

# Charlton Fire District News

November 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 5

Charlton Fire Department 786 Charlton Rd. Charlton, NY 12019

Phone: 399-1967

[www.charltonvfd.org](http://www.charltonvfd.org)

## Department Officers 2007:

Fire Chief: Dean DeCapria  
Asst. Chief: Kevin Riehl  
1<sup>st</sup> Captain: Ed Cronin III  
2<sup>nd</sup> Captain: Jim Crawford  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant: Kevin O'Connor  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant: Eric Muscanell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant: Pete O'Brien  
4<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant: Will LaRue  
Rescue Capt.: Aaron Dyer  
Fire Police Capt.: Jerry Belisle

## District Officers 2007:

Board Members:  
Dave Milne – Chairman  
Bill Heilman  
Doug Sargent  
Kevin O'Connor  
Duane Rabideau

Secretary & Treasurer:  
Ginny DeCapria

## Calls for August 2007

EMS	4
Standby	0
Electrical	4
Structure	3
Animal Rescue	0
C O Detector	0

## Calls for September 2007

EMS	9
Standby	0
Electrical	2
Structure/Fire	0
Animal Rescue	0
C O Detector	0

## Total Calls to Date

2007	142
2006	210
2005	176

## The Charlton Fire Department

*Come and join us & help your community at the same time. Stop by any Monday night for an application or call Dean DeCapria at 384-0963.*

## From The Chief:

Ten years ago Charlton Fire District was met with a challenge. The fire apparatus was wearing out and costing more money to run each year. In 1996, the apparatus consisted of (1) 1964 Mack tanker, (1) 1975 Mack engine, (1) 1988 Mack engine tanker and (1) 1970 Chevy rescue truck. Due to the rise in rescue and EMS calls, a full size rescue was ordered and put into service in 1998. Cost with equipment for this truck was approximately \$220,000. In 2000, the district started to spec a new engine tanker to replace the 1964 tanker. In 2002, the truck was put into service at a cost of \$230,000. Thinking towards the future and with increased EMS and assistance calls, the district felt a smaller more economical truck would be beneficial. In 2002, a 1 ½ ton EMS truck with utility body was put into service at a cost of \$85,000. The average life of a fire truck is in the range of 15 to 25 years. With this in mind, the fire district saved money over the years to purchase these trucks without special bonds or raising taxes. This past year the 1988 Mack engine tanker was rehabbed at a cost of \$20,000 to prolong it usefulness for ten more years. With proper saving and planning the next truck purchase should be in 2015.

## District News:

2007 has been a busy year for the Commissioners. After the proposed firehouse was voted down, we reviewed comments that were made regarding the reasons for its rejection. The first item was **cost**, second was **size**, a third was **location**, and last the residents were asking what is wrong with the **old firehouse**.

We addressed these problems and began working on them one step at a time. The size objections were given to our architectural firm. They reviewed the objections given and presented us with a new design. By reducing the size and revising the design they were able to fill the department needs and still comply with federal, state, and county regulations. This redesign lowered the cost of construction. We are hoping to build before costs and mandates escalate again. Location, we had searched for more than a year for our purchase at Lake Hill and Stage Roads. At the time we made the decision to buy that land, no other parcel was available. This year the Emerich's decided to sell one of their fields. As soon as we were told of their decision, we contacted them about purchasing the lot. At this time we have been able to purchase approximately five acres of land from the Emerich's. The lot is on Charlton Road just east of the Hamlet.

The old firehouse no longer meets EPA Air Quality standards (Diesel fumes penetrate the entire Facility), does not meet Home land Security decontamination requirements (Mandate showers and wash down areas), does not meet OSHA personnel safety rules (eye wash areas, first aid



The Charlton Fire Department  
Founded in 1922

protection), does not meet NFPA Emergency Vehicle Height rules (equipment removed to clear present doors) and the Charlton Town Public parking lot space requirements (cars are double parked, no fire lanes either side).

We are now at a crossroads. Do we press forward and present our new design to you (the voters) or do we wait more years gambling that no person gets hurt or sick and that the old firehouse passes federal and state inspections without getting closed or having large fines imposed on the district for allowing violations to continue. Additionally we worry about losing active firefighters as they address the lack of parking and operating in the substandard facility we have.

*Serving the Charlton Community for over 80 Years!!!!*