



# Smoke Signals



## Message from the Chief

By Chief Al Yancey, Jr.

Here we are again on the brink of a new year. Can you believe the holiday season is only three months away? Soon the trees will be bursting with color and the animals will be preparing to hibernate for the winter. Everybody knows cold quickly follows. Your fire district has been busy this year planning our future; to enhance service to you, our citizens.

Diligent work is underway on plans for a new fire station headquarters. The new facility will be built on property on Minooka Road, west of Ridge. We will break ground in the spring of 2009. The new headquarters will house our administrative offices, a large training classroom; and, of course, living quarters for the on-duty firefighters.

This summer, the Fire District entered into an agreement with the Village of Channahon and the Village of Minooka that will provide a Fire Prevention Officer to our communities. The Fire Prevention Officer will work with new and existing businesses to assist owners on life safety issues and code compliance. The Fire Prevention officer will be a shared position between Channahon Fire Protection District and Minooka Fire Protection District. This will be the second full-time employee shared between the Fire Districts; currently, we share the costs of the Fire and Life Safety Educator, Firefighter/Paramedic Cindy Wilson.

This spring, we took delivery of a new 2008 ambulance. Many hours were spent designing this ambulance, so that paramedics have critical items within reach and that patients are as comfortable as possible during their transport. This ambulance, like all Minooka ambulances, is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment. We have 12 lead monitors ensuring that emergency room staff can remotely assess the status of the patient being transported, prepare appropriately for the patient's arrival and notify the appropriate physicians. The paramedics who staff our ambulance are trained at a high level of emergency pre-hospital skills. You are in professional hands when receiving service from the Fire District.

In August, we placed in service a new heavy rescue vehicle, which is featured in this newsletter. This vehicle is equipped with a wide array of rescue equipment so that our trained and certified rescue technicians can conduct rescue operations for people trapped in cars, high angle, trench, structural collapse and confined space. This vehicle is a rolling rescue toolbox and the most comprehensively equipped rescue vehicle in the region. The heavy rescue is primarily provided for the protection of Minooka residents; however, it does respond to neighboring communities for major fires and specialized rescue incidents. I encourage you to stop by and take a look at this new community asset.

Fall is the time of year that applications for volunteer firefighters and cadets are accepted by the Fire District. If you are eighteen or older and looking for a volunteer community group, give us a try. Being a volunteer firefighter takes dedication to training and call response but it is very rewarding. If you are between the ages of 16 and 18 or have a son or daughter in this age bracket, we encourage you, or your child, to consider applying for cadet firefighter. Cadet firefighters go through almost all of the same training requirements as a firefighter in our organization. The cadet program not only prepares teenagers to become full-fledged firefighters when they turn 18. It teaches them dedication, commitment, teamwork and within an organization that requires order and structure. Applications are available at the Fire Station at 413 West Mondamin Street. As always, we thank you for your continuing support of the Fire District.

Rest assured that our personnel will respond promptly and professionally when you need them. Please feel free to contact us if you have a question about your Fire District.

Al Yancey, Jr.  
Fire Chief

### Inside this issue:

Volunteer Applications	2
Muscular Dystrophy	2
Pancake Breakfasts	3
Remembering When	3
Are you ready for a Disaster?	4
Minooka FPD New Squad	5
Parade of Lights	6
Kid's Corner	Insert

## Minooka Fire Protection District Volunteer Applications

By Captain Marlin Hartman

The Minooka Fire Protection District is accepting applications for volunteer firefighters until October 31st. The Fire Department accepts applications annually for those individuals living within the Fire District who wish to enter the volunteer training program.

The Minooka Fire Protection District is a combination department. A combination department includes both fulltime firefighters and volunteers. The district is staffed 24 hours a day with a combination of eight fulltime and part time firefighters. These volunteers are compensated for working the 12-hour or 24-hour shifts. This staff of eight is

also supported by a group of 40 volunteers who respond from home. The volunteers are considered paid on call (POC), a predetermined amount for each fire call.

Volunteer applicants are required to complete a 6-month training program consisting of a couple nights each week and some Saturdays. Once the training program is completed, a probationary period commences until becoming a state certified firefighter. The Minooka Fire Protection District pays for the state certification requirements once the internal training program is completed.

Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a great way to serve your community *and* add a little excitement to your life. Applications are available at Station One and must be submitted by October 31, 2008. Interviews will occur in November with the training program commencing in January 2009.

*"Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a great way to serve your community and add a little excitement to your life."*

## Minooka Fire Protection District now accepting volunteer applications

## Minooka Fire Protection District and Muscular Dystrophy By EMS Coordinator Brian Mellen

Have you ever wondered why there are Minooka Firefighters standing at the intersection with fire boots in their hands?

Every year the Minooka Fire Protection District, along with fire departments across the country, participate in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's "Fill the Boot" program. This program helps to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association to provide research and medical services at centers nationwide, along with medical equipment and support for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, and their families.

This year, thanks to the generous donations made by our citizens and visitors, the Minooka Fire Protection District raised \$3,046 for this worthy cause. The Minooka Fire Protection District would like to thank the village and the community for your support in helping raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



## Pancake Breakfasts by Captain Marlin Hartman

The fall and winter Pancake Breakfasts are scheduled for Sunday **October 5th** and Sunday **December 7th**. The October Pancake Breakfast is scheduled to begin during Fire Prevention Week and combines the best breakfast in town as well as an Open House of Station One in downtown Minooka. The December event will be "Breakfast with Santa". The Jolly Old Fellow will be there for the kids in the back of our old 1941 fire engine to take their requests for Christmas morning.

The Minooka Fire Department is proud to serve breakfast to our community. Between 600 and 700 people are typically served, so the event provides a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends.

Please mark your calendars to visit Fire Station One on October 5th and December 7th to enjoy an all-you-can-eat breakfast that includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, milk and coffee. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids between nine and twelve years old; children under eight years old are free. Thank you for your support.



**Watch for our winter edition of F.A.S.T. News**

## Remembering When: A Fall and Fire Prevention Program for Older Adults

by Public Education Coordinator Cindy Wilson

*Remembering When* was developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help older adults live safely at home for as long as possible. People over the age of 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. Also, many of these adults that fall and have to be taken to the hospital due to hip fractures or hip dislocations *do not* return home.



Knowing what to do in the event of a fire or a fall is particularly important for older adults. It is essential to take the necessary steps to stay safe. The Minooka and Channahon Fire Departments can help you take the first step with a free home visit. Your home visit will consist of:

- Checking all smoke alarms for proper working order
- Installation or replacement of smoke alarms
- Replacement of batteries
- Development of a fire escape plan
- Assistance with any special needs
- And much more!

**"People over the age of 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires..."**

The second step is easy. Call for your appointment today! If you are a senior citizen in the Minooka or Channahon Fire Protection District, contact Cindy Wilson at (815) 416-0339,

Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm. Each appointment takes approximately 30 minutes and you will receive a free gift at the end of the visit.



## Are you ready for a disaster?

by Public Education Coordinator Cindy Wilson

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The Home Safety Council<sup>®</sup> and the Minooka Fire Protection District want you to be ready in case a disaster happens where you live.

In the event of a fire, flood, tornado, or power outage you may have to find a safe place away from home. Some emergencies may require you to stay at home for several days. Either way, you and your family should be prepared.

A 2007 survey reports that 6 out of 10 families believe they are prepared for an emergency. But only 3 of these families have a plan for how they would find each other in an emergency. Most families have not packed the things they would need if they have to leave their home fast. Many do not have the supplies they would need to stay at home for a few days.

There are four simple things you can do to help keep you and your family safe in an emergency.

### **Step 1: Talk about what can happen in an emergency and what family members should do.**

Talk about the different kinds of weather that can happen where you live. Help children feel safe by letting them know that someone will be there in an emergency, such as firefighters and police. Put a list of emergency numbers by each telephone in your home. Make a list of work and cell phone numbers for each person in your family or in your home.

### **Step 2: Make a Ready-to-Stay Kit.**

Your kit should include items you will need to stay safe at home for a few days. You can keep these things at home in a plastic tub or special cabinet. This kit should include:

- Three gallons of water for each family member
- Canned food and snacks for at least three days
- Toilet paper
- Pet food and supplies for three days
- Non-scented bleach to treat unsafe water
- Blankets

- Books and games to keep you busy
- Paper and pencils
- First aid kit

### **Step 3: Make a Ready-to-Go Kit**

Keep Ready-to-Go Kit items in a backpack or duffle bag. Take these with you if you have to leave your home so you can be safe. This kit should include:

- One gallon of water for each person
- Food that you don't have to keep cold and a manual can opener
- Plastic or paper plates, cups and utensils
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Radio with batteries
- A change of clothes
- A card with emergency contact information and the number of someone to call who lives out of town
- Pet food and supplies for at least three days
- Small first aid kit
- Personal identification card
- Personal hygiene items, soap and hand sanitizer
- Store medication you usually take near your Ready-to-Go Kit

### **Step 4: Write down the information you will need.**

Each family member needs a contact card with phone numbers for family members, child care, doctors and fire or police. Have the cards with you at all times. Update the card if someone moves or changes jobs.

For more information on keeping the people you love safe at home, visit [homesafetycouncil.org](http://homesafetycouncil.org). To teach children about safety at home visit [coderedover.org](http://coderedover.org).

**Come see us at the Pancake Breakfasts**

## Calendar of Events

October 5-11		Fire Prevention Week
October 4	8 am	Friends & Family CPR @ MFPD Station 2
October 5	8 am-12pm	Minooka Pancake Breakfast @ MFPD Station 1
October 9	6:30 pm	Parade of Lights @ Minooka Bible Church
October 11	12 pm - 3 pm	Channahon F.D. Open House
October 17	8 am - 1:15 pm	Senior Day at MFPD Station 1 - APPT. Only (Sponsored by Founders Bank)
October 31		Halloween—Be Safe
November 2		Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 15	9 am	Heartsaver 1st Aid/CPR @ Channahon F.D.
November 27		Thanksgiving—Be Thankful
December 6	8 am	Healthcare Provider @ MFPD Station 2
December 7	8 am-12 pm	Pancake Breakfast with Santa @ MFPD Station 1
December 25		Christmas—Enjoy your families

View the newsletter online at [www.minookafire.com](http://www.minookafire.com).

## Minooka Fire Protection District New Squad

by Captain Brad Sprague

On July 9th, the Minooka Fire Protection District took delivery of a new heavy rescue squad allowing us to better serve the residents of Minooka Fire Protection District. This vehicle will replace the current squad which is a 1986 Pierce/Marion Heavy Rescue. The original squad is the only Pierce/Marion combination built in the United States (top picture).

The new squad is a 2008 Pierce Quantum Heavy Rescue. Pierce was chosen due to their high quality of craftsmanship and the success we have had with our current Pierce Fleet. The squad has many safety features that keep our members safe when responding to emergency incidents.



The equipment from the old squad and the Specialized Rescue Trailer were incorporated into this one vehicle.

The new squad allows fire department personnel to arrive at an emergency incident with the equipment needed for structure fires, vehicle extrications, high-angle operations, trench-rescue operations, structural-collapse operations, basic haz-mat operations and confined-space operations.

We welcome you to stop by and take a look.

THE DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STRIVE TO PROVIDE RELIABLE EMERGENCY SERVICES, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS IN A COST EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

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DEPUTY CHIEF HOWARD HOFFMAN

DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM COLLINS

ADMIN. ASST. SHERI GRESHAM

ADMIN. ASST. LINDA KELLOGG

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## Parade of Lights by Captain Marlin Hartman

Fire Prevention week is October 5th through October 11th and commemorates the Great Chicago Fire as a reminder of the great public losses that fire can cause. On Thursday, October 9th, Minooka Fire Department is sponsoring the 10th annual Parade of Lights.

The Parade of Lights is a combination memorial service for our lost brothers and sisters in the fire service and a reminder to our citizens that fire prevention is extremely important.

This year's Parade of Lights will begin at Minooka Bible Church, 412 North Wabena Avenue, at 6:30 pm. Prior to the parade, a non-denominational service will be held to honor and remember all firefighters who lost their lives from October 2007 to October 2008. This 30-minute service will include a presentation displaying the firefighters name and the city and state of their department along with reading of the *Firefighters Prayer* by members of the Minooka Fire Department.

The Parade of Lights will include Minooka Fire Apparatus along with fire apparatus from neighboring communities. The streets of Minooka will be illuminated with the parade of fire apparatus and emergency lights to remind residents of the importance of Fire Prevention Week.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the Parade of Lights to show support for your Minooka and other local firefighters.

The parade route will be posted on our website at [www.minookafire.com](http://www.minookafire.com).