

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

HOT NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GREAT NEWS?

The MFFD has been awarded a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant. What does this mean? It means, we will be adding 14 full-time firefighters to our department roster to ensure we are compliant with NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1710. Believe it or not, applying for and receiving the grant award will be the easiest part of this entire process. The heavy lifting has already begun. The command staff, along with Village Hall, have put together the strategic plan to ensure we are successful and compliant in every facet of this exhaustive process. This Monday, March 6, there will be a formal presentation to the Board of Trustees to give an update on our roll-out and answer any questions they may have.

This truly is an exciting time for our department and community. I want to thank you for your continued patience and trust. I know as we take this department to the next level in service delivery, we will be recognized as an inclusive, forward-leaning and professional organization by our residents, customers and peers. Take care.

- Fire Chief Gerard Washington

NEW RADIO CHANNEL TEMPLATE

Radio communication is a daily necessity in fire and EMS. Turn the radio on, click the button, talk into the microphone and anyone on that channel will hear what you have to say. Our main channels are Waukesha Fire Dispatch A, Menomonee Falls Fire Tac 1, and 8TACRED. If you have spent any time clicking through our Motorola radios, you know that there are 30 zones, each with 16 channels. That is a choice of 480 different radio channels, the location of which haven't changed much since 2015. A template has been created for use throughout Waukesha County that will allow the departments that choose to reprogram their radios consistency with each other. This template leaves the first three zones to local control and planning. This includes zones A, B, and C in our radios. After that, there are 70 zones that will be consistent between departments. These 70 zones include all of the channels needed for Waukesha County to work within itself, some surrounding counties, and throughout the state mutual aid setup. Additionally, MFFD is adding two zones to the end, one each for Washington and Ozaukee County channels.

continued on next page

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT

**JANUARY
2022**

Total Runs - 445

**JANUARY
2023**

Total Runs - 459

**FEBRUARY
2022**

Total Runs - 419

**FEBRUARY
2023**

Total Runs - 419

TRIVIA QUESTION

How many fire departments in the U.S. use wooden ladders?

- A. 2
- B. 7
- C. 13
- D. 28

(answer on page 5)

NEW RADIO CHANNEL TEMPLATE, continued

While this may sound confusing on the surface, here are the important takeaways. This should make the job of finding radio channels easier, especially those that we utilize frequently. Zone A is where we work from every day. From this Zone A starting point, our other custom zones will be available by switching up two zones (B and C) or down two zones to Ozaukee or Washington County. This will centralize the zones and make it easier to find these channels. Furthermore, should you be called mutual aid or MABAS throughout Waukesha County, the department can announce a common zone and channel name and location, which will be easier to find on the radio without the charts we currently have to use.

Thank you to Lt. Ed Burg and B/C Brent Biedenbender who have put significant work into designing the local part of this template. We plan to reprogram the radios in the coming months, and will communicate when complete. Below is the local zones (A, B, and C) template.

-Deputy Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt

Zone	PRIMARY	PRIMARY		Zone	SECONDARY			Zone	LOCAL	LOCAL	
			Scan				Scan				Scan
Chan	Front	Top		Chan	Front	Top		Chan	Front	Top	
1	WKFDISP	WKFDISP	1	1	WKFDISP	WKFDISP		1	WKFDISP	WKFDISP	
2	MFFDTAC1	MFFDTAC1	1	2	MFFDTAC1	MFFDTAC1		2	MFFDTAC1	MFFDTAC1	
3	MFFDTAC2	MFFDTAC2	1	3	MFFDTAC2	MFFDTAC2		3	MFFDTAC2	MFFDTAC2	
4	WKFDISPB	WKFDISB		4	GTFDISP	GTFDISP		4	MFPDTAC1	MFPDTAC1	
5	WKFDISPC	WKFDISC		5	BCFDTAC1	BCFDTAC1		5	MPPDTAC2	MFPWTAC2	
6	OAIFERN	OAIFERN		6	PEFDTAC1	PEFDTAC1		6	MFGTAC1	MFGTAC1	
7	OAAIRMED1	OAAIRMD1		7	SXFDTAC1	SXFDTAC1		7	MFPWOPS1	MFPWOPS1	
8	WKFIRE1A	WKFIRE1A		8	LIFDTAC1	LIFDTAC1		8	MFPWOPS2	MFPWOPS2	
9	WKFIRE2A	WKFIRE2A		9	LIFDBRE1	LIFDBRE1		9	WKLEDISP4	WKLEDIS4	
10	WKFIRE3A	WKFIRE3A		10	BUFDTAC1	BUFDTAC1		10	WKLEOPS4	WKLEOPS4	
11	WKFIRE4A	WKFIRE4A		11	OAIFERN2	OAIFERN2		11	WKLEDISP5	WKLEDISP5	
12	WKFIRE5A	WKFIRE5A		12	WKFIREPAGE	WKFIREPAGE	1	12	WKLEOPS5	WKLEOPS5	
13	FG RED	FG RED		13	FG RED	FG RED		13	FG RED	FG RED	
14	14 8TACBLUE	8TACBLUE		14	14 8TACBLUE	8TACBLUE		14	14 8TACBLUE	8TACBLUE	
15	15 8TACWHITE	8TACWHIT		15	15 8TACWHITE	8TACWHIT		15	15 8TACWHITE	8TACWHIT	
16	16 8TACRED	8TACRED		16	16 8TACRED	8TACRED		16	16 8TACRED	8TACRED	

Awards Banquet

Join us in celebrating our past year

- ◆ We look forward to celebrating all of your accomplishments over the past year!
- ◆ Event starts at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Attire is semi-formal. What does that mean? No jeans, tie is optional. (Google has a much better explanation)
- ◆ Make sure you visit the registration table when you arrive to receive your free raffle tickets!

Saturday

MARCH 11, 2023

5:00
PM

Delta Hotel
188W14750 Main St

Note: An RSVP was required for dinner. If you did not RSVP but would still like to come, the awards ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

PEER SUPPORT

We have one of the most stressful callings. We see more and experience much more trauma in one year than the average person does in a lifetime. More first responders die from stress-related illness than from fires or accidents. We need to take care of ourselves so that we can take care of others. Your Peer Support Team is ready and willing to help the helpers. We will listen confidentially. We have resources to help us cope with the stresses of the occupation, our home life, and our personal life. We are available 24/7/365 to the members of our department and to their families. In each station, you will find a Peer Support bulletin board with names and phone numbers of all the team members. We are here for you!



Enjoying a visit from Charity the Comfort Dog

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/3 Kurt Smith
2/6 Tylar Nelson
2/8 Elijah Ornstein
2/19 Brad Behling

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Jerry Erjavec
3/5 Darold Badora
Sean Foley
3/6 Aaron Martinez
3/17 McKenna Ferry
3/20 DC Kevin Rokenbrodt
3/23 April Schuermann
3/26 Mike Peterson
3/28 Will Smith
3/29 LT Dale Rome

FEBRUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES

22 years

2/20/2001 Aaron Koepke

5 years

2/26/2018 DC Nick Boehlke

1 year

2/7/2022 Brad Behling

MARCH WORK ANNIVERSARIES

9 years

3/25/2014 Adam Ewig

1 year

3/8/2022 Sam Goldner
Jenni Lloyd

BEEF STROGANOFF



- 2 Lbs of Cubed Chuck Roast
 - 1 Onion, Large Dice
 - 2 Carrots, Large Dice
 - 2 Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/4 Cup Heavy cream
 - 1 Cup Sour Cream
 - 2 Tablespoons of Flour
 - 4 Cups Beef Stock
 - 2 Cups of Red Cooking Wine
 - A Few Tablespoons of Fresh Diced Parsley
 - 2 Cloves of Garlic Smashed
 - 1 1/2 Tablespoons Sweet Paprika
 - 2 Tablespoons Tomato paste
 - 1 Lb Mushrooms
 - 1 Tablespoon, Fresh Thyme Chopped
 - 1 Tablespoon Butter
 - Olive Oil
 - Salt to Taste
- Serve With Egg Noodles

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the onion and carrot into a large dice and smash garlic cloves.
 2. Trim any excess fat from the beef and the dice into large yet still bite-sized pieces, keeping in mind the beef will shrink during cooking, roughly 1 1/2 inch pieces. Pat dry and season with salt.
 3. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. On the stove in a large, hot dutch oven on medium high heat, sear the beef on all sides in oil and in batches. Take your time and make sure all the pieces are really well seared. Once all the beef is seared, set it aside on a platter and then add the vegetables into the pot. Add a bit more oil if needs and season the vegetables. Cook on medium-high heat for about 5 minutes or until the big pieces of carrot and onion soften and there is a nice caramelized aroma wafting from the pot. Once you can see some “fond” or brown bits developing on the bottom of the pan, add the paprika and stir to coat and toast for a minute or two. Then add the tomato paste and stir to combine and cook the rawness out of the paste. Once you can see the “fond” on the bottom of the pan building, but not burning, add the flour and stir to coat. Once that fond is nice and thick but still not burnt, then we can deglaze with red wine and then scrape the bottom of the pan to pick up all those bits, then let the wine reduce to a glaze. Then add in the broth or stock, add the beef back to the pot, bring it up to a boil, place the lid on and then place in the oven to cook for 3 hours or until the beef is fork-tender and can easily pull apart when torn.
 4. Thirty minutes before the beef is done cooking, clean and cut the mushrooms and tear some fresh thyme leaves. Also combine the sour cream, heavy cream, and Worcestershire sauce and stir to combine.
 5. After 3 hours of cooking, take the beef out of the oven and test for tenderness. If the beef is still tough, let it cook a little longer. Once the beef is out of the oven, in a pan over high heat, saute the mushrooms in butter and olive oil salt, and thyme and develop some color on the mushrooms. Mushrooms always release water first and then brown so make sure the heat is high enough to evaporate the moisture and help brown the mushrooms quicker. While the mushrooms are browning, temper the sour cream mixture by adding a small amount of the hot stew liquid into the cream a little bit at a time and stirring it in, then add the cream into the pot and stir to get it well combined. Once the mushrooms are browned, add them to the pot and stir to combine. At the same time, get a pot of salted water boiling for the noodles. Drop the noodles and cook them just like pasta, if they cook for 9 minutes, drain it at 8 minutes and finish cooking in the stroganoff sauce until it's al dente. Serve the sauced noodles in a bowl with plenty of meat and mushrooms and vegetables ladled on top. Garnish with some chopped parsley.
- From the Firehouse to your House, enjoy!

- Submitted by Lt Steve Schmitz

THE REV'S REFLECTIONS

NEW LIFE

Even though we have just come through one of the worst winter storms of the year, and Wisconsin is still locked in the grips of winter, Spring is just over the horizon! Look at the calendar, Spring is a little over three weeks away. The Brewers are in Phoenix. Spring training is well underway. About one month from now will be opening day at American Family Field. Soon March Madness will be in full swing. For those of us whose lives are focused around a religious calendar, Lent has begun, which will lead us to the celebration of Easter. Easter in the Christian tradition is a time of new life. Jews are looking toward the Festival of Passover. This is also a celebration of new life as we remember the journey from slavery to freedom in the Exodus. As Muslims, Ramadan will soon be here. This is a time of reflection, fasting and contemplation, leading to a newness in one's life. Even here at the Menomonee Falls Fire Department, Chief Washington has informed us that we have been granted a "Safer Grant." This will bring newness to our department with the hiring of new people.

So, with all this newness around us, what are you going to make new in your life? What new skill are you going to tackle? What new course will you enroll in? What new project are you going to undertake? What new attitude are you going to adopt? At the very least, what new book will you read? How are you going to become the new and improved you? We are challenged to grow, to become better. A life that does not change is not only boring, it is also stagnant. None of us want to become stagnant. So, the challenge is before each one of us, how are we going to allow new life to blossom within us? And just as important, how are we going to challenge one another to experience newness?

Stay safe and happy,

*-Chaplain Russ Knoth
"The Rev"*

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

If you want something
you've never had, you
have to do something
you've never done.

TRIVIA ANSWER

C. 13

Thirteen fire departments in the United States use wooden ladders. Twelve of those are found in California. They prefer wooden ladders because they are non-conductors of electricity, the best natural insulator against heat, and only burn on the outside while the center of wood remains solid and strong.



Our inspectors do more than just look for fire violations. They also join the kids for coloring fun at our Pub Ed events!



During the month of January, trainings were held in both Ice Rescue and Roof Rescue.



MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS

Name: Ryan Boehm

Where do you live? I live in downtown Milwaukee during the school year while in college at UWM and in Elm Grove during the summers.

Why did you join MFFD? To gain more experience while in school so I can be a more experienced and reputable candidate when applying full time in the future either here or with another department.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS?

Firefighter 1 and EMT

What classes will you be taking? MPO, Fire 2 and

Paramedic

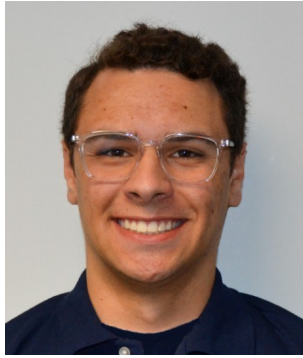
Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I am currently on the Elm Grove Fire Department.

Family/Pets? I have a German Shepherd mix named Baxter and a Siberian Husky named Bear.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Elm Grove Fire Department

Any hobbies? I am working on getting my private pilot license and I like to golf.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I am a Criminal Justice major at UW-Milwaukee.



Name: Tylar Nelson

Where do you live? Waukesha

Why did you join MFFD? To gain knowledge and experience as both an EMT and Firefighter, and to work towards taking either AEMT or Paramedic.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT basic and Fire I

What classes will you be taking? Fire II and Driver Operator

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I also work for the Village of Waukesha Fire Department

Family/Pets? I have a dog named Kratos who is a 2 year old spazz.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? I work dispatch for Froedtert Hospital security.

Any hobbies? Painting, running 5K and half marathons.



Name: Courtney Jones

Where do you live? My family and I live in West Allis.

Why did you join MFFD? I joined the MFFD because when I was looking for a fire department, I was looking for something I couldn't explain at the time. I applied at a couple of places, but when I came to visit MFFD at my interview, I felt some type of way about it and made the choice to see it through. After Chief Washington gave us cadets a speech after the academy, I knew I made the right choice.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT Basic and Fire 1

What classes will you be taking? Fire 2 and Driver/Operator

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I started my career at Curtis Ambulance, then Paratech Ambulance, then Vernon Fire Department with an internship at West Allis Fire Department.

Family/Pets? I have the kindest wife named Amy who always supports me and has my back. I have an 18 year old daughter at Texas Southern University named Mariah. My 16 year old named Marissa is a junior at Riverside High School. My son, Jacob is 23 years old.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? I am only employed at MFFD.

Any hobbies? I love to draw. As a matter of fact, I'm working on a comic book that I hope will get published. I also love writing poems and stories. I have one story that I was writing that I might try to make into a book.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I am also a Jehovah's Witness, which is a big part of who I am. Being a Witness gives me a joy that I feel is like a light in a room full of darkness. It helps me to deal with the stresses of my line of work, which to me is a big deal.



MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS

Name: Keelan Schmidt



Where do you live? I currently live in Milwaukee, however I grew up in Wauwatosa.

Why did you join MFFD? Throughout growing up in Milwaukee County, I had the utmost respect for Menomonee Falls and knew that it was a great community. When I had the opportunity, I applied right away.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS?
Fire I, Fire II, Inspector and EMT

What classes will you be taking? Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field?
Menomonee Falls is the first department that I've had the opportunity to work for.

Family/Pets? I have family all over the place! My mom, Kelly, lives in Germantown. My sister, Jamie, lives in Milwaukee with her three kids, Avery, Tommy and Anna. My dad, Mick, lives in Georgia with my brother, Andrew.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Bell Ambulance

Any hobbies? My hobbies include watching soccer and spending time with my family.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?
Beside seeing my friends and family during my free time, I spend most of my time staying busy working!

Name: Jen Feldmann



Where do you live? I currently live in Franklin, I love it there. I will be moving soon which is TBD.

Why did you join MFFD? I joined MFFD because a friend that was on the department spoke very highly of it. He said the department was very diverse, had a lot of hands-on training, and an overall welcoming atmosphere. That is what made me want to join MFFD because I was had been so nervous about a first department job. However, since joining, I have felt very welcomed and have expanded my knowledge in both EMT/Firefighting.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? I obtained my EMT license in August, 2022. I'm currently enrolled in Fire I at MATC.

What classes will you be taking? Fire 2 and Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I have not been on any other department.

Family/Pets? My family includes my mom, Elizabeth, my dad, Manfred, and my brother, Eric. We have a family dog named Bailey and I have my own cat named Archie.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Bell Ambulance in Milwaukee

Any hobbies? I'm not involved in many activities at the moment due to my schedule of work and classes. This summer I plan to join a club volleyball and soccer team. I enjoy working out and like to workout every day before coming to work. Right now, I just enjoy reading and hanging out with my cat or with friends on the weekends.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I was born and raised in Illinois. I lived there until I was 18. I started playing soccer at age 4 and played for 14 years until I left for college. I went to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for five years and received my Bachelors in Criminology with a minor in Psychology. I enjoyed my classes and everything I learned about criminology, but I figured out that the Firefighter/EMT route was more for me.



Helping at the WCTC Recruitment Fair

MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS

Name: Chloe Miller

Where do you live? Pewaukee

Why did you join MFFD? Looking to expand my knowledge of the fire service.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT-B, Firefighter I, Hazmat Ops, BLS Instructor, and currently taking Paramedic.

What classes will you be taking? Firefighter II, DO, Fire Inspector, Aerial, Critical Care, and Fire Instructor.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Sussex Fire Department and Bell Ambulance

Family/Pets? I have two cats. Charlie is 19 and Sebastian is 1.5

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Sussex Fire Department and Bell Ambulance

Any hobbies? Rugby, fishing and camping



Name: Noah Curtis

Noah was part of our most recent recruit class, but has accepted a full-time job on the Racine Fire Department.

Best wishes on your new job Noah!



Best Wishes!



A huge thank you to Tony and his team with the Rise & Shine food truck for donating a delicious breakfast and lunch to our department!