



# CallBox



Newsletter of the Bellerose Fire Department

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2008

## Chief's Chat

*Thoughts from Chief of Department Charles Puglisi*

We were pleased by the positive reception that the first issue of *Callbox* received and we hope that you will find this issue informative as well.

### New equipment

Mayor Donna Sherrer has been a strong advocate for fire safety in Bellerose Village. With the support of the Trustees, she has increased the fire protection budget to a level that permits the Bellerose Fire Department to move toward full compliance with current standards. We have been able to replace much of our outdated equipment and safety gear and to move toward a higher level of compliance with OSHA, NIOSH, and National Fire Protection Association standards.

A grant from former Senator Mike Balboni made it possible for the fire department to purchase a rugged computer and proprietary software that enable us to increase our enforcement of fire codes in the business district.

### Fire Safety

Recent studies show that **ionization** alarms are highly effective at providing a timely warning of the typical fires that occur in residences. More than 90% of homes that have smoke alarms have **photo-electric** alarms, which are less effective in detecting typical residential fires in the early stage. While both types of alarms have the UL-rating, realistic residential simulations have demonstrated that homes protected by ionization alarms or by combination alarms that use both ionization and photo-electric detectors warn residents an average of 19 minutes sooner than those that have only photo-ionization alarms. Although slightly more expensive, ionization alarms and combination alarms appear to offer residents the early notification needed to get out before the fire starts to burn freely.

### Alarm Systems

Many residents protect their homes with central alarm systems. The Nassau County Fire Code requires that a permit be issued for each installation. Recent legislation imposes substantial fines on residential and commercial alarm systems that were installed without the required permit as well as those systems that are not registered with the Fire Marshal. For additional information call the Nassau County Fire Marshal at (516) 572-1000.

### Knox Boxes

On several occasions the Bellerose Fire Department has responded to Automatic Alarm calls in homes that have central alarm systems. We are required to investigate each of these calls. When residents are out of town we have to break a window to gain entry. If you are out of town for long periods and are not comfortable leaving a key to your home with a neighbor, consider installing a Knox Box. This is a simple, inexpensive, and secure device that permits the fire department to gain entry to your home to investigate an alarm condition without engaging in forcible entry. Details are available on our website or by calling us at 516-358-2960 to request more information.

## Did You Know?

The NFPA(National Fire Protection Assoc.) says:  
"Many fires are small at origin and may be extinguished by the use of fire extinguishers or small hose streams. Portable fire extinguishing equipment can represent an important segment of a home fire protection program."

## BFD Spotlight

*Fastest Water on the Border*

Engine 108



Last issue we spotlighted the larger of the two engines the Bellerose Fire department currently has in service. This issue we turn the spotlight on the little brother, but don't let the small size fool you. "The Little Engine That Could" possesses quite an assortment of fire fighting capabilities.

Engine 108 entered our service in 1998. It is a Pierce-built Class A pumper on an International chassis. Designed as a quick-response vehicle, 108 carries only three firefighters; in a pinch, she can be operated by one or two qualified responder(s) using a booster line and the large 800 gallon on-board water tank. If additional manpower is required, they arrive on engine 107 and can be put to work deploying the 1-3/4" pre-connected or the 2-1/2" attack lines loaded on 108, or deploying the resources of 107.

In addition to carrying considerable tank water, 108 is equipped with on-board foam, four Scott 4.5's, forcible entry equipment, jaws of life, a selection of extinguishers, a defibrillator, first aid supplies and both low-band and 800 MHz radios.

Since Bellerose Village Fire Department's core Firefighting strategy is quick response and quick water, engine 108 was built specifically for that purpose, and is our first-due response vehicle. Engine 108 helped to solidify the department mantra of "Fastest Water on the Border".

## Ask Sparky???

Dear Sparky - How can I best protect my home and family from fire?

Concerned Villager

Dear Concerned – There are many things you can do but the most important thing is preparation. Be sure your family knows what to do in the event of a fire. Know the escape routes, be familiar with staying low and of course Stop, Drop and Roll.

Sparky

Do you have a fire safety or fire service related question you would like to have answered? Submit it to [callbox@bellerosefd.org](mailto:callbox@bellerosefd.org) and look for it to be answered in a future issue.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

BFD FIREHOUSE, SUPERIOR ROAD  
MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> AND MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

WEEKLY DRILLS

BFD FIREHOUSE, SUPERIOR ROAD  
Every Tuesday Night at 8PM

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## Fire Prevention Safety Tip

Through simple precautions, many fires are preventable:

- Make a fire escape plan for your family. Find two exits out of every room. Pick a meeting place outside. Practice makes perfect – hold a family fire drill at least twice each year.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. For the best detection and notification protection, install both ionization- and photoelectric-type smoke alarms. Some models provide dual coverage. The type will be printed on the box or package. Put them inside or near every bedroom. Test them monthly to make sure they work. Put in new batteries once a year.

## Why I Volunteer

### *Firefighter Terrence Powderly*

As a lifelong student of human nature and a ten year member of the Bellerose Fire Department I've often speculated on the motivation of my fellow firefighters. What compels an average citizen to take an oath of time, effort and possibly more for the protection of their neighbors and village?

What follows are the general conclusions of a very unscientific study.

Witness: My own motivation for joining the Department was witnessing the B.F.D. in action. Imagine one or two truckloads of trained responders arriving at your home or the home of a neighbor in middle of the night. They are enthusiastic, ready to help and remain until the work is done and danger has passed. This is truly powerful stuff.

Something to offer: Take a look at the membership of the Bellerose Fire Department and it's easy to find the best in human nature; the desire to give. For over 75 years B.F.D. members have committed their time, energy, enthusiasm and personal skills simply because they've wanted to give something back to their community.

Release your inner firefighter: Picture a child transfixed by a fire truck or awed by a firefighter in uniform. Children know something special when they see it. The child grows up to be a teacher, accountant or medical professional but the feeling remains. Luckily for this special person there is the volunteer fire service; a world of people and equipment, high tech and low tech, innovation and tradition.

## Brain Teaser???

Find out what the animals are! (for example, "To run away or escape" could be a "flea")

1. hair-control foam
2. very exposed
3. tellin' falsities
4. a lamenting cry
5. a dull person
6. a precious or loved one
7. first you get a parking ticket, then you get this
8. these make up a chain

*Look for the Answer in our next issue*

*Last issue's Brain Teaser solved*

Name the 10 body parts whose name is comprised of 3 letters. Ex - Leg

Eye	Ear	Lip	Gum	Jaw
Leg	Arm	Hip	Toe	Rib

## Fire House Tours

If you would like to arrange a tour or demonstration of the Bellerose Fire Department for your group or organization please send an email to Chief Charles Puglisi at [charles.puglisi@bellerosefd.org](mailto:charles.puglisi@bellerosefd.org). Please include group description and date you would like to visit along with contact information.

## BFD Incidents and Training

### Training

Since completing our annual training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy's Burn Facility in October, the members of the Bellerose Fire Department have focused our Tuesday night drills on fire fighter safety and health issues. Each member has completed OSHA-mandated Blood-borne Pathogens training. All of our members have successfully completed the National Incidence Management (NIMS) Training required by the Department of Homeland Security. Five members of the department have been certified as Deputy Assistant Fire Inspectors by the Nassau County Fire Marshall's Office. In addition, one member has been trained and certified to coordinate a hazardous materials (HazMat) response.

In the months ahead our training will focus on outdoor drills. When we open a hydrant at these drills, the water supply to the houses served by the water main frequently becomes discolored by sediment that has been dislodged. You can learn the location of the hydrants that may be opened during training on our website (<http://www.bellerosefd.org>).

## Come Join Us!!

Would you like to be part of a growing family? Would you like to contribute to your community? Would you be interested in testing the limits of your capabilities? Do you like a challenge? If so, come down on March 6<sup>th</sup> or March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and see what we do at the BFD. You can do all this and more. Feel free to drop by the firehouse any Tuesday evening and see for yourself. If you can satisfy the minimum requirements, we will be happy to welcome you to our family.

## L'il Squirts

There are tons of fun activities for our L'il squirts to take part in. A fun site with lots of activities you can go to is <http://www.sparky.org/>. This site has many games and family activities as well as a useful information for the little people of our village. Learn the story of Sparky the Fire Dog at <http://www.sparky.org/story.html>.

Editor's Note:

Callbox is a quarterly publication whose purpose is to open a line of communication between village residents and the Fire Department dedicated to protecting you. It will also shed light on what exactly it is the BFD does and the people, fellow residents, who make it up. For comments email [callbox@bellerosefd.org](mailto:callbox@bellerosefd.org).

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