

# Hot Calls

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## Status of the EM Office

By: Bill Kennedy, Coordinator

**W**hile we are getting overloaded with information I thought it was important to update you as to the status of the office.

As of this writing (the morning of 3/23) we have not had a positive test.

We are and have been operational in support of the other agencies that are responding and preparing to respond. We are ordering supplies for facilities and agencies following the state guidance for priorities. We are coordinating with other county, state and local agencies to assist in response and planning.

Early last week the county, like other businesses, has worked to reduce the number of staff on site. Jennifer is connected and working from home. I am staffing the office but, like always, I have 24/7 connection either here or home.

The lobby to the Public Safety Building is now closed to the public. A telephone in the foyer will connect you with the 911 Center for walk in service.

We have implemented procedures to protect our first responders while continuing to provide the needed services. All calls for service are being handled. Using proper PPE and limiting exposure is the best way to reduce the threat.

### Calendar:

Burdett Dinner Dance	April 25  Tickets Available now! \$100 donation for two prime rib meals and entry into many cash and prize drawings!
Watkins Glen Sportsman Raffle and Casino Night	May 2  Tickets available now!

## Firefighter Profile: Mike Tomassi

**M**ike has been with the Odessa Fire Department for 23 years. He came up through the ranks serving as 3rd, 2nd, and 1st assistant for 8 of the 23 years and then as chief for 10. Mike had an initial goal of serving 10 years max as Chief. With that said, this will be the end of his 10th year.

Mike and his wife Peggy have been married for 29 years and have two grown children, Aubrey and Patrick. Aubrey is a Lieutenant in the OFD and works for the Schuyler County District Attorney's Office.

Patrick is an OFD Firefighter and a Schuyler County Deputy Sheriff.

Asking Mike what his biggest challenge was over the past 10 years, he felt the potential of the dissolution of the Village of Odessa was a stressful time having directly been right after becoming Chief. With hard work from his Line Officers and the Village Board, they managed to work together during the process. Some of the largest fires he assisted with were several mutual aid fires in both Montour Falls and Watkins Glen.

The OFD fleet of apparatus was replaced over the last 10 years including the purchase of a new pumper-rescue last year. During his tenure, he tried to obtain a new fire station and, as the building is currently experiencing major structural issues, he plans to continue this effort.

During his time as chief he has had great Line Officers and support from the Village boards. Together they have kept the department well equipped and trained to provide the best protection possible to the community.

Mike has worked for NYS DOT for 25 years out of the Watkins Glen and Horseheads shops. He belongs to the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club which is made up of firefighters and EMS members.

We appreciate the hard work Mike has put in at the Odessa Fire Department and in the community. Mike will now serve as Deputy Chief and continue to make Odessa a prideful department.

When you see Mike, please thank him for his 10 years as Chief of the Odessa Fire Department.



# Beaver Dam's Banquet

**B**eaver Dams had the following members sworn in as line officers at their February 15 banquet:

Chief	Kent Thurston
1st Asst.	Ray Towner, III
2nd Asst.	John Rider, Jr.
3rd Asst.	Calvin Stedge
Deputy Chief	Kirk Smith
Captain	Trevor Thurston
1st Lt.	Corbin Smith
2nd Lt.	Vern Mclean, Jr.



*Tribute to the Fallen Comrades*

Beaver Dams answered 176 alarms for the year. Charlie Stoddard was recognized for 40 years of service.



*Line Officers for the coming year.*



*Fire Chief Kent Thurston is installed*



*A gathering of longtime members of the Beaver Dams Fire Company. Seated: Ken Clark Jr., Ken Clark Sr., Standing: From Left: Quinten Giles, Harold Parish, Jim Kinney, Juny Kennedy.*

## Burdett's Banquet

**B**urdett held their banquet on January 25. New line officers sworn in by Bill Kennedy included:

From Left:

Chief	Jason Kelly
1st. Asst.	Ryan Barr
2nd Asst.	Keith Caslin
3rd Asst.	Kurt Lodge
Capt.	Chris Crout
Lt.	Corey Glover
Dep Chief	Curt Connely



The Department had 195 calls during the year. They spent over 4328.5 man hours on emergency duty. They also took in 10 new members. The department works countless hours on fund raisers and is expecting a new engine in February.

# VLH's Banquet

**H**ector held its banquet on February 29. Chief Mike Hicks (*right*) gave the annual report. Steve Williams (*below left*) gives a report on the purchase of a new ambulance. Donnie Dalrymple (*below right*) talks of the recent success of the Fire Prevention Program. Donnie was also recognized for 40 years of service and Steve with 30 years. The Company answered 220 alarms this year. New jackets have been ordered. Elizabeth Williams was the top responder with 140 calls.



Fire Chief	Mike Hicks
1st Asst.	Steve Williams
2nd Asst.	Travis McKeon
3rd Asst.	John Horrocks
Deputy Chief / Safety Officer	Donnie Dalrymple.



## VLH: Structure Fire

January 20, 2020 about 0930 in the morning brought out Hector and their 2nd alarm partners to 4181 County Road 1 for a reported fire in the crawl space. First units on the scene found nothing showing from the "A" side. Further investigation definitely found a fire in the crawl space. A quick hit stopped the spread, but considerable work had to be done to get to the seat of the fire. The fire was caused by an electrical problem. Units were on the scene for about 1 ½ hours. Burdett, Watkins Glen, Lodi, Ovid and Trumansburg were on the assignment but were soon returned by Hector. Schuyler Ambulance stood by through the whole operation.



## Mecklenburg: Structure Fire

**M**ecklenburg was toned out for a structure fire at State Route 79 in the hamlet. Quick response soon discovered that a candle had been placed on a working wood stove causing the candle to melt and filled the house with smoke. No fire occurred. 2nd alarm was activated and soon canceled. Good follow-up with fire prevention talk and providing smoke alarms where they did not have any at all. Good job!



## Beaver Dams: Trailer Fire

On a very cold and snowy night, a trailer located on State Route 414 caught fire. Though located in Chemung County, the trailer was in the Beaver Dams Fire Protection area. The trailer was occupied by a single male. A dog was lost in the fire. Companies from Watkins, Montour, Corning Fire District Tompkins Corners, and Beaver Dams were on scene. There was major damage to the trailer.





## VLH: CPR Training

**H**ector's monthly training included CPR review and "Firefighter Down" training by Meridian Fire Group. Firefighters were taught new techniques in CPR and how to provide immediate CPR to a downed firefighter in full turnout gear. It was a well-attended class and very informative.



**T**his brings up a good point: how many fire departments have an ambulance or rescue squad at the ready on every call? Having EMS on calls is very important! Most departments don't bother unless the call is a very large call. Then the ambulance is released before we get back to the station. As we tragically found out this last year, even when we are picking up something can happen. I get it - we don't want to tie an ambulance up for long period of time. But at least having AEDs and EMS kits available could prove very important.



Most firefighter fatalities are cardiac related. Having EMS staged, whether it be an ambulance or rescue squad, that is equipped to handle CPR, with AED and related first response equipment ready for action, could be crucial. Minutes matter in bringing some back from a sudden arrest.

# History

County Meeting: March 13, 1958

Coordinator Harlow Bailey and Joe Sanders from Tyrone gave a talk on “Sparky’s Fire Department” sponsored by General Electric. This was a fire prevention program for kindergarten through third grade. They felt we should be teaching fire prevention in the schools. They wanted a speaker to come and give a presentation. They wrote for further information. The following month the report was given on the details and cost of the program. For one year :

Hand-out material	\$15.00
Coloring books	\$40.00
Inspection kit	\$200.00
<u>Mechanical dog</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,030.00</b>

It was decided to table the program due to lack of funds. I would imagine as there was only \$200.00 in the treasury at that time. It was interesting to see that even back then they felt it was important to get fire prevention into the schools.

## Trivia Question

**What were the radio frequencies used when radios were put on Schuyler county Fire apparatus.  
How many were there?**

Mike Hicks, with VLH fire department, answered our last Trivia Question correctly.

**Question:** *“What were the early board of Fire commissioners allowed to do to prevent the spread of fire?”*

**Answer:** They could dynamite buildings to stop the spread of fire.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

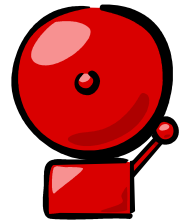
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## Last Alarms



None

## Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

*Tentative:*

- *EMR (CFR) - TBD*
- *SCBA/Interior TBD*

**W**ant to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to [jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us)

**For more information, visit:**

[www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
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