THE BULLETIN

JULY 25, 2026

The Voice of CAFDA since 2004
Editor, Tom Rinaldi – tom@rinaldi1.com since 2014
When you see **, highly recommended article

CAPITAL SHORT TAKES

- ***It is with profound sadness that we announce the line of duty death of Chief Steve Woehrle of the Piseco Fire Department, brother of Ed Woehrle Commissioner at Niskayuna #1/CAFDA Director and uncle to Chief Jim Vena of Niskayuna #1. Our sincere sympathies to the Woehrle and Vena families and the fire department families affected by Steve's sudden passing. Chief Woehrle died while responding to a crash involving a watercraft on Piseco Lake. Throughout his distinguished career in law enforcement and the fire service, Chief Woehrle exemplified leadership, integrity, selflessness, and unwavering dedication to his family and community.***
- ***BUDGET SCHEDULE PAGE 4 also on CAFDA.net***
- ***ELECTION SCHEDULE PAGE 9 also on CAFDA.net***
- Panasonic, the manufacturer of a faulty toaster oven, has recalled more than 11,000 of them, according to a notice posted by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. The recall, which was issued on July 16, is for Panasonic Electric Toaster Ovens with the Model No. NB-G200.Per the notice, the recall was made amid fears that the power cord insulation may be insufficient, specifically that the fiberglass sleeve does not properly cover the cord, posing both a fire hazard and a risk of electric shock.
- I had the pleasure of being the toastmaster at Ron Berti's memorial celebration at the Averill Park Fire Station, it was a memorable and fitting ceremony for someone larger than life. Ron's song has ended on the wind of the bagpipes, but the music will linger on.

TRAINING OPPORTUNTIES:

From CAFDA

1 **A DAY AT THE RACES to be held again this summer, Friday, August 7th, in the Picnic Paddock Area, lunch included.

- ✓ August 7th, 1:00pm til 6PM
- ✓ Lunch food, snacks, water & soda will be provided. BYOB in adherence with Track Policies see here: https://www.nyra.com/saratoga/visit/
- ✓ Gates open at 11am, post time is at 1pm
- ✓ **CAFDA Member Fire District officials and their guests (one guest per official), and Business Partner principals are invited and entry is free!**
- ✓ **Non-Member fire district officials and their guests (one guest per official) are invited to attend; reservations fee is $35 per person and must be paid when making your reservations.**
- ✓ **Everyone attending *must individually* register (*no group reservations*) online through this website, just click on this link: *DayAtTheRaces*** (https://cafda.net/event-registration/)
- ✓ **Your tickets with each individual's name, will be available in an envelope at the "WILL CALL" window at Gate B on Union Avenue.**
- ✓ **If you make reservations, please show up for this free annual family event there is a cost for the tickets and for the food that CAFDA is funding.**
- ✓ **When you enter the Paddock area you will receive wristbands by showing your ticket!!**

2 *.Join us at the NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Thursday September 10 features dinner for attendees. Please join us.*

ZOOM LINK FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING at 7pm:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89275151494?pwd=H9Wzo77bprmGQd5beFEjODUJxebjJC.1

3. Mark your calendar for the CAFDA Conference '27, Lake George NY, April 9-10-11, dinner/vendor show Friday April 10th Fort William Henry Carriage House. Sponsored Mixer the evening of Thursday April 9th at the Holiday Inn Resort, food, games, beverages. The response has grown each year and we are in the process of identifying the subjects for 2027.

4. Mark your calendars now, CAFDA Fall Seminar, Saturday November 7th, at Guilderland Fire Department, 2303 Western Ave. (US Route 20), Guilderland, NY. The Education Committee has identified the subjects including the ever popular "Experts Panel".

5 CAFDA Commissioner Training for 2027 will be held in Averill Park, Thomas Corners, Clifton Park, Schoharie and Warrensburg.

CAFDA TRAINING AND EVENT DATES

Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
FY 2026				
July, 2026	**NO MEETING, See next month's Day at the Races**			
Friday, August 7, 2026	1:00 PM	**Membership Activity**	Saratoga Race Course	**NYRA Day at the Races!**
Thursday, August 13, 2026	7:00 PM	**Board of Directors Meeting**	Clifton Park	
Thursday, September 10, 2026	7:00 PM	**General Membership Mtg.**	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 8, 2026	7:00 PM	**General Membership Mtg.**	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 7, 2026	8:00 AM	**Annual Fall Workshop**	Guilderland FD	2303 Western Ave.
Thursday, November 12, 2026	7:00 PM	**General Membership Mtg.**	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER 2026	**NO MEETING**			
FY 2027				
Saturday, January 2, 2027	9:00 AM	**General Membership Mtg.**	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Thursday, April 8 - Saturday April 10, 2027		**CAFDA Conference '27**	Fort William Henry Conference Center	Lake George
Thursday, April 6 - Saturday April 8, 2028		**CAFDA Conference '28**	Fort William Henry Conference Center	

From Other Organizations

ESIP EMERGENCY SERVICES INSURANCE PROGRAM BY McNeil&Co.

NOTE:

Webinar Schedule Moved to Thursday

Our ESIP webinar series is moving to Thursday nights starting this week. They will remain bi-weekly going forward.

Beyond ISO Grading Score: How to Navigate ISO and Strengthen Your Fire Department

Join us on: Monday, July 20th, 2026 at 2pm ET

Your fire department's ISO rating is more than a score; it is a powerful tool to support vital funding, staffing and operational growth. **In this webinar**, two veteran fire chiefs share how they've used the ISO process to build stronger cases for additional resources to improve service delivery while increasing both citizen and firefighter safety.

Learn about the common pitfalls in ISO reporting and how to address then before your inspection. Through real-world examples, discover how collaboration, planning, and communication can elevate your department. If you're looking to turn ISO grading into opportunity, this webinar is for you.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://endeavor.omeclk.com/portal/wts/ug%5Ec%7C9e%7Cv8vqejyywqjDkAgh%5Ej%5E8qV7fbT82TtoCzYgHDh8jO7mV3CP0N64%7CCoeOER5rGka

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NYSAFC is Bringing Hands-On Training to Your Area!

FIRE BEHAVIOR ON THE INSIDE

REGISTRATION: https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/firebehavior

FLASHOVER

REGISTRATION: https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/flashover

NYSAFC 2026 Seminar Series "Dangerous Spaces: Challenges and Tactics When Dealing with Garage and Basement Fires" With Chief/Commissioner Michael Lombardo (Buffalo Fire Department)

https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2026seminarseries

Pre-registration is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

Note: A 3% service fee will be applied if paying by credit card.

2026 Dates and Locations are available at the website for this series.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

From Albany

Waiting for the governor to call for the bills that were passed by both Chambers so that she can sign them into law. Technically she has until December 31st.

- Law passed and signed to require mandatory recycling program for e-scooters/e-bikes.
- The use of "Piggyback Purchasing" extended one more year until June 30, 2027.

S8832 KAVANAGH (D)	A9504 GLICK (D)	1/2/126 PASSED SENATE 2/10/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER AMENDMENT IS TO FACILITATE THE INCLUSION OF E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER BATTERIES IN THE RECHARGEABLE BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM AND TO PROMOTE CONSUMER SAFETY, CONVENIENCE, AND AWARENESS	2/13/26 SIGNED CHAPTER 87
S10075 SOLAGES (D)	A11162 ZELLLNER	6/2/26 PASSED SENATE 5/29/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	EXTEND THE PROVISION OF THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING STATUTE [GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §103] WHICH PERMITS PIGGYBACK PURCHASING. THE STATUTE HAD A SUNSET PROVISION MEANING THAT IT WOULD EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2026. THE BILLS PROPOSE TO AMEND THE STATUTE TO EXTEND THE SUNSET PROVISION UNTIL JUNE 30, 2027	6/26/26 SIGNED CHAPTER 147
S6368B SKOUFIS (D)	A3126B LUNSFORD (D)	4/22/26 PASSED SENATE 3/30326 PASSED ASSEMBLY	AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE LAW, IN RELATION TO REQUIRING THAT WHEN A COMPLAINT IS MADE TO LOCAL CODE ENFORCEMENT OF A VIOLATION OF THE UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE OR LOCAL	PENDING SIGNATURE

			BUILDING CODES WHICH RESULTS IN THE ISSUANCE OF A COMPLIANCE ORDER, THE COMPLAINANT SHALL ALSO BE PROVIDED A COPY OF SUCH ORDER	
S9502A MARTINEZ (D)	A10885B STERN (D)	6/2/26 PASSED SENATE 6/1/26 PASSES ASSEMBLY	*TO AUTHORIZE* LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF PAID FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.	PENDING SIGNATURE PENDING PASSAGE BY EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY RESOLUTION
S7316 HINCHEY (D)	A8008 LUNSFORD (D)	5/18/26 PASSED SENATE 6/1/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	REQUIRES THE FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS TO BE PAID PURSUANT TO A SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF FELONIES COMMITTED AGAINST A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, FIRE DISTRICT, OR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.	PENDING SIGNATURE
S5614 ADDABBO (D)	A3681A WOERNER (D)	6/2/26 PASSED SENATE 1/28/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, IN RELATION TO REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREQUENCY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED ORGANIZATIONS MAY CONDUCT BINGO GAMES	PENDING SIGNATURE
S4675 JACKSON (D)	A688 BUTTENSCHON (D)	5/6/26 PASSED SENATE 4/29/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING MINIMUM BASIC TRAINING RELATED TO HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH ANY PHYSICAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TO ALL FIRE-FIGHTERS	PENDING SIGNATURE REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TRAINING
S6233A MARTINEZ (D)	A6790A MCMAHON	6/1/26 PASSED SENATE 5/14/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	THIS BILL INCREASES THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' AND AMBULANCE WORKERS' PERSONAL INCOME TAX CREDIT FROM $200 TO $800 FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FROM $400 TO $1600 FOR ELIGIBLE MARRIED JOINT FILERS. ALSO ALLOWS FIRST RESPONDERS TO TAKE THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT ALSO.	PENDING SIGNATURE

From Washington

WASHINGTON WATCH

📌 Federal Funding Update. The end of the fiscal year is on September 30, 2026. By that date, **the House and Senate must have both agreed on and passed some type of funding bill, or the government could shut down.** Late Tuesday night, the House passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government until December 4th. As previously noted, the House has only passed three of its 12 appropriation bills at this point. House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) stated on the House Floor that "The hard reality before us is straightforward — the fiscal year deadline is outpacing the work that remains". Senate Majority Leader John Thune has said he hopes to vote on a CR, though it may different from the House version, before the Senate leaves for August Recess.

Firefighters regularly operate in complex and hazardous environments where a wide range of factors can influence safety and performance. To better understand these influences, NIOSH, through the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) is inviting fire department personnel from across the United States to participate in a survey about human factors in firefighter line-of-duty death (LODD) and serious injury investigations. Human factors refer to the physical, cognitive, and organizational conditions that affect how people perform their work, including decision-making, communication, teamwork, and interactions with equipment and the surrounding environment.

Information collected through this survey will help guide the development of new resources and improve existing tools used by the FFFIPP and fire departments to strengthen firefighter safety and support future prevention efforts.

➡️ **Take the survey here**

From Federal DOL/OSHA

When we hear something, we'll post it here.

*****FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET PROCESS SCHEDULE 2026 available on the CAFDA.NET website. CAFDA.net***

Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

Phone: (518) 474-4037; Email: localgov@osc.ny.gov
Address: Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability
110 State Street, 12th Floor; Albany, NY 12236

NYS-OSC Fire Service Audits

BLUE POINT FIRE DISTRICT, SUFFOLK CO. – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Audit Objective

Did the Blue Point Fire District (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) effectively manage fund balance and reserve funds?

Audit Period

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2024

Understanding the Audit Area

Fund balance should be effectively managed to ensure financial stability, maintain essential services and be transparent with taxpayers. Effective management helps protect a fire district from unforeseen financial risks, helps maintain a favorable credit rating, and enables long-term financial planning. Fund balance is a key measure of a fire district's financial condition and represents the difference between revenues and expenditures accumulated over time. Fire districts may also establish reserve funds to save for future projects, acquisitions and other allowable purposes.

The District's budgeted appropriations for fiscal year 2025 totaled $1.6 million and capital reserve fund balances totaled $1.6 million as of December 31, 2024.

Audit Summary

The Board did not effectively manage fund balance and capital reserve funds. Because the Board did not adopt budgets with reasonable estimates or have a fund balance and reserve fund policy, the Board's intentions regarding fund balance were not clear, reserves may have been overfunded, and real property tax levies may have been higher than necessary. As a result, the Board's financial management practices were not transparent, and taxpayers were not properly informed on how District funds were being used or reserved.

From 2019 through 2024, the Board adopted budgets that resulted in a total operating surplus of $3.4 million. *The Board consistently overestimated expenditure*s, resulting in budget variances in the six fiscal years reviewed totaling $1 million (25 percent) of the $5.2 million in budgeted appropriations. Expenditure variances exceeded 20 percent in 2020 through 2024, with the highest variance totaling $374,641 (47 percent) in 2024. *As a result, the District's tax levy increased from $1.1 million in 2019 to $1.5 million in 2024 to fund operations and add to reserves, **meaning that real property taxes may have been higher than necessary**.*

Additionally, *the Board did not develop and adopt a fund balance and reserve fund policy to address optimal funding levels, how the reserves are funded or when reserves should be used*. As a result of the operating surpluses, District officials transferred $2.4 million to the District's four capital reserve funds between 2019 and 2024, approximately $600,000 more than the $1.8 million the Board budgeted to transfer to the reserve funds over the same period.

The report includes five recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Board's ability to effectively manage fund balance and capital reserve funds.

READ THE FULL AUDIT HERE:

https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/blue-point-fire-district-2026-20-.pdf

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BIG FLATS FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, CHEMUNG CO. – PROCUREMENT

Audit Objective

Did the Big Flats Fire District No. 1 (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) and officials use a competitive process to procure goods and services?

Audit Period
January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
Understanding the Audit Area
A board of fire commissioners and its officials should seek competition for goods and services to ensure the best value for taxpayers, prevent conflicts of interest and maintain public trust. Seeking competition also guards against favoritism, extravagance, fraud and corruption, while allowing interested vendors a fair and equal opportunity to compete.
The District purchased approximately $850,000 in goods and services during the audit period.
Audit Summary
The Board and District officials did not always use a competitive process to procure goods and services in accordance with best practices or the District's procurement policy (Policy). As a result, there is an increased risk that *goods and services were not:*

- *Obtained at a favorable cost,*
- *Free from favoritism, or*
- *For appropriate purchases.*

Adhering to best practices and the Policy enhances public confidence in the procurement process and serves the best interests of taxpayers and District residents.
We reviewed 43 purchases totaling $231,200 and determined the Board and District officials did not use competitive methods to procure goods and services totaling $210,400. *They did not:*

- ***Issue requests for proposals (RFPs) or use any other competitive process before procuring insurance and professional services from six vendors totaling $145,800.***
- *Obtain quotes for 18 purchases totaling $64,600 or retain documentation of quotes when procuring goods or services.*

This report includes three recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the District's procurement process.
READ THE FULL AUDIT HERE:
https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/big-flats-fire-district-no1-2026-41.pdf

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MORAVIA JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, CAYUGA CO. – PROCUREMENT
Audit Objective
Did Moravia Joint Fire District (District) officials ensure they procured goods and services in an economical manner?
Audit Period
January 1, 2024 – February 12, 2026.
We extended the audit period back to January 1, 2022, to review the purchase of a mini pumper truck.
Understanding the Audit Area
A board of fire commissioners and fire district officials should seek competition for goods and services to help guard against favoritism, extravagance, fraud and corruption, while allowing interested vendors a fair and equal opportunity to compete.
The District purchased $863,092 in goods and services during the period of January 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025.
Audit Summary
District officials did not ensure they procured goods and services in an economical manner. *District officials did not always use a competitive process to procure goods and services in accordance with statutory requirements set forth in New York State General Municipal Law (GML), or the District's procurement policy (Policy).* When District officials do not seek competition or document the methods used to procure goods and services, taxpayers have less assurance purchases are made in the most prudent and economical manner, in the District's best interest, without favoritism and in compliance with applicable statutes.
Specifically, *District officials could not support goods and services totaling $589,180 were procured in the most economical manner. They did not:*

- *Obtain competitive bids for two vehicles that collectively cost $51,114;*

- *Ensure the solicitation of bids provided the most opportunity for competition for the procurement of a mini pumper truck, for which they paid $419,009; or*
- *Follow the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) adopted Policy for procurements not subject to GML competitive bidding requirements by not providing written quotes for 36 purchases totaling $118,051.*
- *Establish a comprehensive Policy that includes competition requirements for procurements from $10,000 to $19,999 that are not subject to competitive bidding.*

This report includes two recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the District's procurement of goods and services

READ THE FULL AUDIT HERE:
https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/moravia-joint-fire-district-2026-21.pdf

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DEANSBORO FIRE DISTRICT, ONEIDA CO. – CLAIMS AUDITING

Audit Objective

Did the Deansboro Fire District (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) ensure claims were adequately supported, for proper District purposes and authorized before payment?

Audit Period

January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Understanding the Audit Area

An effective audit of claims is often the last line of defense to prevent unauthorized, improper or fraudulent claims from being paid. A fire district with a strong claims auditing process ensures that a careful review of claims will occur before public funds are disbursed.

Because it is the Board's responsibility to ensure tax dollars are spent properly, efficiently and in the best interest of taxpayers, the Board should conduct a thorough and deliberate audit of claims before directing the Treasurer to issue payment.

From January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, the Treasurer paid 102 claims totaling $82,860.

Audit Summary

We reviewed 25 claims totaling $51,230. Except for minor discrepancies, which we discussed with District officials, the claims were adequately supported, for proper District purposes and authorized before payment.

There were no recommendations as a result of this audit. The results of our audit were discussed with District officials.

READ THE FULL AUDIT HERE:
https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/deansboro-fire-district-2026-64.pdf

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CUDDEBACKVILLE FIRE DISTRICT, ORANGE CO. – AUDIT FOLLOW-UP

Purpose of Review

The purpose of our review was to assess the Cuddebackville Fire District's (District) progress, as of March 2026, in implementing our recommendations in the audit report *Cuddebackville Fire District – Board Oversight (2024M-94),* released in February 2025.

The audit determined the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) did not provide adequate oversight of the District's financial operations or properly audit claims. The Board also used unrealistic budgetary estimates that resulted in annual operating deficits and a declining fund balance. *The Board did not:*

- *Ensure the Treasurer maintained complete and accurate accounting records.*
- *Request or receive regular financial reports.*
- *Ensure claims were properly audited prior to payment.*
- *Conduct required annual audits for 2020 through 2023.* **Although the Board paid a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) $6,750 to conduct the 2019 and 2020 audits, the CPA did not complete the 2020 audit and has possession of the District's financial records . The Board was unaware the audit was not completed and took no action, until our audit, to follow up with the CPA.**
- *Ensure the required Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) for 2020 through 2023 were filed*.

The audit included 13 recommendations to help the Board and District officials improve oversight of the District's financial operations.

Background

The District, served by the Cuddebackville Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency services to the Town of Deerpark in **Orange County**. **The elected three-member Board**, with an average tenure of 11 years, governs the District and is responsible for its overall financial management and safeguarding resources. The elected Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer and is responsible for receiving, disbursing, transferring and accounting for all District funds and preparing periodic financial reports

Results of Review

District officials fully implemented six recommendations, partially implemented five recommendations, and did not implement two recommendations.

READ THE FULL AUDIT REPORT HERE:

https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/cuddebackville-fire-district-2024m-94-f.pdf

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CRYSTAL BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO CO. – FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE TAX PROCEEDS

Audit Objective

Did the Crystal Beach Volunteer Fire Department (Department) Treasurer (Treasurer) provide adequate oversight of Foreign Fire Insurance (FFI) tax proceeds?

Audit Period

January 1, 2024 – February 6, 2026

Understanding the Audit Area

A fire department should provide adequate oversight of FFI tax proceeds to ensure the funds are used legally and for the benefit of the fire department, as determined by its members. Proper oversight helps maintain transparency and accountability in the distribution and use of these funds. A lack of adequate oversight increases the risk of theft, misuse and mismanagement of fire department FFI tax proceeds. A fire department's treasurer is generally responsible for providing oversight of FFI tax proceeds.

The Department received a total of $7,978 in FFI tax proceeds in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Audit Summary

The Treasurer did not provide adequate oversight of FFI tax proceeds. The Treasurer did not maintain separate, complete and accurate records of FFI tax proceeds received and expended, establish a formal process for approving expenditures prior to payment or file the required annual FFI tax proceeds report with our office. In addition, the Department's bylaws (bylaws) lacked clear guidance for the receipt, recording, use and reporting of FFI tax proceeds. Without adequate oversight and controls, there is an increased risk of theft, misuse and mismanagement of the Department's funds.

For example, the Treasurer provided a list of 12 expenditures totaling $9,698 that she believed were paid using FFI tax proceeds. These expenditures exceeded the amount of FFI tax proceeds received by the Department during fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and we determined that two expenditures totaling $2,309 (24 percent) were improperly paid with FFI tax proceeds. *These improper expenditures **included gifts for non-members** totaling $1,296 and gift cards totaling $1,013.*

The report includes six recommendations that, if implemented, will strengthen oversight, improve accountability and ***help ensure FFI tax proceeds are used only for appropriate Department purposes***.

READ THE FULL AUDIT HERE:

https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/crystal-beach-volunteer-fire-department-2026-24.pdf

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HANNIBAL FIRE COMPANY, OSWEGO CO. – KARTWAY FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Audit Objective

Did the Hannibal Fire Company (Company) Board of Directors (Board) provide oversight of Kartway racetrack (Kartway) fundraising activities?

Audit Period

March 1, 2017 – December 31, 2023

Understanding the Audit Area

A fire company board should provide oversight of fundraising activities conducted on fire company property to help ensure statutory compliance, establish accountability, safeguard the company's assets and its

reputation and fulfill its fiscal responsibilities. In practice, oversight commonly includes requiring advanced approval of fundraising activities, maintaining detailed fundraising reports, documenting revenues and expenses, performing independent reviews of collections and deposits and reporting results to the membership and/or governing board.

From 2017 through 2022, the Company received approximately $25,000 from the Kartway fundraiser.

Audit Summary

The Board and Company officials did not comply with the statutory requirements set forth in New York State General Municipal Law (GML) Section 204-a when they engaged in a non-permissible fundraising activity known as Kartway, a go-kart racetrack that operated on Company property. In addition, the Board did not provide oversight or otherwise monitor Kartway's activities. Instead, the Board relied on an unincorporated "Association" to handle all racetrack operations and cash collections and did not require the Association to provide any financial reports. ***As a result, the Board failed to ensure statutory compliance and establish basic financial controls or accountability that resulted in at least $13,100 being misappropriated without detection and the Company's reputation being harmed***.

Additionally, *the Board did not:*

- *Develop any written policies or procedures for recording and reporting fundraising activities.*
- *Verify the Company had adequate liability insurance coverage to help protect the Company in the event there were injuries or damages during race events.*

As of January 12, 2023, the Company dissolved the Kartway fundraiser and ceased all racing operations. In February 2024 the former fire Chief (former Chief) and his father, a volunteer firefighter, were arrested for allegedly stealing from the Company. The former Chief was charged with grand larceny in the third degree, offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree and falsifying business records in the first degree and his father was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree. In May 2025, the former Chief pled guilty and agreed to pay $9,838 in restitution. In September 2025, the court dismissed the indictment against the former Chief's father on the grounds that it was legally insufficient. ***In May 2026, the former Chief was sentenced to three years' probation and paid full restitution.***

The report includes five recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Company's fundraising collection activities by helping the Board to ensure accountability, safeguard the Company's assets and fulfill its fiscal responsibilities.

READ THE FULL ADUIT HERE:

https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/hannibal-fire-company-2024-14.pdf

THE FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

From Toxic to Transformative: How to Rebuild Yourself as a Leader

Curtis Van Gaasbeek

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- With expectations to show strength under pressure, vulnerability after tragedy and composure during chaos, it's understandable that some fire service leaders unconsciously default to leading from a place of control, intimidation or perfectionism. Change is possible when these leaders are brutally honest with themselves.
- Once toxic fire service leaders understand what brought them to where they are, they must take ownership publicly. People will give them a second chance if they're honest, consistent and willing to walk the talk.
- Toxic fire service leaders who want to transform themselves must promote a culture that's shaped by what they tolerate and embody: To achieve psychological safety, practice humility. If you want initiative, stop micromanaging. If you want accountability, be the first to admit your own mistakes.

Many leadership articles and blogs focus on identifying the traits of toxic leaders and how they affect their teams. Keep in mind: When you label a senior firefighter, fire officer or battalion chief as "toxic," you might as well paint a giant red "T" on that person's turnout gear.

When I read through the characteristics of toxic leadership, it seems to me as though every person who has held or currently holds a leadership position has exhibited or demonstrated some, if not all, of those

characteristics at some point in their career. Humans are fallible, after all. There could have been a time when a leader was a bit selfish or didn't feel 100 percent and slipped a bit. It might have been a short burst or a sustained action.

Unfortunately, the aforementioned articles rarely address how people who have the toxic label attached to them can dig themselves out.

The perfect leader doesn't exist; just like everything else in this world, it's on a spectrum. What helps "toxic" leaders to move their position a bit from wherever they feel that they are? It's about change.

LEADERSHIP-BASHING: AN EASY ESCAPE

Blaming leaders has become America's pastime. We have become so hyperfocused on leadership that it almost is to the point of pathological. It reached the point where it's a logical path to blame leadership for any dysfunction or failure. *Not enough people hold themselves accountable and take responsibility for their actions.*

When I try to search for overcoming toxic leadership, all I get are articles about the characteristics of toxic leadership, blaming and the negative effect on the culture. I'm not denying it, but why don't we do something to help those leaders who are struggling? I can't help but also wonder what it's doing to the psyche or mental health of those leaders who believe that they're doing or set out to do a good job. Talk about burnout!

Fire service leaders are expected to show strength under pressure, vulnerability after tragedy and composure during chaos. With expectations this high, it's understandable that many struggle to bear the weight. We work so hard on raising awareness and preserving the mental health of frontline people, but what about those leaders who came up through the ranks with the "shove it down deep" message from their leaders? It's ironic that the people who now are in leadership positions are the ones to care for the mental health of others when no one was/is worried about theirs.

Most people who step into a leadership role don't do it with malicious intent. (Those who do are the toxic leaders in the truest sense.) Many people who stepped up did so out of necessity, or they genuinely believed that they were doing the right thing and that they could make things better. However, let's be honest: Some of the leadership-bashing is an easy escape for many. It's much easier to criticize than to lead. The easy path is to write down or verbalize 10 ways that your boss is toxic rather than to explore the complexities of leadership. Mixed into that noise, there are genuine critiques that are rooted in pain, truth and a desire for better leadership.

STARTING POINT

Many will say that taking the blame is part of being a leader, that leaders know and accept that going into it, and that leadership entails a higher level of responsibility. I also argue that there are aspects that a leader can't be responsible for; another person's lack of growth because of that individual's issues can't be attributed to a leader who has provided opportunities, avenues and resources.

Toxic or even destructive leadership isn't a fixed identity. *Very few people are born leaders; the traits of leadership are learned from parents, society, previous leaders and the media*. Just about anything in the world to which we are exposed influences us as people and leaders. So, you might have had bad experiences and learned patterns of behavior, but the choice is yours to stay or grow. What actions can help to spark toxic leaders to interrupt or replace those patterns?

TAKE INVENTORY

Chances are that if you're reading this, you desire to change or have recognized a need to change. So, start with the self. Look into the mirror. You might have been doing this for many years, but have you ever really looked? Of course, I don't mean a literal mirror. You know what you look like on the outside, but what about on the inside? Who are you? What do you value?

Ego avoids the mirror; leadership looks into it.

This is the most challenging and crucial element. It takes brutal honesty, and if you aren't brutally honest with yourself, you will take a path or action that doesn't stem from the proper foundation. Toxic behaviors often manifest from or into egocentric actions as defense mechanisms to hide insecurity, fear or trauma.

Questions to ask yourself to help to do the deep dive are:

- Do people feel psychologically safe around me?
- Am I quick to take credit but slow to take the blame?

- Do I control more than I trust?
- Are my standards so rigid that they choke initiative?

If you're unsure, tools that you can use include 360-degree feedback surveys, executive coaching or therapy, and direct conversations with trusted peers.
The goal isn't to prove others wrong; it's to understand yourself.

UNDERSTAND THE ROOTS

The behavior of the toxic leader usually is just the symptom. What lies underneath that's driving this train? Many leaders are individuals who excelled in their position and were recognized for their hard work and dedication through promotion. Many toxic leaders were high performers who were promoted for their competence rather than their emotional intelligence. Others might have grown up in dysfunctional environments and brought unresolved trauma into the workplace.
To transform, explore:

- Are you trying to protect your ego?
- When did control, intimidation or perfectionism become your default?
- What part of you feels unsafe letting go?

The most difficult question, though, is why? Why did you say yes to the offer of leadership? Where does your desire to lead come from? Do you even have a desire to lead?
Professional coaching, counseling and journaling will help tremendously here. This isn't weakness; it's maturity.

TAKE OWNERSHIP, LOUDLY AND EARLY

Once you understand the problem, own the heck out of it, privately and publicly. It's OK to say, "Hey, everyone, I messed up. I've reflected and realized that I haven't always led in ways that bring out your best. I've fallen into patterns that I'm working to change. I want to do better, and I'm asking for your help in that process."

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Fire District Election Schedule for 2026 available on the CAFDA.net website.
CAFDA.net

Click on this PDF to see notes from DOL related to Prevailing Wage Rates for Construction, Article 8

PREVAILING WAGE RATE NOTES OPEN THIS LINK:
https://cafda.net/information-on-the-nys-dol-prevailing-wage-rates-for-fire-districts/

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- People who break into abandoned missile silos near metro Denver will now face a new consequence on top of potentially fatal injuries — a $5,000 fee from the rescue teams that must go in after them. The Sable Altura Fire Department plans to start charging people who trespass and get trapped in the deserted nuclear complexes after an "unprecedented" rise in break-ins and rescues, Arapahoe County officials announced Thursday. Crews with the Deer Trail and Sable Altura fire departments have rescued five people who broke into the sites and became trapped in the last two years, agency leaders said at a news conference. Two of those rescues happened within a week of each other earlier this month and sent an 18-year-old woman to the hospital for carbon dioxide exposure after she was trapped in a silo for at least four hours. Before that first rescue in Deer Trail two years ago, Sable Altura Chief Rich Solomon said he doesn't remember another person getting trapped in the silos in his 25-year tenure with the department. "When rescuers go down, we try to be as safe as possible, but they're also going into the unknown," she said. "By 50 to 60 feet down, communication is limited, radios don't work, we're going into places where we can't talk to each other… We don't know what we're going into, and we always take a risk when we send somebody over the edge."

- **Cadets as young as 13 withstood storms, high temps and unhealthy air to attend the inaugural Central New York Youth Fire and EMS Training Weekend. Twenty-five cadets from 10 different departments converged on the Fairmount Fire Department Training Center on Thursday for three days of skill, technique and endurance building. The cross-training program is the brainchild of Fairmount Fire's David Mazzoni and Borodino Fire's Mark Swing. *Mazzoni had the resources to share and a vision for a bigger, stronger youth fire infrastructure in Onondaga County. For Swing, mentorship has always been his goal.* ***"To train our future firefighters, to fill the seats of these fire trucks, that is what this is about."*** Swing said. "And give the kids the foundation to start on for community service." Swing first stepped into a fire house at just 14 years old. Since then, he's fought wildfires out West, rappelled out of helicopters and been fire chief twice. Now, 43 years later, Swing is the founder of Borodino's Fire Cadet Program, an effort that won him the 2026 FASNY Youth Mentor of the Year.

- ****Albemarle County, VA, Program Aims to Help Responders, Others with Housing Costs.** Albemarle County is betting that a new program it's introducing will help its own government employees cope with the region's high housing costs.

  The pilot program unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors last Wednesday will use $840,000 from the county's Affordable Housing Investment Fund to help county employees make a down payment on a house or to provide one-time rental assistance.

  The fund traditionally supports a variety of affordable housing initiatives, such as homeowner rehabilitation projects, construction of affordable rental units, construction of permanent supportive housing, energy efficiency upgrades and non-congregate shelter service. "A reminder of our local housing data demonstrates that our average housing costs have gone up, up, up," Jessica Dimmick, the county's principal transportation planner, said at Wednesday's Board of Supervisors meeting.

  The median Albemarle County house price is roughly $554,000 today, and the median rent sits at about $2,200 per month.

  The real estate market surrounding Albemarle County is the second-most expensive in the entire state, outside the Washington suburbs of Northern Virginia.

  The high cost of living has pushed multiple county employees to find housing elsewhere and commute into the area, according to the county.

  For example, 90 sworn Albemarle County police officers — roughly 62% of the force — live outside the county, according to Albemarle County spokeswoman Logan Bogert.

  The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development says the median Albemarle County income is $139,800. The starting salary of a county police officer is $60,798.

  "I think it's very important, especially for our first responders, police, fire, etc., to live in the county where they service. Because when, not if, there's a disaster, you want them living here," Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, supervisor for the Rivanna District, said prior to voting in favor of the new program on Wednesday. "This is a way to help people, so that they're not living an hour away."

  The five-year pilot program could provide full-time county employees who make at or below 80% of the median county income, $111,840, a forgivable $20,000 loan to be used on a down payment for a residence in Albemarle County.

  The loan would be forgiven at a rate of 20% each year, meaning that it would be completely forgivable after five years of continuous employment with the county.

  Full-time county employees who make at or below 60% of the median county income, $83,880, would qualify for a one-time rental assistance grant of $2,500 if more than half of their income is spent on rent.

  "Currently, 85% of County employees earned less than the 80% AMI threshold," Bogert told The Daily Progress in a statement.

  Additional eligibility requirements are to be established and program guidelines should be provided to employees as part of the pilot implementation, according to county documents.

Applications for each type of assistance will be reviewed by a loan committee composed of "representatives from the County Attorney's Office, Human Resources, Office of Housing, and Department of Finance and Budget," according to the county.

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

- **Deadly shortcomings?**
  For some, the Jones Road Fire was a reminder that New Jersey is not as prepared as it needs to be. Insufficient staffing. Archaic wildfire detection methods. A lack of training on the local level. A population experiencing severe wildfire threats largely for the first time while living in densely populated communities. The state's vulnerabilities are considerable and growing, according to a throng of experts. New Jersey has a million acres of forest in the Pinelands and over 3 million acres in total. Whether residents know it or not, nearly half of them live in a "wildland-urban interface" — places where people are most at risk from wildfires. And every year, it costs more and more to battle a growing number of fires. The Jones Road Fire response alone cost about $1 million. New Jersey needs more resources and more training, according to Smithwick. She pointed to the relatively small number of personnel on hand to fight wildfires in heavily populated areas with limited road access. As new developments rise near dense forests, she and other experts worry those precious few escape routes could bottleneck and create panic, similar to what happened in Maui during its deadly 2023 wildfires. Worse, those roadways were not built for the amount of people who now reside in those areas.

- Eldridge, Illinois City Council voted Monday night to take over the volunteer fire department. All five council members voted in support of a motion for the city to hire a fire chief, supervise volunteers and build out a second-floor living quarters on the current fire station. That's not what the volunteer fire department members wanted, department leaders told the city council at a July 13 meeting. Department leaders submitted a three-year budget request to the city, starting at about $766,000 for the first year, for what it would cost for the department to run with two full-time staff members, a build-out of the upstairs and replacement of equipment. They started a campaign on social media, sent out flyers to residents, and held a community informational meeting about their budget requests.

SATISTICS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY – PROTECTING OUR OWN

FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

45

In 2025 we experienced 78 LODDs reported nationally.!

- **Data from US Fire Administration on LODD:** https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/
- **Information on FF injuries and deaths from the Secret List:** https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/
- **Information of Fire Apparatus MVCs:** https://www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com/

Apparatus Accidents in the News:

- A D.C. firefighter is in stable condition after being struck by a ladder truck and medevacked to an area trauma center. While on the scene of a structure fire, the firefighter was hit by the ladder truck and suffered serious injuries. The firefighter received medical treatment on scene before U.S. Park Police aviation medevacked the firefighter by helicopter to a trauma center.
- Colorado State Patrol responded to a crash on Highway 50 just west of Rocky Ford involving a Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) vehicle. The driver of the DFPC truck, identified as 33-

year-old Curtis O'Leary, who troopers said is an arson investigator and employee with the DFPC, was taken to the hospital. O'Leary was cited for Careless Driving.

- The driver who hit and critically injured a woman out for her early morning walk is a Syracuse firefighter. Syracuse Fire Chief Michael Monds said Ryan Lewis was put on paid administrative leave this morning, pending the outcome of the investigation into the crash. Lewis lives about two blocks from the scene of the accident. He was responding to a fire in Van Buren in his role as a volunteer lieutenant with the Solvay Fire Department. The victim Carol Olech, a lawyer and mother of three, suffered multiple traumatic injuries. She has been in a coma since the accident. No update on her condition was available this morning. Her skull is fractured in multiple places, her ankles are both broken, her femur is broken, her orbital bones are broken, and an artery and several major veins were also damaged.
- A bike rider from Oxnard, CA has been seriously injured after a crash with an Oxnard Fire Department truck, according to authorities. Oxnard Police found a 24-year-old man, who was riding a pocket bike, with "significant injuries" and took him to a local hospital, where he is in stable condition, officers said. Based on statements and the video footage, officials said "it appears the rider made an unsafe attempt to pass the fire engine on the right when the crash" happened. Officials added that the rider was on a "vehicle not legal for riding on a public roadway,".

Firefighter Deaths, Injuries, in the News

- Hamilton County fire officials are mourning the loss of one of their members. Steve Woehrle, fire chief of the Piseco Volunteer Fire Department, who died in the line of duty.
- Wildland Firefighter Nathan Matthews, 43, died of burns suffered in the June 27 incident that claimed three fellow Rifle Helitack crew members.

THE BUILDING AND FIRE CODE ISSUES – WEEKLY REPORT ON FIRE FATALITIES

- **Home Fire Fatalities in the News**: https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/civilian-fatalities/

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	47
7/12/26 Rochester, Monroe Co. Female 74	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	96
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	672
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA 55
	#2 NY 47
	#3 OH 41
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2026: 1073 = 35.7 weekly	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in 1&2 family dwellings. According to realtors and builders only old homes burn, so sprinklers are not needed in new homes: so my question to you is; when does a new home become an old home?	

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

The Challenges continue.

FIRE APPARATUS

Internal Intake Valves: Fire Pump Panel Design, Pros, Cons & Maintenance

Any Soccodato

When it comes to fire apparatus design, intake valve selection is one of those decisions that can quietly impact everything, from pump panel layout to long-term maintenance.

In this Training Minutes video, Andy Soccodato takes a closer look at internal intake valves and how they compare to external options. While external valves offer flexibility and can be added after delivery, internal intake valves are built into the apparatus and create a cleaner, more streamlined pump panel.

That cleaner design comes with tradeoffs. Internal valves typically need to be specified during the build process, can increase upfront cost, and often require more involved maintenance since access isn't as simple as removing a component from the panel.

The video also walks through operational differences, including manual, pneumatic, and electronic controls, along with where internal intake valves are most commonly found on modern apparatus.

One point that can't be overstated: routine valve exercise is critical**.** Whether internal or external, a valve that isn't regularly operated is a valve that may fail when you need it most.

If you're involved in apparatus specification, pump operations, or fleet maintenance, this is a practical overview that highlights both the advantages and the real-world considerations of internal intake valves.

SEE TRAINING VIDEO HERE:

https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/fire-apparatus/internal-intake-valves-fire-pump-panel-design-pros-cons-maintenance/?utm_source=fa_weekly_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2026-7-24&oly_enc_id=6466C7079834D7Z

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Departments: Don't Be Blindsided by Sustainability Requirements

Theodore Galente

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The awareness and budgeting for sustainability costs are crucial for any municipality that's pursuing fire or EMS stations to avoid unnecessary expenses and delays.
- Electric buildings might require accommodation, such as substations, if a town's electric grid can't provide substantial electricity to power the 24/7 facility.
- Planning for or even investing in sustainable options for public safety facilities can help to save an agency money long term and reduce the need for additional renovations in the future to align with modern innovations.

Requirements for all-electric and Net Zero buildings affect public safety in ways that never were seen before. Well-intentioned municipal governments and environmental advocates are causing fire departments to cut functional programs from their buildings because of prioritizing sustainability over public safety. These decisions lead to dramatic effects on stations, with potential negative effects on first responders in many ways. From station renovations to new construction, public safety facilities must accommodate a growing commitment from local communities to implement all-electric, Net Zero and/or other sustainability initiatives. Construction is expensive, so any updates to a public safety facility demands significant financial investment for the community that it serves. The growing trend toward prioritizing electrification or sustainability often can come at a significant cost for the communities that advocate for it. Public safety officials around the United States must understand these trends so as to get ahead of the curve and to incorporate them in the most effective ways, so they don't have to sacrifice necessary program requirements in their buildings. The goal is to balance the needs of the fire department and sustainable initiatives that are set out by government officials who might not understand what these stations truly need.

Three New England stations experienced unexpected hurdles and steep expenses because of their community's newfound commitment to sustainability goals. There are clear lessons in each example that are transferable to every community in the country. City council members voted for each building in Cambridge, MA, to be all-electric, Net Zero and fossil fuel-free just prior to planned renovations of the city's fire headquarters. From this project as well as a Net Zero public safety facility in Exeter, NH, two fire stations in Chelmsford, MA, and numerous others that are in development, widespread commitment to sustainability is having unforeseen effects on first responders. What's below examines how a few New England communities overcame these challenges in the development of their project.

A CITY THAT OUTLAWS FOSSIL FUELS

After mandating that all of its new nonresidential construction projects must be completely electric, fossil fuel-free and Net Zero, the city of Cambridge faced unexpected challenges as it worked to renovate its 100-year-old, 35,000-sq.-ft, historic fire department headquarters building. As a start, Eversource, which is Cambridge's

local energy provider, was unable to provide adequate power for an all-electric building of this size that operates 24/7. Further, to achieve Net Zero, insulating a masonry structure of this vintage would require deep specialty knowledge so as to not cause future damage to the building envelope.

To solve the issue of lack of available electricity, the local power authority required a full substation to be built on headquarters property. Not only did this take parking away from firefighters, it also cost the city a significant unplanned expense (in the realm of a few million dollars in unplanned costs because of deeper excavations, concrete area wells and new site drainage patterns) and had the potential to be a wrapped-in-chain-link-fence eyesore.

The solution was careful conversations with the city to help officials to understand the limits of what's possible from the utility companies, what was available for space on the limited parcel of land and how to make the chain link problem go away. The solution to the latter was to wrap the power plant in a decorative red steel enclosure that echoes the coverage area of the department.

Additional measures to meet sustainability initiatives included the installation of a new slate roof that supports 85 solar panels that produce more than 43,000 kWh/year as well as 22 separate geothermal bores that are scattered around the super-small urban site.

One big lesson learned is that anytime that an agency recommends or requires an all-electric building, it must engage a design team very early. This is necessary to size a building, develop conceptual electrical loads and engage utility companies as soon as possible. This allows an agency to get ahead of problems, such as needing additional substations to generate power or larger transformers and related items. All of these have significant costs, and if those costs aren't planned as part of early studies, the budget can get out of control very quickly.

The city's impressive commitment to sustainability advances this fire headquarters to lead the city's vibrant legacy but demonstrates how experience and creative design solutions are required to support strict sustainability guidelines that are necessary for the modernization of any fire department facility, historic or otherwise.

COMMUNITY MANDATES NET ZERO

Throughout a series of town meetings, the residents of Exeter agreed that a new combined public safety facility was required. The previous architect prepared a design study, a needs list (program) was put together, and a proposed building was presented for funding. During voting for the funding, townspeople made it clear that the only way that funding would pass is if the building were all-electric and Net Zero, a requirement that clearly was unplanned. The funding passed but without the necessary increase for the sustainability measures.

As a creative solution to this issue, the public safety facility program had to be cut significantly, and the shape and size of the building had to be simplified. That said, it was a stretch to redesign the project to meet these unforeseen stringent demands. What originally was designed as multiple volumes put together with high-pitched roofs had to be redesigned to a simple rectangle-shaped building that has a flat roof. Because flat roofs are much less expensive than pitched roofs, the project was able to be brought into budget.

A major step toward reducing the community's carbon footprint in the future, Exeter's Net Zero combined public safety facility demonstrates the ways that innovative solutions are necessary to facilitate projects with unexpected sustainability requirements. If additional funding was provided, drastic cuts to the building and program wouldn't have taken place.

A TALE OF TWO STATIONS

In Chelmsford, two 1960s-era fire stations needed to be replaced. State of Massachusetts energy code now requires buildings to be "all-electric ready," which means gas heat canbe used, but the electrical service nevertheless must be twice the size. Solar panel-ready is another code requirement, and using solar power would augment an all-electric facility.

The community was interested in installing solar panels and geothermal wells to use the earth's temperature to heat and cool the building. Neither of these were affordable when the projects initially were funded.

Rather than compromising its sustainability goals in favor of lowering the price tag for both facilities, Chelmsford applied for a federal grant to incorporate geothermal well and photovoltaic (PV) systems. In response to the community's determination to prioritize a long-term sustainable approach, the town ultimately was awarded a $1 million state grant for fire station decarbonization and a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division. Supporting Chelmsford as a climate

leader, this funding will facilitate the installation of solar PV at both stations and ground-source heat pumps that provide a low-carbon temperature control for Station 3.

In all cases of "decarbonization" of fire facilities, special discussions about diesel- or gasoline-driven emergency generators must ensue. Regulators that mandate fossil fuel-free must understand that emergency services can't be provided if the electricity goes out in a storm. Fossil fuels must be incorporated as the only reliable back up for a 24/7, life-critical facility.

For example, major storms or blizzards that hit the East Coast in February 2026 knocked out electrical power in many communities for close to a week. Generators kicked in to power each building, and roads were clear enough for deliveries of fuel to keep them operational. Power-damaging storms such as these aren't uncommon in many areas of the country, and if not for gasoline or diesel generators, the capability to provide emergency services would be out of commission. With each storm comes increased 9-1-1 call volume, and the last thing that's needed is for dispatch to be offline. E9-1-1 call centers normally have two generators, one as backup to grid power, and the second as backup to the first generator. This belt-and-suspenders approach confirms continued safety for all that are involved and the wider community as a whole.

INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE STATIONS

It's become clear that as communities across the United States push for some level of sustainability, public safety officials and their architects must know how to navigate all of the complexities that are involved, so the budgets ultimately are prepared appropriately up front and drastic cuts or expensive equipment needn't be added to the project at the wrong time. Sustainability requirements demand outside-of-the-box, informed and cost-effective solutions to meet the needs of the community and to prevent unnecessary interruptions to the development of new stations. As municipalities envision their community goals for the next several decades, the expense of opting for electric buildings and sustainable features is becoming a universal standard. All departments must be informed and equipped to adapt to these changes and ensure that the changes don't halt projects in their tracks.

GREEN ENERGY AND THE IMPACT ON THE FIRE SERVICE

Town of Ulster (NY) Mulls Third Lithium-Ion Battery Facility Proposal

William J. Kemble – Daily Freeman

The plan will be discussed at a Wednesday, July 29, information session, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall at 1 Town Hall Drive, to address questions about the third electricity storage station planned for the town. "The development team will be there to answer any questions from members of the public," company representative Bartley Higgins said. "We'll also bring a fire safety expert … to handle any questions related to that topic, which we know is very critical to many folks in the community."

A mock-up picture of the site showed about 60 containers, about the size of small commercial storage units, on a 7.3-acre parcel owned by Silver Hollow Group LLC abutting the Central Hudson substation. Higgins said there are talks to give the adjacent property owner, Cross Point Church, use of a section of the Silver Hollow land for parking.

The project would be about 500 feet west of the controversial Terra-Gen site at the former John A. Coleman Catholic High School, where the Town Board is being asked to approve a 250-megawatt lithium-ion facility on 15 acres.

Board members are also reviewing a proposal from BayWa r.e. for a 150-megawatt lithium-ion battery facility on Frank Sottile Boulevard. It would be on about 10.4 acres adjacent to the former town landfill, with a new substation constructed on the other side of the road, and would be adjacent to a residential neighborhood and the 164-unit Ulster Gardens apartment complex.

Regis Obijiski, chairperson of watchdog group Town of Ulster Citizens, said on Friday, July 17, that Mission Clean Energy's proposed location initially came as a surprise because of the Terra-Gen controversy. However, his July 1 discussion with company representatives provided clarity.

"My first sentiment was 'you guys have to be effing kidding,' but, of course, I didn't say that," he said.

"(They) said it needs to be near the substation … and they couldn't do it without it," Obijiski said. "If an alternate site were located, I think they would find that unacceptable."

Obijiski is also concerned about Mission's plan to seek a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement through the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency. In May, Town of Ulster Citizens objected to the agency's consideration of a policy amendment that would provide those tax breaks for Terra-Gen and BayWa battery energy storage systems.

"Neither of these two projects classifies as renewable energy, neither serves as energy storage for renewable energy generation, neither generates new power for the grid, and both … draw (electric) power from the Central Hudson grid during non-peak usage hours and return power to the grid to stabilize it during potential intermittency created by peak demand and ensure the flow of electrical energy to New York City," he said.

In an email to Obijiski, Mission representatives contend that a "predictable tax bill" is necessary for financing the project.

"Our interest in a PILOT is primarily because we need to confirm our local tax obligations up front," they wrote. "Without an agreement … it can be more difficult to secure the financing necessary for capital intensive projects like a BESS, because of the uncertainty about our tax obligations."

Fire Fears, Distrust Drive Two-Year Pause on Battery Storage Development in LA Parish

Aidan McCahill, The Advocate

The Iberville Parish Council has issued a **two-year moratorium** on industrial battery energy storage systems, following months of resident pushback over environmental and safety concerns.

The move will likely delay several energy infrastructure projects in the parish aimed at improving grid resiliency with technology seen as a bridge for the clean energy transition.

At least two companies have indicated plans to build Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facilities in the parish, which use thousands, sometimes millions, of lithium-ion batteries to capture energy from renewable sources, natural gas plants and the electrical grid.

Entergy's Cypress Harvest Solar Farm Project — a nearly $300 million project that has yet to be approved by the parish council — calls for a 30-acre facility in the middle of its proposed 1,600-acre solar farm. That project is located about 5 miles southwest of Plaquemine, between Milly Plantation and Derick Road, near Belleview Drive.

Florida-based NextEra, the world's largest electric utility company, planned to develop a similar $250 million, 30-acre BESS facility near White Castle.

The unanimous vote in favor of the moratorium came during a parish council meeting Wednesday, packed with residents opposed to developing the technology in their community. But neither of the projects was close to breaking ground, and Parish Council Chairman Steve Smith said the 2-year pause wasn't in response to anything specific.

"But we know there are going to be companies wanting to do it," he said. "We know it's an emotional subject; our constituents are concerned. We, in turn, are concerned."

Council member Matt Jewell said both residents and the council opposed the technology because they weren't given enough information on what it actually is.

"It blew up in their faces," he said. *"People don't trust what's going on because we've been kept in the dark about it .. We have a lot of questions; none of them have been answered."*

The moratorium's language was flagged as "convoluted" by the council's legal counsel, attorney Tim Collins, who warned its wording could create problems in future litigation. As written, he said, it technically bans the battery energy storage systems used in homes, like Tesla Powerwalls.

The council chose not to follow its lawyer's advice.

"All these people came out to hear a vote," said Council member Shalanda Allen. "We'll give them a vote."

Iberville Parish President Chris Daigle said the council is now working to amend the moratorium's language. Jewell said a technical ban on residential battery systems would not be enforced.

NextEra and Entergy did not respond to requests for comment.

UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

Proponents of BESS say the technology improves grid resiliency and efficiency by capturing electricity during periods of low demand and releasing it when demand rises. Clean energy advocates also call it a "bridge

technology," since it lets solar farms and wind turbines store energy when it's sunny or windy and release more when the weather shifts. BESS can serve anything from a single home to a data center the size of an airport terminal.

Texas has built around 200 battery energy storage facilities after widespread blackouts from a 2021 winter storm that killed hundreds. Those facilities can now provide power to communities for hours at a time when other sources fail, Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis of Baton Rouge said.

But the technology is unfamiliar territory for Louisiana. Only one BESS facility, planned alongside a NextEra solar development in Tangipahoa Parish, has been approved so far, Lewis said.

Lewis said BESS has become cheaper over time and has proven capable of lowering utility bills while improving reliability.

"The challenge is, a lot of people don't know about these new evolving technologies," he said. "We want Entergy and these power companies to be more reliable and to lower their prices, but at the same time, we are locally opposed to the technology that would make them more reliable and lower their costs."

More than 150 local governments across the country have issued moratoriums, restrictions or bans on BESS facilities, according to Energy Storage News, a market research outlet. In Iberville, the backlash overlaps with broader opposition to large-scale solar projects, including Entergy's Cypress proposal and another NextEra solar farm near White Castle that was rejected in 2025.

NextEra representative Jared Delrose said the company scaled back its plans in response to that opposition.

"Rather than pursuing a project requiring thousands of acres. We shifted to an energy storage facility on just 30 acres," he said during Wednesday's meeting.

But assurances from industry representatives haven't assuaged local fears.

"It's moving way too fast," Gary Harrell, an Iberville resident, said during a June 30 meeting discussing the moratorium. Echoing broader local sentiment, Harrell said he believes the Cypress Harvest Project — which would replace sugarcane fields near Plaquemine High — will be an eyesore that's too loud, will cause drainage issues, increase heat and be difficult to disassemble when its useful life ends.

"We need to get the public more involved in this so we know exactly what's going to happen," he said.

The central fear of the battery facilities is fires. When lithium batteries overheat, chemical reactions inside the cells generate their own heat, meaning the fire doesn't need oxygen to keep burning and can smolder for days. The smoke can also be filled with toxic chemicals.

"Do we have the infrastructure to be able to fight these fires when the time comes?" Savannah Morales, an Iberville Parish resident, said at the June 30 meeting.

John Walser, a fire protection consultant and former Virginia-based firefighter, told the council Wednesday that improved manufacturing, added containment systems and tighter regulations have made the technology's risks far more manageable. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also noted that BESS fire incidence has declined since 2020.

"House fires and car fires produce far more smoke, and the constituent gases are largely the same that you see from BESS fires," he said.

REGULATION VS INVESTMENT

Jewell, the Iberville Council member, said he wasn't persuaded by the industry's arguments. One of his main questions is how the facilities would be regulated going forward. He pointed to the state's thousands of orphaned oil wells as a cautionary tale.

"There's five of them in the town of White Castle leaking right now," he said. "At one point, oil and gas was heavily regulated; all that went away … if history repeats itself, and we have no checks and balances, we're already dead."

Daigle, the parish president, said the state plans to release minimum guidelines on battery storage facilities later this summer. But the point of the moratorium enacted Wednesday was to give his office and the council time to consult with experts in the energy field before returning in two years to draft an ordinance tailored to Iberville's needs. He said the pause will also give the parish time to adequately train firefighters.

"There is a lot of research to look into. They wanted to get it right the first time," he said of the parish council.

Still, he conceded that the type of moratorium was rare.

"There are not many moratoriums that are initially imposed for a period of 2 years," said Daigle.

Those with a stake in the projects, including NextEra's Delrose and Entergy representative Kristin Zatta, pushed for a shorter, 90-day moratorium that the council could extend as needed.
"A short-term moratorium makes sense. A longer moratorium will create uncertainty and drive investment away from Iberville Parish," said Tim Johnson, an Iberville resident whose firm, the TJC Group, has been involved in one of the projects.

Hazmat crews called after truck carrying e-cigarette batteries, EV battery catches fire on I-70 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Hazmat was called to a scene after a tractor-trailer caught fire along part of I-70 in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania.
Westmoreland County dispatchers confirmed to Pittsburgh's Action News 4 that a tractor-trailer caught fire on eastbound I-70 near the Yukon exit in South Huntingdon Township.
According to the Westmoreland County Hazardous Materials Response Team 800, the driver had been carrying a mixed load which included 3 pallets of e-cigarette batteries and a 2,000 pound automobile EV battery.
By the time crews arrived, the fire had burned through the top of the trailer.
Officials removed the contents of the trailer and began cooling the smoldering EV battery, according to Team 800.
Cleanup was then requested to properly pack and contain it.

New York City sees 70% increase in lithium-ion battery fires – unprecedented and dangerous, FDNY says

FDNY officials are imploring the public to store lithium-ion batteries outside as the number of fires sparked by the devices continues to grow.
The plea came from FDNY First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Flynn and Chief Fire Marshal Michael Kavanagh, who charged during a July 22 press conference that 2026 has seen more fires caused by lithium-ion batteries than any year before during the same period.
"So far this year, the FDNY has investigated 235 lithium-ion battery fires. That is compared to 138 at the same time last year, an increase of more than 70%," Kavanagh said. "The biggest change is where we're seeing these fires happening; through this point last year, we had 48 non-structural lithium-ion battery fires. This year, we've already had 137, nearly three times as many."
While the number of fires is alarming, officials say that they believe their warnings are being heeded by the public since people are storing the batteries outside and not inside, where they can cause the most harm.
[WHEN ARE WE GOING TO CHASTIZE THE POLITICIANS WHO SENT US HEADLONG INTO THE NEW GREEN SCAM WITHOUT FIRST DETERMINING THE DOWNSIDE, THEY NEVER THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES OR WHO SUFFERES WITH THEIR DECISIONS.]

NEIGHBOR'S HELPING NEIGHBORS, thank you for your support!!

Gansevoort Fire Department Car Show

Saturday August 8th, 10am until 2pm, rain date August 9th
1870 Route 32 Gansevoort, NY
Chick BBQ, Raffles, T-Shirt sale, Trophies in several categories
Registration $15, Day of Show $20

Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast

See you in the fall, September 20th to be exact.

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

Next Breakfast will be held in October at a date to be announced.

Speigletown Fire Department Breakfast 2nd Sunday of each month

Sunday October 11th from 7:30 to 11:30, $10 adults, $5 children, under 5 free

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We salute all of the kitchen help who hustle, giving up their Sunday mornings, to make these events special for all the attendees and work hard to support their fire company's. Thank you for your tough work and dedication.

GENERAL INTEREST TO ALL

Nutrition for Volunteers: Fueling When Firefighting Isn't Your Only Job

Megan Lautz

Volunteer firefighters have a unique challenge when it comes to nutrition: firefighting is usually not their only job.

You might work construction all day, sit at a desk for eight hours, run your own business, teach school, work nights, raise kids, coach sports, and then get toned out right as you finally sit down for dinner. That changes the way nutrition needs to be approached. A volunteer firefighter's food plan must account for the full picture, not just the time spent at the station.

Most nutrition advice for firefighters is written as if everyone has the same schedule, the same station routine, and the same access to food. Volunteer firefighters know that is not reality. Some departments eat together often. Some barely eat at the station at all. Some volunteers respond a few times per month, while others are running calls constantly on top of a full-time job.

That means there is no one perfect firefighter diet. The better goal is to build a simple food system that matches your real life, your call volume, your day job, and the busyness of your station.

YOUR NUTRITION NEEDS DEPEND ON THE WHOLE DAY

Volunteer firefighters do not all need the same amount of food (which makes this article very hard to write). A volunteer who works a desk job and responds to a slower rural station will have different needs than a volunteer who pours concrete all day, trains at night, and runs multiple calls after midnight.

Your full-time job matters. So does your training schedule, sleep, stress, call volume, and body composition goals. A busy day with physical labor, evening training, and a long call may require more food, more fluids, more carbohydrates, and more sodium. A quieter day with less movement may require smaller portions and less or maybe no electrolytes.

Before you copy someone else's diet, look at your actual life:

- What does your full-time job demand physically and mentally?
- How often are you training, lifting, drilling, or running calls?
- Are you trying to lose fat, gain muscle, maintain weight, or simply stop feeling like garbage?

You do not need to track every bite, but your food should flex with the day. If your day is more physically demanding, your portions need to go up. If your day is lighter, your portions may need to come down a little.

START WITH A BASELINE MEAL

Most volunteers need a few default meals they can repeat without thinking. The less brain power it takes, the more likely it will actually happen.

A strong meal usually includes protein, carbohydrates, color, and some fat. That might be eggs, whole grain toast, fruit, and Greek yogurt. It could be a burrito bowl with rice, beef, beans, salsa, lettuce, and avocado. It could be a turkey sandwich with popcorn, an apple, and a cheese stick. Nothing fancy or something that requires 17 tiny glass containers and a personality built around Sunday meal prep.

Protein helps with muscle repair, recovery, and fullness. Higher protein intakes can support muscle maintenance and body composition, especially when paired with resistance training. Carbohydrates help fuel higher-intensity work like lifting, dragging, climbing, training evolutions, and thinking clearly when everyone is yelling. Fruits, vegetables, beans, and whole grains bring fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Fiber is also linked with better cardiometabolic health, including lower cardiovascular disease risk.

The goal is not to build a perfect plate every time you eat. The goal is to have a few reliable meals that keep you from running on gas station snacks and two-day-old donuts.

STOP WAITING UNTIL YOU ARE STARVING

A lot of volunteer firefighters accidentally go too long without eating. You work all day, rush to training, grab coffee, run a call, get home late, and then inhale whatever is easiest. Usually, the easiest option is not grilled salmon and roasted vegetables.

This is where car snacks help. A car snack is a small snack that you have while driving from work to your station or vice versa. It does not need to be a full meal. It just needs to give your body enough fuel to hold you over.

A few easy options:

- Greek yogurt, jerky and fruit, or trail mix
- A protein bar, tuna packet with crackers, or cheese stick with pretzels
- White cheddar popcorn, Popcorners, or protein chips
- An applesauce pouch before training if you need quick fuel

This is especially helpful before evening drills or workouts. Eating carbohydrates before hard training can support performance, while going in underfueled can make the same workout feel much harder than it needs to[3,5]. Nobody needs the hangry firefighter operating power tools.

If you know you are heading straight from work to the station, pack something before you leave in the morning. Do not assume you will "figure it out later." Later is usually when the tones drop.

KEEP FOOD IN YOUR TRUCK OR GO BAG

Every volunteer firefighter should have some type of food backup (a.k.a. a go bag). This does not need to be complicated; it just needs to exist.

Keep a few shelf-stable options in your truck, locker, or gear bag. The goal is to cover:

- **Refuel:** Quick carbohydrates before or during hard work can help with energy, especially during training, long calls, hot weather, brush fires, or live fire.
    - Applesauce pouches, smoothie pouches, fruit cups in juice, dried fruit or fruit jerky, pretzels, fig bars, Clif bars, Bobos bars, etc.
- **Recover:** Protein afterward can help with recovery, especially if the call or drill replaced dinner[5].
    - Protein bars or shakes, jerky, tuna packets, chicken packets, dried chickpeas or edamame, protein balls
- **Rehydrate:** Electrolytes can be helpful when you are sweating heavily or spending a lot of time in gear.
    - Go for an oral rehydration solution with sugar like DripDrop, Liquid I.V., Fluid Tactical, or MyHy.

Notice that all these snacks are nonperishables. Fresh fruit is great, but then you constantly have to change it out if you didn't get around to eating it. This takes the extra labor out of keeping snacks available and many will last in your car or locker for three to six months.

STATION FOOD: ADD BEFORE YOU OVERHAUL

Volunteer firehouses vary a lot. Some eat together all the time. Some only do food for trainings, duty crews, meetings, or fundraisers. If your station eats together, do not start by trying to ban everything fun. That is how you become the person no one invites to pizza night. *A better approach is to add better options to what your crew already eats.*

Start with simple upgrades:

- *Add a bagged salad, fruit, or precut vegetables to the table*
- *Add beans to chili, frozen vegetables to pasta, or salsa to taco night*
- *Add grilled chicken, Greek yogurt ranch, or whole grain wraps as easy options*

Small upgrades work better than dramatic food rules. Firehouse culture matters, and food is part of that culture. Research on structural firefighters has found that common barriers to healthier eating include the firehouse food environment, convenience, cost, and crew norms. You do not need to destroy the culture to improve it. You just need to make the better choice easier to grab.

This is especially important in volunteer departments where food may be tied to meetings, fundraising, community events, and tradition. *Start with simple healthier additions to the traditional donuts, bagels, and pizza. Then you have a better option for yourself…and you would be surprised at how many others would enjoy it as well.*

MATCH CARBS TO THE DAY

Carbohydrates are not automatically good or bad. They are a tool, and volunteers need to use that tool based on the day.

You may need more carbohydrates on days with live fire, wildland calls, academy-style training, long EMS calls, a hard workout, or a physically demanding day job. You may need smaller portions on quieter days, especially if you are working toward fat loss or sitting most of the day.

Same person, different day, different activity level, with changing fuel needs.

This is where a lot of volunteers get stuck. They under fuel hard days, then feel like they have been hit by a truck. Or they eat like every day is a five-alarm training day even when it was mostly desk work and one false alarm. Neither makes you bad at nutrition. It just means your food needs better timing.

Think bigger portions of rice, potatoes, oats, pasta, fruit, or wraps around harder days. On lighter days, keep protein high, add more vegetables, and moderate the carb portions.

HYDRATION STARTS BEFORE THE CALL

Many volunteers respond after a full workday already behind on fluids. Maybe you have been in meetings all day, working outside, driving between job sites, or running on coffee and whatever was easy to grab. Then the tones drop for a medical call, lift assist, MVC, training night, or the occasional hot, sweaty incident.

A good baseline is about 92 ounces of fluid per day for women and 125 ounces per day for men[7]. That includes fluid from drinks, food, and yes, coffee counts. Moderate coffee intake appears to provide similar hydrating qualities to water in regular coffee drinkers, so you do not need to "cancel it out" with extra water just because it has caffeine[8]. The catch: too much caffeine can still mess with sleep, anxiety, heart rate, and how you feel on calls, so coffee can count toward fluids but too much has other downsides.

Hydration does not only matter on fires. Being underhydrated can make fatigue, headaches, brain fog, and that "I feel like trash but still have to function" feeling worse. Start during the workday. Keep water in your car, bring fluids to training, and consider electrolytes when it is hot, calls stack up, or you are sweating more than usual.

If you are showing up to the station already behind on fluids, you are playing catch-up before the call even starts.

WATCH THE CAFFEINE TRAP

Caffeine can help, but volunteer firefighters can get stuck in a rough cycle. You are tired from work, so you drink more coffee, soda, energy drinks, tea, pre-workout…whatever you can get your hands on! Then you run calls late, sleep poorly, wake up wrecked, and drink even more caffeine the next day.

Caffeine can improve alertness and exercise performance, but dose and timing matter. Most people should be under 400 mg per day, however body size and genetics may slightly increase this daily recommendation. If you feel like crap and are starting to count caffeine in grams (not milligrams), then it may be time to reassess your dose.

Use caffeine when it helps but be careful with huge doses late at night. If you need to stay alert for safety, that is one thing. *But if calls do not typically roll in, leave a four- to five-hour buffer from your last caffeinated beverage and bedtime to maximize sleep quality.* You may not have issues falling asleep when caffeine is right before bedtime, but your sleep cycles and quality will suffer, which often leads to more fatigue the next day. Food matters, but it cannot fully outwork chronic sleep deprivation.

BOTTOM LINE

If you are overwhelmed, start with the basics.

- Eat protein at meals and keep snacks in your truck or go bag
- Use carbohydrates around hard work, training, and long calls
- Hydrate before calls, add fruits and vegetables where you can, and adjust portions based on the day

That is enough to start. Volunteer firefighters already carry a lot. Nutrition should make the job easier, not become another unpaid assignment. Pick one upgrade this week and try to stick with it! That is how you build a plan that still works when the tones drop, dinner gets delayed, and life decides to flash over.

TAKE A MOMENT TO SMILE

When I die I want my last words to be, "I left a million dollars under the…."

CLASSIFIED

CAFDA IS SEEKING A TREASURER FOR OUR FIRE SERVICE NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSOCIATION.

Our current excellent treasurer has announced that he will be giving up the position as soon as we find a replacement due to increased workload with his own business. Any candidate should be familiar with Quick Books and the structure and operation of a not-for-profit organization as well as some familiarization with the operation of fire districts in New York State. CAFDA offers a stipend which won't make you rich, but you get to hang out with some great people, get free meals prior to meetings and trying to provide a service to fire district officials. The Association requires our treasurers to be bonded. If you are interested let us know by providing a resume and cover letter to secretary@cafda.net.

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We would consider expanding the number of Directors if individuals from other counties would volunteer to participate!!

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The Capital Area Association represents any fire district that wishes to join CAFDA. Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, and Deputy Treasurers. Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to join in!
If your Fire District is a member, you are a member!!

Please advise your secretaries that all correspondence should be mailed to:
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Wish to become a member of CAFDA, go to CAFDA.net/membership to apply.

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

Stay tuned for some new Business Partners for 2026.

We invite our business partners to submit educational information to be included in this Bulletin for district commissioners and chief officers

We want to thank all of our Business Partners for renewing their partnership for 2026. You are invited to our monthly membership meeting and to any of our social events..

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The Weekly Capital Bulletin is reaching well over 700+ subscribed fire district members and now other members of the fire service on a regular basis.

This is a service of CAFDA through the effort of Tom Rinaldi who can be reached at tom@rinaldi1.com for comments and content contributions are always welcome.


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