

HOT NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF'S CORNER

Happy Fall! As your new Fire Chief, it's been an amazing few months building relationships with our fire department members, Police and Fire Commission, Village Hall, the Village Board, and residents of Menomonee Falls. Although the pandemic has limited the amount of our Department's community interaction and involvement, we continue to make the best of the opportunities that present themselves. The common thread in every conversation has been the excitement around where our department is headed. We have a tremendous amount of challenges and opportunities in front of us. I respectfully ask for your continued support, trust and patience in the rebuild of our great department. To say that I'm beyond excited to be a part of this is an understatement.

With fall upon us and winter fast approaching, let's ensure we take great care of ourselves to remain healthy, both mentally and physically. You cannot help and support others, if you are not taking care of yourself first.

Finally, THANK YOU to our internal and external stakeholders that ensure the MFFD continues to be an organization that provides services deemed excellent by our residents and visitors. We are living and working in unprecedented times yet you continue to demonstrate professionalism and passion for the emergency services we provide the Villages of Menomonee Falls and Lannon. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated.

-Chief Gerard Washington

WHAT DOES VETERANS DAY MEAN TO YOU?

One person named Brayden said that "Veteran's Day means freedom, sacrifice, and honor for those who served in the military. It also means to give thanks to people who served."

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) points out that "Veterans Day is NOT the same as Memorial Day. A lot of Americans get this confused."

Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it's largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices."

There are many on our department that have served our country. We also want to remember our two members currently serving overseas: **Brandon Kais** and **Matt Medrow**.

For more facts about Veterans Day, visit the [DOD website](#).





FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

On Oct. 21, a food drive was held in honor of the Menomonee Falls Fire Department. Two Menomonee Falls residents, who are students at Hamilton High School, spearheaded the drive.

Over 40 cubic feet of food was collected. This is more than the entire wooden cart that holds the PFT equipment at Station 3! More photos can be found on our [Facebook page](#).

Menomonee Falls is far from a food desert but there are still those in need.

ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY

Falls Food Pantry is proud to serve residents from Lannon, Colgate, Hubertus, Richfield, Butler, Brookfield, Germantown and Menomonee Falls. The pantry has a refrigerator and freezer to allow them to stock milk, cheese and meat for their clients.

The food pantry asks those picking up food to pre-register and there are requirements but no one will be turned away. ID is required for all household members and there is a self-reported income maximum but once again, no one is turned away.

The pantry has regular hours on Tuesday and Thursday for pick up: 12 PM - 2 PM & 5 PM - 7 PM.

Donations can be left in the lobby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.fallsfoodpantry.org/>

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/adrc/SeniorDining/>

- Battalion Chief Kurt Harthun

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

OCT. 2019

Station 1 - 194
Station 2 - 49
Station 3 - 83
Station 4 - 80
Station 5 - 24

Total Runs - 430

OCT. 2020

Station 1 - 186
Station 2 - 46
Station 3 - 97
Station 4 - 51
Station 5 - 26

Total Runs - 406

NEW TRUCK IN THE HOUSE

Our new Aerial Platform has finally arrived! It will be placed into service once all the equipment is installed and training has been completed.

Stay tuned for more information next month.

TRIVIA QUESTION

How many moustaches have been grown because of Movember, since the inception?

- A. 2 million
- B. 4 million
- C. 6 million
- D. 8 million

(answer on page 4)



Training on extrication/stabilization

DELIBERATE CONTINUING EDUCATION

The term education brings to mind for many people a picture that might be described as passive learning. The instructor simply delivers the content and the student, to whatever extent possible, absorbs the content. This passive learning is associated with compulsory education as children and often causes people to have a distaste for education well into adulthood. It comes as no surprise then that education in the fire service often takes a backseat to training, specifically hands-on training. Nonetheless, education and training are equally important.

The technical college system offers excellent educational opportunities and yet many of us took classes to achieve the goal of certification. Generally speaking, many in the fire service limit their education to that which is required or necessary. Continuing education and lifelong learning require that we change how we view education. Fire and EMS education is not a race that ends with a certification or license but rather a career-long marathon that starts with initial certifications and only ends with retirement. This type of education is what keeps a career from going stagnant.

Continuing education could easily be named elective education—you as the student get to decide what to learn and how to receive that education. Many excellent opportunities exist within the fire service, but challenge yourself by looking for opportunities outside of the fire service as well. Make your education interesting and relevant, but most of all be deliberate. Schedule time to read a new book or attend a class. Choose topics and areas that challenge you and your thinking. Look for opportunities to perfect your craft. Continue your education.

READ:

Leadership

[The signs of toxic leadership in firefighters and fire chiefs](#)

WATCH:

Jocko Willink—Extreme Ownership

https://youtu.be/Onr_VW-AuI4

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

NIOSH death in the line of duty...

Volunteer Fire Fighter Dies in Tanker Rollover Responding to Structure Fire - Oklahoma

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201706.html>

GET INVOLVED:

<http://www.brewcityfools.com/>

FREE TRAINING:

Center for Disaster Preparedness

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/training>

- Battalion Chief Nicholas Boehlke



CREAMY SWEET POTATO & RED LENTIL CURRY

This only takes 30 minutes to cook and is easy to prepare. From the Firehouse to your house, enjoy!

Ingredients

2 tbsp. olive oil	3/4 C red lentils
1/2 white onion	1 (14.5 oz) can coconut milk
1 tbsp. grated ginger	1 1/2 C vegetable broth
1 tbsp. grated garlic	Salt & pepper to taste
1 tsp curry powder	Cilantro for garnish
2 tbsp. tomato paste	Choice of rice, quinoa, or
2 tbsp. red curry paste	cauliflower rice to serve with
4 C cubed sweet potato (2 med size)	

Directions

- Heat the oil in a large skillet. Add the onions and cook for 2 minutes while stirring. Add the ginger, garlic, and curry powder and cook for another minute.
- Once mixture is starting to be fragrant, add the tomato and red curry pastes. Stir everything together until combined.
- Stir in sweet potato and lentils and cook for another 30 seconds before adding the coconut milk. Bring this mixture to a boil then cover and simmer for 15 minutes.
- Remove lid and stir in vegetable broth, then season with salt and pepper. Cover again and cook for another 15 min.
- Serve warm with rice, quinoa, or cauliflower rice.

- Submitted by Lt. Steve Schmitz

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to Joe Jankowski and his new wife, Lexie, who got married on Oct. 10!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

11/03	Nichole Dorvinen
11/06	Taylor Knaebe
11/08	Adam Ewig
11/21	Greg Schneider
11/26	Josh Szentes
11/27	Joe Waite

ANNIVERSARY DATES

None in November.

TRIVIA ANSWER

B. 4 MILLION

The Movember Foundation has raised more than \$769 million, internationally, with the mission to "change the face of men's health" by tackling men's health issues including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention.

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

OCTOBER 2020

10/2/20—Dispatched for structure fire on Weather Edge Circle. While en route, dispatch updated units that fire was in oven and residents were not evacuating. 2765 arrived on scene of a single family residence with nothing showing. Homeowner stated he was pre-heating the oven and when he opened it he saw flames. He quickly closed it. There was a slight haze of smoke in the house. After investigation, it appeared that grease had been collecting in the bottom broiler for some time. Owner was advised to let it cool off and clean up the grease.

10/7/20—Received a call reporting fire on the walls at a home on Lilly Road. Upon arrival, saw no smoke from 3 sides of the building. Light smoke or extinguisher product above the roof line began to appear from back of building. Homeowner walked out with a spent large dry chemical extinguisher. Electricians were on scene completing what was reported as non-related work in the garage. The electricians along with the homeowner reported fire in the Charlie side wall. I combined 2762 and 2764 crews who pulled a crosslay for potential fire extinguishment. There was quick knock down with possible extension within the walls. Crews were instructed to check both the attic and crawlspace for fire spread; then overhauled the area to ensure the fire was out and no further fire spread. Charring to the wood framing, insulation and wiring within the wall were noted. Crews did their best to salvage while they overhauled.

10/11/20—Dispatched for a fire alarm going off on Menomonee Avenue. 2761 arrived on scene and had audible and visual alarms going off with nothing showing on the exterior of the building. Upon entry of the building there was the odor of smoke. Upon reaching the second floor a haze could be seen in the hallway. Upon entering the listed apartment number, the apartment was filled with smoke. On the stove there was a burnt wood cutting board. No active fire was noted in the residence. 2761 called for assistance with ventilation and crews from 2764 and Germantown truck brought PPV fans to assist with the ventilation. 2763 crew made access to the panel and assisted in resetting the alarm system. 2761 was then cleared by command and scene turned over to the property manager.

10/15/20—Dispatched for a cat in a tree on Ann Court. A maintenance manager was on a ladder getting the cat out of the tree. Worker began descending the ladder with the cat who began scratching him. Worker lost grip of the cat and it ran away when it hit the ground. Cat was noted to be in purrfect condition.

10/16/20—Dispatched for fire alarm, mutual aid Germantown, on Grant Drive. En route upgraded to working still at waste management facility, trash fire. Upon arrival interfaced with operations and were instructed to place the engine facing into the warehouse and use deluge gun to put water on fire. Deck gun was used for approximately one hour. Other crew member joined up with Germantown crew and made entry to facility with handline. After approximately 40 minutes crew withdrew and went to recovery. Fire was called under control in approximately one hour.

10/28/20—Dispatched for a vehicle fire at intersection of Silver Spring Drive and Marcy Road. 2765 arrived on scene and observed a utility pick up truck with a lift bucket and a trailer that was on the side of the road with moderate white smoke filling the scene. Several rolls of landscaping hay were observed, spread out on the paved sidewalk next to the truck. All hay rolls were burning. Landscaping hay had been pulled from the back of the truck. 2765 initially used the water can to ensure there was nothing burning in the back of the truck because there was light smoke coming from the hand tools that were still in the truck. 2762 arrived on scene and pulled the garbage line to extinguish the fire on the ground. Hand tools were used to spread out the hay rolls. Back of the truck was saturated and all fire and hot spots were completely extinguished. After talking to law enforcement, he had learned that one of the four occupants of the vehicle had possibly thrown a cigarette butt out the window that landed in the back, igniting the landscaping hay rolls.



Menomonee Falls Downtown Trick or Treat

THANK YOU NOTES

On Monday, Sept. 28, 2020, I had a less-than-critical event that required transport from the Aurora Clinic in the Falls to Community Hospital. Lt Rae Ann Schone and Gabe Norton were the paramedics that responded.

I cannot exaggerate the excellence and quality of their service. They explained what was happening and why they were doing various tests prior to departing the clinic's parking lot. This placed me in a much more relaxed state of mind as my anxiety over the situation was high. They asked questions about my medical situation and events that preceded this episode which gave me confidence that they understood my situation.

Lt Schone and Gabe are two examples of the dedicated team that you have, however I would like to commend their service to me as being exceptional and well above normal expectations.

Sincerely,
Michael S.

MFFD,

We want to take a moment to say thank you for all that you do and to tell you how much we appreciate you all. Thank you for coming to the Weyerhaven Block Party on August 22! The kids look forward to it every year.

From: Weyerhaven Subdivision

Click [here](#) for more, colorful thank you notes.

THANKSGIVING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Click [here](#) for more information from the NFPA and safety tip sheets to have a safe and happy holiday.