



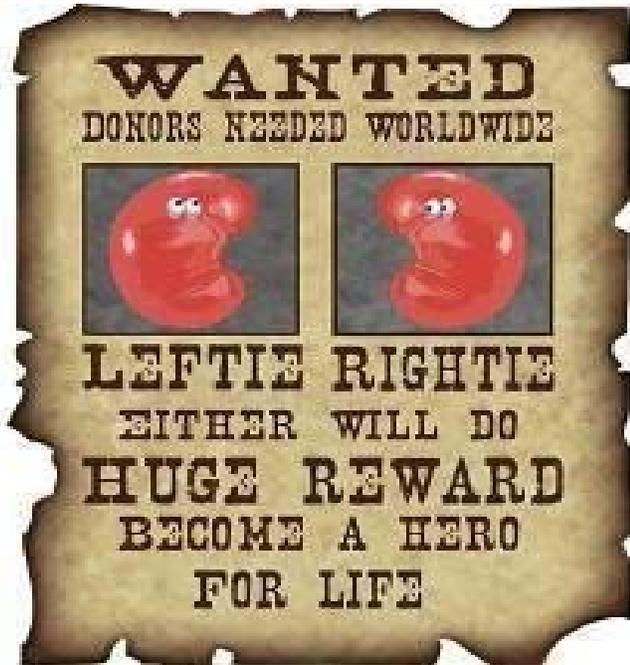
Hot Flashes



Volume 23 Issue 1

Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District

April 2019



Organ donors are wanted and needed worldwide just as the poster shows. More important to us, a donor is needed right here, right now!

See page 4 for more details.

Two long serving members of the Fire Department and Fire District were recently honored for their years of service.



Page 5 highlights their awards, and awards presented to other Fire Department members.

New Illinois Smoke Detector Law

In 2018, the Illinois Legislature passed a law requiring that battery operated smoke detectors must have a 10 year battery. This law goes into effect January 1, 2023. Smoke detectors not working are a major factor in the number of fire fatalities in Illinois. Having working smoke detectors alerts occupants to the presence of smoke and can provide time for escape. If your detector is 10 years old or older, make a plan now to replace the detector. Provide your family with worry-free safety by replacing your detector today.



Emergency

Dial 9-1-1



Remain calm. Give location, name and type of emergency clearly. Always let the telecommunicator hang up first.

Non-Emergency (Dispatch).....234-2233
Administrative (Firehouse).....397-1995



Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.



www.SHFD.net





A Message from the Chief



SIGNAL HILL Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62223

ADMINISTRATION (618) 397-1995 • FACSIMILE (618) 397-7747

www.shfd.net

April 2019,

After putting together this edition of Hot Flashes, I took a look back and noticed that while not intentional, this edition has a central theme. **HELPING!** It takes a look at civilians that helped a stranger in need. It highlights member of the department who have helped to keep their community safe and help others in their time of need. Page 3 provides inquires if you are able to help your community, and Page 4 is putting out a call for help.

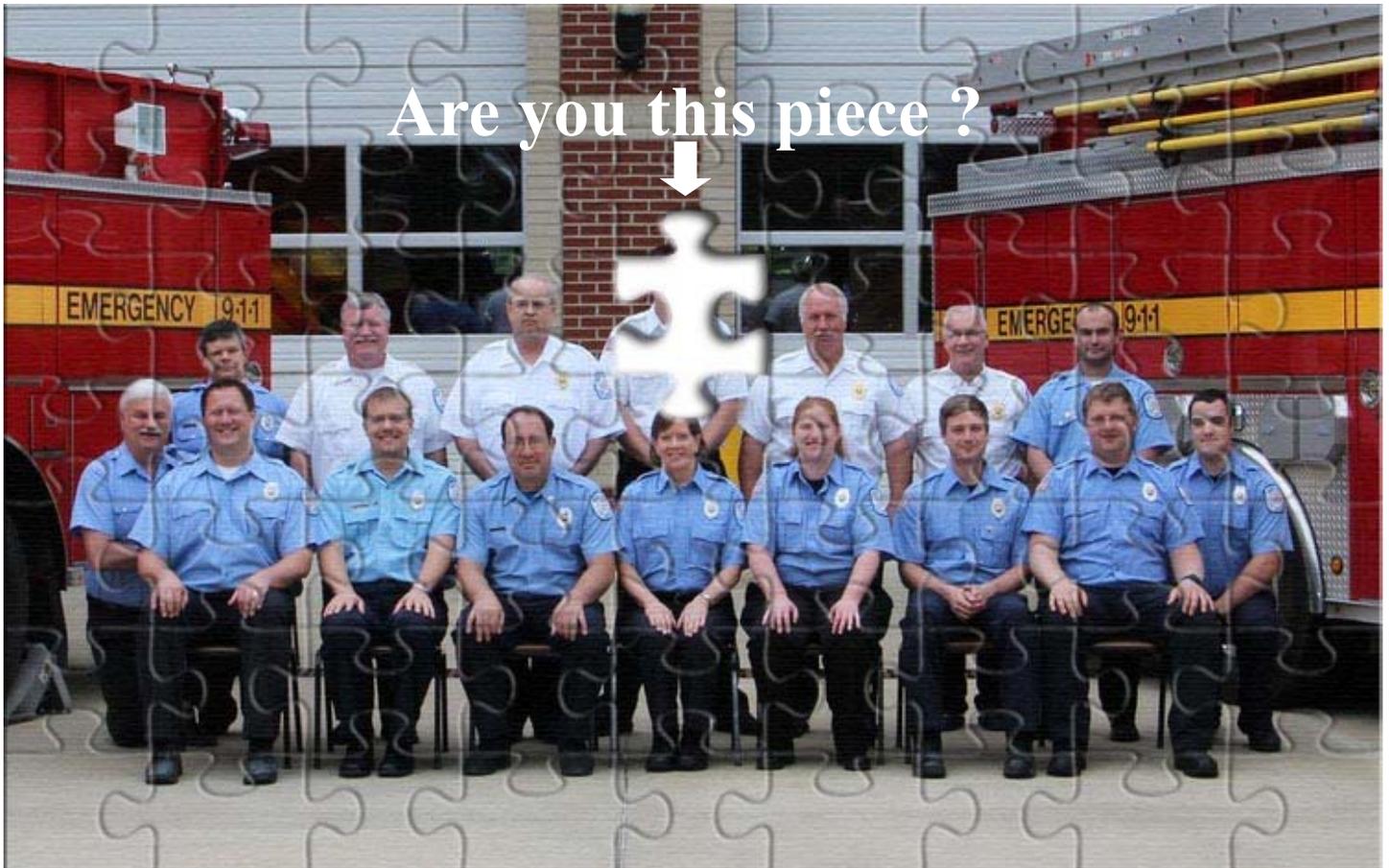
There are other topics and safety tips in this edition that may help your family before and during a fire emergency, such as ensuring that you have working smoke detectors and tips for when you travel. These topics are certainly important, however the most important part of this edition to me is that of **HELPING!** Without members of the community stepping up to help, the equipment and facilities of the Signal Hill Fire Department are useless. The women and men who have chosen to serve do so knowing that they are making our community a better place to live. The Fire Department is actively looking for new members to help guide the future. If you, a family member, or a friend have ever thought about a way to help your community, or about being a firefighter, contact me today. You might be surprised on what you can really do!

I would ask that you take a good look at Page 4 of this edition as it is a different request for help. Michelle Hudson served as a Signal Hill firefighter before being diagnosed with a kidney disease. Shelly is currently looking for someone to donate a kidney to help her get back to a lifestyle to which she was accustomed. Since being diagnosed, she has had to limit some of even the most simple of activities in life such as going for a motorcycle ride with her husband, Greg. One aspect of her life that she truly enjoyed was firefighting, and while she is still able to help the department in other fashions, she is no longer able to respond to take care of the problems of other people. If you know a firefighter, you know it would be hard to tell them one day that they cannot do the job anymore. The Fire Department and its members have committed themselves to helping to find a kidney for Shelly. Please help us spread the word! Tell your family, tell your friends and co-workers, visit our Facebook page and share the information we have posted. We cannot do this without your help!

Please look through all the information in this newsletter. See if you can help in one way or another. You never know, you might be the one to make a difference in someone else's life!

Tom Elliff
Fire Chief

Are you the missing piece of the puzzle?



Ever wonder if you are the missing piece? Ever wonder how you can help?

We may just have the answer for you!

The Signal Hill Fire Department is looking for energetic individuals to serve the residents and visitors of the Signal Hill Fire District.

Requirements include:

- **Live in or within 1 1/2 miles of the Fire District**
- **Must be at least 18 years old**
- **Must have valid drivers license**
- **Must be able to pass background check**

You can apply by stopping by the firehouse and picking up an application, or you can visit our website at www.shfd.net, download the application and bring it to the firehouse. For more information, call (618)397-1995 today!

HELP NEEDED !

Firefighters are always ready to help others in need. Now it is time to ask for help for a member of the fire department. Michelle Hudson served as a firefighter for 10 years before being diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. She has reached the stage where she will start dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. Signal Hill Firefighters want to find someone who is willing to help with a kidney donation. The donor must have Type O blood. If there is anyone willing to be tested, insurance is in place to cover the cost of testing and transplant for the donor.



When asked what it would mean to find a donor, Shelly replied: *"I know it is a very difficult thing to consider giving up a part of your anatomy. If anyone is willing to be tested, I appreciate the selflessness of the act and truly appreciate the kind consideration."*

This is a hard thing to ask for, and it is hard for firefighters to ask. If you personally knew Shelly, you would know she would be first in line to help someone else if she could, and still helps around the firehouse however she can.

You can call the firehouse and we will put in you in touch with Shelly, or you can call the donor department at Washington University School of Medicine at 314-362-5365, option 4.

Please, think about helping or pass on the information.

Help us find a kidney for Shelley



At the Fire Department Annual Appreciation Dinner on February 23rd, Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters and Associate Members were recognized for their dedication and service to improve the quality of life in our community.

Years of Service pins were presented to the following:

Volunteer Firefighter Scott Bierma—1 Year
 Volunteer Firefighter Jeremy Miller—1 Year
 Volunteer Firefighter Kurt Engel—5 Years
 District Trustee Paul Slocomb—5 Years
 Associate Member Pat Keefe—20 Years
 Associate Member Mary Mundy—25 Years
 Associate Member Gayle Schmisser—60 Years

Thank You



For Your Service

Longtime Members Recognized for their Service

At a time when most people keep a paying job for five to seven years, it is hard to imagine that someone can volunteer their time for thirty one and even sixty years. Yet it has happened! Special recognition was given to Associate Member Gayle Schmisser and District Trustee Paul Sander at this years appreciation dinner.

Gayle has served the department for sixty years. Joining the department when he was twenty three years old, Gayle has dedicated countless hours to fighting fires in his younger days, running the department as Fire Chief for number of years, and helping to oversee the administration by serving on the Board of Directors. Gayle also provided a lot of fun for years by serving as the chairman of the Signal Hill Firefighters Picnic. Today, Gayle still responds to the firehouse for calls and tracks the times for the trucks. Thank You Gayle for your time and dedication which is unmatched by anyone else with the department.



(Pictured left to right: Association President Alan Render, Trustee Paul Sander, Associate Member Gayle Schmisser, and Fire Chief Tom Elliff)

Since 1987, Paul Sander has served the Fire District as a trustee. Responsible for the overall administration of the Fire District including the funding required to run the operation, Paul has been a steward for the District residents. Paul had to make some tough and not necessarily popular decisions during his tenure. His dedication for the safety and betterment of the community in the end is what he stood by and he is credited with helping to make the Fire District what it is today. Paul has announced that he is retiring as a Fire District Trustee. His guidance and stewardship will certainly be missed. Thank You Paul for serving the Fire District for thirty one years. We wish you and Sylvia the best as you enjoy retirement!

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters recorded more than 1500 hours of continuing education and training, and over 800 hours associated with 195 incident responses last year.

The incident response breakdown for 2018 is listed below. These numbers include mutual aid provided to neighboring departments:

Building Fires—11
 Brush/Grass/Trash Fires—10
 Extrication—4
 Power Lines Down—8
 Service Calls / Standbys—19
 Good Intent—20
 False Alarms—31
 Lightning Strike—1
 Vehicle Fires—4
 Rescue/EMS Assist—12
 Hazardous Conditions—58
 Good Intent—25



Civilian Medal of Valor Awarded

On October 4, 2018, Signal Hill Firefighters were teaching fire prevention skills to the students at Signal Hill School. Little did we know that on the other side of our district, three persons were making the decision of a lifetime. A resident left food cooking on the stove which caught on fire and started to spread. Lindsay Vollmer, Matt Vollmer and Pastor Andy Black who all work at St. Matthew United Methodist Church were passing by the house and saw the smoke. They stopped, called 911, and then entered the house after they heard someone still inside.

If not for their actions, the outcome of this incident would certainly had a different outcome, most likely very tragic. The resident was transported to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation and was released later that evening.



At the worship service at St. Matthew Church on October 21st, the Signal Hill Fire Department was honored to present the Civilian Medal of Valor to Lindsay, Matt, and Andy.

Thank You for getting involved !

Safety Tip

Fire Safety at Your Home Away from Home

Peer-to-peer hospitality services, such as Airbnb, Vacation Rentals by Owner and other types of vacation rentals are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Act as your own safety advocate and know before you go. Be sure the following safety measures are addressed.

SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Working smoke alarms are in every sleeping room. They are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home.
- ✓ Working smoke alarms are interconnected, if possible. When one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ✓ Portable fire extinguishers are in the home and are easy to reach.
- ✓ Working carbon monoxide alarms are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards.
- ✓ The owner has posted a floor plan. It notes all escape routes and exits and provides emergency contact information.
- ✓ Everyone knows the address of the home.
- ✓ Everyone staying in the home has identified two ways out of every room and how to escape in an emergency.
- ✓ All doors and windows that lead outside are able to be opened.
- ✓ An outside meeting place has been chosen. It is a safe distance away from the home.
- ✓ Everyone knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone from outside.
- ✓ If smoking is allowed, a smoking area has been designated and is well away from the structure. Deep, sturdy ashtrays have been provided.
- ✓ All pathways are free and clear of tripping hazards.
- ✓ Electrical outlets are free from multiple cords and adaptors.
- ✓ The stovetop is clear. Anything that can catch fire is not near the stovetop, such as curtains and towels.

WINDOW AND DOOR ALERT!

Be on the lookout for rooms with tiny windows. These are too small to serve as a means of escape.

Security bars on doors and windows can trap people in a fire. Make sure any security bars have quick-release devices. Tools, keys, or special efforts should not be needed to open them.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Peer-to-peer hospitality services are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Do your homework before making a reservation. Check online to see your travel destination's regulations for rental properties. Ask your host if the property meets the regulations. Discuss other safety concerns you may have.

Check the forecast in case of storms that could cause power outages; assure the property has equipment (batteries, lanterns, etc.) in the event of a power outage.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Signal Hill
Fire Department
329 Hazel Avenue
Belleville, Illinois 62223

NONPROFIT ORG.
CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT
PAID
Belleville, Illinois
PERMIT NO. 880



To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1

Follow these simple tips to help you and those you love stay fire safe this summer.

- ◆ Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals
- ◆ Enjoy outdoor celebrations and cookouts, but remember to keep a 3-foot “safe zone” around grills and campfires
- ◆ Build campfires at least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs, and other things that burn.

FIRE PET SAFETY



Never leave pets alone around an open flame. If your pet is rowdy, it's best to avoid candles.



Pet-proof your house. Keep hazards out of paw's reach, like flammables or electrical wires.



Have an emergency plan with a safe location to take your pet after a house fire.



Make sure your pet is microchipped or wearing ID in case you get separated during a fire.



Make sure smoke alarms are functioning properly, and educate your family on fire safety.



Prevent pets from touching stove top controls, and be mindful of pets while in the kitchen.

Hot Flashes