



## Dear Henrietta Residents,

Welcome to the first public newsletter published by the Henrietta Fire District. We plan on publishing a newsletter a minimum of twice per year. The purpose of this newsletter is to better educate the residents of the Town of Henrietta on its Fire District and keep you abreast of what is happening with your Fire District. This first issue is an overview of how the Fire District is structured and who the individuals are that operate the District.

### Henrietta Fire District

The Henrietta Fire District is a combination department (career and volunteer) that provides fire protection and first response emergency medical services (EMS) to a response area of 39 sq. miles. This includes all of Henrietta which has a population of 45,685 (2008 U. S. Census). The District also provides fire and EMS service to 21 miles on the New York State Thruway I-90 and 10 miles on I-390. The town estimates that as many as 250,000 people live, work, or pass through our town each day. On an average day 25,000 to 30,000 vehicles pass through the I-90 interchange into our town. The District also has a county wide mutual aid agreement with the City of Rochester and all other communities within Monroe County, population 735,343 (2000 U. S. Census). The District responded to over 4,000 calls in 2008 as compared to 1,190 calls in 1990. Due to the tremendous growth in population and businesses in the Town; and also that people are not willing or able to volunteer their time to firefighting, the District has hired additional career firefighters over the years.

### Who's Who in the Fire District?

In 1969, the Town of Henrietta granted by resolution that the three volunteer fire companies become a Fire District.

The Fire District is the governing body commissioned with providing fire and rescue service to its residents. The cost for this service is paid for through the collection of your tax dollars. The District is its own taxing agency and therefore has the power to levy taxes (similar to a School District). The fire tax is the only means of funding for the Fire District. Unlike other forms of local government, we do not receive State Aide, Federal Aide or income from service fees/taxes, or billing for service.

While the Fire District can accept and appreciate donations, the Henrietta Fire District does not solicit funds through mass fund drive mailings. Any fund drive mailing you may receive is from one of the three volunteer companies. Fund drive money is used to maintain the facilities of the three volunteer companies. In a future issue we will provide much more detailed information on the financial portion of the District.

There are six fire stations within the Town of Henrietta. The Fire District owns

three of these stations, and independent volunteer fire companies own the remainder.

The District owns all equipment and apparatus at the six stations and rents from the companies the truck bays, radio room, and the volunteer chief's office space.

### District Owned Stations:

**Station 4** - located at 850 Bailey Road is the Fire District's Headquarters. This station is staffed with career officers and firefighters 24 hrs. a day. The District dispatch center is also at this location as well as the day administrative staff.

**Station 5** - located at 230 Pinnacle Road is staffed with two career firefighters, and a Lieutenant 24 hrs. a day.

**Station 6** - located at 60 Erie Station Road houses the District's training center, now called the Francis G. Byrne Training Center. This is used for District training as well as outside firefighting agencies. Volunteers respond from this station.

### The three company owned stations are:

**Station 1** - Henrietta Fire Company No. One located at 3129 East Henrietta Road, volunteer staffed.

**Station 2** - West Henrietta Fire Department, 774 Erie Station Road, volunteer staffed.

**Station 3** - Genesee Valley Fire Department 9 Riverview Heights, volunteer staffed.

### The Board of Fire Commissioners

The Fire District governing body is made up of five (5) Commissioners elected by the voters of Henrietta. They serve a 5-year term, and one (1) is elected each year. The election is held the second Tuesday in December. Any registered voter in the Henrietta Fire District may vote. The Commissioners oversee administrative activities, including setting the fire tax, budget, apparatus and equipment purchases, building maintenance and repair or replacement, etc. Commissioners are assigned different positions: finance, insurance, personnel, equipment, and building and grounds. Similar to the Town and School Boards, the only pre-requisite to becoming a candidate for Commissioner is that the candidate must live in the town of Henrietta and complete

the petition requirements.

The Commissioners hold a monthly workshop on the first Tuesday of each month, and a regular business meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Both of these meetings begin at 7:00 P. M. at the District headquarters and are open to the public. The official newspaper of the Henrietta Fire District is the Rush Henrietta Post. All legal notices are published in this paper. The District also has a website [www.henriettafire.com](http://www.henriettafire.com) which contains information about the District, current events etc.

### Secretary/Treasurer

The person in this full time position works along with the Commission and the Chief. The Secretary/Treasurer serves as Chief Fiscal Officer and Records Management Officer. Some of the duties include: finance/budget preparation, personnel/human resources, payroll, accounts payable, and liaison to various committees and legal counsel.

### Career Chief

The Chief of the Henrietta Fire District is a career position and is ultimately responsible for the firematic operation of the Fire District. Some of the duties include: supervises the career and volunteer firefighters and officers, liaison to Town, County and State agencies, assist with budget preparation, grant writing, purchasing, and serves with the Commission on various committees and labor contract negotiations. The Chief is supported by a volunteer Deputy Chief and three volunteer Battalion Chiefs.

### Volunteer Deputy Chief and Volunteer Battalion Chiefs

The Fire District is divided into three geographical areas called Battalions. A Battalion Chief is responsible for each of these geographical areas. The Career Fire Chief and Volunteer Deputy Chief oversee the Battalion Chiefs and are responsible for the entire town.

### Career Officers

Currently the District employs nine career Lieutenants. Two Lieutenants are assigned to each of the four working groups of career firefighters and are responsible for management of the firefighters assigned to their group. Each Lieutenant is assigned an area of responsibility within the District, example: scheduling, inventory, communications.

The ninth career Lieutenant is a staff position that is in charge of the fire prevention program as well as being the Safety Officer. As Fire Prevention Officer, this individual visits local schools and businesses to educate them about fire safety. The Safety Officer is responsible for the Henrietta Fire District meeting all Local, State, and Federal safety regulations.

The MTO (Municipal Training Officer) is in charge of all the training provided to all firefighters. This includes the annual

100 hrs. of in service training for career firefighters. The MTO is also in charge of EMS recertification as well as weekly drills for volunteer firefighters. This individual is also responsible for the recruit volunteer firefighting program which runs 13 weeks or more.

### Volunteer Officers

The District currently has one volunteer captain and three volunteer lieutenants. The volunteer officers assist the volunteer battalion chiefs with operational and station duties in each battalion.

### Career Firefighters

We have a top notch dedicated group of career firefighters. The first firefighter was hired in 1975. The 24 career firefighters are divided into four groups providing coverage 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Each group consists of six firefighters and two Lieutenants. They staff two trucks out of Station #4 (Bailey Rd.) and one truck at Station #5 (Pinnacle Rd.) The Career firefighters have 229 hrs. of training and are NYS certified. The new hires are nationally certified as well. All firefighters are NYS EMT-D certified.

### Volunteer Firefighters

The District has approximately 75 volunteer firefighters. These dedicated groups of people are your neighbors who give their time and efforts to protect you, your neighbors and guests. All volunteer firefighters receive their training through Fire District's Training Office.

### Public Safety Dispatchers

The District employs four Public Safety Dispatchers. Each group is assigned one Public Safety Dispatcher. With a District as large and as busy as we are, we rely on these Dispatchers to provide the communications and coordination to accomplish our job.

### Mechanic

Due to the size of our fleet which consists of 21 vehicles, the District employs a full time mechanic. The mechanic does preventative maintenance and repairs to our apparatus and equipment. Having a mechanic on site reduces the downtime of apparatus and costs of repairs.

*We hope this information has helped. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, this is meant to give you an overview of your Fire District. We will be going into greater detail on many of these subjects in the future. If you have any questions or concerns please join us at one of our meetings, contact us by email [www.henriettafire.com](http://www.henriettafire.com) or call us at 334-1234 and leave a message and someone will get back to you.*

Thank you,  
Henrietta Fire District Board  
of Fire Commissioners

West Henrietta Fire Department, Inc.  
774 Erie Station Rd.  
PO Box 201  
West Henrietta, NY 14586

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Rochester, NY  
Permit #1376

# Who's Who

## at the Henrietta Fire District



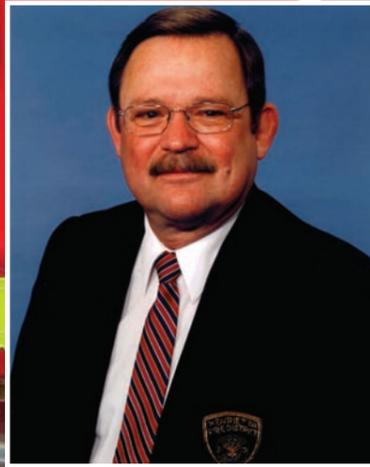
### Francis "Joe" Martin, Jr. Commissioner

Joe lives in Henrietta with his wife Cindy and has two children, Francis III and Benjamin. He is a fourth generation licensed Funeral Director managing his family's Funeral Home Henry D. Halloran Son, Inc., located in Henrietta.

Joe is a 1978 graduate of R-H Roth, 1980 graduate of Monroe Community College and a 1981 graduate of Simmons School of Mortuary Science.

Joe joined the Henrietta Fire District in 1979 following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He served as a Line Officer for 9 years, Battalion Chief for 3 years, Deputy Chief for 4 years and served as Chief from 1998-2000. Joe was elected as Commissioner in 2001 and is a Life Member of the West Henrietta Fire Department.

Joe's wife Cindy's grandfather Howard Chase was a Charter Member and first Chief of the West Henrietta Fire Department. Joe's two sons are carrying on the family tradition. Francis "Frank" III is a career firefighter and Benjamin is a volunteer.



### Paul Churnetski Commissioner

Paul lives in Henrietta with his wife Margaret. They have three children, Paul Michael, Thomas and Ellen.

Paul's professional work experience includes over 35 years in operations, quality, information systems and engineering in progressive management positions at the Director, Vice President, and Board level.

Paul holds BA & MA degrees in Physical Chemistry plus professional certifications, company honors and several technical patents.

Paul is a Life Member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1 and was an active firefighter for the Henrietta Fire District for 34 years serving as a Line Officer for 16 of those years. He was elected to the Commission in 2002. He learned and follows in his father-in-law, Don Gladstone's footsteps. Don was a Henrietta Fire District Commissioner for 20 years and a Life Member of the West Henrietta Fire Department serving for 40 years. Paul's son, Paul Michael, carries on the family tradition as a career firefighter with the Henrietta Fire District as well as being a volunteer Assistant Chief with the Honeoye Falls Fire Department.



### James McGovern Commissioner

Jim has been a resident of Henrietta for 41 years with his wife Katherine. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Jim retired from the City of Rochester Fire Department as Battalion Chief after being with the department for 37 years, served for 20 years as an instructor for the Monroe County Fire Bureau and was also appointed by Gov. Cuomo for 6 years to the New York State Fire Safety Advisory Board.

Jim is a graduate of Cornell University, Monroe Community College, Toronto Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy.

He was elected to the Commission in 2004 and reelected in 2008.

Jim was active in the Henrietta River Area Association and served as Co-Chairman of B.S.A. Troop 7.



### William Gilchrist Commissioner

Bill lives in Henrietta with his wife Donna C (Ross). They have two children, Bill and Dawn, and one granddaughter.

Bill is the owner of "The Dealers" a casino party business and WRG Property Maintenance, a handyman repair and maintenance business.

Bill joined the Henrietta Fire District in 1971. He is a past President and Life Member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1, was appointed to the Commission in 2006 and was elected to a full term which began in 2007.

Bill is active in the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce, Greater Rochester Visitors Association and RARES.



### James Potter Commissioner

Jim moved to Henrietta in 1988 with his wife Loraine and their children Sarah and Jeff.

Jim is employed by VP Supply. Before moving to Henrietta Jim served for 14 years with the Willing Volunteer Fire Department in Allegany County holding many line and social offices. Jim joined the District in 1988 and continues to serve as an active interior firefighter as a member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1.

Jim was appointed to the Commission in 2007 to fill a vacancy. He was elected to a 1 year term for the year 2008 and to a 5 year term beginning in 2009.



### Barbara Sharp Secretary/ Treasurer

Barb and her husband Tom have been residents in Henrietta since 1975. They have two daughters who are married and live in the Rochester area.

Barb came to the District in 1987 as District Clerk having worked for Marine Midland Bank, Rochester Museum and Science Center and the R-H School District before coming to the District. Barb is the Secretary-Treasurer but

her duties also include several Human Resource duties. She truly enjoys the interaction with the Board of Commissioners and the firefighters, both career and volunteer.

Barb was an active member of the PTA, Girl Scouts and was active with the Henrietta Community Choral and Henrietta Community Theatre Group. Barb and Tom are members of Good Shepherd Parish and Barb says "grandchildren are great."

# Who's Who

## at the Henrietta Fire District



### **Louise Beale** **Legal Counsel**

Louise has represented the District for over 23 years. She is a partner in the DesMar-teau & Beale Law Firm located in Rochester, NY.



### **James Comstock** **District Fire Chief**

Chief Comstock was born in Syracuse, NY and lived in Mattydale. His family then moved to Watertown and settled in Henrietta during his freshman year in High School. He currently lives in Henrietta with his wife Susan and their children Sarah and Jason.

After graduating from James E. Sperry High School he received his BA in Economics and Business from Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Chief Comstock worked in the private sector for several years before being hired by the Henrietta Fire District in 1984. He has served 17 years as both a volunteer firefighter and officer for the Henrietta Fire District. As a career employee he was appointed as Lieutenant in 1986, Captain in 1988, Battalion Chief in 2002 and was made the first paid Chief of the Henrietta Fire District in 2006. The Chief has also served many years as an instructor for the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control and the Monroe County Fire Bureau.

Chief Comstock has served as an Asst. Soccer Coach, Asst. Scoutmaster, a parent volunteer to high school sports teams and a member of several Rush Henrietta School District safety and health committees. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumni by the Rush Henrietta School District in 2006.



### **Steven Bloss** **Deputy Chief**

Steve lives in Henrietta with his wife Mary and has three children, Sara, David & Jason.

Steve is a Bus Driver and a 19A Certified Driver Trainer for the Rush Henrietta School District.

Steve is a 1975 graduate of Onondaga Community College, 1977 graduate of SUNY @ Buffalo and a 1978 graduate of Northwood University.

Steve joined the District in 1985. Steve served as a line officer for 9 years, 3 years as Battalion Chief and became Deputy Chief in 2001. Steve is a Life Member of the West Henrietta Fire Department.

His hobbies include fishing and Ballroom Dancing.



### **Ronald Barber** **Battalion Chief**

Ron moved to Henrietta in 1973 where he lives with his wife Jackie. They have two sons Doug and Ryan.

Ron worked for Chase-Pitkin for many years and is currently employed by Wegmans.

Ron has been a member of the Henrietta Fire District since 1975. Ron held Line Officer positions for many years elected to Battalion Chief in 2002. Ron is a Life Member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1.

Ron's sons are carrying on the family tradition serving as firefighters in the Henrietta Fire District, with Doug serving as a career firefighter and Ryan as a volunteer.



### **James Greene** **Battalion Chief**

Jim moved to Henrietta in 1985 from the City of Rochester. He lives in Henrietta with his wife Carol.

He is a bus driver and bus driver trainer for the City of Rochester School District.

Jim joined the Henrietta Fire District in 1987 and has served as a Line Officer for 11 years before being elected to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2000 which he holds at this time. He served as Commissioner of the Henrietta Fire District in 2004. Jim is a Life Member of the West Henrietta Fire Department.

District in 2004. Jim is a Life Member of the West Henrietta Fire Department.



### **Timothy Ochs** **Battalion Chief**

Tim is a lifelong resident of Henrietta where he lives with his fiancée' Cyndy. He has two children, Emma and Zachary and a step-son, Blaze.

Tim is the Forman for the Parks Department of the Town of Henrietta.

He is a 1989 graduate of Rush-Henrietta.

Tim follows in the footsteps of his father who was a long time member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1 and has been a member of the Henrietta Fire District since 1988. Tim was a member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1 and is currently a member of the Genesee Valley Fire Department.

Tim was a member of Henrietta Fire Co. #1 and is currently a member of the Genesee Valley Fire Department.

# Fire Prevention and Safety

## What if No One Answered the Call?

### What if you called to report a fire or other emergency and no one picked up the phone?

Did you know that nearly 80% of America's fire service is volunteer?

Being a volunteer firefighter takes a person with a desire to do something good for the community – a person with courage and dedication. It takes a person who isn't afraid of hard work and who is willing to accept a challenge.

If you're this kind of person, you're needed as a volunteer firefighter.

For more information give us a call or visit our website at [www.henriettafire.com](http://www.henriettafire.com)

## Amanda's Law

Effective February 22, 2010  
Virtually all homes in New York State are required to have a Carbon Monoxide Detector.

CO Detectors must be installed in all new and existing (yes, existing) one and two family dwellings, multifamily dwellings and rentals having a fuel-burning appliance, or attached garage.

The NFPA Recommends CO alarms be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

CO alarms must be listed to comply with UL 2034 or CSA 6:19 and installed in accordance to manufacturer's instructions. For more information on Carbon Monoxide visit [www.coalarmlaw.com](http://www.coalarmlaw.com) or call Lt. Mike Dinsmore 359-7191.



## Deep-Fried Turkey

A longtime food favorite in the southern United States, the deep-fried turkey is now popular everywhere. But the Henrietta Fire District doesn't want you to sacrifice good sense for good taste. Take time to read the safety precautions that come with your fryer. If you're careful, you get fried turkey. If you're not, you get cooked goose!

Frying a turkey is a two person job. Have a partner do the running while you watch the turkey fryer. Turning your back could cost you not only your feast, but your home, or worse yet, an injured family member. So take care – and be safe!

### Things to consider before frying your Turkey!

- Use your turkey fryer outdoors, a safe distance from buildings and combustibles.
- Be aware of wind and other environmental conditions.
- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks, in garages, or under overhangs.
- Use fryer on a flat surface to prevent tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. Oil will continue to heat until it bursts into flame.
- Never let children or pets go near the fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot, as well as the pot itself will remain dangerously hot for hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, follow manufacturer's instructions to determine the proper amount of oil. If instructions are not available, determine it this way: Place the turkey in the pot. Fill pot with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water. Remove the turkey. Mark the water level. Dry the turkey. Dump the water, dry the pot thoroughly, and fill it with oil to the marked level. Do not overfill the fryer.
- Turkey must be completely thawed and marinades removed. Oil and water don't mix: water causes oil to spatter and spill, causing fire or even explosion.
- The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing, allowing approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird.
- If you do have a fire, immediately call 911 for help.
- **Never** use water to extinguish a grease fire. Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. If the fire is manageable, use the fire extinguisher, **after** you have called 911.

## Your Local Volunteer Fire Departments

### HENRIETTA FIRE COMPANY, INC.

3129 East Henrietta Rd.  
Henrietta, NY 14467  
(585) 334-5018  
President: George Haberberger

### WEST HENRIETTA FIRE COMPANY, INC.

774 Erie Station Rd.  
West Henrietta, NY 14586  
(585) 334-2220  
President: Robert Laux

### GENESEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

3 Riverview Dr.  
Henrietta, NY 14623  
(585) 359-7200  
President: J. Frank Meyers

[www.henriettafire.com](http://www.henriettafire.com)