

# HINSDALE



HINSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2014

# A YEAR OF CHANGE AND PROGRESS



Welcome to the 2014 Annual Report for the Village of Hinsdale Fire Department. As the Fire Chief, it is a pleasure for me to present you with the activities of our Department. When reviewing this Annual Report, you will notice that while we responded to over 2700 fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls in 2014, your Hinsdale Firefighters were busy in the community in a number of different ways. Whether continuing to educate themselves through training, conducting fire prevention and education activities, or working with the various community groups, Hinsdale Firefighters continue to make the Village not only a better, safer place but they continue to make an impact on the Village as a whole.

Hinsdale Firefighters are instilled with the traditions of our past and retired members. In addition, they bring with them unique talents and experiences that make positive impacts on our Department. When those traditions, talents, and experiences are combined, the Hinsdale Fire Department continues to be a "special place".

As we move into 2015, I am proud to lead an organization composed of professionals who are not only capable and well prepared but are dedicated to providing exceptional services to the Village of Hinsdale. Our members, with the support of both their immediate and firehouse families, will continue to rise to the occasion to make those impacts on our Village.

*Rick Ronovsky*

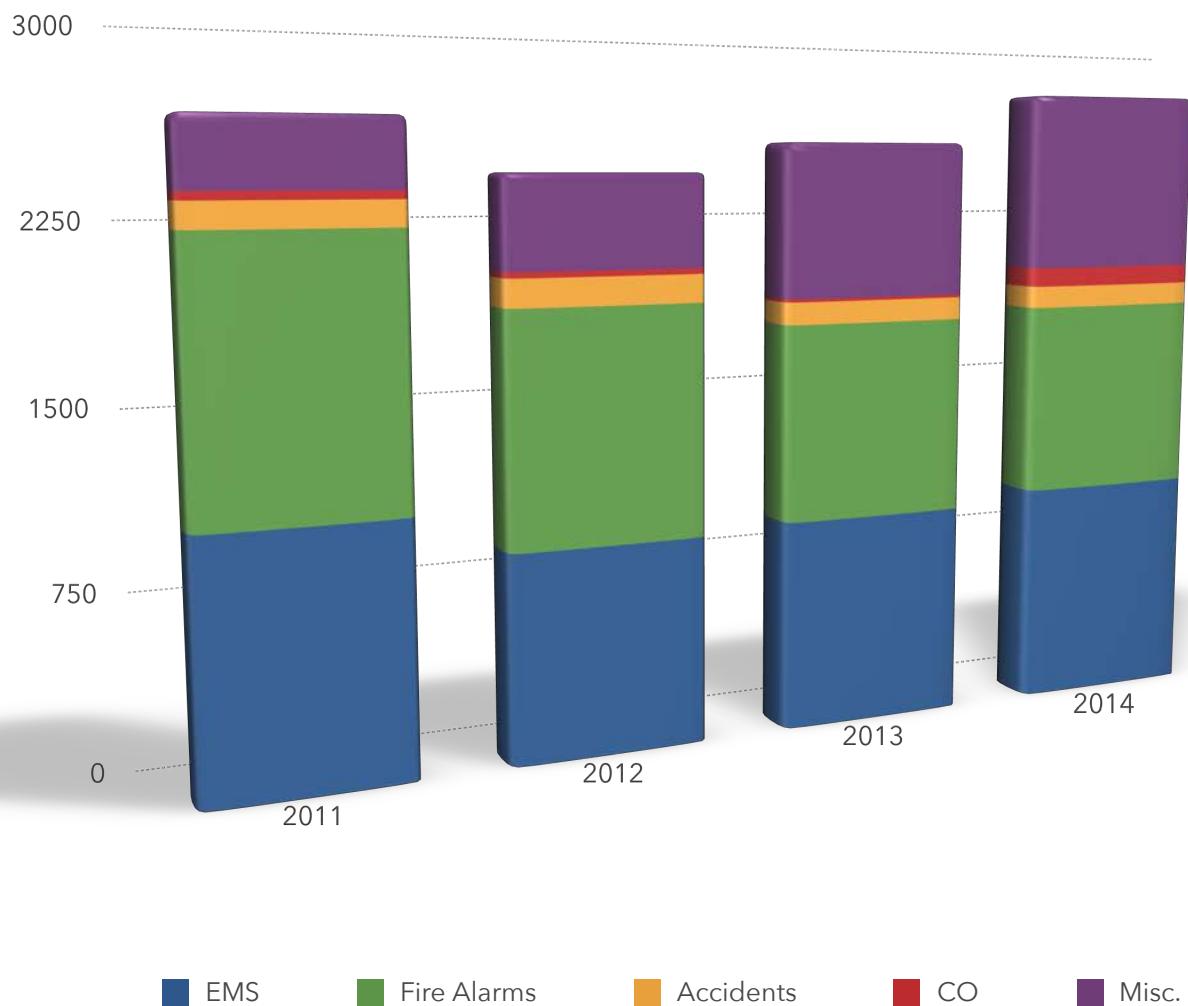
## ***Our Guiding Principle:***

We strive to be worthy of the trust placed upon us by the people who live, work, and travel in the Village of Hinsdale.

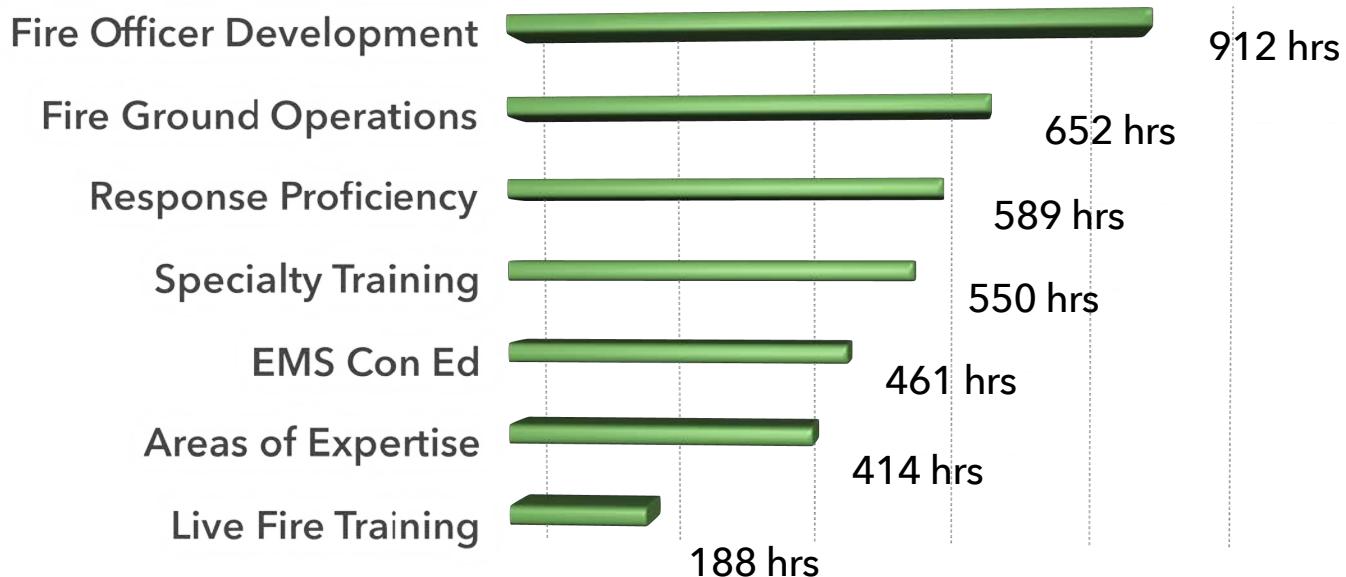




# HINSDALE FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO 2,791 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2014.



# HINSDALE FIREFIGHTERS SPENT 4,627 HOURS TRAINING IN 2014

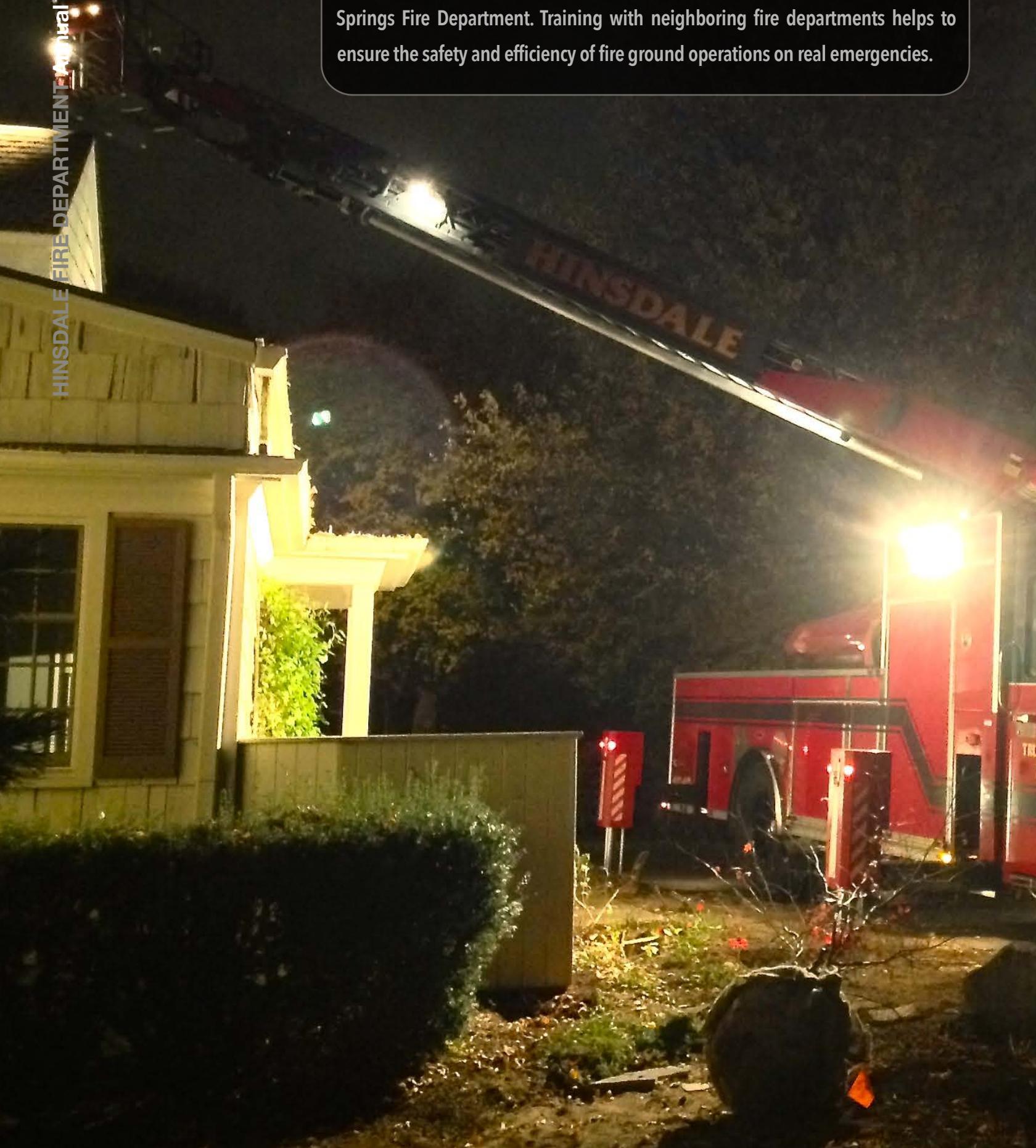


Members of the Hinsdale Fire Department spend, on average, nearly six hours of the day training, educating, and preparing for "what if" and "worst case" scenarios. As a department, this year we spent 4,627 hours in classrooms, conference rooms, in seminars, and on the fire ground perfecting our skills. We are the first ones to admit that we are not perfect, but for a few moments during any given day at unexpected times, we have to be. Most of our training is mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL), Insurance Service Office (ISO), National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Yet, our members often go above and beyond what's required, seeking out every opportunity to enhance their knowledge and prepare for the next step in their careers. Members of the department are in the process of obtaining Graduate and Master's degrees, as well as Executive and Chief Fire Officer degrees through local universities and accredited programs. A few members even attended the Illinois Fire Service Institute's Annual Fire College at the University of Illinois in Champaign. We also went to great lengths to create simulated drills in 12 vacant single family homes, 2 vacant commercial buildings, and vehicle extrications. This year's training also included specialty response training such as TRT, HAZMAT, ice rescue and a tactical Ebola response protocol.



Several Hinsdale Firefighters, such as Andy Smith pictured here, are Special Rescue Technicians and serve on a variety of West Suburban MABAS Division 10 Technical Response Teams.

Members of Red Shift participate in night training in a vacant structure in Hinsdale with truck 1019, cutting holes in the roof and conducting a thorough search and rescue effort in a coordinated multi-company drill with the Western Springs Fire Department. Training with neighboring fire departments helps to ensure the safety and efficiency of fire ground operations on real emergencies.





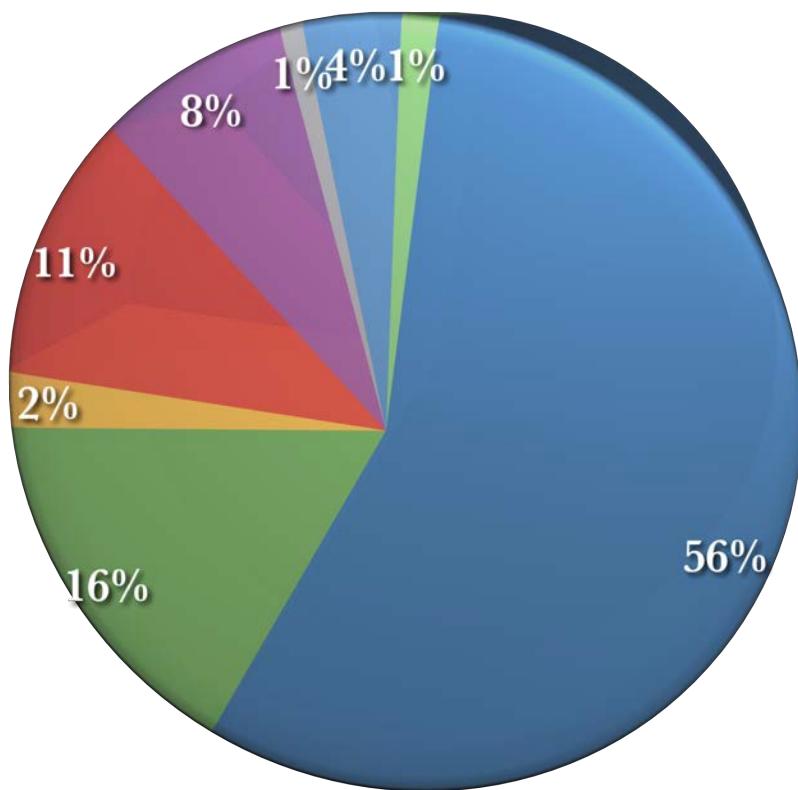
Firefighters Mike Wilson and Dan Majewski work together during a complex vehicle extrication drill in the parking lot of the fire station. Utilizing state of the art stabilization equipment from Hinsdale's fire engine 1012 to free a conscious patient, being played by Lieutenant Jon Carlson.

# PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN EVERY BUILDING IS OUR PRIORITY.

The goal of the Hinsdale Fire Prevention Bureau is to help business and building owners meet all the requirements of the current Fire and Building Codes together with the Life Safety Code. These codes have all been adopted by the Village and must be followed. The Bureau has the responsibility to ensure these codes are followed and works diligently with contractors to be sure they are following the approved plans to protect the business and building owners. We work closely

with community development to provide the highest level of service possible. During 2014, the Fire Prevention Bureau completed a total of 1013 inspection activities, including 562 inspections, 24 special inspections, 114 plan reviews, 58 acceptance tests, 10 fire pump tests, 35 consultations, and witnessed 18 fire drills. As part of the fee structure plan, it is estimated annual fire inspections and fire pump tests accounted for \$43,825 in revenues.

- **Inspections**
- **Plan Reviews**
- **Consultations**
- **Follow Up Inspections**
- **Acceptance Test**
- **Fire Drills**
- **Special Inspections**
- **Fire Pump Test**





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SO MANY UNEXPECTED WAYS.

A large part of what makes the Hinsdale Fire Department unique is our involvement in the community. We go to great lengths to ensure that nearly every child in every school understands the importance of fire safety and emergency preparedness through our Public Education Programs. Last year alone we reached over 1,000 children with Safety Village, Station Tours, In-school programs and scheduled Safety Talks at the Fire House. When you combine that with our Open House, Fourth of July Parade, Block Parties, Silent Parade and all of the charity events that we participate in, it's easy to see how the Hinsdale Fire Department continues to make a huge impact on the community.



# IN THE SCHOOLS.

91 hours were spent reaching 1,123 children in all of our schools in the Village of Hinsdale.



# AROUND TOWN.

91 hours were spent visiting the neighborhoods and sharing our safety message to over 2,321 residents.



# AT THE FIRE HOUSE.

118 hours were spent conducting fire safety programs, including our Open House, to nearly 843 people.



# THE EVENTS THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES & PAINT OUR HISTORY.

Not only did the Hinsdale Fire Department record the highest number of calls for emergency last year, it was also one of the busiest years in terms of news and noteworthiness. The highlight of which, was a trip to the Capitol Building in Springfield during the Illinois Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service and Award Ceremony. Firefighters Don Newberry and Dan Majewski received an award for saving the life of a Hinsdale resident trapped in a burning home. We also participated in charity events, raising over \$15,000 throughout the year for local charities.





When a piece of the World Trade Center was transported along Interstate 294, members of the Hinsdale, Western Springs and Pleasantview Fire Departments paid their respects.

Hinsdale Firefighters Pat Schaberg, Nick McDONough and Jim Nichols traveled to Emmitsburg, MD to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

Last year marked the 20th year of the Downers Grove/Hinsdale Silent Parade. Members of the Hinsdale Fire Department stand at attention just prior to the parade's precession.



Engine 1012 was sold to a non-profit organization outside of Sterling, IL. Chief Kenney stopped by to take one more ride before it was taken out of service in June of 2014.

We completely redesigned and remodeled the kitchen and day room in May of 2014. It is a masterpiece and serves as the perfect setting to spend time with family and friends.

The Village Manager and members of Gold Shift doused water on Chief Bloom and his staff to raise money and awareness for ALS in the cold water challenge.



Cheryl, Matt, Rachel, and Sam were on hand at Big's Bareknuckle Softball Tournament, which raised over \$11K for local charities. Even though Hinsdale lost again, it was a great day!

Several members of the Fire Department including Dan Majewski, pictured here, grew mustaches in the month of "Movember" to raise money for men's testicular cancer.

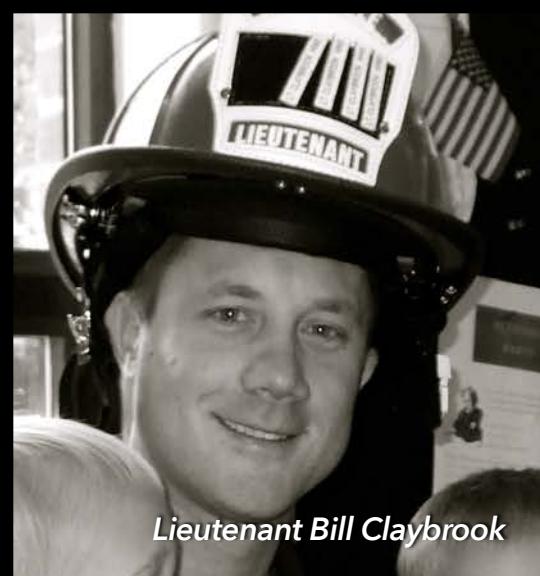
Santa and some of his friends from Gold Shift visited the children at the Wellness House and then headed over to the Hinsdale Hospital for quick visits in the ER and Pediatrics.

Hinsdale Firefighter Dan Majewski married Stephanie McCabe in the summer of 2014, and stopped by the fire house for a few photos. Members of Red Shift spent the day cleaning and preparing the fire house for the special occasion.



The newest addition to the Fire Department is our 2014 Pierce Pumper custom built for the Hinsdale Fire Department. It's a 1500 GPM single stage waterous pump with Road Rescue Genesis Spreaders and cutters in the front bumper.





*Lieutenant Bill Claybrook*



*FF/PM Jim Nichols*



*FF/PM Tom McCarthy*

Members of Red Shift made significant contributions to the Department throughout 2014, including grant writing, public education programs, department training, coordinated company drills with outside agencies, and organized charitable events that recognized and honored both members of the department and residents of the community.



*FF/PM Andy Ziemer*



*FF/PM Jared Skibbens*



*Captain John "G" Gianelli*



*FF/PM Doug Niemeyer*

**Captain John Giannelli - 24 years of service - Red Shift**

John is one of the most decorated fire fighters in the history of the Hinsdale Fire Department. He has an Associate's degree at the College of DuPage, a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science Management at Southern Illinois University, is a member of the MABAS Division 10 Hazmat team, and received two unit citations for Acts of Valor in saving the lives of both a resident of Hinsdale and a downed Hinsdale Fire Fighter in separate incidents. Captain Giannelli is also the Training Officer of the Hinsdale Fire Department and is currently pursuing his Chief Fire Officer Certification. He currently lives in Downers Grove with his wife Carla and their three children, Natalie, and the twins, Sam and Leah.

**Lieutenant Bill Claybrook - 13 years of service - Black shift**

Bill has been intimately involved in several key initiatives within the Department over the last four years. He developed and advocated a College Publication Education program, is currently the Official Grant Writer, is a member of the Fire Fighter Pension Board and is in the process of creating an Officer Development program for the Department. He also has several fire service certifications in including his Fire Officer I. Bill earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University and holds a Master's degree in Management and Organizational Development from Illinois Benedictine. He and his wife, Michelle, live in New Lenox with their three young sons, Johnathan, Nathan, and Peyton.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Doug Niemeyer - 16 years of service - Red Shift**

Doug comes from a family of firefighters. His dad was a volunteer fireman with the Clarendon Hills Fire Department for 34 years, his brother works for Tri-State Fire Protection District, and his brother-in-law is a firefighter for the Oak Brook Fire Department. Doug holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from St. Ambrose, and an Associate's degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage. He is President of the Fire Fighter's Pension Board, in charge of our radio communications, MABAS Box Cards, and the purchasing of new fire vehicles for the department. Doug also earned his Fire Officer I and II from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. He lives in Clarendon Hills with his wife, Melissa and their two boys, Matt and Andrew.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Andy Ziemer - 13 years of service - Red Shift**

Andy holds both an Associate's degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from MacMurray College. He also boasts several fire certifications including Fire Officer I and II, Structural Collapse Technician, Rope Rescue Technician, Trench Technician, Confined Space Technician, Vehicle Machinery Technician, and Fire Apparatus Engineer. Andy organizes our annual Open House, assists with the training program, and is a CPR Instructor, Paramedic Facilitator, and Technical Rescue Technician. Andy received a Unit Citation for rescuing a Hinsdale resident during a flood. He lives in Lombard with his wife Melissa and their three children, Ashley, Madison, and Joshua.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Tom McCarthy IV - 10 years of service - Red Shift**

Tom is a second-generation Hinsdale Firefighter. He is in charge of the our Health and Wellness Program, is the director of the distinguished Safety Village Summer Camp, is a Fire Investigator and a member of the MABAS Division 10 Fire Investigation Team. He obtained his Fire Fighter II certification from the Oak Lawn Fire Academy, earned his Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certifications from the State Fire Marshall's Office and spearheads the Fire Safety and Public Education programs for all the schools in the Village of Hinsdale. McCarthy has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bradley University and is currently enrolled in Lewis University's Master Program. He lives with his wife, Lauren and their two year-old child, Maggie, in Westchester.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Nichols - 7 years of service - Red Shift**

Jim is the heart and soul of our department. He spearheads social events, organizes holiday parties, dresses up as Santa and visits sick children at Hinsdale Hospital on Christmas, and coordinates our Annual Softball Tournament, which honors Deputy Chief Mark Johnson. He is a consummate firefighter with over 12 years of experience both as a firefighter and a paramedic. Jim is also a Fire Apparatus Engineer, is a member of the Foreign Fire Tax Board and oversees the department's inventory of ground ladders, which includes monthly maintenance and testing. He lives in Downers Grove with his wife, Jen and their two children, Jacob and Jessica.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Jared Skibbens - 4 years of service - Red Shift**

Jared is a bright, young rising star at the Hinsdale Fire Department. He earned an Associates degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage and was the Valedictorian of the 2009 Edward Hospital Paramedic Program. He has an Advanced Technician Firefighter certification, is a Fire Apparatus Engineer and is working towards a Fire Officer I certification. His responsibilities include AED maintenance, IDPH compliance and monitoring the ALS Drug Inventory. Prior to joining the department, Jared was a paid-on-call fire fighter and contract paramedic with the Warrenville Fire Protection District for two years. He currently lives in Warrenville with his wife, Jacqui and their three young children, Luke, Noah, and Faith.

The Hinsdale Fire Department was requested to a 4-alarm fire in Cicero in the early morning hours of January 21, 2014. Four members of Red Shift strategically positioned truck 1019 in the front of the warehouse on fire, quickly put the master water stream in service, and skillfully began extinguishing the large body of fire. As a result of their actions, Company 1019 brought the fire under control and prevented it from spreading to nearby buildings.



## A SAMPLE OF THE FEEDBACK FROM PATIENTS THAT WERE CARED FOR BY MEMBERS OF RED SHIFT.

*"It was exactly the level of service one would hope for in this situation and they are to be commended on their professionalism."*

*"I was very impressed by the quality of service provided to me...they were the utmost professional and should be commended for their respectful and knowledgeable practice."*

*"We expected the 'Best' of service from the Hinsdale Fire Department and that's what we received. Thank you!"*

*"The two paramedics treated me with such kindness, reassuring me, explained everything they did—I felt safe. They are a credit to your Department."*

## ***"They were absolutely wonderful!"***

*"They were here very fast, and were so courteous and kind."*

*"Thank you very much for a knowledgeable, kind and caring team. I was very impressed and appreciated the paramedics that arrived to help my son."*

*"They took wonderful care of my husband and were so understanding."*

*"They were outstanding...tremendously helpful, accommodating, caring and professional. We were extremely satisfied with their service. Thank you for a job very well down."*



*Lieutenant Jon Carlson*



*FF/PM Mike Karban*



*FF/PM Kevin Baker*

Black Shift is credited with saving the Department thousands of dollars as several members continue to provide critical maintenance on the apparatus, keep equipment in service and make repairs around the fire house. In addition to daily training, company drills, rig checks, furthering their education and completing station assignments, Black Shift does most of the heavy lifting to keep the level of service and professionalism where it needs to be.



*FF/PM Andy Smith*



*FF/PM Dan Majewski*



*Captain Dave DeWolf*



*FF/PM Mike*

**Captain Dave DeWolf - 28 years of service - Black Shift**

Dave is one of the Department's experienced State Certified Fire Investigators. He served as President of the MABAS Division 10 Cause and Origin Team, is both an IAAI and NAFI certified Investigator, and is one of the Assistant Commanders of the Du Page County Fire Investigation Task Force. Throughout his career, Dave investigated over 1,000 structure related and explosion incidents. He has an Associate's degree in Architectural Technology from Triton College, holds several fire certifications including Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II and has been an Emergency Medical Technician for over 25 years. Captain DeWolf has been married to his wife, Jan, for 30 years and together they live in Darien. They have two children named, Mike and Lauren.

**Lieutenant Jon Carlson - 15 years of service - Black shift**

Jon is the Lieutenant on Bold Shift and oversees the vehicle maintenance operations of the department. He plays a critical role in keeping the fire engines, ambulance, staff cars and our truck running smoothly everyday. His other station duties include EMS Coordinator, CPR Instructor, and oversees ambulance billing and reporting. He has a Bachelor's degree with a major in Social Work from Winona University in Minnesota. John has his Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certifications from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. Jon is also trained as a Rapid Intervention Team Officer. He lives in Downers Grove with his wife, Jill and their two children, Nicholas and Elizabeth.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Karban - 23 years of service - Black Shift**

Mike is a Fire Investigator/Photographer and a member of the MABAS Division 10 Fire Investigation Team, of which he was the Vice President and President of respectfully. He earned an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from the College of DuPage and is currently working towards his Bachelor's degree. Mike has numerous fire service certifications from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office, has over 25 years of experience as a paramedic, attended the prestigious National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD several times, and, most notably, was awarded a Unit Citation for an act of valor in saving the life of a downed Hinsdale Firefighter. Mike lives with his Wife, Kim, and their two children, Alex and Abby, in Burr Ridge.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Andy Smith - 14 years of service - Black shift**

Andy has vast experience in all five areas of Technical Rescue (Rope, Structural Collapse, Confine Space, Trench and Vehicle Machinery) and is certified to the highest level in each. He also is a Fire Apparatus Engineer, Firefighter III, Fire Officer II and Paramedic. Prior to joining the department, Andy spent nine years in the Indiana Army National Guard, three enlisted and six as an Officer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in General Studies from Ball State University and was the recipient of an Illinois Fire Chief's Association Scholarship in 2011. On his days off, Smith is a Collapse Technician Instructor at the Romeoville Firefighter Academy. He lives in Lisle with his wife, Karen and their four children, Liam, Cassidy, Declan, and Keagan.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Baker - 10 years of service - Black Shift**

Kevin is one of our resident mechanics. This helps the department save thousands of dollars annually on vehicle maintenance costs, because we are able to repairs in house whenever possible. He also takes care of all our small tools, small engines and is in charge of department uniforms and turnout gear. He has Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certifications, is a Fire Apparatus Engineer, a SCBA Technician and the Vice President of our Foreign Fire Board. Kevin earned his Associate degree in Applied Science from College of DuPage and is currently working towards his Bachelor's degree. He lives in Bartlett with his wife, Lynn, and their six year-old daughter, Ava.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Majewski - 6 years of service - Black Shift**

Dan was hired in March of 2008. Since then, he has obtained his Fire Apparatus Engineer, Advanced Technician Firefighter, HAZAMT Tech, Fire Officer I and Instructor I certifications from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. He was also the runner-up recipient to the prestigious Hartman Award for the second year in a row. He also received a Medal of Honor from the DuPage 100 Club, a Unit Citation from the Village of Hinsdale, and was honored down in Springfield last year for saving the life of a woman trapped in her burning home. As one of our automotive technicians, Dan keeps the fire engines, trucks and ambulances running smoothly everyday. Dan lives in Downers Grove with his wife, Stefanie McCabe, who he married last summer. They are expecting their first child in May.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Wilson - 2 year of service - Black Shift**

Mike graduated from East Aurora High School in 1994 and entered the United States Navy, where he was an electrician for the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 for four years. After the Navy, he earned his Firefighter II certification and was a Paid on Call Fire Fighter for the Aurora Township Fire Protection District for six years. At the same time, he entered Southern Fox Medic School and was a Paramedic for four years with the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. He is a Cold Water Rescue Technician, Fire Apparatus Engineer and specialty trained as a HAZAMAT Tech B. Currently, Mike lives with his wife, Lisa, in Countryside. He is also the proud father of a nine year old daughter Gabriella and 18 month old Ember Ann.

## A SAMPLE OF THE FEEDBACK FROM PATIENTS THAT WERE CARED FOR BY MEMBERS OF BLACK SHIFT.

*"We were extremely satisfied with their service, knowledge and expertise. Thank you for a job very well done."*

*"The paramedics made me feel so comfortable during such a difficult time. They were friendly, they were knowledgeable, and they all knew what they were doing."*

*"Excellent response team! They were very caring, thorough, and professional."*

*"I want to thank everyone that helped me. The paramedics were so caring and understanding. They are well-trained and I have so much admiration for them."*

## ***"They were tremendously helpful!"***

*"The response time was exceptional. I am so grateful for everyone at the Hinsdale fire Department and all that they do."*

*"I cannot say enough great things about the Hinsdale Fire Department and the paramedics that took care of me. The guys were really great."*

*The paramedics who responded were very caring and took the time to explain everything to me. They were very professional."*

The quick thinking and aggressive tactics of Black Shift prevented what could have been a total disaster at the professional medical building located at 950 N York in the afternoon on November 10, 2014. The teamwork, coordinated efforts among the 6-man duty crew and the leadership of Captain Dave DeWolf resulted in several rescues on the roof, the swift evacuation of the building and the prevention of fire spread to the interior of the structure.



*Lieutenant Mike Neville*



*FF/PM Patrick Schaberg*



*FF/PM Steve Tullis*



*FF/PM Bob Patitucci*



*FF/PM Nick McDonough*



*Captain Kevin Votava*



*FF/PM Don Newberry*

**Captain Kevin Votava - 30 years of service - Gold Shift**

Captain Votava has held the ranks of Lieutenant, Deputy Chief, Training Officer, Captain and Emergency Management Coordinator, a responsibility he shares with Sgt. Tim Lamb of the Hinsdale PD. He's nearly completed his Illinois Professional Emergency Manager certification from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). Obtaining this certification will enable the village to qualify for additional Emergency Management Grants and funding. Kevin has an Associate's degree in Fire Science from Triton College and is currently working towards his Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Management. Captain Votava has two children, Andrew and Lillian, and lives in Darien. He was the first licensed paramedic to join the Hinsdale Fire Department over 25 years ago and continues to maintain his certification as a paramedic.

**Lieutenant Mike Neville - 11 years of service - Gold Shift**

Mike is a second-generation firefighter, following in the footsteps of his dad, Retired Morton Grove Fire Battalion Chief Jim Neville. Lt. Neville earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern Illinois University, achieved an Associate's degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage, and has both a Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II certifications from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. He manages the CPR public education program and is a certified Fire Inspector. Mike is also a Fire Investigator and a member of the MABAS Division 10 Fire Investigation Team. He lives in Elburn with his wife, Jane, and their two daughters, Leah and Alexa.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Don Newberry - 25 years of service - Gold shift**

Don is one of our most experienced firefighters and paramedics. He is an active member on both of MABAS Division 10's Technical Rescue and HAZMAT response teams. He has Fire Officer I, II, III and Chief Fire Officer certifications, logging more than 120 hours of classwork at the prestigious National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. He has an Associates degree Fire Science from the College of DuPage. With nearly 26 years of experience as a paramedic, Don has filled just about every role in Emergency Medical Services, from trainer and instructor, to coordinator and facilitator within the Good Samaritan EMS Region 8 system. He is also a fire instructor at NIPSTA and the Romeville Fire Academy lives in Lemont with his wife Sheri and their daughter, Sheridan.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Bob Patitucci- 11 years of service - Gold Shift**

Prior to joining the Department, he used to work at a prominent Italian restaurant in the Chicagoland area. Bob has a Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and boasts several fire service certifications including Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II Vehicle Machinery Tech and all areas of Hazardous Materials at the Incident Command level. If there is ever a HAZMAT incident in Hinsdale or the surrounding areas, Bob is the one person we want on the scene. He's been a paramedic for over 10 years, is the President of our Foreign Fire Board and was the Coordinator for our Public Education Program for a number of years. He also was awarded two Unit Citations for saving the life of a Hinsdale Firefighter and a Hinsdale resident in two separate incidents. He lives in Wayne with his wife, Jenny and their two daughters Isabella and Giada.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Tullis - 10 years of service - Gold Shift**

Steve is a second-generation firefighter, following in the footsteps of his dad, the late Chief Arthur "Bucky" Tullis. As the department's Public Information Officer, Steve writes all the press releases, manages media relations and generates public education communication materials. He earned a Bachelor's degree from UIC. Steve is the department's historian, updates the website, creates the Annual Report, manages the department's Health and Wellness programs. He obtained a Fire Officer I certification. Steve is also an active member of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Illinois Life Safety Task Force. He lives in LaGrange Park with his wife, Suzie, and their three sons, Jack, Eddie and Quinn.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Schaberg - 7 years of service - Gold Shift**

Pat Schaberg is our resident computer and A/V guru. He updates the Department website, maintains the EMS computers, creates all of our presentations and helps archive photos throughout the year. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University and received his Firefighter II from the Oak Lawn Academy. Pat is a certified Fire Apparatus Engineer, Advanced Technician Firefighter and completed his Fire Officer I certification in February of 2013. Patrick is also a certified Fire Investigators and hopes to join the MABAS Division 10 Fire Investigation Team soon. Prior to joining the department, Pat worked as a part-time firefighter with the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District. He lives in Downers Grove with his wife Christine.

**Firefighter/Paramedic Nick McDonough - 2 year of service - Gold Shift**

Nick earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Media Communications from Northern Illinois University in 2007 and received an Associate's degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage in 2009. He has been a licensed paramedic for the past 4 years, is a CPR Instructor, and obtained his Vehicle Machinery Ops, Fire Apparatus Engineer and Firefighter III certifications from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office. He is a founding member of the Hinsdale Honor Guard, which traveled to Emmitsburg, MD for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, and received a Unit Citation Award for saving the life of a woman trapped inside of a burning home. This past year, Nick completed his Fire Officer I coursework through the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. He and his wife, Jessi, live in their new home located in Elgin. They also are the proud parents of a four month old baby boy named Sean William.

# A SAMPLE OF THE FEEDBACK FROM PATIENTS THAT WERE CARED FOR BY MEMBERS OF GOLD SHIFT.

*"We were impressed with the quick response, considerate care, professionalism and empathy of the paramedics."*

*"We were shocked at how little damage there was to our house. They had such a quick response and were able to put the fire out immediately upon arriving."*

*"Excellent care! Very professional."*

*"We are lucky to have such trusted staff available to the community."*

## **"The paramedics were outstanding."**

*"I just wanted to say that the gentlemen were very nice, which made me feel very comfortable."*

*"They handled the complex situation diligently and very thoughtfully. Me and my wife are extremely grateful."*

*"I dealt with our situation very professionally and with compassion. I feel they should be commended for the services they provided."*



On April 29, 2014, members of Gold Shift responded to a reported house fire on the 900 block of Bodin. Despite being faced with several hazards including a dead-end street, heavy road construction, limited access, and live power lines down on the ground in the backyard, members initiated an aggressive fire attack. As a result, damage to the home was minimized and homeowners cat was saved in the process.

# THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR DEPARTMENT.



## **Chief Rick Ronovsky**

With Chief Rick Ronovsky at the helm, the Hinsdale Fire Department continues to evolve with innovative services, cutting-edge equipment, financial sustainability, shared services, and a bold new vision to create better integration between our neighboring fire departments. Chief Ronovsky lives with his wife Peggy in La Grange Park. They have two adult children, Joe, who lives with his wife Molly in Chicago and their first child Payton. Jaclyn works in Healthcare management and is married to Kevin McMillian



## **Assistant Chief Tim McElroy**

Assistant Chief McElroy handles the day-to-day operations of the fire house. Chief McElroy serves as an important link between the Fire Department and the business owners, building managers, contractors and key members of the community. He also goes to great lengths to make us all feel like a family by supporting personal pursuits, career goals, and taking an active interest in our lives. Chief McElroy lives with his wife Robin in Westmont. They have two adult children, Grant who is a Hinsdale Police Officer and Bryce, who is a full time Firefighter with the Winnetka Fire Department.



## **Admin Rita McFarland**

Rita was previously volunteering at the Hinsdale Police Department for two years prior to working with the Fire Department. She has been with us for three years and we don't know what we would do without her. She keeps everything running smoothly around the office, behind the scenes and greets all visitors with a smile. She remembers all of our birthdays and bakes everyone their favorite treat on their special day. She lives in Hinsdale with her husband Don of 40 years. They have a son named Brendan, who lives in Massachusetts.



This Annual Report is dedicated to the honorable service of  
Walter Fleming and Mark Johnson.



*We will never forget.*