

Swearing-in of New Fire Chiefs and Final Report of Fire Chief John Florio, Sr.
April 18, 2017

Mayor Longobardi called upon outgoing Fire Chief John Florio, Sr. to present his annual report to the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Chief Florio read his annual report as follows:

“Mayor Longobardi, Village Trustees, Members of the Department and Guests,

It has been my honor and privilege for the second time in my 39 years of service to serve as Chief of the Floral Park Volunteer Fire Department.

We are here tonight so you can receive my final report as Chief of Department from April 19, 2016 through April 18, 2017.

I would like to start by thanking my wife, Cathy and my son Matthew for letting me serve the residents of the Village for five years, again. For my son John who is an Ex-Captain of the Hook & Ladder Co., thank you for your help and guidance through our our years. People said to me, since this is your second time it will be a breeze. First off there's nothing in the Fire Service that's a breeze, and second, it was like starting over. To answer everyone question, it's over and I'M DONE.

I would also like to thank ALL of the Village staff who have helped me in any way, from Mayor Tweedy and the Board Members, to the maintenance staff, THANK YOU.

MEMBERSHIP: The Department currently has 153 members. We have 39 EMTs, 20 Former Chiefs and 28 Associated Members.

Due to other commitments, it is unfortunate that I report that we had 18 members resign, but we swore in 7 new members into the Department. Last year at this time the membership was at 172 members.

RECRUITMENT: This year, the Department took advantage of Four Village Studio and taped its first recruitment show which will air in June. Thanks to Chief Brooks for taking this project on. Thank you to Jim Green and the 4VS for expediting the taping and for their professionalism. This taping is on the Village web page.

EXPLORER POST 129: The Explorer Post started back in 1981, which I was involved in from the start. I will be returning to help them become members of the Department when the time comes. These youngsters are a great asset to the Department. They respond to the scene, set up and maintain the bottle station and assist placement of the Fire Line to keep residents out of harm's way. Since this program started, the Department has gained many new members from this organization. Many thanks to Honorary Chief William Bedell, Sr. and his team for continuing to train these fine youngsters.

MEDICALS: Each member of the Department must complete and pass a yearly medical to keep his or her status within the Department.

TRAINING: The total number of calls only gives a brief picture into the hours that members of this Department volunteer to their community. To be an active member of this Fire Department requires continual training. During this past year, the members attended classes given by the Nassau County Fire Service Academy which include Department Operations, Essentials of Firefighting, Active Shooters, EMT class, just to name a few, for a total of 2,272 hours.

Training does not occur solely at the Academy. Members are required to attend monthly Company and Department Drills which consist of another 2,897 hours. We also train within the First Battalion at the Fire Service Academy as well as other agencies to prepare for large emergencies. Floral Park participates with MOBEX drill with the New York City Fire Department. Then we have 1,205 stand-by hours which consist of Snow Stand By and Mutual Aids to other Departments. There are an additional 2,358 miscellaneous hours totaling 2,358 which consist of clean ups, parades, wakes and work details.

Fires are only one element of our Department. Floral Park has an exceptional reputation for providing excellent medical care. In order to provide this care, members have attained certifications as EMT's and EMT-Critical care. Recertification is a time-consuming process that occurs every three years and includes computer tests, class room, hands-on training, monthly drills and meetings as well as CMEs. All this is being completed while they run approximately 100 calls or more a month.

PURCHASING: All 201 necessary purchases were made during the year that were needed to keep the Department up to date and operating. Some of the purchases include 18 new Scott Air Bottles, AV 3000 Scott Face Pieces, one 24' Aluminum Ladder, five new Thermal Imaging cameras, one for each Chiefs' vehicle and a 2017 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs' Response Vehicle.

RESPONSE: The Department responds to numerous types of emergencies, which include from minor lacerations to full blown cardiac arrest. Some include smoking dirt to a fully involved house fire with people trapped and burn victims. Others include public safety devices and First Responders being shot at. As you can see the demand has change over time and the training is more intense. As the whole County knows, we even responded over 160 times within my term as Chief to people who can't open their eyes. I would like to take a moment and say, even though this was not a "TRUE EMERGENCY" to us, it was to her. Chief Longobardi took it upon himself to make this his task to go above and beyond his duties to try and help her to the best of his ability. In doing so, he won some of the other members of the staff over and we joined him in his effort. As I stated, times have changed.

From April 19, 2016 to April 17, 2017, we responded to a total of 1,560 emergencies.

The following is a breakdown of call types: 1,069 EMS, 145 general alarm, 271 zone calls, 27 mutual aid fires, 10 mutual EMS and 77 Chiefs' investigations.

54 Woodbine Court is a special case; unfortunately, we responded 213 times within this date period. I made the decision around Thanksgiving to stop sending the ambulance for a person who can't open their eyes. A procedure has been set up for that address.

Approximate Fire Loss for the Year: \$1,765,300.

EQUIPMENT: The Department vehicle inventory consist of the following:

Chiefs' Response Vehicles: 2017 Chevy Tahoe, 2016 Chevy Tahoe, 2010 Chevy Tahoe, 2009 Chevy Tahoe, 2009 Ford Expedition

Engines: 2002 Spartan Salisbury, 1998 Spartan Salisbury, 1993 Spartan Salisbury

HOOK & LADDER TRUCK: 2004 Pierce 95' Aerial Ladder

HEAVY RESCUE TRUCK: 1984 Mack

AMBULANCE: 2014 Ford

EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE: 2008 FORD EXPEDITION

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE: 2003 15-Passenger Van

TRAINING VEHICLE: 1982 GMC Step Van

ANTIQUÉ FIRE TRUCK: 1931 American LaFrance Pumper

ANTIQUÉ HAND-HELD HOSE CART

VEHICLE WORK ORDERS: As per Chief Maickel, we submitted a total of 87 vehicle work orders. As of April 4, 2017, there were 21 outstanding.

HOUSE WORK ORDERS: As per Chief Maickel, we submitted a total of 44 house work orders. As of April 4, 2017, there are 3 outstanding.

COMPUTERS: With the ongoing technology, we must constantly be upgrading the computers and the Red Alert System. Red Alert is what gives us the information that we gather while we perform our fire inspections and pre-plans within the Village. This information includes, invalid location, location of wires, hydrant location, map directions, cross streets, solar panels and other possible hazards. Chief Dan Bennett has put in many

hours of entering data into our system. We have come a long way, and I'm sure we still have a long way to go since technology changes so fast.

FIRE HOUSE TOURS: We had 5 firehouse tours educating 108 children.

FIRE INSPECTIONS: The Department goes out each year to perform fire inspections throughout the Village. Each year this number changes according to the number of vacant businesses within the Village. This year the department completed 315 inspections with only three sent to the Nassau County Fire Marshalls Office for violations. Each member completes a pre-plan on each building they complete an inspection on as well. All this information is entered into the computer manually by Chief Bennett. Each member performing the inspection and pre-plan, depending on the building, could take up to one hour to complete. Drawings and notations are made of the locations for hydrants, wires, number of people within the building during daytime and nighttime hours, location of stairs, fire extinguisher, extension cords etc.

FIRE HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS: Last April a list of fire house improvements were submitted to Superintendent Stephen Siwinski. The list consisted of upgrading the following: basement of Headquarters from the Rescue Company room all the way up the stairs to the entrance to the truck room floor, a wall with a locked door separating the Village Hall from the Firehouse so the people who go to court or use the hall cannot enter the Firehouse; the Chiefs' Office and the bathroom outside the Chiefs' Office; moving of the hose from the outside of the Firehouse to the inside of the Firehouse; air conditioning and heat in the ambulance bay to include a wall enclosing the ambulance.

Improvements that have been completed to date are the following: heat in the ambulance bay and bathroom by Chiefs' Office and the Chiefs' Office.

With all the craziness in the world today, the Emergency Services are being attacked, First Responders are being shot at and killed while arriving on the scene. Ambulances are being held up at knife point for the drugs they carry on board, units are being stolen from the emergency scenes and hospitals. Equipment is being stolen to perform robberies. Who would have thought the Fire Service would have to take an "Active Shooter Class". The point is, security for the Emergency Services has to be taken seriously by all.

This Department, like many others is suffering on manpower. It's extremely hard to get people to volunteer today. We have joined together with 4VS to promote recruitment. This is my second term as Chief in my 39 years of service. We have the same people coming back to serve as Officers. For this we are very lucky to have members who still can afford to volunteer.

The Emergency Service members are a family, which I don't think many people understand. It doesn't matter what Department or town they belong to. If someone needs help, no matter what Department, we come together to support one another. When we are told that we can't help one of our members, it hurts in a major way.

We attended a rally to support ALL Police Departments. We had a family of five in town lose everything. The wife is an ex-member and the husband is a relative of a member and we supplied support in their time of need.

Its goes without saying that I will miss the Office and the challenges that will face everyone, but it's time to return to my family and especially my granddaughter, Hailey Elizabeth, who relit my light in life.

So with that said, it my honor to introduce the 2017-2018 Floral Park Fire Department Chiefs' Staff:

From Hook & Ladder Co. #2	-	Michael Saville	- 4 th Assistant Fire Chief
From Active Engine Co. #3	-	Patrick McAllister	- 3 rd Assistant Fire Chief
From Rescue Co. #1	-	Salvatore Arrigo	- 2 nd Assistant Fire Chief
From Reliance Engine Co. #2	-	David Maickel	- 1 st Assistant Fire Chief

And from the Alert Engine #1, your new leader

Chief of Department
Michael Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi, I now respectfully request to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Floral Park Volunteer Fire Department.”

Mayor Longobardi asked Board Members for their comments:

Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald extended his thanks and gratitude to Chief Florio for his outstanding job as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department. Trustee Fitzgerald said the Chief's job entails many hours of work not only responding to calls but meetings, budgets, work orders, among many other things. Trustee Fitzgerald personally thanked Chief Florio for the many hours he spent answering all his questions and that he learned a lot from him. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked John's wife, Kathy, and his family for sharing their time with fellow residents during John's second term as Chief. On behalf of everyone, Trustee Fitzgerald thanked Chief Florio for his dedicated service.

Trustee Fitzgerald then read a letter from a member of the Fire Department who thanked and congratulated Chief Florio for his service.

Fire Commissioner Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo made the following remarks:

“Thank you Chief John Florio for over 30 years of service, twice as Chief, of our Fire Department. Your contributions will be remembered always.

Congratulations are extended to Chief Longobardi, Chief Maickel, Chief Arrigo, Chief McAllister and Chief Saville. Your many years of leadership in the Floral Park Fire Department are deeply appreciated, and all in our Village commend you for taking on the awesome responsibilities of the Chiefs' positions and express our gratitude and best wishes.

Last week, our Fire Department and citizens said good-bye to Chief Hugo Berta III who passed away on April 10th. Chief Berta was appointed to our Rescue Company in 1964. He went on to serve the Village of Floral Park for fifty-two years. Chief Berta was one of the most active members of the Department, also serving as Captain of the Rescue Company and Chief of Department in 1992. Condolences go out to Chief Berta's family, friends and all in our Floral Park Fire Department. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for his service.

The Fire Department expresses thanks to all who donated blood for the Keith Fairben Memorial Blood Drive. In all, 260 pints of blood were collected, each pint having the potential to save up to three lives, a great tribute and credit to all.

Congratulations are also extended to the Fire Department's Hook and Ladder Company. On April 5th, the company received Nassau County awards for their assistance at the LIRR derailment in Garden City on October 9, 2016. The awards ceremony, attended by numerous Nassau fire companies, government officials, families and friends, was held at the Nassau County Fire Museum/Cradle of Aviation.

In June, former Chief Joseph O'Grady will be honored as he New York State Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year by the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. His extraordinary leadership and service to the Floral Park Fire Department extends to the Nassau County Operation Wounded Warrior organization.

Finally, the Floral Park Fire Department's Recruitment Day will be held on Saturday, April 29th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come to find out what you can do to be part of this extraordinary volunteer organization. As our firefighters say, "Help Us To Help You". See the bright red lawn signs throughout our neighborhood for more information."

Mayor Dominick Longobardi

On behalf of a very grateful Village, Mayor Longobardi thanked Chief John Florio for everything he has done. This is John's second run as Chief of the Department which is unprecedented. The Mayor said John is working constantly for the Department evidenced by the fact that he received a memo this morning outlining the outstanding projects which he is concerned with. Mayor Longobardi said as you look around the room tonight, these are our greatest volunteers. They spend countless hours responding to a myriad of calls and participate in hours of training in order to keep the Department in top-notch condition so that they can be the best they can be to serve our residents. Mayor Longobardi said he knows Chief Florio has said he is not going to be back as Chief but bets that John is going to change his mind. Being a

volunteer in the Fire Department is a family affair. On behalf of all of us, Mayor Longobardi thanked John's wife, Kathy, sons John, Jr. and Matthew and granddaughter Haley. Mayor Longobardi once again thanked Chief Florio for his dedication and time to make the Fire Department what it is today and regretfully accepted his resignation as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department.