

OCFA First Meeting

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Meetings will take place one week after the County Fire Chief meetings; the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 19, 2004 at 19:00 at Pentwater Fire Department. Meetings locations will rotate from department to department, allowing firefighters to visit neighboring stations. Any Oceana County firefighter is invited to attend; participation is welcomed and encouraged!

We are considering many ideas and need input on where to go as an organization. One of the considerations discussed was inviting an outside agency to speak at every meeting. This could be anything from EMS to law enforcement to our new area Fire Investigator. If you are interested in hearing from outside organization, let OCFA know or come to a meeting and tell us yourself!

Changes in MFFTC

The Michigan Firefighter Training Council has been repositioned from under the Michigan State Police to DLEG (Department of Labor and Economic Growth). MFFTC is lacking funding since the move, and there may be no money for instructors this fall. The impact may be greater cost to departments to have personnel trained. There is currently a bill that would fund training (possibly requiring monies from insurance companies), and could be voted on soon after the November election. Please spread the word to generate support!

Submitted by Jerry Frick

Countywide Events



Oceana County Firefighters pose for a group picture before Pentwater's annual Homecoming Parade. The event included free food for participants with almost every county department represented.

? **OSHA Blood-borne Pathogens training** will take place the following dates: 10/4 at 19:00 at Walker-ville FD, 11/3 at 19:00 at Pentwater FD, 11/11 at 19:00 at Grant FD, 11/24 at 19:00 at Hart FD.

? **Shelby FD will**

host it's annual Open House on Saturday, October 9. Donuts and cider will be provided for visitors.

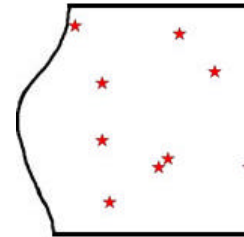
? **Pentwater FD will hold this year's 'Firefighter's Brawl'** on Saturday, October 9. Social hour begins at 17:30, with dinner start-

ing at 18:30. This year's raffle will have a 300 Browning A Bolt Hunter with Burris scope 3x9x40, case, and shells for 1st prize. 2nd prize is \$100 cash. There are a large number of door prizes available as well.

OCEANA COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION



September 22, 2004
Issue 1



Oceana Fire Bugle



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We're on the Web!
www.oceanacountyfa.org

OCFA First Meeting

The Oceana County Firefighter's Association (OCFA) met for the first time on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at Shelby Fire Department. Firefighters representing area departments were on hand to provide general information on individual departments.

The concept has been in the making for some time now, and the ideas driving the organization stemmed from a perceived need for all firefighters to share information and ideas.

Information on changes on equipment, personnel, and countywide events are among the topics to be shared.

The new OCFA logo. Each star represents an Oceana County fire station.



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Future Home Delivery

Would you like to continue to receive home delivery on future issues of the Oceana Fire Bugle? Future newsletters will be distributed direct to departments. However, if you would like to continue to receive home delivery (free of charge), simply contact us either by phone or e-mail: 231-869-2360 rhsil@oceanacountyfa.org

Firefighter I&II Classes Forming

A Firefighter I&II class will be starting soon. The classes typically begin in October and end with testing in April. The classes are typically every Tuesday and Thursday night, and every other Saturday. The testing in April consists of a total of 200 multiple choice questions and 12 practical station tests. Interested parties should contact their local fire department.

Delays in Distributing First Issue

Distribution of our first issue have taken quite a bit of time. Now that the basic layout design, log, and mail lists have been completed, expect to see the newsletter within 6 business days of our meetings.

Department Updates

Crystal Fire Department

CFD is considering becoming a First Responder department. There have been a number of CFD firefighters that have expressed interest; the department will survey the community to see if there would be support. They have a couple of buildings to train on and are planning a training drill in October that will involve several other area departments. **Submitted by Jack White**

DNR

This year has been slow for the DNR; they have officially responded to only 2 fires this year. Warren was firefighting out west for 14 days on initial attack standby. The DNR is looking for Keymen! Keymen are paid to be on call at the DNR station and respond in the event of a fire where DNR assistance is requested. Wildland firefighting experience and a class B CDL are preferred but not required for Keymen. Warren is also looking for a limited term fire officer for 2005. This is a full time position for April and May of 2005. Please contact Warren if you are interested in either position. Warren is also considering teaching a Wildfire Urban Interface class if people express interest. The class will likely take place in either January or February, and is a 24 hour class that will likely take place 2 nights a week for 2 weeks and a Saturday or two. **Submitted by Warren Herring**

Ferry Fire Department

FFD currently has 14 current members. Their grass rig (6x6) was recently updated with a new coat of paint. It is an old 450 gallon tank has been replaced with a new 1000 gallon tank. **Submitted by Kandy Jones**

Grant Fire Department

GFD currently has 15 active members. They recently added a new grass truck: a 2003 Dodge with a 285 gallon tank that was built by the Amish. The cost to have the tank built by the Amish was much less than any other quotes they received. Between now and November, GFD is hoping to meet with Shelby and Montague departments to discuss concerns over a proposed 3 story water park at the Double J. GFD will be hosting Bloodborne Pathogens training on Thursday 11/11/04 for anyone that may be interested. **Submitted by Roland Brooks**

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Pictures & Stories Wanted

Do you have a digital picture of an event your department was involved in? Maybe you have a story or information that would be beneficial for firefighters. Please send it to us so that we can post on the next newsletter!

E-mail Updates

In addition to quarterly newsletters, we are creating a master e-mail list that will be available to update area firefighters on special events and news that takes place in-between mailings. To have you name added to the e-mail list, simply contact us either by phone or e-mail: 231-869-2360 rhasil@oceanacountyfd.org and let us know you would

Department Updates

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Hart Fire Department

HFD currently has 23 active members. Among the apparatus in use are 2 class A pumpers, 1 fill site pumper, 2 grass trucks, 1 tanker, 1 command van, 1 parade truck, 1 inflatable boat with motor, and 2 hydraulic jaws units with tools. They added a new class A pumper just this summer. HFD uses Fire Aide 2000 as an additive in most of their apparatus. Their fire meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm; their training dates vary from month to month. **Submitted by Mike Fillips**

Pentwater Fire Department

PFD recently added a boat to their apparatus lineup. The boat was donated to the department in fall of 2003, and worked on all winter and spring. It was put into service on July 4, and has seen significant use for both water emergencies and dive team training. PFD's call volume is up this year, and the boat is responsible for at least 15% of calls this year. Residents of Pentwater recently voted in favor of a 5 year millage renewal. PFD elected to go with a 5 year vs 10 year request due to the rapid changes in the Village and Township limits. The Pentwater Fire Department Association will be hosting their annual Firefighter's Dinner (formerly called the Fireman's Brawl) on Saturday, October 9. Each Oceana County department will receive 6 complimentary tickets; social hour begins at 5:30 with dinner starting at 6:30. **Submitted by John Sayles**

Shelby Fire Department

There is not a whole lot new at SFD. They have 25 members, 2 of which are rookies. They had a fundraising 'Ox Roast' on Saturday 10/2/04, and will be hosting their annual open house on Saturday 10/9/04; donuts and cider will be provided. **Submitted by Curt Trott**

Walkerville Fire Department

WFD has 16 members, and will have 3 more attending Firefighter I&II class this fall. Their area of jurisdiction covers 160 square miles, and have already had 105 medical runs this year. They are working with Mason-Oceana 911 on implementing a 'block system' that automatically dispatches support from neighboring departments based on the incident and location. Jerry Frick will be attending the National Fire Academy this fall. WFD recently completed their class A pumper testing. Firefighter I&II classes will be starting soon; Jack White is working through details on the schedule. **Submitted by Jerry Frick**

Help Wanted

The Oceana Fire Bugle is looking for firefighters to assist with the publishing and distribution of this newsletter.



The DNR is looking for Keymen & a limited term fire officer! See the DNR department Update.

E-mail Addresses

Would you like an e-mail address through OCFA? Our website uses common POP3 settings as well as a web based login (similar to a Hotmail account). Contact us either by phone or e-mail: 231-869-2360 rhasil@oceanacountyfd.org. You will need to specify what you would like your address to be as well as a password.