

Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters in Action

Newsletter of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

“Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Since 1922”



Meet the President

Steve Yagoda has been the President of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association for four years. He and his wife, Debby are long-time residents of Mohegan Lake and Steve has served as a Mohegan Firefighter for over 15 years. In addition to being the President of the Association, Steve has served as Vice President and Secretary.

Steve’s volunteer service also includes being a member of the Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Squad for 15 years where he served as Captain and earned two life saving awards. He has

also served for seven years as Trustee of the Mohegan Firefighters Benevolent Association.

Steve works for the New York State Courts where he is a Peace Officer. In his 22 years with the Courts, he has earned several awards and commendations.

He served as a Lieutenant in the US Army for three years (1966 through 1968) and as a Captain of the New York Guard (Army) 1999-2001. He is a member of the Jewish War Veterans Association and the United Taxpayers of Yorktown.

“Our primary purpose is to

protect the community against fires and emergencies,” says

Steve who was one of the Mohegan Firefighters who worked at ground zero after the WTC attacks,” but we also protect the community from major tax hikes.

Without the volunteer firefighters, the residents of our district would incur a dramatic rise in their taxes. This would make our community virtually unaffordable for many residents, especially senior citizens.”

Steve always welcomes feedback from the community . His email address is: President@moheganfire.com.



MVFA President Steve Yagoda

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Safety Tip: *The cold weather is coming. Be sure to keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn and DON'T OVERLOAD electrical sockets!*

Fire Prevention

The Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association’s award-winning fire prevention team had a busy first half of the year in 2004.

This year they acquired a

Ford F-350 Crew Cab Truck to tow the new fire prevention trailer that they use to educate the community’s residents. This year

they visited many schools and organizations to educate



Fire Prevention Team's New Ford F-350

our neighbors about fire safety. Some of the places in which they

gave demonstrations were:

Jefferson Village, NY State Fire Academy, Sparkle Lake, Girl Scouts, Walmart (to practice a fire drill), and many more. If your organization would like the fire prevention team to visit, please call 914-526-0823 or email them at:

fireprevention@moheganfire.com



Mohegan Volunteer Firefighters Salute our members serving in the Military



FF Christopher Long FF Stephen Myllek
FF Evan Rosenmeyer



On August 5th, the members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire

Association held a ceremony in front of the ambulance bays at fire headquarters on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake.

The ceremony was to honor three young men of our community. The honorees were Lance Corporal Christopher Long Jr., US Marine Corps; Airman Stephen Myllek, US Air Force;

and Private Evan Rosenmeyer, US Army.



LCPL Chris Long Jr., USMC

These young men raised their hands years ago to volunteer to protect their community against fires and emergencies. They have recently raised their hands to volunteer to protect their country and the freedom on which it was founded.

In attendance were the families of those men, the officers and men and women of the MVFA. Some of those who spoke were Steve Yagoda; President of the MVFA, Roland



Airman Steve Myllek, USAF

Faucher; Fire Commissioner (both veterans themselves) and Br. Ted Novak, S.A.; Company Chaplain.

Awards and commemorative pins were given to the family members.

Many of the members of the MVFA are veterans. The ceremony made them remember their days in the service. "These are the finest young men that the community has to offer." said President Steve

Yagoda, "It is because of them, and those like them, that our country is great. We are proud to have them as members of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association."

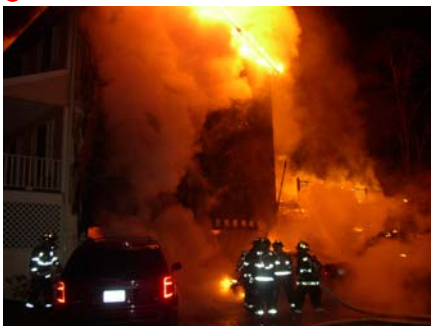


President Steve Yagoda gives out awards & ceremony pins to the families of MVFA veterans



Officers listen as Roland Faucher speaks to members and families

Did You Know? Firefighters cut holes in the roofs of burning buildings to draw the smoke out of the building. This increases chances of survival for victims and improves the effectiveness of internal hose operations!



Mohegan Volunteers at a Cortlandt Fire



... at an Auto Accident



Ventilating a Roof

Injured in the Line of Duty

The morning of June 10th started out like any other day for Lt. Neil Boddie. He was preparing to go to work at his local heating & air conditioning business when the alarm went out for a structure fire on Gallows Hill Road in Cortlandt.

Boddie was the first to arrive at the scene, the 2-family home had a fully involved fire. Within minutes he had evaluated the scene (called "size-up), established incident



Lt. Neil Boddie

command and began initial operations.

As the incident progressed, Boddie was supervising operations in the rear of the house when he was hit by a charged two and one half inch hose line. He was knocked over the rail of the deck and down an embankment.

Lt. Boddie received a head wound as well as injuries to his back, neck and arm. Other firefighters on the scene immediately ran

to his aid. The Stat-Flight Emergency Services helicopter was called and he was flown to the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

At the Medical Center, he was treated for a head laceration and was released after testing and observation of his other injuries.

"Firefighting can be dangerous, no matter how careful you are; but the community counts on us." says Boddie, "We perform our duties as safely as possible, but sometimes these things will happen."

Neil reported back to duty a few weeks after the incident. The MVFA is glad to have him back.

Fund Drive

As of late November, the *Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association* has received over 2,750 donations from the community for its annual fund drive. This constitutes nearly *one out*

of every three households in the district!

We greatly appreciate the strong support that we receive from you, the community. We are committed to give back to the community, not only



THANK YOU!

through fire protection, but through our "extra-curricular" activities such as our award-winning Fire Prevention Program, our annual santa run, and the changing of smoke alarm batteries for our senior citizens.

Thank you from all of us!

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FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY FIRE EMERGENCY

Become a Volunteer—Join the Mohegan Fire Dept. or Ambulance Corps.

...or both.



The Mohegan Fire Department consists of Firefighters and Ambulance Corps members, each performing a specialized task in an emergency. As a member, you receive expert training in a variety of these tasks.

As a Firefighter, you will receive hands-on training with the Mohegan Fire Department and at the Westchester County Fire Training Center. If you are interested in the emergency medical field, we also provide specialized training in First Aid, Emergency Medical Technician

(EMT), and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT). Both areas offer thousands of dollars in highly specialized training, free to you as a volunteer.

As a member, you are also eligible to reap the benefits of the NY State LOSAP Pension Plan that will entitle you to a specific monetary amount when you reach retirement age.

So what does it take?

- Men and women age 16 and older, who are caring, community-oriented people.
- You must be a U.S. citizen, and reside in the Lake Mohegan Fire District.

- You must provide a note from your physician stating that you are in good physical health
- Background checks will be conducted on all applicants.
- Percentage of alarms and training attendance are required.

Call for more information

914-526-0823

Or visit our website

www.moheganfire.com



Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association

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president@moheganfire.com**

**We're on the web
www.moheganfire.com**

**An Old Friend Rejoins
the MVFA**



MVFA's 1948 Chevrolet Pumper

One of the MVFA's members has come back to the neighborhood and rejoined the department. The 1948 Chevrolet pumper that loyally served the Mohegan/Cortlandt/Yorktown community for nearly three decades found its way home this year where it will

serve out the rest of its years as a show piece antique for the department.

Purchased new from Chevrolet in 1948, the pumper was immediately commissioned by the Mohegan Fire District. "It was a state-of-the-art piece of firefighting equipment in it's day," says Lt. Seth Porter, "it carried 150 gallons of water and could reach speeds of 45 miles per hour." Modern pumpers can carry almost ten times that amount of water while racing to scenes at 65 mph.

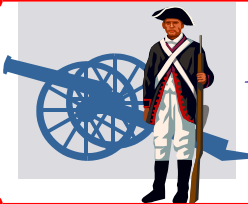
For almost three decades, the little fire truck brought her crews to thousands of calls. Over the years, the reliable pumper was a familiar sight in the area as it carried the volunteers to everything from auto accidents to house fires.

But by the mid-1970's, it was

deemed too old and outdated to be effective in the burgeoning fire district. It was donated to the NY State Fire Academy in Albany.

For many years, it served the state as a training vehicle until it was sold to a private collector from Churchville, NY (near Buffalo). There it stayed for nearly twenty years until the owner happened across an MVFA member at a Fire Chief's Convention two years ago. A correspondence began between the MVFA and the owner until an agreement was made to sell it back to the Department.

"It's still in as good condition as it was thirty years ago." says Porter, "Even the Mohegan insignia is still on the side. This is an important piece of the community's history and it's now back home where it belongs."



**1776– 2004 The Spirit of Volunteerism
lives on in America.**

