

HAUPPAUGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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January 12, 2021

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. We are all hoping that 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

In early 2020, as the COVID pandemic was taking hold, I made the difficult decision to suspend our residential and commercial fund drives for the year. We knew people were hurting and as a department we felt that asking for donations at a time like that was not in the best interest of the community.

The reality, however, is that volunteer organizations like the Hauppauge Fire Department rely on yearly fund raising in order to finance the routine expenses of the department. This should not be confused with the taxes we all pay to the Hauppauge Fire District, the governmental entity that provides the funds for training, fire apparatus, tools, building maintenance and the many other costs associated with providing quality fire protection.

Our yearly fund drive provides the necessary routine operating expenses for our department and the four companies that are not covered by the fire district or taxpayer dollars. These expenses range from dues to the various fire service organizations that we belong to, a modest scholarship fund for our children, a death benefit fund for the family of an active member who dies, food for members attending department and company meetings (many members come to meetings straight from work), donations and support for various local charities, the holiday lighting and costumes for the annual Santa parades (we hope to bring them back in 2021), a softball team for the members, financial support for our Explorers program and the annual holiday party for our children.

Given the hope that the vaccinations have brought along with the harsh reality that we cannot sustain ourselves as an organization unless we conduct the fund drive, I have made the decision to resume both the residential and commercial fund drive for 2021.

As a cost saving measure on the residential end, we are going to use the mailing that had been ready to go out in early 2020. It did not seem prudent to have to pay for a new printing so when the appeal that you receive mentions 2020 it is not in error.

Donating to us is purely voluntary. We understand that some of our residents may not be in a position to donate. Taking care of family must always come first. We thank those who are able to donate for their continued generosity.

Raymond F. Germaine
Chief of Department



CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT
RAYMOND F. GERMAINE
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KENNETH M. FURUNO
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