

# Booster Line

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## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

**O**ur current reporting period covers the activities that Schiller Park responded to in the last month. The following incidents are the firefighters and paramedics more unique calls. As always Schiller Park members responded to any call for help.

This month we begin on December 15<sup>th</sup> with a car fire that the caller did not know if it was in Schiller Park or Franklin Park. Battalion 5 arrived and determined it was a Franklin Park call however because Schiller Park Engine 5 was already there we began putting out the fire until Franklin Park Engine 2 arrived.

With winter weather and cold temperatures Red shift responded on the 16<sup>th</sup> to a water flow alarm. On scene members found a broken sprinkler pipe in the laundry room. The sprinkler system and fire pump were shut down so that repairs could be performed.

Later the shift took in a fire alarm. This time the cause was a forklift operator who knocked off a smoke detector. A company was called for repairs.

December 17<sup>th</sup> had Black shift take in a car fire on the toll way. Upon arrival the shift found a fully involved car fire. Engine 5 dropped a pre-connect 1 ¾ inch line and began to go to work. Toll way workers said that as they arrived the fire appeared to be most heavy in the rear seating portion.

Prior to shift change on the 18<sup>th</sup> Black shift was dispatched to wires down laying across 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Com Ed was notified and on their way. While awaiting Com Ed Schiller Park Police secured the scene.

Red shift taking over on the 18<sup>th</sup> had their on-duty fire investigator, FF/PM Bubis, respond to Franklin Park for the Investigators Box Alarm. Tim assisted in determining the origin and cause at the fire.

A person stuck in the elevator on the

19<sup>th</sup> had Gold shift find the elevator car stuck on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Our lock out/tag out procedure was followed and our members were then able to gain access.

A fire alarm on the 20<sup>th</sup> at a parking facility had Black shift find workers pressure working their buses. The steam from the cleaning set off detectors.

A fire alarm in a grammar school on the 21<sup>st</sup> had Gold shift take in the call. A smoke detector had gone off in a new addition under construction. Workers using a floor cleaning machine set it off. No students were in danger.

Gold shifts next call for a fire alarm also came in as a water flow. The fire investigative team was informed by Schiller Park Police Officers on scene that they found water moving in the system and then found that a sprinkler head had been and pipe assembly had broken.

Two Fire Investigator members responded December 23<sup>rd</sup> to Maywood for a Lt. Leiser and FF/PM Bubis assisted in the fire’s origin and cause investigation.

Christmas Eve had Red shift working and taking in a fire alarm. Firefighters arriving on scene were told by police that there was a fire in one of the apartment units. As the engine company made its way up to the unit, they were informed that it was a fire in the oven and that the owner shut off the oven and closed the door smothering the fire, burnt food.

Lt. Leiser working Christmas day was also the on duty fire investigator and summoned to Broadview for the Fire Investigators Box Alarm. Here he aided other investigators locating the origin and cause.

December 27<sup>th</sup> started with a fire in Leyden and FF/PM Bubis responding as the on duty fire investigator.

As December began to come to a close, the 29<sup>th</sup> saw wires down over a driveway. It was determined to be fiber optic but a response from Com Ed was still needed.

They then took in the fire alarm in a 40 unit apartment building. Here a resident was preparing dinner when the oven which needed cleaning began to smoke with food in it setting off the alarm.

Burnt food was the culprit on the 30<sup>th</sup> for setting off a fire alarm. This time it was at a restaurant where they were micro-waving some food to warm.

2016 ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> when a structure fire in Franklin Park sent Red Shift with Tower Ladder 5 and battalion 5 to the scene. Our truck company was assigned to do a primary search of the first floor units while suppression operations were underway. We then completed the secondary search of the second floor before being reassigned to do the overhaul work. Because it was a working fire Franklin Park requested investigators to the scene. FF/PM Bubis took in the call as our on duty person.

The new year started off on the 1<sup>st</sup> with a fire alarm in an apartment complex. Our Engine and Truck companies went to the fourth floor where the activated smoke detector was and found it was triggered by a burnt lunch being prepared.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> had an elevator rescue that Gold shift responded to. At the location after completing lockout/tag out, members were able to release the elevator and remove 2 occupants.

Battalion 5 responded in place of FRPK Battalion 2 on January 5<sup>th</sup> for a pin in accident where a car went under the rear of a semi-trailer requiring an extended extrication operation.

January 6<sup>th</sup> saw Red shift respond to a "normal" EMS call. As they were providing care the patient took a turn for the worse and began to "crash". As a result two additional paramedics were required to go with the ambulance to the hospital.

Lt. Budnik and his engine company respond on January 8<sup>th</sup> to an odor complaint. An occupant met the engine company at the door who

stated he smelled natural gas in the building. Using our four gas monitors, the highest readings came from one unit which we were able to enter and find the stove leaking. The gas was shut down and the landlord notified. All areas were then well ventilated.

A unique situation occurred next when we responded to a 2 car minor motor vehicle accident on Mannheim near Montrose. It was called into police as vehicle damage only originally. As the driver in the second car which rear ended the first car was exiting their vehicle, they were struck by a third car. The second cars driver required transportation to the hospital.

Gold shift responded to a fire alarm in a vacant building on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Arriving they also noted strobe activation for the sprinkler system. After making entry the crew found a broken sprinkler head in the building due to insufficient heat in the vacant building.

A Life Alert activation button transmitted an alarm on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Firefighters and paramedics responded to find an embarrassed resident who accidentally set off their button.

Black shifts next call was for a fire alarm in a business break room. B/C Leiser and his crew arrived to find light smoke in the hallway leading to the break room. After entering the room the infamous burnt food in the microwave was found in the sink.

Before the shift could sit down for dinner, Gold shift was toned out to assist the police. Our police requested a thirty-five foot ladder to the roof so they could check on an entry alarm for the roof hatch.

A fire in Franklin Park on January 12<sup>th</sup> had NORCOMM dispatch Schiller Park for the working fire and give us the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) assignment. Battalion 5 was given the Safety Officer Sector while the truck controlled the utilities and performed salvage. After the fire was under control our truck assisted in overhaul.

Lt. Leiser took in the next call with his engine for an unknown sound in the building. On scene the engine company heard the sound emulating from one of the units and quickly gained entry. Inside they found no one present and a pot on the stove with the burner ON. The stove was turned off and the apartment ventilated.

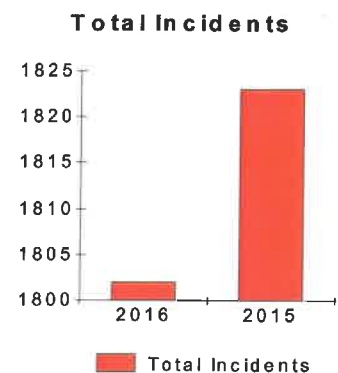
A working structure fire in Westchester had Schiller Park Chief due to the scene. Battalion 5 took the assignment and was given Communications when he arrived on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

January 16<sup>th</sup> saw a carbon monoxide activation in a residence. On scene FF/PM Schneider in charge of the engine monitored the house and found elevated levels of above 300 ppm. The furnace was shut down and the building ventilated to safe levels. The owner was advised to contact a furnace repair person.

The next call was for a kitchen fire in Schiller Park in an oven. On scene members found the fire out as again the person shut off the appliance and kept the door closed snuffing out the oxygen and fire. The apartment was ventilated of the smoke and auto aid companies returned.

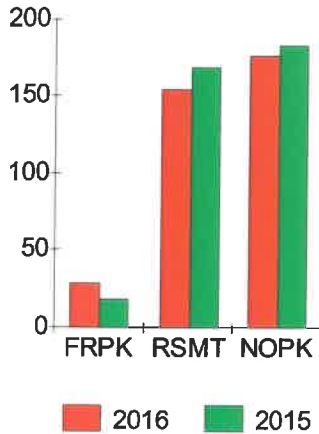
The last call of the reporting period was for an accident where one of our patrol cars had been hit and an officer needed to be seen. The Patrol Officer was transported for further evaluation.

The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2015:



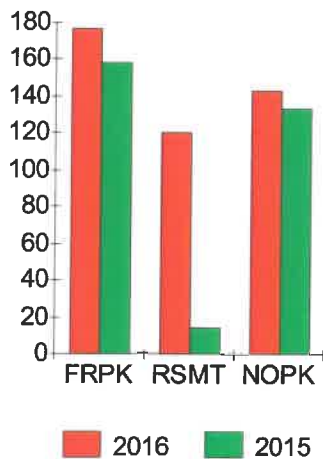
The run summary for Automatic Aid as of December 31<sup>st</sup> "To" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Given



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of December 31<sup>st</sup> "From" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Received



### Run Totals for 2016

Total Calls – 1967 incidents

Fire Calls - 822

EMS Calls- 1145

### Responses

B 5 (451) - 447 R Amb 461 – 4

S 5 (453) - 277 A 6 (462) - 224

TL 5 (454) – 202 A 5 (463)-1103

E 5 (455) – 1330 E-6 (456) - 56

	2016	2015
Total Incidents	1967	1984

### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	28	18
Norwood Park (NOPK)	176	183
Rosemont (RSMT)	154	169

### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	177	158
Norwood Park (NOPK)	143	133
Rosemont (RSMT)	120	14

## Chief's Corner

### *We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

The Fire and Police Commission have posted the Final Eligibility List. There are four candidates to fill one immediate opening. The first candidate is currently being processed.

The Commission also has set the date for the written exam for the Fire Department Lieutenant exam, March 4<sup>th</sup>. 12 members are eligible to take the exam. The current list expires March 11<sup>th</sup>.

FF/PM LiRosi continues to be off work as a result of an on duty injury.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to FF/PM Rupsis and his family on the passing of his Step-Dad, Dean Skuble. Members were able to do a walk through and be present with Brain and his family for the funeral.

Congratulations to Chief Stenson (NOPK) who is retiring after 31 years of service. Cake and Coffee are planned for January 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM

at their firehouse 7447 Lawrence. A retirement party is planned for that evening at Emerald Isle. Details are on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Also retiring this past month was FF Mike Vonesh (FRPK) after 25 years with his department.

The Village is offering as part of the Employee Appreciation and thank you up to 4 tickets to the DePaul v. Villanova (rated No. 1) basketball game on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Transportation via bus is also being arranged. See Brian Bursiek.

We also received word from the Illinois Toll Way that they do not think a guard rail is warranted at the Irving exit on the toll way even though we have had not only a fatal accident but some serious ones over the past month.

As we approach of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a full time department, we will be ordering commemorative badges. Those who ordered should have them by May 1, 2017.

The Municipal Consolidated Dispatch Center is coming along. The target date for transferring into it is June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Currently an Executive Director is being advertised for.

We are looking at getting voluntary compliance with numbering or lettering the stairways in our multi-story buildings. This would aid residents and firefighters in identifying the fire attack and evacuation stairways.

## Tools / Equipment and Other FYI's

A number of items have been worked on this past month.

Items worked on and happenings

around the firehouse this month include:

The Village has revised the locations where we can purchase fuel. Added this past month are Marathon stations.

We had 12 SCBA bottles sent out for hydro-static testing. This is the last time they can be tested as the Department of Transportation limited the age and number of times they can be tested.

We also found that the Division Light Tower Battery was dead. It was looked at and re-charged. We will monitor to see if it needs replacing at the Divisions expense.

Car 458 had a tire repaired this past month that was leaking. Tony was able to do the work.

Lt. Budnik is working with Sensit Gold to have our monitor repaired. He is also looking at budgeting for a replacement.

Engine 5 was sent out to Cummins diesel where a fuel pump problem was found causing the engine to not always start up. The repair is \$2,800. Tony was also notified that additional work was found that he believes can be done in house.

Chief Chiodo is limiting the use to calls and incidents only for Tower Ladder 5. We are trying to reduce any additional wear and tear as it is up for sale. Please use 458 for inspections and other non-incident activities.

## EMS Briefs

**J**ust an update on activities within the bureau...

An update on PM Jim Davis. He is still home recovering from surgery. He will have his final surgery in March, he hopes. He is anxious to get back to work at both his primary job and here. He hopes to be back by the May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Many of us were introduced to Christine as the EMS Coordinator at Loyola when we switched over from NWCH. She has now moved on and Sue is now the interim Coordinator. See Lt. Swiontek for any updates.

Tony was able to fix the fuel leak on Ambulance 6 (462) this past month.

Because of age and condition, the Division has decommissioned the EMS trailer. In its place the division has issues RED trauma bags each capable of handling 20 plus patients. The thought is that engines and fire companies will be on scene first and now be able to triage and handle multiple patients without having to wait for someone to bring out a trailer. Schiller Park will have a bag on both the engine and truck. A division guideline was issued. See Lt. Swiontek for info. The bags went on the rigs in January 1<sup>st</sup>.

When at the hospital as a matter of habit please check to see if we have any backboards that were left there from patient transports. This will help retrieve them and cut down on the time they are out of service and unavailable.

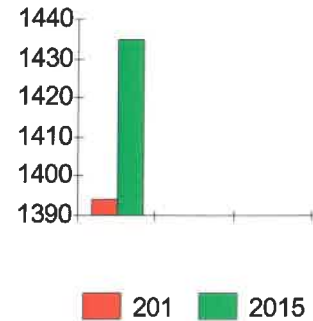
We would like to remind all personnel that when they are exchanging or retrieving drugs from the hospitals, that you check and verify the dosages. With different manufactures and packaging we must make sure that the correct dosages are picked up.

During the past month personnel responded to 109 emergency calls. A total of 99 patients were encountered. 73 patients were transported to area hospitals.

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Responses	109	1394
ALS Transports	36	608
BLS Transports	37	298
Refusals/MPR's	11	246
Other Non Transports	0	48
Fire Responses	25	189

CPR Students taught	1	39
Mut. Aid to SHPK	6	56
SHPK to others	5	83

## EMS Total Responses



## Projects in the Works

All the shifts are encouraged to take on new challenges. If you have a project or an idea, please run it past Lt. Budnik.

FF/PM Bubis and Lt. Budnik are working on a wireless option to open the doors to station 6 on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. This will piggy back a signal from 4501 25<sup>th</sup> (Community Center).

We are looking at insulating the old entrance to the firehouse from the radio room to make it more sound proof.

What's in the works? –

- Painting the outside overhead doors red
- New interior lights at station 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint sta.6 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator
- New high-rise load packing tool

# Trivia

## Answer to last month's Trivia

### December Trivia

Which Chicago Mayor is credited with inventing the fire hydrant?

The fire hydrant was invented by Chicago Mayor DeWitt Clinton Cregier, Mayor from 1889-1891, and received a patent for his invention in 1875 four years after the Great Chicago Fire.

Only one correct answer was received by Chief Richard Belmonte (ret.) Westchester

### January Trivia

Who is the first recorded female firefighter?

Please submit your answers in writing to the *Booster Line* in order to be eligible for the prizes. Winners will be selected randomly from all correct entries.

## Office of the State Fire Marshal and Training

### Failure to Train is Training to Fail

The training division has been active in defining and charting a course for our department.

FF/PM O'Leary is currently attending the NIPSTA Fire Academy. He will return to shift in approximately 8 weeks. We will provide details as to his graduation date.

Cook County Department of Homeland Security has suspended all funding for classes that were held at NIPSTA. This included the 12 upcoming classes. They are re-evaluating how they want to disburse money for training. As soon as we hear more we will let you know.

This past month members completed the State Fire Marshal classes-

FF/PM Dehmlow completed Rope Operations as part of the Technical Rescue program through the State Fire Marshal.

FF/PM Warden completed Advanced Firefighter training. This replaces Firefighter III in the Fire Marshal program. This is also a job requirement in Schiller Park.

FF/PM Leao completed Life Safety Educator as part of our Public Relations Bureau requirement. It is also a State certification program.

All three Battalion Chiefs, Leiser, Cesaretti and Hatcher, attended the Cook County Homeland Security class on Emergency Operations at Dominican University.

The Training Committee is exploring ways of creating a Training Center at Station 6 with props.

I have signed up several members for OSFM classes as part of their job requirements. If you know that you need a class please let me know, I will try to find one, however if you find one on your own please submit the paperwork and maintain a copy for yourself.

Members completed 214 hours of training for the month with 15 training drills. This includes outside classes.

For the year members completed 341 classes/drills and 4,018 hours of training. Some of the costs for classes is reimbursable from the State Fire Marshal. B/C Cesaretti is working on the funding document due in March.

The State Fire Marshal and Triton have changed the test dates for 2017. The first half of the year they will be held at Triton on Thursdays, the second half of 2017 they will be held on Wednesdays. Please consult with the Training Officer to sign up at this center or another testing site.

Please fill the Outside Training Form on Target Solutions whenever you attend a class, seminar or training session outside of Schiller Park. This

allows for accurate record keeping in those areas and credit for the hours you put into training.

Signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment. If you can't attend see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

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## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge as our Employee of the Month Lt. Jerry Budnik.

The Village Board voted to authorize payment for our new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in full. This purchase will outfit us with the latest and newest SCBA. We expect delivery in May 2017 at which time we will train on. Lt. Budnik was able to obtain a piggy back deal with Chicago saving over \$20,000.

Lt. Budnik was also able to secure special pricing for replacement portable radios. He was able to purchase 5 and get the 6<sup>th</sup> free.

Lt. Budnik continues to coordinate the building of our new truck with his committee and E-One and simultaneously working on selling our Tower Ladder. We currently have 9 serious parties interested in purchasing. This has allowed Lt. Budnik to be very firm with pricing and negotiating.

Thanks for your time and dedication, you make us proud to be firefighters and in the fire service and village employees.

If you would like to nominate a firefighter, paramedic, officer or other persons for recognition, please submit the action or the incident in writing to the editor Chief Chiodo.

# Fire Prevention

## *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Shifts completed their 2016 inspections. Each shift received 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections were rotated so that over a three year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses.

All three shifts had the opportunity over this past Christmas break to tour the addition at Kennedy school.

We are looking to bolster and strengthen our fire inspectional program. We are looking for our members to take the Inspector I certification program. All new firefighters will be required to take this class.

B/C Hatcher is working with Community Development on keeping communications open and resolve problems. There are several major inspections that are jointly being worked on. The majority of businesses are in compliance.

B/C Hatcher has re-aligned the Bureau with team shift inspectors. He has met with the shifts to explain the new approach.

As a reminder when we go on trouble alarms we need to contact the owner to report that the alarm went into trouble and document that on the incident report and in the trouble alarm binder. Midwest may also be doing this as a back up to our call.

If you are interested in any plan review in Fire Prevention, please see B/C Hatcher. He will review what is coming into town based on what plans Community Development sends over.

Any member wishing to attend the monthly meeting of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association should contact B/C Hatcher.

We are also suggesting and strongly

recommending that sprinkler and standpipe connections be converted to storz fittings. We have gotten voluntary compliance on most building and soon will be doing an audit on any remaining FDC.

# Public Affairs

## *Saving Lives Through Education*

The Fire Department again provided a driver for the Fraternal Order of Police here in Schiller Park as Santa visited all the school children prior to Christmas.

We continue to provide fire extinguisher demonstrations and CPR classes for residents and businesses in town.

We will also be looking into a celebration in 2017 of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our fire department being full time.

Members participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing December 21-23 at Walgreens. We hope to have some totals for the department and the shifts next issue.

Please check the bulletin board in the kitchen for other fire department fundraisers in the area.

We are also coordinating with other a fire service organizations the implementation and publicizing the "ICE" program (In Case of Emergency) for people's cell phones.

# Retiree Row

We received a friendly call from POC Lt. Sam DiMaggio (ret.) this past month inquiring as to how things were going and how everyone was. He wanted to stress to all the members that time goes by fast and to enjoy every moment in the firehouse. Don't let petty arguments or disagreements interfere with the greatest job.

FF/PM Dary also contacted us to let us know that he and his wife have decided to move to a warmer climate

in Florida. If you would like his address please see me.

Please drop a line as to how any of our retirees are doing. This is an opportunity to let others know what you are doing and how you are doing. Please email to Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).

# Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Schiller Park Firefighters Association rang the bell and the kettle in front of Walgreens this past Christmas season. FF/PM Schneider will provide the total amount raised in the near future.

For more information see the flier in the kitchen or contact one of the Association officers.

# Stork Report

The stork stopped by this reporting period to let us know of three births.

EMSD Nosek (ret.) became grandparents for the first time with their daughter giving birth.

B/C Leiser and his wife became grandparents again with the birth of their second grand-daughter.

Finally, FF/PM Bubis and his wife welcomed another addition to their family with the birth of another son.

All moms and dads and grandparents are doing well. Congratulations !

Please forward any info of upcoming Stork Visits.

# Letters and Notes

A note was received from Leyden

Family Services thanking the department for our Fire safety Basket which was auctioned off at their fundraiser in November.

Chief Craig Bronaugh (Maywood) also sent a note thanking us for our assistance at a fire in Maywood on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Emergency Management

B/C Leiser continues to work with the Village Administrators in trying to get them to complete their NIMS certification. This is necessary for future funding opportunities.

Chief Leiser awaits feedback from the Village Board on revising the Village disaster plan. It is 287 pages and is being reviewed by the Village Board prior to being submitted to Cook County Homeland Security.

We had our Battalion Chiefs complete the Cook County EOC website training in December at Dominican University.

We are working on a grant for 3 AED's to be placed on our vehicles. While we had budgeted for these we hope to get them paid for through the grant process.

We are applying for a grant from Firehouse Subs for a zodiac boat, motor and trailer. We hope to replace the one stored at the water tower which is cumbersome and not practical.

We continue to move forward with the 9-1-1 consolidation. The steering committee is working with all three communities and our consultant.

We are working on a beta version of a tweeter account that we hope to see up and running soon.

## Special Operations

Lt. Leiser continues to coordinate our special operations division. This includes Technical rescue, Fire Investigations and Hazardous Materials.

## And Finally...

Spend your energy looking for solutions, not excuses.

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## Deadlines

*The Booster Line is published monthly. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the Booster Line c/o Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).*

Page 7- Members work on repairing an antenna on our building that came down during a recent window.

Members of the Fire Department congratulate FF of the Year Lou Bertoncini at a reception honoring Police and Firefighters of the Year and Volunteer recognition.

Page 8-10 FF/PM Lou Bertoncini and P.O. Sam Anderson receive their respective awards as Police and Fire Officers of the year. They are congratulated by the Village Board and Lions Club.











Pictures Courtesy of B/C Hatcher and Warren Schuhrke