

HOT NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

Hello all. I have had a chance to meet some members but certainly not all. I am Jon Cohn and serve as Interim Fire Chief. I am contracted part-time as interim and only serve administratively (you will not see me in gear). I am a full-time husband and dad to two high school daughters. I spend a lot of time driving our daughters around and am their biggest sports fan (soccer and basketball). I retired from Greenfield Fire-Rescue after serving as Chief for over 12 years. I spent the other majority and beginning of my career with the North Shore Fire Department. I was a charter member as I was hired by Fox Point as a career member two years prior to the consolidation. It is easy to benchmark a career in years, but I believe it is about what has been accomplished. I am extremely blessed to have been involved in so many great initiatives throughout my career. I did retire on June 30, 2023 and about five weeks later, found myself back in. Why?

We all choose and do things for many reasons, here are a few. I have known Chief Washington for many years and saw the positive momentum created by MFFD in recent years. Second, I am a huge fan (not a huge farkle) of the Fire/EMS industry and the industry is in difficult times. Whoever thought that recruiting for the best job in the world would be one of the greatest challenges? The industry cannot succeed on the status quo and having only a couple of departments with a good vibe. Each department is a franchise to the industry, and to be successful now and in the future, requires the whole industry, not just a few departments, to morph to match the needs and wants of the community and members.

Some of that positive momentum includes:

- the swearing in of seven new career members to fill out the 14 new career positions and the start of their training academy
- recently being awarded an AFG grant for the replacement of all SCBAs and compressor
- joint RTF training with the Menomonee Falls Police Department

I can take zero credit for any of this, but exciting stuff for the organization. Thank you to those that made it happen (but just sayin', pretty good timing on my part).

A few parting thoughts. First, stay safe. We cannot deliver our service if we are not safe ourselves. Second, speak up. Having difficult conversations with each other is necessary as that is how we learn, correct, and improve. This is obviously very difficult but a real key to leadership. Speaking of leadership, you can lead from any position. It does not just take rank. Actually, sometimes rank can be an impediment and the best leaders are the informal leaders (but use informal leadership for good). Circling back, this is the best job/career in the world. Certainly every job/career has its ups and downs. I do agree with that, but at the end of the day, week, month, year, career; this is the best job in the world. Let's treat it like that every day.

Ok, "finally" for real, but I have to mention peer support. We are faced with more stressors in our lives than ever before compiled and compounded from on and off the job. Take care of yourself and look out for each other. I have always been a huge advocate for mental wellness, peer support and everything necessary to ensure we are resilient to face the challenges that we encounter in our lives plus on the job. Always remember, peer support is here and is a great resource.

Stay safe, always be professional, and thank you for the service you provide our community.

- Interim Fire Chief Jon Cohn

ALERT SYSTEM UPDATES

The department was recently authorized funds by the Village Board to significantly upgrade our in-station alerting systems. Our current system utilizes a Federal Informer to grab call tones from radio waves. This then is transmitted through a system of relays through an internal amplifier at a set volume. This volume does not adjust for environment, time of day, or location. There is currently no in-station backup system in the event that the radio system goes down or signal strength is weak. This type of system has been in use here for decades.

Technology now allows for a much more reliable, safe, and informative system. Many neighboring departments in Waukesha County have purchased the US Digital Designs by Honeywell Phoenix G2 alerting system. Phoenix G2 interfaces with our dispatch center (Waukesha County Communications). This interface allows for network connection as primary, with radio connection as a backup. Phoenix G2 utilizes technology that increases our response efficiency, and offers significantly higher call delivery dependability. We have begun the process of upgrading Stations 1 and 5 to the Phoenix G2, and will integrate it into the Station 3 renovation. Following is information from the manufacturer website:

- Phoenix G2 Benefits for Fire and Medical Personnel: The Phoenix G2 system integrates crystal-clear text-to-speech technology and high-contrast message signs. This helps emergency personnel react promptly and efficiently to every call.
- Preparedness. Increases situational awareness and mental preparedness with clear, consistent vocalization of the alert, which helps units respond more quickly and efficiently.
- Wellness. Reduces cardiac stress, anxiety, optical shock and sleep deprivation with ramped tones and zoned alerting, thereby notifying only required stations and/or individual units.
- Compliance. Helps stations shave valuable seconds—even minutes—off of response times, helping meet or exceed NFPA 1710 recommendations.
- Safety and redundancy. Reduces the chance of missing emergency calls during grid or power failures, thanks to multiple pathway options and a backup power supply.
- Communication. Keeps personnel advised of ongoing incidents via USDD’s industry-leading fire station alerting smartphone app, SMS text, pager and email alerts.
- Value. Reduces customer maintenance and management costs by integrating a reliable, proven system.
- Fully automated dispatching awakens only on-call units with ramped tones and lighting, so non-dispatched crews remain undisturbed to receive necessary rest. Unquestionably, well-rested crews operate at peak performance.

I would like to thank the members of the MFFD Safety Committee for completing the research required to request and implement this system. Significant time and effort was invested by Safety Committee members to research and design the system, as well as to ensure that the cost was a worthwhile investment. I believe the outcome will be well worth this investment. More information can be found here: <https://stationalerting.com/>

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

AUGUST 2022

Total Runs - 452

AUGUST 2023

Fire - 3
Rescue & Emergency
Medical - 291
Hazardous Condition - 4
Service Call - 65
Good Intent Call - 31
False Alarm & False Call - 44

Total Runs— 438

TRIVIA QUESTION

What percentage of all firefighters are actually volunteers?

- A. 80%
- B. 75%
- C. 60%
- D. 55%

(answer on page 3)

- Deputy Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/3 John Schut
Jessica Wolfe
9/6 Gregg Danes
9/8 Gabe Norton
9/10 Lucas Albertson
9/13 Chloe Miller
9/18 Lisa Ulicki
9/23 DC Don Umhoefer
9/24 Josh Hutwagner

SEPTEMBER WORK ANNIVERSARIES

24 years

9/21/1999 BC Brent Biedenbender
Nick Coon

18 years

9/26/2005 LT Joe Ostrosky

2 years

9/1/2021 Darold Badora
Tanner Goodchild
Jessica Wolfe

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

There is no higher honor
than to be given the
responsibility to care for
another human being.

TRIVIA ANSWER

B. Of all firefighters,
75% are actually
volunteers.

FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU

EMS & Training Upcoming Events

EMS—Case Reviews with Dr. Shepherd
Training Division—MFFD Active Assailant
Training Division—MFFD/MFPD Joint Active Assailant
Training

READ:

Fire Law Blog
[Arizona Fire Department Sued For Wrongful Death - Fire Law Blog](#)
Fire Engineering
[Step Up and Lead: Leadership Skills - Fire Engineering: Fire-fighter Training and Fire Service News, Rescue](#)

WATCH:

YouTube
[Electric Vehicles: Doors, Glass, and Emergency Shutdown](#)

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

CDC
[Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Report F2019-02 | NIOSH | CDC](#)

FREE TRAINING:

FEMA
[National Fire Academy \(fema.gov\)](#)
[FEMA's Premier All-Hazards Training Center - Center for Domestic Preparedness \(dhs.gov\)](#)

RECHARGE:

YouTube
[8 Stoic Principles So That Nothing Can Affect You](#)

MEET MFFD's NEWEST FULL-TIME MEMBERS

Name:
James DuBois



Where do you live? I currently live in Brookfield but am planning on moving into an apartment closer to Menomonee Falls.

Why did you join MFFD? I joined MFFD after hearing great things about this department and the people that work here. I also really liked the fact that MFFD has a lot of trainings so I can continue to learn and evolve as I progress in my career.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT, Paramedic, Fire 1/Hazmat, Fire 2, and Driver Operator/Pumper.

What classes will you be taking? I plan to take Fire Inspector and Driver Operator/Arial within the next year. I am also working on finishing up by Fire Medic Associates Degree with a few more small classes left.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I worked in private EMS for the first few years of my career and then proceeded to work for Hartland Fire Department.

Family/Pets? I don't have a spouse or any children/pets. However I do spend a lot of time with my four older siblings and eight nieces and nephews all in the area.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Hartland Fire Department

Any hobbies? I enjoy golfing, spending time outdoors hiking/camping, softball, basketball, and pickleball.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I am grateful for the opportunity to work here and am excited to meet everyone and get started!

Name: Stanley (Stan) Mindiola

Where do you live? I live in Menomonee Falls

Why did you join MFFD? To serve the community in which I live, and be part of this great team that truly puts our community first.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? FF1, FF2, Haz-Mat, MPO, EMT-B, EMT-IV, EMT Paramedic, Critical Care Paramedic, Building Construction, Fire Inspector, Strategies and Tactics, Legal aspects of the Fire Service.

What classes will you be taking? HEO, Fire Officer (all levels), Fire Instructor (all levels)

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Pewaukee Fire

Family/Pets? My wife is Jessica and I have three children, Stanley IV (5), Levi (3), and Judah (4 months). We also have a three year old dog named Deagle.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? N/A

Any hobbies? Music (band), hiking, fishing, disc golf, golf

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I'm very excited to be here, to be a part of this growing department, and I can't wait to see what the future hold for everyone who is and will be a part of it.



Name: Jason Nye

Where do you live? Eagle

Why did you join MFFD? MFFD has a lot of structure and seems to really strive to be better and seems to be a progressive department. Everyone is really encouraging and motivating. I like the camaraderie and also feel there are future career advancement opportunities.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? FF2, Driver Operator/Arial, Emergency Services Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1, Incident Safety Officer, Cold Water and Swift Water Rescue, NIMS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800, AEMT.

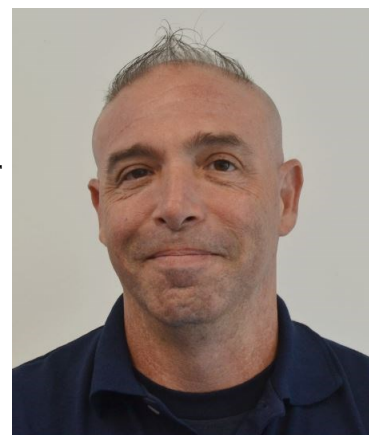
What classes will you be taking? None right now but would like to get my Paramedic in the future.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Hales Corners, Elkhorn, East Troy, Rochester, Eagle, Mukwonago, North Prairie, Big Bend, Curtis Ambulance.

Family/Pets? I have a daughter who is 10 and a cat named Glacier.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? No

Any hobbies? I enjoy camping and hiking



MEET MFFD's NEWEST FULL-TIME MEMBERS

Name:

Camron, Cam, or many of my nicknames

Where do you live?

Downtown Waukesha

Why did you join MFFD?

I joined MFFD to further my career and gain experience over nine amazing years ago. I also joined with the volunteers that came over from Lannon. I learned a lot from the Lannon crew, but also so much from the senior members/full-time personnel within Menomonee Falls. I am extremely grateful for that.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire1, Fire 2, MPO, AEMT.

What classes will you be taking? I will be focusing on obtaining Aerial as well as going to get my degree in Fire Science. I will also take Officer 1 and 2, Investigator, and Inspector. If there is an opportunity to obtain my Paramedic cert, I would explore that option as well.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I was first on Lannon as a volunteer and then came to MFFD. I explored different career pathways, but I kept coming back to what I felt was more than just a "job."

Family/Pets? I have a loving girlfriend named Lauren who is extremely supportive. I also have a roommate named Gabriel....

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? I was employed with Medcor Inc. I was a contractor in the clinic of Target Distribution Center. I have been there for about 2.5 years and am still employed there. However, I am taking some time off to focus all my energy on the academy.

Any hobbies? I enjoy a lot of outside activities. Going to fairs, concerts, hiking, motorcycle rides, lifting, BJJ, golfing and fishing. For indoor activities, I enjoy board games, video games, TV, movies, reading, painting miniatures, and using my 3-D printer to print the miniatures.



Name: Taylor or Taytay

Where do you live?

Menomonee Falls

Why did you join MFFD?

I have always wanted a job in the Fire/EMS field and I have live in Menomonee Falls my entire life. I thought it would be the best way to give back to a community I've been a part of my whole life.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT-Basic, AEMT, Paramedic, FF I, FF II, MPO Driver/Operator

What classes will you be taking? Aerial Driver/Operator, Investigator, Inspector, Officer I and II

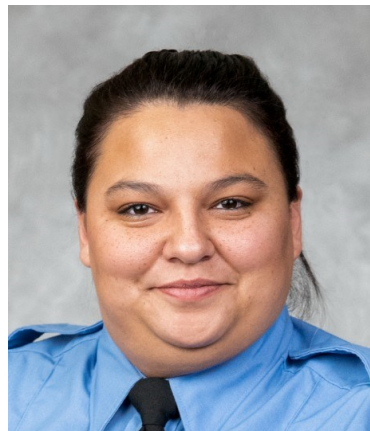
Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Menomonee Falls is my first and only department.

Family/Pets? My mom's name is Jackie, my dad's name is Greg. I have three sisters named Jessi, Sienna and Martine. I have a brother-in-law named Jared. I have two nephews named Isaac and Zeke and I niece named Willa. Fun fact, I have never had any pets.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? I used to work for my sister's daycare, Poppert Preschool. I was an assistant and lead teacher depending on the needs!

Any hobbies? I like to read, write and go on hikes with my friends. I also used to be a JV Cheer Coach at MFHS.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I love to read! I am trying to "build" my own library. A library by definition consists of owning 1,000 books, and I think I have around 750-800 books! I'm pretty methodical about choosing the books that will be included.



MEET MFFD's NEWEST FULL-TIME MEMBERS

Name:

Jeff Plewa

Where do you live? Mequon

Why did you join MFFD? I joined MFFD because I have a nostalgic connection to the area. Growing up I frequented the old Orchard Inn for music events and the Odyssey Family Restaurant. I also played in a few bands in the area

throughout the years. Serving this community is a small way for me to give back to a village that has given me some of the best times of my life.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire1, Fire 2, Driver Operator, EMT-B, AEMT

What classes will you be taking? Driver/Aerial

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I served one year on Germantown FD as a paid-on-call firefighter.

Family/Pets? I am married to my best friend, Caitlin. We had our first daughter, Reid Elín, in November of 2022. We also have a South African Mastiff named Jocko.

Any hobbies? Hobbies include lifting weights, Brazilian JiuJitsu and playing music.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I am eager and excited to begin my career as a full-time firefighter serving the community of Menomonee Falls. I will do everything in my power to not let the citizens of Menomonee Falls, as well as my brothers and sisters on the fire department, down.



Name: Jess

Where do you live?

Waukesha

Why did you join MFFD? I've worked here part-time for two years already and I love the people and environment. I look forward to being full-time!

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? FF1, FF2, Pumper, Aerial, Paramedic

What classes will you be taking? TBD. I hope to take more water rescue and RIT classes.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Paratech a long time ago

Family/Pets? Recently engaged to Scott Krueger

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD?
N/A

Any hobbies? I love my hammock, walks, volleyball and family time.



Welcome!



MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CLASSIC

CAR SHOW 

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 10 AM TO 2 PM

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

\$10 ENTRY FOR EXHIBITORS

DASH PLAQUES FOR FIRST 50 CARS

PUBLIC WELCOME FREE ADMISSION

OLD FALLS VILLAGE PARK

**N96W15791 COUNTY LINE ROAD
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI**

GATE AND REGISTRATION OPEN AT: 9 AM

FOOD • MUSIC • PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD • DOOR PRIZES

DEPOT BEER GARDEN 10AM TO 9 PM

CRAFT AND DOMESTIC BEERS: GO TO WWW.BEERMENUS.COM

WWW.OLDFALLSVILLAGE.COM

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E-MAIL MFHISTORY@YAHOO.COM

  **TOYOTA OF BROOKFIELD**
Ford, Nissan, Acura, Infiniti, Lexus, Volvo

MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Old Falls Village Park

September 16, 2023

Bring your classic car and
get a dash plaque featuring
MFFD's antique fire truck!