Honoring
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July 17, 2020

Save, Serve & Protect
Oil City Police Department

The Oil City Police Department was organized on May 16, 1861, when Oil City was a borough. Upon formation the department consisted of only a chief and two regular full time officers. 2020 marks 159 years of continuous service to the community.

The department did not grow in size until 1890, 31 years later, when it was increased to five men. Since then the size of the department has fluctuated over the years; at times staffing over 25 full-time officers, auxiliary officers, and support staff. Currently the department is budgeted for 16 full-time officers, auxiliary officers, and support staff. Currently the department is budgeted for 16 full-time officers, auxiliary officers, and support staff.

The department is currently located on the first floor of the City Hall Building, 21 Seneca St., in downtown Oil City; where it has been since July of 1992. The Oil City Police Dept. is a full-time department, offering citizens protection and service every day of the year, 24 hours a day. If a citizen calls the emergency line ((814)-678-3080), or stops at the station, for any reason, regardless of the time of day, they will speak with a person as the dispatch center manned continuously without interruption.

Service

The Oil City Police Department responds to approximately 10,000 calls annually. This breaks down to an average of 850 calls per officer during the calendar year; with peak call hours between 3 and 11 p.m.

The calls range from traffic accidents, primary UCR reportable crimes, traffic-related incidents to include vehicle code violations, aiding other agencies and warrant service.

In an era of stressed budgets and declining services, the department takes pride in the fact that officers gently respond to calls that cause inconvenience in the everyday life of its’ citizens, such as: barking dogs, loud music, neighbor disputes, and parking problems.

However, our officers are trained and professional enough to respond to, and investigate the most serious crimes of: burglary, homicide, motor vehicle theft, robbery, and sexual assault.

The current roster of officers is a diverse group of professionals coming from several backgrounds, which provides great levels of adaptability and understanding in service to the community.

Many of our officers are military veterans, college graduates, and/or have prior law enforcement experience. Officer’s terms of service range from less than one year, to over three decades, with the average of nine years of law enforcement experience.

Beyond the required MPOTEC training for municipal police professionals, many of our officers have additional specialized skills and areas of expertise.

Members of the department are SWAT certified and serve on the department’s Tactical Entry Team. The team responds to “higher risk” situations that are beyond the daily response for a patrol officer. These include search warrant service, felony and fugitive arrest warrant service, hostage situations, and active shooter scenarios. The team not only serves Oil City, but has been called out of the area to assist other agencies as well. The team does so with an armored vehicle, and specialty tools and equipment specific to each task. The team has officer(s) specially trained and designated as negotiator(s) who attempt to defuse certain situations before force is required. Additionally the team has a tactical medic, one member of the Oil City Fire Dept., who is otherwise a full-time paramedic, specifically trained to operate in these “higher risk” environments.

Select members of the Oil City Police Department also work under the auspice of the Pa Attorney General’s Drug Task Force Region VII, Anti-Terrorism Response Team Region II, and Venango County DUI Task Force.
The Oil City Fire Department was established in 1887. From the days of bucket brigades, then horse-drawn steamers and hose wagons, to the mechanical era with motorized apparatus, to today’s fire service where many of the tools are hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, or computerized.

The Oil City Fire Department provided and continues to provide excellent service to the City of Oil City and its citizens. In the 1960s, the department boasted a compliment of 26 full-time firefighters and responded to about 300 calls per year.

The department operated out of four fire stations, Seneca Street (department headquarters), at the corner of Wilson and East Second Street (Station 2), at the corner of Plummer and Bissell Avenue (Station 3), and at the corner of Orange and West Sixth Street (Station 4).

Today, the department has 14 full-time firefighters and six part-time firefighters. In 2019, the department responded to 2,342 calls for service. The calls for service are handled from two stations, Central Avenue (Station 1) and the corner of Plummer and Bissell Avenue (Station 3). The calls responded to in 2019 represent a complete array of incidents from building or residential fires, vehicle fires, brush fires, emergency medical responses, vehicle accidents etc., to helping an elderly or disabled citizen off the floor and back to bed.

Services provided by the Oil City Fire Department go beyond what most people would call traditional fire department activities.

Whether the department is providing medical standby or a tactical medic to the Oil City Police Department on high risk operations, or assisting public works with annual maintenance of the ice control device located on the Allegheny River by clearing debris from the pontoons or stretching cables to the ends so that the device can be returned to its winter position, to annual inspection and above ground maintenance of the city’s nearly 500 fire hydrants, to maintaining the city’s traffic lights by changing LED heads or repairing computerized equipment. The department continues to meet the needs of the citizens of Oil City.

The Oil City Fire Department provides Advanced Life Support (paramedics).

A paramedic has the ability to perform medical skills including cardiac monitoring (EKG) and interpretation, intravenous access, medication administration, intubation, cardiac defibrillation as well as cardiac pacing, and many other medical procedures.

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**OC Police**

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Officers have also received specialized training in the following, but not limited to: workplace violence, active shooter response, mass casualty events, night vision training/instructor, special victims and sexual assault response/protocol, electronic technology and evidence collection, ethnic sensitivity/diversity/communication training, drug investigation and interdiction, and tactical medicine. Several officers also hold certifications to instruct and train fellow officers in these areas, allowing for shared learning and complete rounding within the department itself.

The Oil City Police Department is also active with neighborhood watch groups, the Oil City Northside and Oil City Southside Associations, and Venango County Crime Stoppers.

Officers teach the NRA Eddie Eagle Firearms, and other safety oriented programs to pre-K through elementary school students.

The department offers ride-alongs to students for school projects, high school graduation projects, and job shadowing service. Throughout the year offices will also conduct tours of the Oil City Police Dept. to various organizations, civic and religious groups, schools, boys scout troops, as well as many others.

The Oil City Police Department participates in several traffic safety initiatives sponsored by PennDOT and National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, under the Drive Safe Pa. These programs combined an educational element in the form of “Survival 101” and “16 Minutes,” taught to beginning drivers in high school; with the enforcement elements of “Aggressive Driver” and “Pennsylvania Buckle Up”, which targets unsafe driving and seatbelt usage. The enforcement programs require officers to issue citations for any violations observed.

Officers recently attended Civilian Response to Active Shooters, and Level I Instructors Certification training through Texas State University. This permits officers to train civilians in their role for survival during an active shooter scenario in the world today. Those certified officers have already begun training employees, businesses, and civic groups in the Oil City area at their request.

**Personnel**

Chief of Police — David Ragon

Lieutenants — Jonathan Love, Cory Ruditis, Steven Rembold

Senior Patrolmen — Robert Culp, Timothy Karns

Patrolmen — Regina Deloe, Larry Drake, John Byham, Thomas Lawton, Jordon Anderson, Brandon Rosenberger, William McDevitt

Probationary officers — Joab Orr, Wesley Paxton, Thomas Schwab

Police Secretary — Vivian Davis

Parking Control Officer — Lori Everett

Dispatchers — Vance Barber, Brittany Manross, Julie Sheridan, Sara McAndrews, Stacey Crosmun
OC Fire

Continued from Page 3

The fire engine located at the corner of Plummer and Bissell Avenue station continues to be the only ALS-equipped engine in Northwest Pennsylvania which enables the department to send a paramedic unit on either a second medical response or simultaneous responses.

The Oil City Fire Department also provides many technical rescue capabilities including but not limited to Swift Water Rescue, SCUBA divers, vehicle rescue, trench rescue, confined space, rope/high angle, and structural collapse. These capabilities are available to our local agencies as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Urban Search and Rescue system which the Oil City Fire Department has been active for nearly 16 years.

Training

Training is an important part of the ever-changing fire service community. There are five certified fire instructors on staff who provide in house training as well as training for other local departments.

Statistics

The department responded to 2,342 calls in 2019. Of those, 132 were fire responses, 1,541 were emergency medical responses and 668 were public service responses.

Fire Prevention

During Fire Prevention Week, the department guided more than 500 students through the fire station and taught about smoke detectors, escape plans, calling 911, family meeting places, as well as Stop, Drop and Roll.

Fire safety and prevention programs are offered at housing authority buildings and apartments in the city. The department also conducts fire drills at schools and businesses as well as fire extinguisher training. Fire safety presentations were also provided to the neighborhood associations.

The department continues its intensive fire prevention inspection program. City buildings were inspected for compliance with the International Fire Code as adopted by the City of Oil City. The task of completing the inspections were carried out by seven certified fire inspectors. Multiple violations have been identified and abated.

Personnel

Fire Chief/paramedic — Mark Hicks
“A” Crew
Captain/Paramedic — Derek Long
Lieutenant — Dennis Cherish
Firefighter/EMT — Scott Attenborough
Firefighter/Paramedic — Noel Bartlett

“B” Crew
Captain/Paramedic — Dennis Alcorn
Lieutenant — Eric McFadden
Firefighter/Paramedic — Charles Hoobler
Firefighter/EMT — Darryl Scott, Brad Davis

“C” Crew
Captain/Paramedic — John Rodgers
Lieutenant/Paramedic — William “Bill” Lamberton
Firefighter/Paramedic — Sam McSparren
Firefighter/EMT — John Horn, Chad Berry

Part-time firefighters:
Firefighter/EMT — Tim Alex
Firefighter/Paramedic — Kobe Kahle
Firefighter/EMT — Devin Fisher, Dan Metz, Bri Thompson, Nate Danzer

Equipment

Engine 1 — 2014 Smeal 1,500 gpm pump, 1,000 gallon water tank
Engine 2 — 211 Ferrara Intruder, 1,500 gpm pump, 500 gallon water tank
Engine 3 — 2006 Crimson, 1,250 gpm pump, 800 gallon water tank
Rescue 4 — 2015 Morton Rescue
Rescue 7 — 2017 Ford F-250, ALS Rescue
Rescue 12 — 2003 Ford F-350, Utility Vehicle
Tower 14 — 2011 Smeal, 2,000 gpm pump, 300 gallon water tank, 100’ aerial platform
Boat — 1996 Roughneck 16-foot equipped with a 40 h.p. Yamaha Jet
Boat — 2014 Achilles 16-foot inflatable equipped with 30 h.p. Evinrude E-Tec Jet
Car 11 — 2017 Ford Explorer chief’s vehicle

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Franklin Police Department

It is the mission of the City of Franklin Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, maintaining the highest ethical standards, to both the citizens of the City of Franklin and visitors alike, with honor and integrity.

With the goal to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety and improve quality of life by proactive enforcement of the statues of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, along with the City ordinances of Franklin, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of America.

History
The City of Franklin was incorporated April 14, 1868, from a Borough to a City.
At that time the Police Department consisted of eight people. E.J. Bleakley as Chief and W.A. Shorts as the Desk Sergeant, the Police Department has since changed in size over the years, ranging from an all-time low of eight officers in 1868 to an all-time high of 21 officers in 1974.

Present
The department is a full-time police department with 17 sworn officers.
It has a patrol fleet of five fully marked and two unmarked police vehicles. The police department has a fully staffed dispatch center at all times.
The department is the County Central Booking Site and is a Megan’s Law Offender registration site location. The department is equipped with an indoor shooting range.
Officers are all state-certified emergency medical technicians or first responders.
The department is the only one in northwestern Pennsylvania that is a licensed QRS (Quick Response Service) agency. Part of the department’s regular duties is to respond to medical emergencies and provide patient care under the state Department of Health guidelines.
The department is involved in numerous programs such as the Venango County DUI Task Force, Buckle-Up Enforcement Program, Aggressive Driving Enforcement Program and the attorney general’s counter drug task force.
Officers receive firearms training, field sobriety testing training, Taser training and more.
All officers are certified in standardized field sobriety testing and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement program. These specialized trainings help officers in the detection and enforcement of drug- and alcohol-related offenses.

Officers enforce violations of state statutes and city ordinances through proactive patrol techniques.
Officers respond to citizen complaints, calls for service, conduct criminal investigations, enforce traffic and parking laws, respond to and investigate traffic accidents and medical emergencies, and conduct crime prevention programs.

Sworn personnel
Chief — Kevin Anundson
Lieutenants — Melissa Edwards, Kurt Gindhart, Aaron Campbell
Detective — Kevin Saragian
Patrolmen — Steven Barnes, Joshua Wheeling, James Harrah Jr., Matthew McConnell, Kenneth Scott, Christopher Wagner, Jacob Young, Sean Floor, Jaimi Gilchrist, Andrew Johnson

Support personnel
Chief’s secretary/records clerk — Keva Cichra
Meter enforcement — Cody Baker
Dispatchers — Amber Everett, Adna Terry, Katherynn Ripple, Jamie Carson, Ryan Hefferman, Michele Dashner

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Franklin Fire Department

The Franklin Fire Department was established in 1893 and is located at 113 13th St. within the city of Franklin. The department can be reached by telephone at 432-3780 or by email at jwetzel@franklinpa.gov.

**Equipment**

The department equipment consists of the following:
- Tower 9 — 2008 Pierce Velocity 100 foot rear mount tower equipped with 300 gallons of water and a 2000 gpm pump.
- Engine 34 — 2008 Pierce Velocity Engine equipped with 750 gallons of water and a 1500 gpm pump. The engine is also equipped with a Genesis Rescue Tool and is a PA Department of Health Certified QRS (Quick Response Service) vehicle.
- Engine 33 — 1996 Pierce Saber Engine equipped with 750 gallons of water and a 1500 gpm pump.
- Engine 35 — 1986 Pierce Dash Engine equipped with 750 gallons of water and a 1500 gpm pump.
- Truck 31 — 2004 Chevrolet 2500 HD/ Utility body and a skid load high pressure pump and 200 gallon water tank.

**Call statistics**

In 2019, the Franklin Fire Department handled 889 calls for service with 53 of those being mutual aid responses. The calls included, but were not limited to structural fires, vehicle fires, motor vehicle accidents, fire alarms and assisting other agencies.

**Fire prevention**

The department is proactive in its fire prevention program whether it be visiting the elementary classrooms at the schools during fire prevention week or conducting a tour of the station and equipment. Programs are not only for the kids, but adults as well. During the year, fire prevention programs involved more than 2,400 school-age children and adults.

**History**

In 2005, the City of Franklin Fire Department consisted of seven full-time and five part-time firefighters. During that year, 100 percent of its members became certified at the Firefighter I level. In September of 2005, the Office of the State Fire Commissioner recognized the department as a participating department of the Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program by certifying 100 percent of its members to the National Professional Qualifications Standards.

At the time, the City of Franklin Fire Department was one of only 13 departments in the state that has 100 percent of its members certified to at least the Firefighter I level. And it was the only fire department in western Pennsylvania to attain 100 percent certification. Today, the department consists of seven full-time and 11 part-time firefighters.

All firefighters are certified at the Firefighter I level and 14 are certified at the Firefighter II level.

As retirements take place and with the hiring of new firefighters, the department continues to maintain the same level of service while training and certification testing continues.

There is an estimated 2,400 fire departments in Pennsylvania and 261 of those departments are participating in the Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program. Of those participating, there are 42 other departments and only 15 others in western Pennsylvania that have 100 percent of their members certified.

In addition to the Firefighter I and II certifications, the Franklin Fire Department is proud to have nine members certified at the Fire Officer I level, 10 members certified at the Hazardous Materials Awareness level, 11 members certified at the Hazardous Materials Operations level, eight members certified as Driver/Operator - Pumper, one certified as Driver/Operator-Aerial, 10 members certified as Fire Instructors, four members certified as Juvenile Firesetter Intervention I Specialists, one certified as an Airport Firefighter, two certified as a Fire Instructor II, one certified as a HazMat Incident Commander, one certified as an Incident Safety Officer and two certified as Fire Investigator I.

There are also seven certified Scuba divers and two water rescue instructors.

The Franklin Fire Department is a licensed BLS (Basic Life Support) squad through the state Department of Health. All members of the department are medically trained and maintain certification through the Department of Health. Three members are also certified through the Department of Health as Basic Vehicle Rescue Technicians.

**Training**

As the issues pertaining to the fire service continue to change at a rapid pace, the members are required to train on a regular basis. More than 1,200 hours of formal training were logged by the department in 2018.

In 2017, the City of Franklin underwent an ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluation which evaluates the Fire Department, Water System and Emergency Communications. Based upon the evaluation a Public Protection Classification grade is then assigned between 1 and 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program and a Class 10 does not meet the minimum criteria. This information is then provided to the insurance industry and fire insurance premiums are determined. The City of Franklin was determined to be an ISO Class 3. The department’s last evaluation was completed in 2007, and it was determined to be an ISO Class 5.

**Personnel**

Chief — James Wetzel

A Shift

Lieutenant — Michael Kline
Firefighter — Daniel Anderson II

B Shift

Lieutenant — Timothy Heller
Firefighter — Daniel Wetzel

C Shift

Lieutenant — Daniel Metz
Firefighters — Andrew Eckel

Part-time firefighters — David Rodgers, Gary Knox, Charles Gibbons, Timothy Dunkle, Charles Hoobler, Derek Long, Kobe Kahle, Luke Behe, Timothy Alex, Michael Cook and Nathaniel Danzer

The County of Venango is currently accepting applications for the following position:

**SERVICE COORDINATOR II**

Venango County is currently accepting applications for full-time (40 hrs./wk.) Service Coordinator II positions for our Children & Youth Services Ongoing Unit.

We provide employer-paid individual coverage for medical (no waiting period), dental and life insurance, employer-paid family vision, along with an excellent pension plan. Starting salary: $14.09/hr. plus $750 sign-on bonuses and other retention bonuses upon eligibility.

Management reserves the right to fill Service Coordinator II positions at the Service Coordinator I level ($12.52/hr.) for applicants who do not meet the SC II qualifications.

Veterans claiming veterans’ hiring preference must provide a valid DD214 form that clearly displays an honorable or general discharge and dates of service completed.

Successful candidates will work with us to complete the clearance and drug screening process. All background checks must reflect acceptable results.

You must successfully complete the caseworker exam and pass an interview. Automated testing is available at the Troy A. Wood Human Services Complex, 1 Dale Ave., Franklin, PA; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Mon.–Fri. with no appointment necessary.

Job qualifications are obtainable online at www.pacareerlink.pa.gov or www.ind.com.

County applications must be completed and returned to Venango County Human Resources, Troy A. Wood Human Services Complex, 1 Dale Ave., Franklin, PA 16323 by 07/24/20 at 4:00 p.m. Late applications are not considered. You can download an application via our website by visiting the HR Job Application Process section of the Venango County website at https://www.co.venango.pa.us/286/Job-Application-Process and clicking the appropriate link to download the form. Or, application and job description can also be provided via email upon request. Questions can be addressed by calling 814-432-9551 or via email at ssutich@co.venango.pa.us.

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Clarion Borough Police Department

The Clarion Borough Police Department is committed to protect and serve through fairness, compassion and excellence while providing police services in accordance with the law and sensitive to the priorities and needs of the community.

The Clarion Borough Police Department was first established by an ordinance on May 2, 1944. At that time, one officer was employed as chief of police. During the next 50 years, the department grew with the community.

Today, the department is staffed by 14 trained, professional officers. Every officer employed has completed a certified Municipal Officer’s Training Academy, and every officer is certified on an annual basis. The department employs a detective, a DARE officer and all officers are trained for bicycle patrol. The department uses four police vehicles and has a computerized reporting process. Approximately 3,000 calls for service or criminal incidents are answered each year.

**Personnel**

- Police chief — William H. Peck
- Meter enforcement officer — Emerson Hartle
- Police secretary — Julie Dunlap

**Programs**

The Clarion Borough Police Department conducts the DARE program with the Clarion Area Elementary School and Immaculate Conception School for students in third through fifth grade. The police department is working with state Department of Transportation to develop programs for students at Clarion Area High School, including a mock traffic court program, “16 Minutes” program for students who are turning 16 and a “Survival 101” program to provide information on aggressive driving issues and seatbelt use.

The police department also is involved in providing car seats for children at reduced prices.

The department has drug take-back programs and has a drop box where people may deposit unwanted medications, whether they are narcotics or other prescriptions.

The drop box is located outside the main door of the Clarion Borough Municipal Building.

Pennsylvania State Police

The Pennsylvania State Police was created by an act of the legislation which was signed into law by Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker on May 2, 1905. It was the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States.

The Pennsylvania State Police has jurisdiction in all political subdivisions in the commonwealth. Criminal investigation and support services occupy approximately one-third of the total on-duty time of the state police while the remaining time is devoted to traffic enforcement and other public safety services.

The department’s enlisted and civilian personnel are committed to providing world-class service to its police partners and the citizens of the commonwealth by remaining focused on its Core Purpose: to seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all.

The PA State Police, Franklin station is located at 6724 U.S. Route 322 in Cranberry Township. The station operates full-time and provides coverage and services for the citizens and communities of Venango County. This station is part of Troop E, headquartered in Erie.

Members of PSP Franklin station represent patrol, criminal investigations, community service, forensic service, fire marshal and motor carrier enforcement units. In addition, civilian police communication officers provide greeting and dispatching services full-time.

Services provided include processing for registrants under the Megan’s Law/Adam Walsh Act, checking for proper installation of child car seats, and providing educational programs through the Community Services Unit.

Camp Cadet, for youths ages 13-15, is held annually in June at Allegheny College. This week-long camp is staffed by troopers of Troop E. Additional information on the camp is available at www.pacampcadet.com.

People may follow the Pennsylvania State Police on Facebook and Twitter. Troop E may be followed @PSPTroopEP10.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania State Police Academy maintains pages at www.facebook.com/spacademy and @psp_academy. These accounts provide information on the department statewide.

More information may be obtained at www.psp.pa.gov or calling the Franklin station at 676-6596.

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Venango County Sheriff

**Personnel**

Sheriff — Eric Foy
Chief Deputy — Merle Giesey
K9 handler — Ryan Williams and Baxter
Deputies — Dan Lauer, Jason Smerkar, Jeff Hollidge, Jared Hollidge, Brandon Heller, Steve Brundage, Richard Baney, Cody Sines
School Resource Officers — Zachary Fischer, Rich Wadlow, Eric Lacey
Administrative Assistant — Cindy Long
Clerk — Ann Childers

The Venango County Sheriff’s Office participates in the “RUOK?” program for seniors 65 and older who live alone. Partnered with the Governor’s Office and the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency, the Sheriff’s Office was chosen to enroll seniors to receive a daily automated phone call to check on them. If they do not answer after three attempts, a deputy sheriff will respond to their residence to make sure they are safe. This program will provide peace-of-mind to these residents and their family members. Project Lifesaver is also offered as a tracking program for those who tend to wander, i.e. Alzheimer’s, dementia, autism. More information about these programs, please contact the Sheriff’s Office.

The Sheriff’s Office continues to handle animal cruelty complaints throughout the county. Chief Deputy Merle Giesey and Deputy Sheriff Ryan Williams are in charge of investigating animal abuse and neglect throughout the county. They also provide education and valuable resources to animals owners.

The K9 program offers tracking services to law enforcement agencies throughout Venango County. Baxter and the deputies assigned to the tracking team responded to several incidents so far this year. The K9 team still participates in several community events and conducts several children’s programs about search & rescue.

This summer, deputy sheriffs will conduct bicycle patrols on local Allegheny Valley Rails to Trails bicycle and walking trails. These patrols result in the deterrence of vandalism, trespass, theft and drug-related crimes and are a welcomed sight for residents and visitors.

In conjunction with the Valley Grove School District, the sheriff’s office has implemented three school resource officers who are visible, active law enforcement figures in the schools. Their duties include developing and educating students in crime prevention and safety, providing a classroom resource for law education using approved materials and curriculum and being a valuable resource for teachers, parents and students.

**History**

The history of the Office of Sheriff is really a history of self-government. While some historians maintain that the Office of Sheriff derives from either the Roman procurator or the Arab Sharif (nobleman), it is generally accepted that the office goes back historically to Anglo-Saxon England (A.D. 500-1066).

According to Anglo-Saxon custom, if someone broke the law it was not just a crime against the victim, but a crime against the whole community. The Anglo-Saxon kings expected their subjects to keep good order, which they called “keeping the peace.”

Under Alfred the Great, shires or counties were formed and people accused of minor crimes were brought before the local “folk moot.” More serious cases went to the Shire Court, which came under the shire reeve, or keeper and chief of the county. This person became known as the sheriff.

In A.D. 1085, King William ordered a compilation of all taxable property in a census and decreed that the sheriff was to be the official tax collector of the king.

King Henry I established a new penal code in 1116. While the Crown reserved to itself the power to punish for violations of the penal code, it delegated to the sheriff the power to investigate and arrest.

By 1300, the sheriff was the executive and administrative leader of the county.

When settlers left England to colonize the New World, they took with them many of their governmental forms, including that of the sheriff.

When the first counties were established in Virginia in 1634, the Office of Sheriff in America began. By the time of the American Revolution, all of the colonies had sheriffs. When the American frontier began to move westward, so did the sheriff.

The 19th century was the golden age of the American sheriff which characters like Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp and Texas John Slaughter becoming a colorful part of American history.

Today, the Office of Sheriff is found in every state in the Union. The Office of Sheriff was brought to the colony, which would become the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by Dutch and English colonists before the time of William Penn. The office was constitutionally mandated by all five of Pennsylvania constitutions, in 1776, 1790, 1838, 1873 and 1967.

Throughout the years, the sheriff in Pennsylvania has acquired many and varied responsibilities and obligations. The sheriff’s duty is to keep the peace and quell riots and disorders. The sheriff has jurisdiction to make arrests anywhere in the county, to make searches of premises and to seize items or property owned or used in violation of the law. The Sheriff and his deputies are also authorized to enforce the PA Vehicle Code Title 75.

The sheriff is called upon to remove certain nuisances and can issue licenses to sell or carry firearms.

Appointed deputies have the same power as the sheriff when performing their duties.
Clarion County Sheriff

The Clarion County Sheriff’s Office has been in existence since 1840. Starting with James Hasson and running through to the current sheriff, Rex Munsee, there have been 30 sheriffs who have served in that position.

The duties of the sheriff’s office are diverse and constantly expanding. It is an enforcement arm of the Judicial Court, both for the commonwealth and the local district justices, and various warrants of arrest and contempt are the local district justices, and various court, both for the commonwealth and an enforcement arm of the Judicial systems for local residents who suffer through to the current sheriff, Rex Munsee, there have been 30 sheriffs ning through to the current sheriff, Rex Munsee, has been in existence since 1840.

Among the sheriff’s responsibilities, there is the responsibility to enforce the law, to serve notices such as judgments, orders of protection, and other legal documents, and to maintain peace and order within the county. The sheriff’s office also plays a role in public safety, providing services such as traffic control, animal control, and emergency medical services.

In terms of personnel, there are multiple deputy sheriffs who are responsible for carrying out the duties of the sheriff’s office. These deputies work closely with other local law enforcement agencies, such as police departments, to ensure the safety and security of the community.

Clarion University Police Department

Clarion University Police Department is a division of the university’s Public Safety. Led by Chief Jason Hendershot since 2015, the department includes three patrol sergeants, one corporal/criminal investigator, five patrol officers, a security officer, three dispatchers and a safety manager. At least one police officer is on duty at all times, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In June 2017, CUPD received accredited status from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the first university police department in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education and the sixth university department in the commonwealth to become accredited.

“The accreditation process assures that the department is following best practices in law enforcement,” Hendershot said.

“The accreditation process serves as a guide to improve the function of the work we do. In higher education, accreditation is widely understood as a positive acknowledgement that work is being done the right way,” he said.

Personnel

Along with Sheriff Rex Munsee, there are Chief Deputy Keith Troesch, five full-time deputies and six part-time deputies, who are assisted by three clerks.

Call statistics

In 2019, a total of $146,856 was turned over to the Clarion County Treasurer’s Office by the sheriff’s office for fees on court documents, auctioneering of foreclosed properties and special security details.

Also, thousands of dollars were collected for the state and county due to service of traffic and criminal warrants on violators who stopped making court-ordered payments.

Also in 2019, there were 1,471 concealed weapons permits issued; 10 domestic relations warrants were served; 460 bench and body warrants were served; 95 protection from abuse orders; 523 delinquent tax notices were posted; 315 Judicial Tax notices were served; 67 warrants of execution, 316 civil papers served; 678 transports of prisoners; 133 traffic citations issued and 78 requests for fingerprints for job applications were completed.

Three beginner pistol shooting classes were held.

Training

All deputies are Act 120-certified and receives all mandatory training and re-certifications through the year.

On Behalf of the Residents of the 64th Legislative District

'Thank You' to our Local First Responders!

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The department has a mutual aid agreement with the Clarion Borough Police and responds to approximately 75 requests per year to assist them. CUPD also works closely with Clarion Borough Police on major incidents that occur on campus or in the borough.

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THE DERRICK. / The News-Herald: Friday, July 17, 2020 – 9
The Sugarcreek Police Department covers five villages including Rocky Grove, Sugarcreek, Wyattville, Galloway, and Reno as well as adjoining areas that make up almost 40 square miles of coverage area that includes more than 5,000 residents.

The department maintains a webpage at www.sugarcreekborough.us.

Terri Lowry and Pat Jarzenske serve on the Sugarcreek Police Civil Service Commission.

The mission of the Sugarcreek Borough Police Department is to enhance the quality of life throughout Sugarcreek by working cooperatively with all of its citizens to preserve the peace, enforce the law, reduce the perception of fear, and provide a safe and caring environment.

As the Sugarcreek Borough Police Department moves into the coming year, we intend to proceed with the services we are currently supplying and enhance our visibility within the community with more aggressive patrols during peak crime hours as well as addressing ongoing crimes such as drugs and thefts.

Additionally, the department intends to continue to form more partnerships with the community and the business owners to better address the concerns of both and identify the reoccurring crime issues that plague our community.

The Sugarcreek Borough Council has also approved the hiring of four part-time officers. One position has been filled and the three remaining will be filled very soon, allowing the department to be more flexible in scheduling and with manpower during major investigations.

With an emphasis on training and professionalism, the Department looks forward to protecting and serving the community in the coming year.

**History**

Dec. 6, 1950 — A petition was presented to the Sugarcreek Township supervisors from Reno Citizens calling for the provision of police services.

July 13, 1957 — Police Chief Charles E. McNany was killed in the line of duty.

His name is listed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

1984 — Sugarcreek Crime Watch organization was established.

1997 — Sergeant Anthony Gorman was shot in the line of duty. Gorman survived the shooting and later retired from the force. He is listed in the American Police Hall of Fame in Miami, Florida. Sgt. Gorman died in 2014.


2010 — Code enforcement came under the police department for enforcement. Zoning went back to administration.

2017 — K-9 Goose retired from service.

**Personnel**

Mayor — Charlie McDaniel

Chief — Robert J. Wenner

Lieutenants — Ryan D. Ashbaugh, Darin L. Baker

Patrolmen — Jeffrey Wellman, Matthew Johnson, David Wilson

Confidential Police Clerk/Dispatcher — Sarah A. Bell

**Equipment**

The police department has a fleet of vehicles that includes one marked 2017 Ford Utility Interceptors, an unmarked 2015 Ford Utility Interceptor, a marked black and white 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, and an unmarked 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV for the Chief to maintain a 24/7 coverage if needed.

The department also has a 2020 Ford Utility on order.

**Programs**

Officers routinely speak at Scouting events, community events, businesses, and private and public clubs to include crime prevention, safety, firearms and firearms safety, bicycle safety, narcotics presentations, including methamphetamine along with explosives and safety in relation to the public, and fireworks permitting.

Tours and talks also have been given at the municipal building for area students.

Presentations have also been given that are geared towards the safety of our senior citizens. They are often targeted for telephone scams, identity theft, and more.

Many high school seniors in the area have used the police department to do their senior projects.

Fingerprinting is done for the residents on an as-needed basis and is free of charge.

Department officers conducted our 3rd annual Fill-A-Car food drive in conjunction with Community Services of Venango County. Over $1,500 worth of donated items were collected.

Department officers also participated in the 2019 Shop with a Hero event in conjunction with Venango County Family Services. This event allows disadvantaged children from Venango County to go shopping for Christmas with local police, fire and EMS personnel.

Officers also participated in the Autism Stands Dodgeball for a Cause tournament held at Oil City High School. This event helped raise awareness of autism in the surrounding communities. The team chose Spiderman as their patron superhero.

**Call statistics**

The police department responded to 4,819 complaint calls during 2019, a 58.8% increase from the prior year.

Departmental numbers for 2019 show 625 total incidents (51% increase), 1,041 citations (16.4% increase), 189 criminal complaints (67.3% increase), 479 misdemeanors (128% increase), and 105 felonies (238.7% increase).
Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Co.

The Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Company is located in the Borough of Cooperstown, approximately 7 miles west of Franklin. It provides primary emergency medical and fire protection to the municipalities of Cooperstown Borough and Jackson Township.

The fire company protects a population of 2,500 residents within approximately 26 square miles.

The fire company responds to an average of 160 calls per year. These calls include medical emergencies and fire calls from wildland fires to structure fires, including mutual aid to neighboring fire departments. The company also responds to vehicle accidents, trees down from storms, and public service calls.

The fire company operates on an annual budget of about $70,000, with the funding coming from local municipalities, raffles, auctions, and other fundraisers throughout the year. Due to COVID-19, the fire company had to cancel most of its fundraising events, which has hurt the operational and training budgets tremendously.

The Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Co. was established in 1937 as a forest fire crew to respond to wildland fires. In 1938, the organization was chartered as the Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Co. Members of the fire company conduct and attend monthly training. There are approximately 40 members in the fire company with about 18 serving in an active classification responding to calls and many more actively working with fundraisers. The remaining members are classified as social members.

The fire company has seven members certified to the level of Firefighter 1 or Firefighter 2, and 15 members certified as Rescue Technicians.

The fire company has placed dry hydrants at strategic locations in its service area to ensure water need not be hauled more than 2 miles within Cooperstown Borough or Jackson Township. This project can lower insurance rates for property owners.

**Personnel**

President — Tom Konetsky
Vice president — Margo Knapp
Treasurer — Steven Martin
Secretary — Barb McElhaney
Board of directors — Marcy Novak (chairperson), Rich Lambert, Bill Copley, John Dempsey, Michael Meyer, Steve McElhaney

Fire chief — Steve Novak
First assistant — Tom Konetsky
Second assistant — Rich Lambert
Medical officer — Margo Knapp
Fire police captain — John Dempsey
Fire police lieutenant — Ralph Knapp

**Equipment**

1986 Ford Brush Fire unit
1989 Mack Pumper/Tanker with 2,500-gallon water tank
2009 HME Pumper with 750-gallon water tank and CAF’s foam system
2017 Chevrolet 2500 Quick Response Unit

Polk Borough Police Department

The Polk Borough Police Department was established in 1997. Since then, it has increased its areas of patrol.

In 2000, Polk Borough Police began servicing calls to Clintonville Borough. In 2001, the department started patrolling Barkeyville Borough. In April 2006, the department added the neighboring township of Frenchcreek and, in April 2007, Utica Borough was added to the patrol.

The department added K-9 Officer Vilko in November 2007. He was trained in narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, area searches, article searches and aggression. Vilko was used in every area that the department covers and successfully detected narcotics. Vilko retired in June of 2018, and passed away earlier this year.

Armin is the new K-9 officer. He underwent the same training that Vilko had and will be used in the same work.

**Personnel**

Edward Sharp — chief
Alan Heller — sergeant/K-9 handler
Armin — K-9 officer
Jarrod Deeter — patrolman

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We would like to thank the people that serve our country and our community.

We Support Our Troops
The Sandycreek Township Volunteer Fire Department, which was established in 1959, provides service to approximately 20 square miles in Sandycreek and Frenchcreek townships. The department has 26 active members. Nineteen are fully trained interior-attack firefighters and eight are fire police. Thirteen active members have hazardous materials, Incident Command and CPR training. Most members also have advanced training in vehicle extrication, rope rescue, and water rescue.

The department has a Junior Firefighter program. Youths ages 14 to 18 can join the department and start their training in emergency services. The department provides protective equipment and training. Juniors 14-15 are mainly restricted to training; age 16-17 can become certified to respond as primary responders to vehicle accidents, brush/forest fires, and medical emergencies, and in a support role at structure fires. The department’s goal with the Juniors program is to get the young members trained to a level so that when they turn 18, after one additional class, they can be certified as fully qualified interior structural firefighters. Junior members at age 16 can also become Pennsylvania state-certified Emergency Medical Responders or Emergency Medical Technicians.

All funding for the fire department comes from fundraisers like monthly dinners, the Ladies Spring Fling, the annual Gun Raffle, Ladies Night Out Raffle, caterings, the Rocky Grove Fair, and the department’s annual fund drive. There are 12 support members who serve as fundraising/activity committee members for the department.

The fire department’s regular meeting night is the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. Training sessions are held every Tuesday night at the truck garage. Anyone interested in joining the fire department as a firefighter, EMT, or as a support member may call or stop in at the station.

Sandycreek Township VFD is proud to sponsor and charter Cub Scout Pack 37. The pack holds den meetings, monthly pack meetings, committee meetings, and some special events at the social hall. The department’s social hall can be rented for wedding receptions, family reunions, company parties, graduations, meetings, and much more. It has seating for more than 400 people and is air conditioned. The cost is $400 plus a $200 refundable deposit. Use of the kitchen is included in the cost. Catering done by members is an option with a hall rental. Information on the hall rentals, catering menu and prices or upcoming events is available on the department’s Facebook page or by calling Bob Robinson at (814) 758-2746.

Personnel

Board officers:
President — Larry DeLong
Vice president — Ron Beers
Secretary — Jim Runninger
Treasurer — Paul Runninger
Assistant treasurer — Connie Burkhardt

Line officers:
Chief 23 — Randy Richards
Deputy Chief 23-2 — Charlie Hoobler
Captain 23 — Tim Rust
Lieutenant 23 — Dan Reinsel
Lieutenant 23-2 — Chuck Rode
Safety Officer — Tom Burkhardt

Fire police officers:
Captain — Tom Tarr
Lieutenant — Joe Baker

Call statistics
Sandycreek Township VFD had 363 calls in 2019. The vast majority — 193 — were emergency medical calls. There were 22 fire calls, 13 hazardous condition calls, 87 service calls, 12 good intent calls, 29 false alarms, 4 severe weather/natural disaster calls, and three special incident calls.

Equipment

Engine 23 — 2006 Crimson, seats six, five with self-contained breathing apparatus, three spare self-contained breathing apparatus, eight spare breathing air cylinders, 1,500 gpm pump with a 1,000-gallon water tank and a 10-gallon foam tank

Tanker 23 — 2000 Pierce Quantum dual-axle truck, has 2,000 gallon-per-minute pump and carries 2,500 gallons of water, has seating for eight firefighters in an enclosed cab with 5 SCBA seats

Brush 23 — 2004 Ford F-350 Super Duty, seats three, 200-gallon water tank, high pressure pump10 gpm at 100 psi, 300-foot ¼ inch attack line on a powered booster reel, 50-foot ¾-inch attack line for close proximity fire fighting

Squad 23 — 2007 Ford Expedition, seats four. Squad 23 is a Quick Response Service certified through the state Department of Health for Emergency Medical Services
Oakland Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

While 2020 has certainly been a difficult year to this point, the Oakland Township Volunteer Fire Department remains able to respond to any emergencies that may occur in Oakland Township and the surrounding communities.

The fire department was founded on June 3, 1952, and was officially chartered on Jan. 28, 1953. Our coverage area is 29 square miles and includes Dempseytown and the majority of Two Mile Run County Park.

The department is a member of the Franklin Regional Training Group, which consists of several county fire departments. This group meets regularly and sets up training for fire departments in the region. In the last year, Oakland members have logged hundreds of hours of training.

In 2019, the department ran 179 calls, which range from traffic control to structure fires.

The department assisted several surrounding agencies on mutual aid assists as well as having received mutual aid from our surrounding agencies.

The department is working on some new upgrades for 2020. We would like to replace all of our tables and do some upgrades to our training room/social hall. We also need to replace a couple storage sheds. We have replaced all of our 2.5-inch hose and hard tubes as well as new strain- ers for our engines and two more sets of new gear.

Last year, we had our parking areas and driveways rebuilt.

Funding

The department is funded primarily by donations and grants. We receive no tax revenue; however, they do pay the majority of our vehicle insurance costs.

Fundraising events include a variety of raffles and monthly public dinners. The department applies for grants to assist with upgrading and purchasing new equipment.

The social hall/training room is available for rental for special occasions. More information is available by calling 677-7726.

Rouseville VFD

The Rouseville Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1940 to protect the Borough of Rouseville and the surrounding area.

The department raises funds through events like its annual Cash Blast in January, fish fries during Lent, Ladies Night Out and auctions.

Personnel

Office — Jeff Smith
Assisted Chief — Jim Cochran
Captain — Jeremy Horn
Lieutenant — John Pardee
Med 1 — Scott Goodman

Business Officers:
President — Jim Cochran
Vice President — Scott Goodman
Treasurer — Randy Lamb
Secretary — Janis Cochran

Directors include Tyler Cochran, Nathan Deshner and Abby Staub.

Call statistics

The fire department responds to approximately 140 calls per year. These calls include medical, motor vehicle accidents, fire, public service, tree and lines down and lift assistance. The department is certified by the state Department of Health as a Quick Response Service.
Callensburg-Licking Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

In April 6, 1959, several men from the Callensburg area met to discuss the formation of the Callensburg-Licking Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Thirty-seven men attended that meeting, where Dana Weckerly was appointed chairman.

On April 14 that same year, the group of men voted to form the fire department.

The following people were elected as its first officers: Dana Weckerly, president; Charles Altman, vice president; Paul Brenneman, secretary; Duanne Myers, treasurer.

The first fire chief was Cliff Dunlap. Assistant chiefs were Richard Copeland and Ivan Kriebel. Directors included Richard Benn, Stanley Kepple, Bob Murray, Jack Bowser and Duane Jordan. They appointed a by-laws committee of Pete Eberhart, Joseph Kriebel and Donald Whitmer.

On April 20, 1959, the department purchased a 1938 GMC with a Chrysler Firedome engine on it for $600 from the Rockland fire department. One week later, Stanley Kepple donated the back part of his property for the fire company to build a two-bay 28-feet-by-32-feet truck garage.

On July 27, 1959, the first meeting was held at the new garage. Meetings and elections were held in the second bay.

In 1967, a 28-feet-by-58-feet social room was built on. This project included two bathrooms and a kitchen. It would be used for wedding receptions, funeral dinners and other gatherings throughout the years.

In just 105 days — from April 14 to July 27, 1959 — the CLTVFC went from a meeting to a working fire company.

With the growing equipment and sizes of apparatus, the department outgrew the original station. In 2008, a new 70-feet-by-50-feet three-bay fire station was built by many local volunteers and the local Amish community.

In 2009, CLTVFC held a 50-year anniversary celebration and dedication to the new truck garage. The station now houses all the fire trucks, equipment, a bathroom, radio room and the chief’s office.

In 2010, CLTVFC was awarded a FEMA grant for the purchase of a new fire engine. Chief Shad Mohney and Assistant Chief Kevin Stewart made the decision that a 2010 International/Rosenbauer with 1,500 gpm pump, 1,000 gallon tank, 20 gallon foam would be built and purchased from KAZA Fire Sales. It was put into service in August of 2011.

In 1978, a 1969 International Tanker was built by members Grant Kriebel and Bruce Dixon. It hauled 2,100 gallons of water. This truck was replaced in 1998 with a 1990 International tanker with 1,800 gallons of water. It served the company for many years until April 2016, when the company purchased a 1991 Mack/KME 1,500 gallon tank, 1,500 gpm pump from Parker City VFC.

The department also has a Kubota tractor for using on its ATV trail system and a custom-made ATV backboard and trailer for removal of patients in tight areas.

CLTVFC added a Squad/Brush unit for manpower, trees down, brush fires and supporting other fire departments on mutual aid calls. This unit is a Ford F350 4 door with an 8-foot bed. An Aluma bed and custom box were installed.

Call statistics

In 2019, CLTVFC responded to approximately 70 calls, including vehicle accidents, structure fires, trees/wires down, brush fires, medical assists, and automatic alarms. Due to manpower shortages, the department works with the Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department. The departments are dual dispatched to calls at all times in each other’s coverage area.

Fundraisers

CLTVFC has held an annual ATV ride since 2000. It has grown to more than 1,000 riders and is currently the biggest fundraiser of the year. The department also holds dinners, wing sales and gun raffles to raise funds.

The two fire departments have applied for grant funding to replace air packs. The Pennsylvania Office of State Fire Commissioners provides grant funding that aids the local department as well.

The department meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Anyone interested in joining the department may stop in at the station.
Utica Volunteer Fire Co.

The Utica Volunteer Fire Co. was established in 1949. The fire department provides medical and fire protection to Utica Borough, Canal Township and a portion of Frenchcreek Township.

With the station covering a 34-square-mile area, it responds to emergency calls out of two locations. The main station is in Utica Borough and a substation is located at the Canal Township Municipal Building in Hannaville.

The fire company is an all-volunteer organization with about 60 members. The primary fundraising functions are hall rentals, dinners, gun raffles, a reverse raffle and a food booth set up at the Venango County Fair.

**Personnel**

Chief — Chris Bell
C2 — Allen P. Clark
C3 — Brad Deeter
C4 — Kevin Johnson

Lieutenants — Jason Fitzgerald, Larry Dunkerley, Homer Hollabaugh

Ambulance Captain — Homer Hollabaugh

Assistant Captain — Brad Deeter

Safety Officer — Jason Fitzgerald

EMTs — Brad Deeter, Larry Dunkerley, Homer Hollabaugh

First Responders — Wayne Rapp, Bill Henze

Fire Police Captain — Jay Fitzgerald

Fire Police — Wendy Davis

**Officers:**

President — Larry Dunkerley
Vice president — Danny Metz
Financial secretary — Judy Smith
Recording secretary — Allen P. Clark
Treasurer — Andy Baker

The Utica Volunteer Fire Co. was established in 1949.

**Call statistics**

The fire company responded to approximately 250 emergency calls in 2019, which consisted of structural fires, brush fires, water rescues, vehicle accidents, public service and mutual aid assists and ambulance calls.

**Equipment**

Engine 13 — 2005 Crimson; six-man cab with 1,000-gallon water tank, 1,250 gpm pump

Tanker 10 — 1988 International; three-man cab with a 2,000-gallon water tank,

Brush 12 — 1997 Dodge Ram pickup; three-man cab with 250-gallon tank unit

Brush 5 — 1971 International pickup with 250-gallon water tank

Ambulance — 2013 Ford E450 Super Duty cab/chassis

Coming in the fall of 2020 is a 2011 Spartan six-man cab with a 3,000-gallon tank.

Rocky Grove Volunteer Fire Department

The Rocky Grove Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1933, during the Great Depression. For 87 years, the department has served the Sugarcreek Township/Borough and surrounding communities. Currently, the department operates from its fire station located at 29 Shuffstall St. in the village of Rocky Grove. The station houses two fire engines, a rescue truck, a tanker, and two brush trucks.

Its nearly 30 members responded to 205 calls for service in 2019.

The department holds its general membership meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month and it conducts training and work sessions every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m; anyone interested in joining may stop in at the station.

The department is seeking new members in a wide variety of positions including firefighters, junior firefighters (ages 14-17), administrative, fundraising and fair committee members.

Information about the annual Fireman’s Fair, hall rentals, fundraisers, or other activities is available at the fire department’s Facebook page.

The department received a new 2019 Ford F-550 brush/utility truck in June of 2019.

**Personnel**

Fire Chief — Ryan Hefferman
1st Assistant Chief — Walt Burgard
2nd Assistant Chief — Dale “D.J.” Miller
Captain — Dan Paden
Lieutenant — Nikki McGill
Fire Police Captain — Dan Rhodes
First Fire Police Lieutenant — Joe Baker
Second Fire Police Lieutenant — Vic Proper
Chairman of the board — Jeremy Rankin

**Officers:**

President — Larry Dunkerley
Vice president — Danny Metz
Financial secretary — Judy Smith
Recording secretary — Allen P. Clark
Treasurer — Andy Baker

The Utica Volunteer Fire Co. was established in 1949.

**Call statistics**

The fire company responded to approximately 250 emergency calls in 2019, which consisted of structural fires, brush fires, water rescues, vehicle accidents, public service and mutual aid assists and ambulance calls.

**Equipment**

Engine 13 — 2005 Crimson; six-man cab with 1,000-gallon water tank, 1,250 gpm pump

Tanker 10 — 1988 International; three-man cab with a 2,000-gallon water tank,

Brush 12 — 1997 Dodge Ram pickup; three-man cab with 250-gallon tank unit

Brush 5 — 1971 International pickup with 250-gallon water tank

Ambulance — 2013 Ford E450 Super Duty cab/chassis

Coming in the fall of 2020 is a 2011 Spartan six-man cab with a 3,000-gallon tank.
Tionesta Volunteer Fire Department

Tionesta Volunteer Fire Department, Station 25, was founded in 1950. It provides fire and rescue coverage to parts of western Forest County, Kinglsey Township, Green Township, Tionesta Township and Tionesta Borough. It also provides mutual aid coverage to departments in Venango, Clarion and Warren counties.

The Tionesta VFD is one of the original 13 charter members of the Venango County Firemen Association. The department has served the Tionesta area for 70 years.

The department rents out its social hall for events. Arrangements can be made by calling (814) 758-7366. A Facebook page provides information on the department’s activities.

**Personnel**

Chief — Ray Copeland
First assistant chief — Blake Mealy
Second assistant chief — Doug Carll
Third assistant chief — Nate Witherell
Fire police — Ken Mealy, Don Kunselman
President — Josh Mellon
Vice president — Nate Witherell
Treasurer — Roxanna Johnson
Secretary — Amy Carll
Trustees — Ray Copeland, Jay Taylor, Tim Hondal

There are 20 active members.

**Call statistics**

The department responded to approximately 109 emergency calls in 2019. These consisted of structural fires, vehicle rescue, brush/forest fires, water/river rescues, public service and mutual aid assists.

**Equipment**

TK 3 — HD Brush unit 4x4 with 150-gallon tank and 200 gpm pump
TK 5 — Brush unit with 150-gallon tank and 500 gpm pump
TK 6 — Tanker truck with 1,250-gallon tank and 1,500 gpm pump
TK 8 — Engine (pumper) with 1,500-gallon tank and 1,000 gpm pump
TK 9 — Engine (pumper) with 1,500-gallon tank and 1,250 gpm pump and onboard mini cascade system for SCBAs
River rescue boat with 40 hp pump-jet motor
Complete in-station cascade system to refill SCBA tanks

Seneca Volunteer Fire Department

The Seneca Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1949 by 11 Seneca residents. The first elected officers were Bill Waggett as president, Ed Ferringer as secretary and Ed Alex as fire chief.

Many new members were added to the department’s ranks in 2019, and training was provided so they could respond to emergencies. The department also added to its capabilities with new Rescue Jacks and increased technical rescue training for its members.

**Personnel**

Fire officers:
Fire chief — Paul Marsh
First assistant chief — Joe Buckholtz
Second assistant chief — Mark Perry
First captain — JD Harbison
Second captain — Chris Hepler
First lieutenant — Tim Alex
Second lieutenant — Duane Meade
Fire police captain — Todd Miller
Medical officer — William Boyer

Executive officers:
President — Duane Meade
Vice president — Fred Buckholtz
Secretary — Stephanie Alex
Treasurer — Dianne Marsh

**Call statistics**

In 2019, the department responded to a record 945 calls.

**Equipment**

24-10 — 1972 Dodge Power Wagon brush truck; 250 gpm, 300-gallon tank
24-16 — 1992 Ford tank; 1,000 gpm, 2,500-gallon tank
24-17 — 1997 Spartan pumper; 1,500 gpm, 750-gallon tank
24-19 — 2005 Ford F250 QRS/RIT truck
24-20 — 2009 HME pumper/tanker; 1,500 gpm, 2,500-gallon tank
24-21 — 2018 Pierce Enforcer Heavy Rescue
2002 Cascade trailer
1994 Roughneck 16-foot rescue boat
These included fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, public service and other calls.

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**A BIG THANK YOU to Frank Machokas & President VFD and Paul Marsh & Seneca VFD**

Bill Hepler
32 Years EMT/Paramedic
Very proud of you!
Mom and Family

AND HEARTS HAVE FELT. THANK YOU!
- Lynda Bauer
Shippenville/Elk Township Volunteer Fire Department

History
On Sept. 10, 1947, a meeting was called by a volunteer committee and held in the Paul Winkler Garage in Shippenville to establish the Shippenville/Elk Township fire department.

Thirty-six community members attended that meeting and so began the nearly 73-year journey of the department.

The original fire hall was replaced in 1992 and a larger addition was added in 2001, the hall encompasses a meeting room, offices, equipment storage and the apparatus bays.

The department is very active with 24 members.

The main fundraising activities are a fund drive letter in the spring, along with Ladies Night and a Sportsman raffle in the fall.

The department participates in Fire Safety Week presentations and sponsors an annual Easter egg hunt for area children.

Personnel
Chief — Steve J. Merryman
First assistant chief — Matt Aaron
Second assistant chief — Jeremy Hallberg
Third assistant chief — Steve W. Merryman
Lieutenant — David Burgdorfer
Safety Officer — Ray Rennard
Fire Police Captain — Russ Rennard
Chaplin — Ben Thompson
Officers — David Burgdorfer, president; Vern Bashline, vice president; Matt Aaron, secretary; Ben Thompson, treasurer; and Steve W. Merryman, Bill Merryman and Tom Shattenburg, trustees.

Call statistics
In 2019, the department responded to 225 emergency service calls.

Equipment
1999 HME/Kenco Engine
1999 HME/4Guys Pumper/Tanker
2001 HME/Marion Pumper/Rescue
2009 Ford/ Warner Quick Response
1978 Dodge/E One Brush Unit.

Clintonville VFD

The Clintonville Volunteer Fire Department was charted in 1940. The coverage area includes 96 square miles.

In 2019, the department responded to 365 calls.

Officers
Chief — Grant Rea
Assistant Chief — Brayden Rea
Captain — Craig Barrett
Lieutenants — Stevie Engles, Eric Malliard and Randy Stebbins
Fire Police Captain — Gerry Rea
President — Mike Uber
Vice President — Dan Grove
Secretary — Lacie Rea
Treasurer — Betty Lawson

Board members — Larry Haney, Jim Bollinger, Earl Moore, Mark Fox, Jim Fryman, Phyllis Whetzel

Active members — Samantha McCoy, Neal Schaeffer, Noelle Rea, Jeremy Gladd, Angie Moore, Lynn Rea, Sam Stebbins, Chance Stebbins, Mike Sandrock, Sue Sandrock, Barry Latshaw, Brandon Bailey, Dan Whetzel, Earl Moore, Dyan Thomas, Rob Hairhoger, Andy Robinson, Robin Zerres, Jeremy Moore, Colton Wolfe, Matt McCoy, Carol Rossman, Jim Uber, Brian Moore, Dante Burk, Blaze Ives, Brian Seiders, Ron Young, Wyatt Young, Melissa Hiatt, Chris Moore, Brandon Taylor and Carol Scott

Equipment
325 — 2000 Peterbilt engine/tanker holds 1,800 gallons
327 — 2004 Ford F-350 brush truck holds 200 gallons
329 — 2006 GMC 5500 rescue/QRS 300 gallon plus 25 gallons foam equipped with TNT hydraulic tools
Engine 3 — 1997 Pierce Quantum 2000 GPM 750 gallon water, 25 gallon Class A foam, 25 gallon Class B foam
Squad 3 — 2000 Kenworth walk in rescue equipped with HURST E –draulics
330 — 2005 Ford tanker 1,800 gallons

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Venango County Department of Public Safety

The Venango County Department of Public Safety consists of Venango County Emergency Management and Venango County 911.

Both departments share a director, deputy director and department clerk.

Venango County Emergency Management is charged with the coordination of 31 municipalities throughout the county and their local coordinators, working with municipalities to make sure they have a workable emergency plan on file in case of an emergency.

Whenever there is an emergency like a major fire, tornado, severe snowstorm, severe thunderstorm or a hazmat incident, Emergency Management helps obtain needed resources for said emergencies.

Emergency Management can help secure for usage portable pumps, generators, large equipment (back hoes, trucks, etc.), additional specialized cleanup personnel (hazardous material cleanup teams) and shelters (Red Cross).

It coordinates between fire, ambulance, police, local and county government and state/federal organizations (PEMA/FEMA) to make sure things get back to normal as soon as possible.

Emergency Management will work with state and local official to help mitigate problem areas to prevent a reoccurrence of the same problem.

Quarterly training is made available to all local emergency coordinators.


The agency operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The 911 staff includes four full-time Supervisor/Telecommunicator IIs, six full-time Telecommunicator Is and three part-time Telecommunicator Is.

At the beginning of 2019, the department partnered with Venango County Vento Technology Center to form a co-op position for students in the Protect and Service program.

Part of their education is the basic operation of a 911 center.

The co-op will give students interested in emergency dispatching an opportunity for additional learning and training in the field.

Co-op students undergo the same training as full- and part-time employees, while under the supervision of one of the Supervisor/Telecommunicator IIs.

The 911 dispatchers are responsible for answering emergency calls for all 31 municipalities in Venango County.

Dispatching is provided to 21 fire departments, seven ambulance services and six police agencies.

The professional staff has been trained and certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials. All training is followed by a written and practical test.

In addition, all telecommunicators are trained and certified as emergency medical dispatchers through Priority Medical Dispatch.

With an enhanced 911 system, dispatchers are able to get help dispatched to any location within Venango County within two minutes.

Personnel

Public safety director — Timothy M. Dunkle
Deputy director — Mark T. Seigworth
Department clerk — Janis M. Cochran
Mapping /CAD coordinator — Justin Dolby
Quality assurance — Linda Holtz

911 Telecommunicator II:
Supervisors — Mary Beth White, Shawn Harrah, Terry Wygant

Full-time Telecommunicator I —
Bobbie Cochran, Tracy McFarland, Greg Depew, Lauren Kemp, Reynalyn Boughner, Josh Lam

Part-time Telecommunicator I —
Bill Lambert, Billie Hoover, Nikki Peterson

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Community Ambulance Service is a not-for-profit agency and is governed by a dedicated volunteer seven person board of directors made up of community leaders and residents.

Money generated by CAS is returned to the community in continued medical equipment and vehicle upgrades, employee continuing education, quality improvement programs and numerous other community minded events such as Oil Heritage Week, First Night, Applefest, Rocky Grove Fireman’s Fair, Venango County Fair and Cranberry Festival.

In 2019, CAS provided standbys at 108 events for almost 900 hours of community service.

CAS provided 75 classes of public training and taught nearly 1,000 people in the community during 2019. The education includes training in First Aid, CPR and Automated External Defibrillation.

In May, CAS will start its new subscription program.

Community Ambulance operates three stations in Venango County. The office is located at 1010 Buffalo St., Franklin, and houses a station at that location. We also have stations located at 1502 W. First St. in Oil City and 3561 State Route 257 in Seneca.

**Call statistics**

In 2019, Community Ambulance Service had a total of 18,974 customer contacts or transports for the year. This includes emergency and non-emergency ambulance transports as well as non-emergency wheelchair transportation.

**Equipment**

Community Ambulance has a fleet of eight Advanced Life Support-equipped ambulances. These vehicles are all licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. CAS also has a fleet of 8 wheelchair accessible vans and holds a license with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to operate this service. Our fleet of 16 vehicles traveled over 600,000 miles in 2019.

**Personnel**

Community Ambulance employs 28 full-time and 38 casual employees including wheelchair van operators, EMTs, paramedics, pre-hospital registered nurses, dispatchers, office/billing personnel and administration. Our full-time employees include:

- AEMTs — Melissa Chapel, Charles Frawley
- EMTs — Robert Graff, Trisha Lindey, Paul Myers, Jeremy Roadman, Nathan Stellitano, Jane Thompson and Caleb Wilson
- Paramedics — Ken Barron, Brandon Firster, Caleb Lindey, Brooklyn Lynk, Richard Millero and Dan Myers
- Paramedic Supervisors — Richard Braden, Jim Creese, Paul Marsh and Jeremy Ostergard
- Dispatchers — Shellie Bell, Patricia Kaltenbach
- Office/Billing — Julia Huff, Mary Jane Long and Jeanne Reib
- Administration — Jeffrey Hollidge, Timothy Fletcher, John Anderson

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Knox Area Volunteer Ambulance Co. was established in 1978 by a group of Knox area volunteers who began the business from their residence in Knox Borough.

They purchased an ambulance and began to get the proper medical training as required.

The company has undergone many changes since it began.

Because of the extensive training needed and the State Department of Health requirements, volunteers are nearly extinct at the ambulance company.

Knox ambulance offers coverage to residents of Knox Borough along with Ashland, Beaver and Salem townships, and portions of Richland Township.

The company has two Advance Life Support ambulances, both are Med-Tech.

They are a 2017 Medex 350-chassis and a 2003 450 chassis, both built by Ford.

They are equipped with the most modern life-saving equipment that is used today in the medical field.

The company is state-licensed, which required Advanced Life Support personnel in the station seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Dr. Michael Hoh, an emergency room physician at Clarion Hospital, has been the medical command physician for several years.

He has supported the Knox Ambulance Co. and has donated his yearly wage to the company for the purchase of equipment.

Several fundraisers have been held to help pay for a new ambulance.

Personnel

Board of directors:
President — Bill Henry
Vice president — Pete Titley
Secretary — Donna Scheffler
Treasurer — Deb McBride
Directors — Kevin Ashbaugh, Joanne Brothers, Kate Bifano, Craig Brothers, Jack Schmader, Jon Weaver, Bruce George

Donna Schreffler is director of operations as well as a paramedic.

Paramedics — John Greenaway, Bob Neely, Marcia Rossman, Rob Hammerly, Kirk Porter

EMTs — Kevin Ashbaugh, Josh Minnick, Roy Schreffler Jr., Ben Whitehill, Matt Yeager, Kristen Yeager, Joe Schmader, Trista Beary

Volunteers — Andrew Mason, Matt Cochran

Bookkeeper — Cathy Henry

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Disaster can happen quickly and without warning. Would you and your family be ready in the event of an earthquake, fire, flood, hurricane or tornado?

“Planning makes a big difference in coping with disaster,” says Charles Valinotti, senior vice president of insurer QBE.

“The better prepared you are, the better you can cope in the aftermath of an emergency,” Valinotti said.

Fire and medical are the two most common emergencies, Valinotti said, so it’s important to teach children to call 911 and to have emergency numbers posted by your home telephone.

Cellphones should contain up-to-date contact numbers so emergency personnel can get hold of family members if you’re unable to.

Here are other tips to help prepare you to deal with disaster:

- **Put together an emergency plan.**
  Meet with your family to discuss the various emergencies that could happen and what should be done in each case. Valinotti suggests developing an emergency communication plan if family members are separated during floods, storms or other disasters.
  If you have to evacuate your home, plan several escape routes in case roads are blocked or closed.
  Practice your plan and update it each year.

- **Hold your own annual inspection.**
  Each year, take a close look at your home to identify potential hazards that could cause injury or damage in a disaster or weather-related emergency.
  “Anything that can fall, break, move or cause a fire is a hazard,” Valinotti says.
  He recommends securing your water heater and tall or heavy furniture, moving heavy items to lower shelves, and installing locks on cabinet doors.

- **Be prepared year-round.**
  Valinotti recommends keeping a disaster supplies kit — containing at least a one-week supply of food and bottled water — in your home at all times, replacing it every six months.
  This kit should stay in a designated place for easy access in case you need to be confined to your home for an extended period.
  Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
  Battery-operated radios, candles and flashlights should also be on hand if there’s a power outage.

  He recommends keeping an emergency supply kit in vehicles, as well, stocked with food, water, first aid supplies, flares and jumper cables.

  In addition, he says, “It’s a good idea to keep vehicles well maintained and full of gas in case a quick evacuation is needed.”

- **Review your insurance.**
  Review your insurance policies and make sure you’re covered for replacement value — not just market value — if your house is destroyed.

  It’s worth checking out flood insurance, even if your home is located in an area that’s low risk for flooding. Find out more at www.floodsmart.gov.

  And if disaster strikes, know how to get in touch with your insurance agent.
  “Many agents are using social media like Twitter and Facebook to connect with their customers,” Valinotti says.
  “Text messaging is a great tool in a crisis, so it’s important that your agent has your cellphone number.”

  Make sure you’re prepared for the unexpected. Planning and practice can go a long way in protecting you and your family in a disaster.
Emergencies occur every day. Data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey found around 145 million emergency department visits are made in the United States each year. Of those visits, 42.2 million are injury-related.

While no one wants to imagine themselves in dangerous situations, being realistic about the likelihood of being in an emergency can help people safeguard themselves against such situations.

One way to prepare for emergencies is to make sure you and potential first responders or medical personnel know who to call should you be unable to communicate.

Likely many things in the digital age, the process of indicating emergency contacts has changed.

Mobile phone ICE

All people are urged to designate an “in case of emergency” contact on their mobile phones.

This way a first responder or other emergency personnel can notify the appropriate people in emergency situations.

In 2004, after research from Vodafone found that fewer than 25 percent of people carried any emergency contact details on their persons, a campaign was started by Bob Brotchie of the East of England Ambulance Service in the United Kingdom to start providing emergency contact information.

Brotchie urged mobile phone manufacturers to support the campaign by adding an ICE heading to telephone number lists of all new mobile phones.

Emergency contact information also should be provided for school children and with a person’s employer and updated regularly.

Medical alert

Emergencies may arise due to life-threatening medical conditions.

If a person is in a situation in which they are unconscious or unable to speak, a medical alert card or bracelet can help first responders provide medical care more quickly.

Bracelets and other jewelry, like those offered from the MedicAlert Foundation, are engraved with critical information for conditions like autism, allergies, dementia, diabetes, Alzheimer’s or epilepsy.

They can provide peace of mind and speak for the person wearing one in an emergency.

Health care proxy

People should consider naming a health care proxy.

This can be any whom they trust.

The proxy can make health care decisions for another if he or she is unable to speak.

Naming a proxy ensures that one gets the health care he or she prefers in the event they cannot communicate their wishes.

Sometimes health care proxies are merged with living wills as one advanced directive document, according to the Medicare Rights Center.

Preparing for emergency situations, however unlikely they may seem, includes employing various strategies to help emergency responders and medical personnel in the event you are incapable of communicating with them.
Everyone should know principals of first aid

Be prepared for emergencies by learning CPR and other first aid skills

Emergencies can strike at any time. When such situations arise, emergency care often must administered to someone who is sick or injured, and that care can mean the difference between life and death.

Being prepared for emergencies means understanding basic first aid procedures that can help a person navigate a crisis — or at least stabilize the situation until paramedics arrive.

The following are some first aid principles that individuals should know and practice, courtesy of the American Heart Association, American Red Cross and CPR Certified Indigo Medical Training. They should not replace formal first aid training, but can assist a person when he or she is providing medical care to someone in need.

**Bleeding**

Bleeding can almost always be controlled until more help is available.

Severe bleeding can lead to shock and death, so bleeding needs to be addressed immediately.

Cloth should be used to cover the wound, and direct pressure should be applied to stop the blood flow.

Do not remove the cloth; add more layers as needed.

Tourniquets may do more damage to a limb than good, so they are generally no longer recommended.

Nosebleeds can be treated by pinching the nostrils for a few minutes until the bleeding stops.

Wounds to the head and mouth tend to bleed a lot even if they are superficial. So keep a level head when addressing these areas.

**CPR**

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is one of the most important medical procedures to know.

If the heart is no longer pumping blood, a person can die quickly.

Immediately start chest compressions hard and fast in the center of the chest, allowing recoil between compressions.

Many buildings also have automated external defibrillator devices that can help save lives.

If you’re not trained in CPR, then provide hands-only CPR, says the Mayo Clinic.

That means uninterrupted chest compressions of 100 to 120 a minute (the beat of “Stayin’ Alive” by The Bee Gees) until paramedics arrive.

People who are trained also may perform rescue breathing.
First Aid

Continued from Page 23

The Red Cross and other medical groups offer first aid and CPR certification classes that train people on how to perform CPR and use an AED.

Fainting

Someone suffering from shock or fainting needs blood to get back to his or her brain.

Victims should lie on their backs with their feet elevated.

Choking

The Heimlich maneuver can be performed when someone is choking.

Contrary to popular belief, people who are choking do not typically make any sounds.

Stand behind the victim and wrap your arms around him.

Place a fist between the person’s rib cage and belly button, and place your other hand over the fist.

Deliver a quick thrust upward, and keep doing this until the foreign object is dislodged.

Choking in children is handled differently depending on the child’s age.

Parents can get training in child maneuvers.

Sprains and fractures

Sprains and fractures occur readily, especially among active adults and children.

Immobilize the limb, apply a cold pack, elevate it, and offer anti-inflammatory drugs for discomfort and swelling.

A doctor should be seen for further diagnosis and treatment.

Common first aid procedures can help save lives or reduce the severity of injuries when promptly offered.

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