



# HOT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

It's hard to believe that we are already in June. We will be celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in no time. As we celebrate graduations, kids out of school, summer vacations, etc., let's remember to continue to take care of ourselves mentally and physically. There's a lot going on and your family and community need you healthy, which will ensure you have a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

It's an exciting time to be a part of the MFFD. We will be onboarding full-time firefighters soon, remodeling Station 3, converting to new and improved service delivery platforms and implementing new initiatives. We have a lot to be proud of as we continue to raise the bar in the fire and EMS profession. This couldn't and wouldn't be possible without you "joining in."

Wisconsin summers are second to none! Please make time to take in a Brewers game, take a bike ride with family and friends, go fishing, see a concert in the park, have a barbecue or finish that puzzle that's been collecting dust.

I want to thank all of you for your continued commitment to the MFFD and the citizens we serve. Enjoy your summer!

- *Fire Chief Gerard Washington*

## MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

### MAY 2022

Total Runs - 390

### MAY 2023

Fire - 14  
Rescue & Emergency  
Medical - 305  
Hazardous Condition - 8  
Service Call - 51  
Good Intent Call - 32  
False Alarm & False Call - 31

Total Runs - 441

## TRIVIA QUESTION

Which state uses goats to clear acres of dry grass to help prevent wildfires?

- A. Montana
- B. Oregon
- C. Alaska
- D. California

(answer on page 6)

# EMT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

In connection with EMS week this year, all EMS staff were asked to nominate their fellow EMT, AEMT and Paramedic who they feel regularly exemplifies our *How Can We Help* motto. Join us in congratulating the winners!

**Tanner  
Goodchild  
EMT**



**Aaron Koepke  
AEMT**



**Sean Foley  
Paramedic**

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/4	Sam Goldner
6/9	Dan Corbin
6/17	LT Todd Dettmering
	Abigail Fritz
6/22	Quincy Beeks
	LT Ed Burg
6/25	LT Steve Schmitz

# JUNE WORK ANNIVERSARIES

## 24 years

6/7/1999 DC Kevin Rokenbrodt

## 23 years

6/20/2000 LT Steve Schmitz

## 20 years

6/10/2003 Steve Rehse

## 15 years

6/10/2008 BC Rae Ann Schone

## 14 years

6/9/2009 BC Jared Klug  
LT Dale Rome  
Gregory Schneider

## 12 years

6/28/2011 Sean Foley

## 9 years

6/1/2014 Gabe Norton

## 6 years

6/19/2017 BC Kurt Harthun  
Aaron Martinez  
John Schut

## 3 years

6/15/2020 FC Gerard Washington

# HOW A MABAS INTERDIVISIONAL MUSTER POINT WORKS

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) allows us to call for assistance from neighboring communities for help when our resources are exhausted. All of the planning is done in advance and we are able to pre-determine the number and type of resources that we'll need for a given type of incident.

In most cases, the additional resources are brought in from our adjacent communities and Counties. Occasionally, either due to the scale of an incident or multiple incidents occurring simultaneously, one MABAS Division may need to reach out to another Division for help. This is done with using an Interdivisional request for a "Task Force", a "Strike Team" or for a specific specialized resource.

A "Task Force" is any combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need. An Interdivisional Task Force is created for fires, wildland fires, or search & rescue.

A "Strike Team" is a set number of resources (normally five) of the same kind and type. An Interdivisional Strike Team can be a group of engines, trucks, squads, tenders (water tankers), brush trucks, or ambulances.

Whenever an Interdivisional request is made, units from multiple agencies meet at a pre-designated site called a "Muster Point" before they respond as a group to the municipality requesting assistance. There are four Muster Points on Waukesha County and MFFD Station #3 is one of them. The others are in Big Bend, Oconomowoc, and the Town of Brookfield.

On Monday May 22<sup>ND</sup>, Ozaukee County MABAS Division 109 requested a "Strike Team" of Tenders for a house fire in the Town of Belgium due to many departments already being committed to the large pallet/mulch fire in Slinger. (The MFFD Aerial Platform had returned from Slinger around 9:00AM after 12 hours of use)

Just prior to full Strike Team being assembled and ready to respond, the Belgium Incident Commander called the fire under control and cancelled their request. Although it was not needed this time, it is reassuring to know the system is in place and resources are available when needed.



## THE REV'S REFLECTIONS

I am writing this on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, so my thoughts turn to this holiday. I am the son and nephew of World War II veterans—my dad was in the Army Air Corps/Air Force and my uncle in the Navy. My grandson was a U.S. Marine, who is planning on reenlisting in the Army. We all know veterans. Some of us know veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We should all pause these days and say a prayer of thanks to those men and women who served in our armed forces, and especially those who died serving our country.

We, in the fire service, have a great deal in common with our sisters and brothers in the military. We are members of a quasi-military organization. Think of it—we wear uniforms, we have a chain of command, we follow orders, and most importantly, we serve the citizens, at times even making the ultimate sacrifice. Like those in the military, we are often times subject to many of the same problems.

During World War I, mental health professions noticed that some soldiers suffered from something they labelled “trench fever.” It made them unable, to various degrees, to be fit for service. During World War II and Korea, mental health professional labelled this a “shell shock.” Again it was something that removed personnel from being able to do their duty effectively. More recently, during the Viet Nam era, it was diagnosed as “Post Traumatic Stress Disease” or PTSD. It is the body/mind reaction to unusual incidents. It causes dramatic changes to sleep patterns, eating habits, social interactions, etc. Later it was determined that not only does this effect those who serve in the military, but it also effects first responders. Today many mental health professionals now call this “Post Traumatic Stress Illness”, PTSI. It is an illness that, like so many other illnesses, can be treated. In our calling we experience horrible, life-changing incidents. Sometimes over and over again we are forced to deal with things that the “normal” person never encounters. Like those in the military, we need to recognize our need to get help so that we can work through PTSI. Dealing with this illness enables us to move forward effectively and serve at the highest professional level. The members of the Peer Support Team are here for you and can help you with the stresses of the fire service. Remember, you are not alone—we can help. All contacts with Peer Support and with the Chaplain are confidential.

Stay Safe,

The Rev  
Chaplain Russ Knoth

# Crème Brûlée

Ingredients:

- 1 quart heavy cream
- 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and seeds scraped
- 6 large egg yolks
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Extra granulated sugar for caramelizing the tops

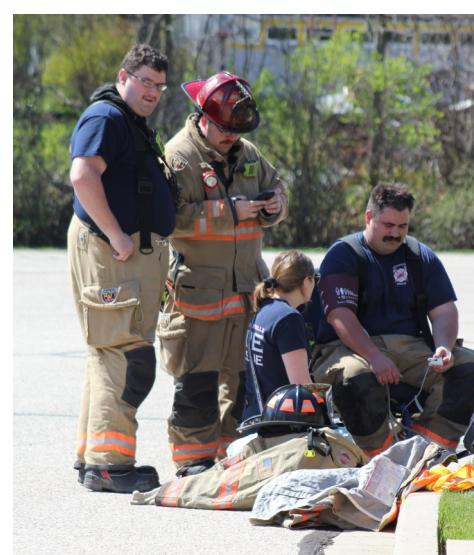


Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Place six ramekins in a baking dish or roasting pan.
2. In a saucepan, combine the heavy cream and vanilla bean (both the pod and the scraped seeds). Heat the mixture over medium heat until it begins to simmer. Remove from heat and let it steep for about 15 minutes to infuse the cream with vanilla flavor.
3. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the egg yolks, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, and salt until well combined.
4. Slowly pour the warm cream mixture into the egg yolk mixture, whisking constantly to prevent curdling.
5. Strain the mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a pouring pitcher or a bowl, discarding the vanilla pod and any solids.
6. Pour the custard mixture evenly into the ramekins, filling them almost to the top.
7. Place the baking dish with the ramekins on the middle rack of the preheated oven. Carefully pour hot water into the baking dish, around the ramekins, until it reaches about halfway up the sides of the ramekins, creating a water bath.
8. Bake for about 35-40 minutes or until the custard is set around the edges but still slightly jiggly in the center. The cooking time may vary, so keep an eye on them.
9. Remove the ramekins from the water bath and let them cool to room temperature. Then, cover them with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight, to chill and set further.
10. Just before serving, remove the ramekins from the refrigerator. Sprinkle about 1 tablespoon of granulated sugar evenly over the surface of each custard.
11. Using a kitchen torch, carefully caramelize the sugar by moving the flame in a circular motion, until the sugar is melted and turns golden brown. Alternatively, you can place the ramekins under the broiler for a few minutes until the sugar caramelizes, but keep a close eye on them to prevent burning.
12. Allow the crème brûlées to sit for a few minutes until the caramelized sugar hardens.

From the Fire House to your house, Enjoy!

# PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

“Don’t be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led my the dreams in your heart.”

-- Roy T. Bennett

## TRIVIA ANSWER

**D. California** - California fire departments use hundreds of goats to help clear acres of dry grass and other vegetation that would otherwise act as highly flammable fuel for California's notorious wildfires.



