

# Warehouse Point Fire Department

*First Class Fire and Rescue Services*

www.whpfd.org

East Windsor, Connecticut



**Established 1910**

Commission Chairman - Victor DeCapua

Fire Chief - James Barton

Fire Marshal - Christy Delvey

860-623-5596

## The Warehouse Point Fire District Responder

Vol. 2 No. 1

### Warehouse Point Fire District Views New Squad 238

The long awaited replacement for Engine 238, assuring the District maintains its favorable ISO rating, will be commissioned into the fire department shortly. An engine inspection team from WPFDF inspected the vehicle, prior to its shipping, to ensure that the apparatus had been built to specification and that nothing had been added or deleted from the original prints. A "wet down" (traditionally, when new equipment arrived, local and neighboring town firefighters ceremoniously pushed the vehicle into the fire station. Today with the size and weight of the fire engines, the apparatus is driven into its new home as firefighters place their hands on the bumper) will take place within the next few weeks. The fire commissioners of the District want to thank all who supported this endeavor.

### Firefighting News

The Fire Department responded to **102** alarms from July 1 through September 30, this year. Of the 102 alarms, 30 were fire alarms; 25 motor vehicle accidents; 16 mutual aid calls; 9 outside burning; 6 smoke in building investigations; 5 vehicle fires; 5 medical aid calls; 5 assist public non-emergency; 4 hazard materials spills; 3 CO calls; 2 utility wires on ground; and 3 assist police. Most notable were the recovery of a drowning victim from the Connecticut River, which took nearly 3 hours. A young boy on a bicycle equipped with training wheels had to be extricated from this bike when his foot became stuck in the frame. While the youngster was very uncomfortable, he suffered no injuries other than a scrape and the bicycle was left undamaged and intact. Finally, a fire at the Montgomery Building on the Canal Bank in Windsor Locks was quickly extinguished. Had it not been for a rapid response by both Warehouse Point and Windsor Locks Fire Departments, a huge conflagration would have resulted.

### WHPFD Historically Speaking

#### Excerpts from the Annual Reports for Year Ending 1912 - June 3, 1913

##### Board of Fire Commissioners 1913: -

During the year ending June 3, 1913, the Board of Fire Commissioners held seventeen meetings, at which, aside from routine matters, the following business was transacted. The free use of the Street Railway Company's power house whistle for fire alarm purposes has been secured. The whistle is also sounded to notify parents of either one or no session of school. The district was then laid out in sections and numbered, and fire alarm call cards printed and distributed to all residences and places of business in the district. After repeated efforts of the Board, the Thompsonville Water Co. has finally agreed to reduce the water rate in this district to conform to that paid by residents of Thompsonville and Enfield and to take effect June 1. To reduce if possible the boisterousness and rowdyism in the neighborhood of Boleyn's corner, a policeman was appointed and located there on Saturday and Sunday nights during the Piney Ridge season, the cost being paid by the trolley company. The equipment of the fire department has been increased by the addition of two lanterns, six chemical extinguishers (two of which were placed in the North End hose house, the remainder in the School street house) and a chemical wagon was built.

##### Fire Chief's Report 1914: -

There is now on hand in the department headquarters on School street, one furnace with poker, shaker, shovel and coal rod, ½ ton coal, one cord wood, one hose reel, with axe and bar, 550 feet hose, 1 nozzle, 4 hydrant wrenches, 6 spanners, 8 rubber coats, 8 rubber hats, 4 lanterns, 1 chemical wagon, 4 chemical extinguishers, 10 extra charge chemicals, one 16 ft. roof ladder with hook, one 30 ft. extension ladder, 1 gallon oil can, 1 pick, 1 shovel, and 24 keys and firemen's badges. In hose house on North Main street there is contained 1 hose reel with axe and bar, 450 ft. hose, 1 nozzle, 3 hydrant wrenches, 6 spanners, 2 chemical extinguishers, 5 lanterns, 5 rubber coats, 6 rubber hats. During the year all hydrants in the district have been opened and tried. With the exception of the reel at the North end which needs painting, all the apparatus is in

good condition. For the improvement of the department, I would recommend the purchase of an additional nozzle for the North end, and the enlargement of the whole company so that it shall consist of thirty (30) members instead of twenty-four (24) at present. During the past year this department has been called to two fires. On July 1, 1912, a small fire occurred in the residence on Water street, owned by Willard Drake of Windsor Locks. On October 19 the department was called to extinguish a chimney fire in the house on South Main street owned by John Norris. The fire was easily extinguished with chemicals which were then used for the first time and fully demonstrated their value. In September a demonstration of the new chemical extinguishers took place. While it plainly proved their worth, it also showed the efficiency of the men with the hose.....April 29, 1913.....Walter Price, Chief

**Treasurer's report 1913: -**

Assets:		Liabilities:	
Buildings & Fixtures	\$1,000.00	Notes Payable	\$1,300.00
Fire Department Equipment	850.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,300.00
Taxes Due on 1912 list	64.11	Assets over Liabilities	\$1,042.37
Cash on hand	428.26		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$2,342.37</b>		

Cash balance in bank June 4, 1912	\$ 337.39
Received from (Tax)Collector	1,361.70
Received from County Commissioners	40.00
Orders paid to date Mai 16, 1913	1,310.83
Total receipts	\$1,917.62
<b>CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>428.26</b>

*Excerpts from the archives of Mike Balf - Curator of Warehouse Point Hose Company No.1 Museum*

**Warehouse Point Fire Department Celebrating 100 years of Continuous Service in 2010**

The Fire Department will host a number of events beginning in early to mid 2010 in celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving the citizens of the Warehouse Point Fire District, East Windsor and the surrounding communities. The Fire Department came into being when it became apparent that the Windsor Locks Fire Brigade was hampered by long treks across the Connecticut River to extinguish blazes in Warehouse Point. There were no motorized fire apparatus 100 years ago. Pulling and carrying equipment was arduous and by the time the Windsor Locks Fire Brigade arrived at the scene of a fire, many of the responders were exhausted. Several "village residents" realized the need and formed the Warehouse Point Fire Department. The Fire Department thanks you for your past support and hopes that you will continue that support in 2010.

**Warehouse Point Fire Department Needs Volunteers**

All of the WHPFD fire personnel are volunteers. They typically have full-time jobs, families, and other community and civic obligations. However, they all have one thing in common and that is the desire to help those in time of need. Please consider donating your time as a WHPFD volunteer. The hours may be long, the work stressful and dangerous but the reward of knowing that you helped someone in their time of need is enormous. Please stop by fire headquarters on Bridge Street and ask for an application. If you just want a tour of the building, look at the apparatus or talk with a firefighter, stop by when you see vehicles parked in the parking lot or call 860-623-5596 for an appointment. You may also go to the Warehouse Point Volunteer Fire Department website at [www.whpfd.org](http://www.whpfd.org) to view photos and other information of interest to you.

**We Want to Hear From you**

The idea of the Warehouse Point Fire District Responder came about just over 1 year ago as a means of keeping the residents of the District informed about the work of the District and Warehouse Point Volunteer Fire Department. In the next issue, we will have a survey of which we would appreciate your taking time to complete and send it to the District or respond on the Department website at [WWW.WHPFD.ORG](http://WWW.WHPFD.ORG). This will tell the Commissioners whether or not we are meeting

our goal of public dissemination of District matters and matters of the fire department. As always, you be interested in joining the Fire Department, please stop by and complete an application.

## Fire Chief's Report

Winter is nearly upon us. While the snow may be beautiful, at times, it also is a hindrance to firefighters who must take extra precautions to arrive at the fire house safely as well as respond to the scene of an emergency as quickly as practicable. During heavy snow, firefighters leave the warmth of their homes to "bivouac" at the fire station to more quickly respond to a call. One of the most critical firefighting tools is water. During the winter, many hydrants are not visible from the street as the snow has not been removed from the hydrant thus making it impossible to see. At other times, snow is pushed or blown onto the hydrant, further preventing access to the hydrant. In order to start water flowing through the hydrant, once cleared of snow, firefighters must brush the snow away from the water valve, attach the hydrant connection as well as supply lines to the hydrant. Finding dropped hydrant wrenches and other tools in snow is time consuming. If you are able-bodied, please remove the snow from the hydrant and an area approximately 2 feet around the hydrant, nearest your home. The time saved could mean the difference between a controllable fire and a conflagration.

## Firefighting Equipment

Fire Engines – to most people, any big truck with red lights and sirens is a "fire engine". Yet, due to the complexity and nature of the varied alarms to which the fire department responds, there are specific "fire engines" for specific jobs, such as a **pumper** – carries fire hose, water, foam, extrication equipment and puts water on the fire; **aerial** – carries numerous ladders and provides a raised platform from which firefighters may reach multi-story buildings and extend the reach of master fire streams; **rescue** – includes a radio communications center (command post), heavy rescue and extrication equipment, firefighter rehabilitation center, medical supplies, and safety support systems; and **duty vehicle** – a quick response, assessment and communications vehicle providing the firefighters a "heads-up" on fire and rescue conditions prior to the main fire department body arriving at the scene. As the fire service has evolved and more restrictions placed on size, weight and safety of the vehicle, more dedicated functions of the "fire engine" have been applied based on OSHA, NFPA and CT standards. Last quarter, we took a look at a "pumper." This quarter we'll discuss Truck 138, an aerial platform

Truck 138 is a 70,000 pound 2003 Pierce mid-mount (the rotating table of the ladder section is in the approximate middle of the truck) 95 foot extension ladder with a platform (bucket) at the very end of the ladder. It is used to provide firefighters safer and easier access to multi-story, roof and extended reach operations where "close-in" access is unavailable; *i.e.* at the Windsor Locks mill fire, Truck 138 was positioned on Main Street and directed a master stream of water from its fully extended bucket over electrical wires, railroad tracks, canal, and access road onto the fire, which would have been impossible to reach without the elevated bucket. It is equipped with a pre-connected 5" water delivery line with nozzle attached to the bucket. It carries access and rescue equipment including gas powered saws, electrical ventilating fans, electrical generator, high-power bucket scene lights, hand tools, tarps, ground ladders, air for self-contained breathing apparatus, winch and chemical fire fighting agents. It carries 5 firefighters known as "truckies"



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