it to me," she said, nodding toward her husband. "No one else raised their hand."



"We had to plan the wedding around the toy drive."

— Rachel Schabot

ering as many toys as possible.

Those who bring a new unwrapped toy will get breakfast in return. Those who want to run in the 5K need only a new unwrapped toy as their entry fee.

MIKE SCHABOT, who courted Von Ahn at many a 10K race before they wed, did agree to stay on to organize today's 5K race and has given her advice along the way, but Rachel Schabot had to carry the torch alone when it came to most of the rest of the work. After eight years running the event, he'd had enough, he said.

Although Mike Schabot did a fine job, his wife is handling the transition quite handily, said Darleen Moylan, a member of the fire company's ladies auxiliary.

"She has the right drive," Moylan said. "Her heart is in the right place, and she's putting it all together very well."

For Rachel Schabot, monthly Commitment to Kids meetings



enough toys to ensure as many Ulster County children get presents as possible.

Members of the Bloomington Fire Company and co-organizers from the Ulster Detachment of the Marine Corps League

their basic expenses so that every toy and dollar donated during the actual drive can go to the children. The means plenty of time spent collecting and returning cans for their deposit money throughout the year.



CURRENT LINE OFFICERS (2016)

Fred Harries, Chief

Joseph Hafner Jr., Assistant Chief

Kevin Hines, Assistant Chief

Michael Schabot, Assistant Chief

Ernest Navarra, Captain

John Lane, Captain

Douglas Tierney, Lieutenant

Alan Brown, Lieutenant

Rebecca Harries, Lieutenant

Joseph Huettinger, Lieutenant

Erik Hines, Lieutenant

Will Stokes, Lieutenant

Rev. Nicholas Miles, Chaplain

John Quick, Captain Fire Police

CURRENT CORPORATE OFFICERS (2016)

Joe Hafner Jr., President

Kevin Hines, Vice President

Kevin Keller, Treasurer

Secretary, Joseph Hafner Sr.

Michael Hines, Director

Michael Schabot, Director

Brian Phillips, Director

Alan Brown, Direct

Erik Hines, Director

CURRENT FIREFIGHTERS (2016)

Chaplain Nicholas Miles
Ray Stegner
Asst. Chief & Vice President Kevin Hines
Asst. Chief & Director Mike Schabot
Chief Fred Harries
Kevin Keller
Rob Dolan
Bryant Rudy
Alan Tyler
Joseph Stokes
Lt. Joe Huettinger
Asst. Chief & President Joe Hafner Jr.
Katelyn Stokes
Director Mike Hines
Rachel Schabot
Lt. Rebecca Harries
Richard Keller
Fred H. Harries, Jr.
Joe Hafner III
William Lyons
Nicholas Sirbaugh
Christopher Walker
Kyle Schwegler
John Quick
Jessica Ricci
Matt Tierney
Wayne Volk
William Dutcher
Katie Phillips

Al Schmidt
Bryan Brainard
Todd Harries
Lt. Douglas Tierney
Roger Peck
Captain Ernie Navarra
Lt. & Director Brian Phillips
Christine Boueya
Dave Massimi
Loren Potter
Ryan Hintz
Secretary Joe Hafner Sr.
Michael Benjamin
Lexi Woolsey
Mike Drucker
Patti Vincent
Captain John Lane Jr.
Lt. & Director Alan Brown
Lt. William Stokes
Tyler Purhamus
Nick Harries
Lt. & Director Erik Hines
Kathleen Flynn
Natalie Terbush
Brittany Welch
Mariah Williams
Kyle Dunham
Matthew Harries

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AS OF JUNE 1, 2016

Mary Lou Faurote – Fugazzi
Michael Hines
Kevin Keller
David Massimi
Rachel Schabot

MEDICAL PERSONELL

EMT's

Chief Fred Harries
Asst. Chief Mike Schabot
Rachel Schabot
Lt. Erik Hines
Brittany Welch
Patty Vincent

NYS CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS

Lt. Rebecca Harries
Kyle Schwegler

FIRST AID / CPR / AED QUALIFIED

Rev. Nick Miles
Capt. Ernest Navarra
Loren Potter
Joe Huettinger
Ryan Hintz
Mike Drucker
Tyler Purhamus
Mike Benjamin
Joe Stokes
Fred Harries Jr.

Joe Hafner Sr.
Asst, Chief Joe Hafner Jr,
Joe Hafner III
Mike Hines
Asst. Chief Kevin Hines
John Lane
Alan Brown
Will Stokes
Natalie Terbush

CURRENT LADIES AUX. (2016)

President Deb Tierney
Secretary-Pastor Lori Woolsey
Judy Hines(Past President)
Jennifer Barrett
Shirley Eaton
Penny Harries
Gabi Jambor
Elsa Mosler
Cora Phillips
Marge Smith
Brenda Wood

Darlene Moylan
Treasurer Sue Peck
Jeanette Longendyke
Kim Cole
Diane Hamilton
Monica Hintz
Michelle Lyons
Chris Pellegrino
Vice President Rita Schabot
Donna Stegner
Deanna Woolsey

DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS as of (2016)



Edwin LeFever
Robert Shea

George Reed
William Simpson

John Selentano
Pierre Muller
Frank Amatrano
Henry Hummel
Rev. David Weidner
Frank Zehentner 1955
George Lutzenberger 1956
Robert Taylor April 26, 1958
Harvey Deitz September 26, 1958
Nicholas Ricco
Hotaling July 16, 1959
Edmond Dession (Charter Member)
James Coutant (Charter Member)
Adolph Sterbenz (Charter Member)
Joseph Assion
Joseph Zehentner April 7, 1963
Thomas Bly
Cuyler Van Vechten February 10, 1965
William Burns 1965
John Amatrano
Cornelius LeFevre 1965
George Kohloff
Harry Wheeler January 30, 1966
Member) May 9, 1966
Charles Doty
Konrad Hoppe 1967
William Wershing
Otto Lockle
John Plonski September 19, 1971
William Von Ohlen
John Jagschitz
George Sagar Sr.
John Bordenstein Sr.
Yonnetti
Frank McElrath (Charter Member)
Theodore Riccobono (Charter Member)
John Bordenstein June 17, 1980
Henry Muller
Frederick Sauer (Charter Member) (First President)
Charles F. Peterson (Past President) May 25, 1984
Walter Fatum (Charter Member)
Oscar Hahn (Past Chief) October 22, 1987
Rudolph Beyersdorfer October 3, 1988
Howard Slover
Matteo Zanni
John Lane Sr. August 31, 1994
Member) August 11, 1995
Martin Lynch
Eugene Yonnetti
Raymond Jackson
John "Jack" Perrett
Charles McLain November 20, 2003
Jack Moseley
Todd Smith
Leslie Evory August 18, 2007
Rev. Wilhelm Haysom (First Chief) (Charter Member)

William Hannaweber
Harold O'Brien
Henry Dittmar 1953
John Daly
Arthur Fleischer
J. Edward Bernard
Kenneth Brady
Willet V. Roosa
Joseph Yunker
Cornelius "Neal" R.
Edward Brodsky
Floyd Evory
Karl Pederson
John "Charlie" Markle
John Welch
Joseph Muller
Murius Don
Carl Gustafson
Aaron Relyea 1965
Edmond Riccobono
Gerhard Schneider
Jason Egan
Charles Reilly (Charter
Member)
Frank Whitman
Floyd Williams
Phillip Sutton
Albert Hartman
Earl Mack Sr.
Dr. Leander Rymph
Raymond Keator
Joseph Knubben
Henry Osterhaut
Leo Yonnetti Frank
Frederick Warncke
Robert Racicot
Kenneth Bordenstein
Frederick Hofbauer
John Lukasz
William Markle
John Maschino
Jerome Mack
Earl Gilchrist
Richard Priepeke
Roland Drolett
Amedeo Contini
Henry Yonnetti (Charter
Member)
Joseph O'Connor
George Moylan Sr.
Vincent Finnerty
James Johnson
Robert Tolsen
Roy Taylor
George E. Hafner
Thomas Yonnetti
Kenneth Woolsey
Joseph Sagar

John "Jack" Tyler Sr. (Past President)
Herbert F. Faurote (Chief in Term) June 23, 2010
Edward Drucker October 11, 2012
Raymond LeFever December 16, 2012
Robert Spindler February 15, 2013
Kevin Bouyea October 4, 2013
James D. Craig (Past Chief - Binnewater FD)
Robert Hicks
Warren Prandoni (Past Chief)
Peter Costa

Phillip Hawver
Daniel Stegner
Fred Harries Jr.
Walter F. Swarthout Sr.
Frank Moseley
George J. Moylan Jr.
Timothy Rowell
Clarence V. Coogan
Ed Drucker

DECEASED LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERS as of 2016

Sarah Rymph
Mrs. Earl Mack
Jeanette Hummel
Roberta Harries(President in term)
Sally Van Loan
Louise Hafner Deitz
Carrie Reed
Sally Gilchrist
Florence Priepke
Victoria A. Sundermann
Virginia Prandoni
Rita Stegner
Wilma Hernwell
Josephine Hann Weber
Dorothy Bordenstein
Lois Craig
Francis Yonetti(2)
Anna Lukasz

Edith Taylor
Isabella Bordenstein
Helen Don
Lulu Evory
Edna Tease
Doris Evory
Irene Contini
Susanna Wheeler
Violet McElrath
Besse Reilly
Frances Yonetti
June Drolet
Joyce Harbig
Teresa Yonetti
President Estelle Hafner
Heidi Quick
Edith Taylor
Carrie Reed

CURRENT APPARATUS (2016)

Car 18 – 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe



Car 18-1 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe



E-18-10 – 2009 Pierce Arrow XT Pumper 6 Passenger Cab, 1500gal/min Waterous pump / 1500gal water tank



E-18-20 - 2009 Pierce Arrow XT Pumper 6 Passenger Cab, 1500gal/min Waterous pump / 1500gal water tank



E-18-30 – 1998 Pierce Quantum Pumper / Tanker / 8 passenger cab / 500 gal/min Waterous pump, 2500gsl water tank



L-1850 – 1996 95' Mack Tower Ladder / 95' aerial scope / 6 passenger cab / refurbished by Pierce in 2002



R-18-41 – 2008 Ford F-350 Rescue Truck / Ford F-350 Super Duty V8 Power Stroke, 6 Passenger Cab



R-18-42 - 1989 Pierce Lance Heavy Rescue/Pumper with Waterous 1000GPM pump.



R-18-43 - 2003 Pierce Mini Pumper / 2 passenger cab, 750 gallon per minute Hale pump.



RB-1(M-18-44) - 2014 Rescue One Connector Boat / 40 horse power Mercury Jet Drive Engine with dive platform on front.



M-18-44 – 1996 Chevrolet Suburban 6 passenger personal car



M-18-65 – 1995 Pace American Cargo Trailer / 16' enclosed cargo trailer containing Ulster County and Bloomington Fire Dept. Foam Bank

RB-2 - 2000 Rescue Boat / 10 foot flat bottom Rescue Boat with 7HP Motor

RB-3 - 2000 Rescue Boat / 10 foot flat bottom Rescue Boat with oars

PAST PRESIDENTS AND CHIEFS

PRESIDENTS

Fred Sauer
Warren Prandoni
Herbert Faurote
Charles Peterson
Sam Janeczek
James Prandoni
John "Jack" Tyler
Alan Tyler
Kevin Keller
Robert Tolfson
Ernest Navarra
Kevin Hines
Joseph Hafner Jr.

CHIEFS

Reverend Wilhelm Haysom
Joseph Yunker
Vince Finnerty
Warren Prandoni
Oscar Hahn
Herbert Faurote
Kevin Keller
Fred Harries

END

Bloomington Fire Department 2016