



CallBox



Newsletter of the Bellerose Fire Department

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2007

Chief's Chat

Thoughts from Chief of Department Charles Puglisi

The publication of the inaugural issue of *CallBox* merits some background information about the Bellerose Fire Department.

The members of the Bellerose Fire Department are residents of the Incorporated Village of Bellerose who want to serve our community and who have made a commitment to protect the lives and property of the residents of Bellerose Village.

Each of the twenty-eight Class A Interior Structural Firefighters of the BFD has completed more than 40 hours of classroom instruction and live-burn training required for New York State certification at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy during our first year as a member. Each of us has completed a six month probationary period, during which time our commitment and dedication to the BFD is assessed and evaluated.

All members attend weekly Tuesday night drills that focus on developing and maintaining proficiency in structural fire fighting. All members are cross-trained in essential truck and engine company operations, driver training, pump operation, fire ground communications, and incident command.

Every year the BFD completes four weeks of live burn training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy. At the annual Department Operations the department's training in the skills required for dealing with residential and commercial fires is tested. Our department's performance is evaluated by the seasoned instructors at the Academy. Each of us is justifiably proud of our performance at the Fire Service Academy.

Did You Know?

Did you know that a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the U.S. every 19 seconds? (Source: "Fire Loss in the United States," NFPA)

Fire Prevention Safety Tip

Through simple precautions, many fires are preventable:

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.
- Keep smoke alarms clean (vacuum to remove dust and never paint over smoke alarms) and test regularly.
- Store flammable chemicals safely and out of the living area.
- Have working, portable fire extinguishers in or near the kitchen, laundry room, workshop, fireplace and anywhere fire could be a danger.
- Do not use light bulb wattage that is too high for the fixture.
- If a circuit breaker trips or a fuse blows often, immediately cut down on the number of appliances on that line.

BFD History

Recognizing the need for fire protection, eighteen residents founded the Bellerose Fire Department in 1916.

The first purchases of the newly organized department were a hose, a reel and a nozzle. An iron hoop reputed to be from the wheel of

BFD Spotlight

A Brighter Village

Engine 107



If the Village seems a little brighter these days it could be due to the newly installed lighting on Engine 107. To increase the rigs visibility and for additional safety considerations, the light package on engine 107 was greatly improved. All malfunctioning lights were repaired and additional lighting was installed to insure the vehicle could be clearly seen. 107 will now light up the night like never before.

Engine 107 is second-due in Bellerose Village. A Pierce Lance powered by a turbo-charged Cummins Diesel, 107 went into service in 1993. The ten-man cab carries nine Scott 4.5's air packs for donning while responding to a call. The on-board 500-gallon tank plus a pumping capacity of 1500 gallons per minute provide backup and support for engine 108 in both manpower and other resources.

Should the call require multiple attack lines, 107 might be used as a responding engine on its own, or might hit a hydrant and then feed water to 108 as 108's tank water is depleted. The combination of engine 108 followed by engine 107 manned by our well trained and dedicated firefighters gives Bellerose Village formidable response to fire emergencies.

Ask Sparky???

Dear Sparky - How often should I change the batteries in my smoke/CO detectors?

Confused in Bellerose

Dear Confused - Of course they should be tested regularly but as a rule when the time changes in spring and fall you should change your detector batteries as well.

Sparky

Do you have a fire safety or fire service related question you would like to have answered? Submit it to callbox@bellerosefd.org and look for it to be answered in a future issue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6TH ANNUAL SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE

BFD FIREHOUSE, SUPERIOR ROAD

SEPTEMBER 11TH

3RD ANNUAL BELLEROSE FIRE STARS COMPETITION

SUPERIOR ROAD

OCTOBER 20TH, 1:00PM (TENTATIVE)

Competition with other local departments in various firefighting related activities. Fun for everyone!!

ANNUAL BFD HAUNTED HOUSE

BFD FIREHOUSE, SUPERIOR ROAD

After Village Halloween Parade

continued on page 2

History cont'd

an early railroad train was used for a fire alarm. This iron hoop, which presently stands outside the Fire House, was a gift of Ernest G. Sicard, a director of the United Holding Company (Lachman, Eric. History of the Bellerose Fire Department 16).

One night in 1923, the alarm sounded for the third and most serious fire up to that date. While answering this alarm, a fireman taking a short cut through a backyard was injured when he collided with a clothes line. As a result, a rule was passed compelling residents to remove clothes lines after dark.

Two years later during Prohibition, the Fire Department held its first and last stag beefsteak dinner at the newly built Woman's Club. This uproarious event was supposedly immortalized by Westbrook Pegler, a widely syndicated newspaper columnist of the time (Pegler, Westbrook. "Beer Not 'Near,' Town All Upset. United News 19 April 1925: n.pag.). Suffice to say that the affair ended with an early morning sing under a certain lady's window. Perhaps the intrepid Helen Marsh did not mind too much since she was one of the few woman members of the early Fire Department. In 1927, just three years before the Fire House was built on a plot adjoining the Long Island Rail Road, the Fire Department was incorporated.

The firemen now work with a 1993 Pierce Lance 1500 gallon pumper (Engine 107) and a 1998 Pierce 1000 pumper (Engine 108) nicknamed "The Little Engine That Could." Currently forty-six firemen are answering alarms. (BelleroseVillageFD.org)

Brain Teaser???

Name the 10 body parts whose name is comprised of 3 letters. Ex - Leg

Look for the Answer in our next issue

Fire House Tours

If you would like to arrange a tour or demonstration of the Bellerose Fire Department for your group or organization please send an email to Chief Charles Puglisi at charles.puglisi@bellerosefd.org. Please include group description and date you would like to visit along with contact information.

BFD Incidents and Training

Capt. Joe Johnson

When the siren sounds, the Bellerose Fire Department responds speedily, ready to tackle any situation. But that's not the only time we put our firematic skills to the test. Every Tuesday evening the members of the Bellerose Fire Department assemble to develop and reinforce the skills necessary to protect the residents and taxpayers of Bellerose from fire and other emergencies. And it's not just Tuesdays. Our members routinely attend classes, meetings, or hands-on training across Nassau County on other evenings or during weekends.

You may have seen us driving the trucks, handling hose lines, raising ladders, or operating specialized equipment. Sometimes you won't see us, because we are training with other fire departments or conducting 'live burns' at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy in Bethpage. Our classroom time is equally important to our training as hands-on simulations. We spend a great deal of time on fire prevention, operational pre-planning, and studying other department's incidents for lessons learned. The combination of classroom and simulations draws on the experience of longtime members, certified trainers, and professional firefighters.

We train like we would operate during a real incident. During the heat of summer, the cold of winter, rain, snow, day or night, the members of the Bellerose Fire Department work hard to advance their skills. In full gear, with air tanks, and carrying certain tools, a firefighter can be bearing an additional 100 pounds. We train in the dark, in the intense heat of live burns, in confined spaces, with specialized tools, and with traditional firefighting equipment. Our firefighters are challenged both mentally and physically with different scenarios, since an emergency incident is more often than not unpredictable.

In larger fire departments there are enough members that an individual can be trained for a specific role. In the Bellerose Fire Department our firefighters are trained to be proficient in a multitude of tasks. As a testament to the dedication of our members to handle this additional complexity, we perform so well at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy that the instructors regularly tell us they wish the larger departments were on hand to observe and learn from our operations.

After the adrenaline rush that comes with an alarm, amid the chaos on the fire ground, while operating in life-threatening conditions, it is our training that gets us through an operation safely and effectively. No amount of training is a substitute for a real operation, but the residents of Bellerose Village can be confident – and should be proud - that their fire department stands ready to serve at a moment's notice, around the clock, year round. Just come down to the Bellerose firehouse on a Tuesday night and see for yourself.

Come Join Us!!

Would you like to be part of a growing family? Would you like to contribute to your community? Would you be interested in testing the limits of your capabilities? Do you like a challenge? If so, come down and see what we do at the BFD. You can do all this and more. Feel free to drop by the firehouse any Tuesday evening and see for yourself. If you can satisfy the minimum requirements, we will be happy to welcome you to our family.

L'il Squirts

There are tons of fun activities for our L'il squirts to take part in. A fun site with lots of activities you can go to is <http://www.sparky.org/>. This site has many games and family activities as well as a useful information for the little people of our village. Learn the story of Sparky the Fire Dog at <http://www.sparky.org/story.html>.

Working For You

Saving You Money

Part of the duties of the Bellerose Fire Department is to insure proper fire coverage for the village. This encompasses many different tasks which include response times to calls and maintenance of fire hydrants. You may ask what affect this has on you as a homeowner. Surprisingly it does affect you directly in the form of home insurance premiums which are determined by ISO ratings. The better the rating the lower the premiums and lower premiums means money saved for you. The BFD is doing its best to maintain or improve the village's ISO rating, by checking hydrants and responding quickly to calls, which in turn will reduce insurance premiums. This is just one of the many ways the BFD is working for you.

Editor's Note:

Callbox will be a quarterly publication whose purpose is to open a line of communication between village residents and the Fire Department dedicated to protecting you. It will also shed light on what exactly it is the BFD does and the people, fellow residents, who make it up. For comments email callbox@bellerosefd.org.

CallBox Staff

Lt. Pete Murphy.....	Editor
Mary Murphy.....	Consultant
Charles Puglisi.....	Chief of Department