

IFA VOICE

WINTER 2019



Be Safe Over The Holidays

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2019 IFA OFFICERS



11/7/19

DEAR IFA MEMBERS,

WITH THE YEAR COMING TO AN END, IT IS TIME TO LIST MANY PROJECTS AND HAPPENINGS THAT THE TERRE HAUTE LOCAL 758 HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR.

THE ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF WAS HELD MAY 10TH AT THE MEADOWS , WHICH IS A MUCH LARGER VENUE. THESE PROCEEDS FROM THE COOK-OFF WERE ABLE TO HELP OVER 250 KIDS. GREAT JOB!

LOCAL 758 COLLECTED FOR MDA OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND FILLING THE BOOT AND COLLECTING OVER \$14,522.00.

IN EARLY SPRING OF 2019 THE COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS BANQUET WAS HELD. LIEUTENANT JEFF MONROE WAS NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF AND MANY OTHERS RECEIVING AWARDS AND RECOGNITION.

ST PATRICK'S SOUP KITCHEN WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A CHECK FOR \$2000.00. PRESENTING THE CHECK WERE MICHAEL SHELTON, KENT BAUMGARTER, CHARLIE KARR, DONNIE MAY, STEPHEN KANE, JAMES HARRAH, AND DON SEPRODI.

THE SOUP KITCHENS OF TERRE HAUTE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO RECEIVE DONATIONS . THANK YOU LOCAL758.

THE BREAKFAST OPTOMIST YEARLY PRESENT THE OSTERLOOAWARD AND THIS YEARS RECIPIENT WAS LEIUTENANT JEFF MONROE. CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF FOR BEING AWARDED THIS VERY PRESTEGIOUS AWARD PRESENTED BY CHIEF JEFF FISHER.

NOVEMBER 9TH,2019 THE 13THANNUAL RETIREMENT DINNER WILL SALUTE BATTALION CHIEF JOHN LONG, FIREFIGHTERS PAUL BUTLER, DAN CURLEY, KEVIN COURTNEY AND TIM HOUGH.

IN CLOSING IWANT TO WISH YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WARREN BUTCH KRACY, DIRECTOR



A Word From Chief Jeff Fisher

"For most people, a firefighter means a person who puts out fires, but to us, it means so much more," said Terre Haute Fire Chief Jeff Fisher said during a meeting of the Optimist Club at MCL Restaurant & Bakery at The Meadows shopping center. "Firefighters are problem solvers. They are the people that run in when the whole world is running out."

Fisher said it takes a special mindset to be a firefighter. "Not everyone can do it and to be honest not everyone would want to," he said.



Fisher said Monroe is "smart and decisive enough to make sound tactical decisions, strong enough to provide the brute force needed when necessary and tenacious enough to keep going when others can't. If we attempted to choose an event to attach this honor to for him, the hardest part would be to not get overwhelmed by the sheer volume of things he has accomplished and the number of lives that he has touched in his career.

"He represents the best that the Terre Haute Fire Department has to offer for over two decades and we are all better for the privilege of working alongside him," Fisher said.

The award is named for Capt. John Osterloo, who died from injuries fighting the "Haven & Greddes Department Store" fire that happened on Dec. 19, 1898. An electrical problem ignited cotton padding being used as a Christmas decoration. Osterloo led a team into an adjacent building to keep the fire from spreading, when a wall collapsed, pinning him under heavy beams. Fire underneath that wreckage burned his legs to the bone and he died nine days later of blood poisoning.

Lieutenant Jeffrey Monroe received the Firefighter of the Year Award on Wednesday during the 14th Annual Terre Haute Firefighters Recognition and Commendation Dinner sponsored by First Financial Bank.

Firefighter Andrew Lumaye was named Paramedic of the Year.

Lieutenant Nicholas Arnold received the Fire Chief's Exceptional Service Award.

Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson was guest speaker for the event at the Sycamore Banquet Center. Alia Blackburn of WTHI-TV10 served as master of ceremonies, and introductory remarks were provided by Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett; Norman Lowery, president and CEO of First Financial Corp, and Terre Haute Fire Chief Jeff Fisher.

THFD Honor Guard and Terre Haute Firefighters Pipes and Drums conducted the presentation of colors; Chaplain Gary Foust provided the invocation.

During the special presentations, civilian George Peters, received the Kayla Nicole Lewis Civilian Award, and civilian Ryan Jenkins was the recipient of the Good Samaritan Award.



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The complete THFD award and commendation recipients list for 2018:

- Firefighter of the Year: Lieutenant Jeffrey Monroe
- Paramedic of the Year: Firefighter Andrew Lumaye
- Fire Chief's Exceptional Service Award: Lieutenant Nicholas Arnold
- Honorable Service Award: Firefighters Andrew Lumaye and Diana Price
- Honorable Discharge Award: Captains James Chalos and David McCarty
- Meritorious Service Award: Assistant Chief Norm Loudermilk
- Seniority/Good Conduct Award & 40 Years of Service Award: Phillip VanSant
- John Boland Award (child delivery): Lieutenant David Black, firefighters Hunter Barnes, Gary Foust, Shane Husband and Larry Seifers
- 30 Years of Service Award: Captains Jeffery Clark, Robert Sivertson and Steven Yelich; firefighters Michael Odum, Kevin Reeves, and James White
- 25 Years of Service Award: Captain William Berry; firefighters Gregory Dammann, Floyd Hiatt and Herbert "Chip" Kalen
- 20 Years of Service Award: Captain James "Jason" Kane, firefighters Jeffrey Hodges, Robert Johnson Jr., and Troy Shipley
- Lifesaving Award: Captains Howard "Brad" Stott, Ron Terrell and Steven Yelich; Lieutenants Nicholas Arnold, Matt Likens; firefighters William "Jordan" Garrison, Shane Husband, Charles Kensell, Ian Kull, Gregg Lawson, Andrew Lumaye, Michael Odum, Christopher Overpeck, Lucas Puckett, Rodger Plunkett, Kevin Price, and Cole Wiley
- Unit Citation: Captain Darrick Scott, and firefighters William Martin and Darren Scott
- Educational Achievement Award: Captain Fred Hamblen, and Firefighter Herbert "Chip" Kalen
- Mayor's Citation: Terre Haute Fire Department Investigation, Prevention Inspection (IPI) Division: Assistant Chief Norm Loudermilk; firefighters Josh Cottrell, Matt Holbert, Amanda Lacoste, William Roberts, and Bram Sanders
- State Fire Marshal Award: Terre Haute Fire Department IPI Division
- Good Samaritan Award: Ryan Jenkins
- Kayla Nicole Lewis Civilian Award: George Peters.



For Lieutenant Jeffrey Monroe, being a firefighter was not a childhood dream.

"At that time, there were a lot of layoffs and factories leaving. It was an opportunity to have some job security, with a pension and insurance to start a family," Monroe, 50, said. "Unlike some people, it was never a childhood dream. Even though the pay was horrible, at least you would not be laid off unless you messed something up."

Monroe, who started as a firefighter on May 14, 1991, said most firefighters at that time worked two jobs. He worked a second job in construction.

"It gave me an opportunity to serve the community and confidence my family would be fed," he said. "I was hired under (former Terre Haute Mayor) Pete Chalos. The old guys on the job were your mentors, so you wanted to impress them every day," Monroe said.

"There were times, as a new guy on the job, you were not even allowed to sit at the same table and eat food with them. The only way to sit at the table was to impress the old guys, so you worked your butt off and went above and beyond," he said.

"That mentality has always been there with me. You do not want to be tagged as a slacker or not a hard worker," Monroe said.

Monroe still works a second job, starting a new business two years ago called Wizard Soft Wash, an exterior and roofing cleaning business.

In March, Monroe received the Firefighter of the Year Award during the 14th Annual Terre Haute Firefighters Recognition and Commendation Dinner.

On Thursday, Monroe received The Osterloo Award, sponsored by the The Breakfast Optimist Club of Terre Haute. The city fire department nominates its firefighter of the year for that award.

Soup Kitchen Help From The Boys In Blue

The St. Patrick Soup Kitchen got a boost Monday from Terre Haute Firefighters Local 758.

Using proceeds from their annual chili cook-off in the spring, the firefighters gave \$2,000 to the soup kitchen at 19th and Poplar streets.

"This is probably the most we've given them," said Charlie Karr of the fundraising, which also pays for toys for low-income children. "We had a lot of help from the citizens of Terre Haute with our toy drive this year, so we are able to give St. Pat's a little more."

The chili cook-off began in 2011, with proceeds used to buy and wrap Christmas toys for children at the 14th and Chestnut Community Center and at the Wabash Valley Health Clinic. The union has also donated to the soup kitchen in the past.

"We really appreciate everything the Terre Haute Fire Department does for the city and for us in particular," said Linnea Friesen of the soup kitchen.

The firefighters union started their project in 2011 by buying gifts for 66 children. That number grew through the years and exceeded 250 children last year.

Donations from groups and individuals who want to support the firefighters' efforts can be dropped off at any Terre Haute Fire Station.



Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.

Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.



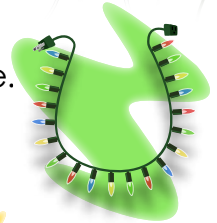
2. Do not overload electrical outlets.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.



3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.



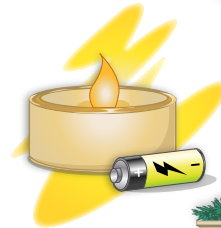
4. Keep tree fresh by watering daily.

Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.



5. Use battery-operated candles.

Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).



6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.

A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations. (NFPA).



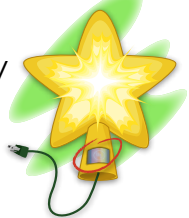
7. Protect cords from damage.

To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.



8. Check decorations for certification label.

Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.



9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).



10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.

Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (NFPA)





- 1...Never leave the fryer unattended.
- 2...Keep children and pets away from the fryer at all times.
- 3...Wear protective equipment – eye protection and **good grill mitts**.
- 4...Defrost your turkey **COMPLETELY** – and dry it immersing it in hot oil.
- 5...Keep a grease-rated fire extinguisher within arms reach of your work area.
- 6...Never operate a fryer outdoors in the rain or snow.
- 7...Keep outdoor fryers away from combustible structures or trees – that means off the deck, too!
- 8...Place the fryer on a level surface and do not move it around once heating.
- 9...Leave two feet between the tank and the burner when using a propane-powered fryer.
- 10..Consider wrapping hose in aluminum foil to prevent hot oil that may splatter from touching it.
- 11..Do not overfill the fryer.
- 12..Turn off burner if oil is smoking. Use a fryer with a temperature gauge and keep a sharp eye on it.
- 13..Turn off the burner before lowering the turkey into the oil. Once the turkey is submerged, turn the burner on.
- 14..Once finished, carefully remove the pot from the burner, place it on a level surface and cover to let the oil cool overnight before disposing.

Sad News From Minnesota

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes to the belly.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin with the grave site piled high with many flours.

Numerous celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, Betty Crocker, the California Raisins, the Hostess Twinkies and Captain Crunch.

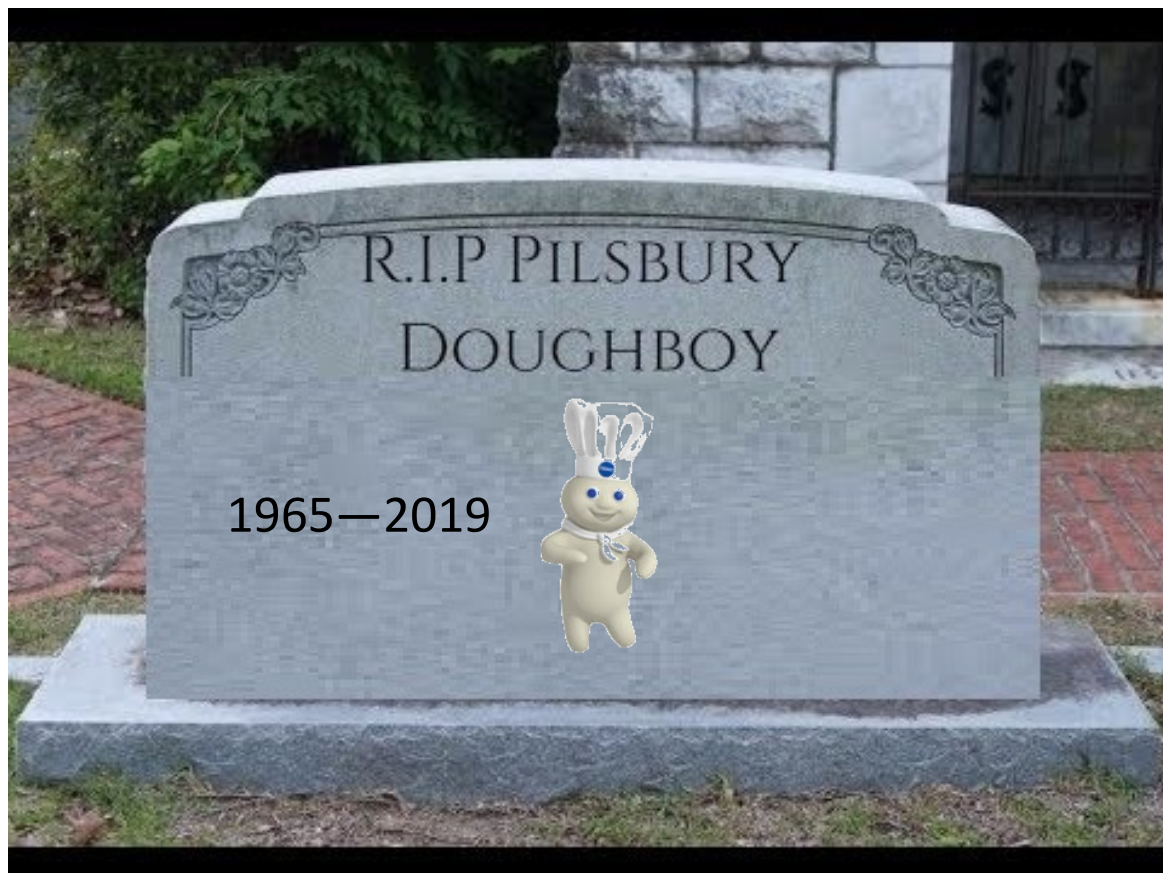
Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never know how much he was kneaded.

Born in 1965 and bread in Minnesota, Poppin' Fresh rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was never considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half baked schemes.

A little flaky, he was known as crusty man, but still considered a positive "roll" model to millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife Play Dough; three children – John Dough, Jane Dough and Dosey Dough...plus, they had a bun in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly uncle, Pop Tart.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 15 minutes.



Fire Buffs Museum

Original discussions for the Fire Buffs Museum building included a plan to build more space around the existing structure. However, the type of building materials used as well as the general wear and tear of the nearly 70-year-old building made it very difficult and not a feasible option. Sadly, deconstruction of the Carmel Fire Buffs Museum will take place in order to build a modern, state of the art building to meet current building and safety codes. The building will be taken down with great care to save as much as possible. The original facade of limestone and brick will be removed, stored and then placed onto the new building. The beams inside the apparatus bay will be removed and will become an astatic part of the new museum hanging over the apparatus as in the current museum. The radio tower that sits on top of the museum will also be returning as part of the new building project.

Once the museum's lot is completely clear, the construction will take approximately 18 months. The new building will be three stories tall. It will be home to the Carmel Fire administrative offices, Carmel Fire Buffs Museum, an outdoor mezzanine area, a large community room and space for Survive Alive, CFD's public education program.

I am very excited for the Carmel Fire Department to return to the location of the original fire headquarters to build this project. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that we have before us, and the fact that we are able to build a new building that can meet the current and future needs of the department and community is very rare. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of our elected officials and our community.

Sincerely,
David Haboush
Fire Chief



New Digs For Carmel

The Carmel Fire Department has big changes coming in the next 18 months. Through the generous contributions of Clay Township working with the City of Carmel, there will be a new Carmel Fire Headquarters. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to return to the original location of the first Carmel Fire Headquarters. The new building will be erected at the current home of the Carmel Fire Buffs Museum in the Carmel Arts and Design District. The Carmel Fire Buffs Museum is located in the original Carmel Fire Headquarters building at 210 Veterans Way. (Formerly 1st Avenue S.W.) The museum is the original location of the first CFD headquarters. Today, it displays CFD artifacts from the department's history, including vehicles, equipment and important documents, to the public.



The building was built in 1950 by the volunteer firefighters. They collected money they were paid from responding on runs and saved enough to purchase materials to erect the first fire headquarters. Prior to the headquarters being built, the fire department operated with no dedicated home. Most fire equipment was housed at local gas stations and various other spots throughout town.

The current Fire Headquarters is located at 2 Civic Square in the City of Carmel government complex and was built in 1987. As the Carmel Clay community grew so did the fire department. When the current Fire Headquarters was originally built, no one ever imagined the building would be outgrown.

A major goal of the new fire department headquarters building is to create more livable space for the firefighters currently housed at the 2 Civic Sq. location. The current Headquarters is where the administrative offices are located as well as CFD Fire Station 41. This building houses 13 firefighters on a daily basis. Ambulance 41, Engine 41, Tiller 41 and Battalion 4 all respond from this location. This new building will allow for more space for our firefighters at the current building as well as growth within the administration. The new administration building will go up first, and then the administrative staff will move out of Station 41. When that happens, Station 41 will begin its remodeling process. Updates to both the administrative offices and the fire station portion will allow for more expansion of living space for our firefighters at station 41.

THE WHITE HOUSE #CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITION GOES BACK FARTHER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK – IT ALL STARTED WITH PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON IN 1889

It doesn't seem like Christmas unless there's a Christmas tree in the house, does it? Sure, you can have stockings hung by the chimney with care, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, and even a partridge in a pear tree. But it's just not the same without an evergreen standing tall in the corner of the den, an angel Christmas tree topper perched at the tip, brightly-wrapped presents nestled below, and that fresh, clean, unmistakable fragrance filling the room. Putting up a tree at Christmas is a time-honored, cherished tradition for most Americans, and that includes those living at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

For 130 years, give or take a Christmas here or there, there has been an official White House Christmas tree to celebrate the holiday. Through good times and bad, during periods of peace and prosperity and eras of conflict and strike, our president and his family have gathered around the White House tree on Christmas, just like the rest of us. They've opened presents and sipped hot chocolate, sang carols and ate turkey, grateful for Yuletide blessings. As the most wonderful time of the year draws closer, we thought we'd help get you in the spirit of the season by taking a look back at the history of the now-iconic White House Christmas tree. **Who was the first president to have a Christmas tree in the White House?**

He may not be remembered for much else, but in 1889, President Benjamin Harrison placed the first Christmas tree in the White House. It was displayed in the Yellow Oval Room on the second floor, which was used as a library and parlor for the First Family at that time, and festooned with toys for the president's grandkids.

Because the White House didn't have electricity until 1891, wax candles illuminated the tree. (Decades later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt probably put everyone on edge when he returned to this rather risky tradition, using candles on the East Hall's tree.) In 1894, during Grover Cleveland's presidency, the White House Christmas tree blazed with electric bulbs for the first time. They were colored a cheery—and patriotic—red, white and blue. **When was the first White House Christmas tree installed in the Blue Room?**



It's believed that the first Christmas tree in the Blue Room was put up by President William H. Taft's children in 1912. Their parents were in Panama at the time, so they tucked it away there as a surprise for their seven young cousins, who were visiting for the holiday. But the tradition of the Blue Room Christmas tree didn't really get going until First Lady Lou Henry Hoover supervised the decoration of it in 1929.

Since then, the Blue Room has been home to the White House's official Christmas tree, trimmed annually by the first lady. In 1961, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy kicked off the custom of a themed Blue Room tree by garnishing it with characters from the "Nutcracker Suite" ballet. Other themes have included First Lady Lady Bird Johnson's "Early American," featuring gingerbread men decorations and ornaments, and First Lady Michelle Obama's 2013 theme "Gather Around: Stories of the Season," which included holiday greeting cards from servicemen and women's families.



Don't let Christmas ever heat up too much — with fire that is. Did you know that Christmas trees alone result in 13 million dollars, annually, in property damage? More importantly, these fires present real risk towards family and friends. When showcasing a live tree in your home, the combination of tree dryness, electrical malfunction with lights and poorly located heating sources can make for a deadly combination.

BUT IF YOUR HOLIDAY IS JUST NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT A LIVE TREE, FOLLOW THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP THREATS AT BAY:

- Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire, so look for a tree with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles readily.
- Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.
- Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.
- Any lights you use outdoors must be labeled suitable for exterior placement, and be sure to plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle.
- Keep all your holiday candles away from your Christmas tree, surrounding furniture and décor.
- Bedtime means lights off! - Don't forget to turn your Christmas tree lights off each night.

Fire Fighters Stats From 1986 till 2017

Year	Total		Career		Volunteer	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population
1986	1,045,950	1.48	237,750	1.73	808,200	7.88
1987	1,060,000	2.57	243,200	1.73	816,800	8.05
1988	1,040,750	2.22	252,500	1.77	788,250	7.77
1989	1,020,700	3.05	250,600	1.75	770,100	7.45
1990	1,025,650	3.19	253,000	1.73	772,650	7.56
1991	1,033,600	6.22	261,800	1.73	771,800	7.61
1992	1,058,300	3.94	253,000	1.72	805,300	7.34
1993	1,055,050	4.09	259,650	1.73	795,400	7.25
1994	1,073,600	4.12	265,700	1.76	807,900	7.19
1995	1,098,850	4.18	260,850	1.70	838,000	7.42
1996	1,081,800	4.07	266,300	1.74	815,500	6.98
1997	1,079,050	4.03	275,700	1.73	803,350	7.12
1998	1,082,500	4.00	278,300	1.70	804,200	7.18
1999	1,065,150	3.90	279,900	1.69	785,250	6.93
2000	1,064,150	3.86	286,800	1.64	777,350	7.25
2001	1,078,300	3.85	293,600	1.70	784,700	7.04
2002	1,108,250	3.89	291,650	1.68	816,600	7.12
2003	1,096,900	3.77	296,850	1.67	800,050	7.05
2004	1,100,750	3.76	305,150	1.71	795,600	6.88
2005	1,136,650	3.82	313,300	1.68	823,650	7.30
2006	1,140,900	3.81	316,950	1.74	823,950	7.26
2007	1,148,000	3.81	323,350	1.74	825,450	7.29
2008	1,148,850	3.81	321,700	1.73	827,150	7.01
2009	1,148,100	3.81	335,950	1.72	812,150	7.27
2010	1,103,300	3.57	335,150	1.66	768,150	6.59
2011	1,100,450	3.54	344,050	1.69	756,400	6.37
2012	1,129,250	3.60	345,950	1.67	783,300	6.60
2013	1,140,750	3.60	354,600	1.67	786,150	6.68
2014	1,134,400	3.56	346,150	1.68	788,250	6.43
2015	1,160,450	3.36	345,600	1.54	814,850	6.71
2016	1,090,100	3.37	361,100	1.69	729,000	5.99
2017	1,056,200	3.24	373,600	1.80	682,600	5.80

- There were an estimated 1,056,200 career and volunteer firefighters in the United States in 2017.
- • The 373,600 career firefighters in 2017 represented an increase of 3% from the previous year.
- • 682,600 volunteer firefighters in 2017, a decrease of 6% from the previous year.
- • Since 1986, there has been a fairly steady increase in the number of career firefighters, however the number of career firefighters per 1,000 population is consistent during this period. In the case of volunteer firefighters the trend is less apparent, with this year's estimate being the lowest ever reported, and the number of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 population is decreasing. • In 2017, 77,900, or 7%, of the firefighters were female. Of the career firefighters 13,400 (4%) were female firefighters. There were 64,500 volunteer firefighters who were female, 9% of the total number of volunteer firefighters.
- • 51% of firefighters are between 30 and 49 years old.
- • 42% of volunteer firefighters have 10 or more years of active service (tenure period).
- • There were 29,819 fire departments in the United States in 2017. Of these, 17% were all or mostly career departments and protected 69% of the US population.
- • Nationwide 39% of fire departments provided no emergency medical services, 46% provided basic life support (BLS) and 16% provided advanced life support (ALS).
- • From 1980 to 2015, local fire protection service expenditures (adjusted for inflation in 2015 dollars) increased 179%.



Fire Fighter Stats for 2017

Population Protected	Career			Volunteer			Sub-Total	Total
	Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total		
1,000,000 or more	40,600	2,500	43,100	1,600	200	1,800	44,900	
500,000 to 999,999	38,200	1,400	39,600	4,800	0	4,800	44,400	
250,000 to 499,999	26,500	1,200	27,700	1,700	0	1,700	29,400	
100,000 to 249,999	57,000	2,000	59,000	800	100	900	59,900	
50,000 to 99,999	46,900	1,200	48,100	6,200	600	6,800	54,900	
25,000 to 49,999	49,200	1,400	50,600	18,000	1,100	19,100	69,700	
10,000 to 24,999	55,300	1,500	56,800	60,600	4,800	65,400	122,200	
5,000 to 9,999	21,400	800	22,200	84,400	7,300	91,700	113,900	
2,500 to 4,999	14,600	800	15,400	153,000	16,400	169,400	184,800	
Under 2,500	10,500	600	11,100	287,000	34,000	321,000	332,100	
	360,200	13,400	373,600	618,100	64,500	682,600	1,056,200	



Number Of US Fire Departments

Year	Total	All Career	Mostly Career	Mostly Volunteer	All Volunteer
1986	29,840	1,999	1,044	3,640	23,157
1987	29,741	1,683	1,335	3,635	23,088
1988	30,245	1,729	1,405	3,908	23,203
1989	30,315	1,799	1,303	3,878	23,335
1990	30,391	1,949	1,338	4,000	23,104
1991	30,587	2,017	1,257	4,162	23,151
1992	30,562	1,843	1,217	4,377	23,125
1993	30,528	1,646	1,342	4,378	23,162
1994	30,495	1,778	1,448	4,400	22,869
1995	31,197	1,831	1,660	4,581	23,125
1996	31,503	1,872	1,380	4,863	23,388
1997	30,665	1,979	1,490	4,808	22,388
1998	31,114	2,028	1,602	4,848	22,636
1999	30,436	1,752	1,639	4,651	22,394
2000	30,339	2,178	1,667	4,523	21,971
2001	30,020	1,928	1,539	4,671	21,882
2002	30,310	2,044	1,480	4,886	21,900
2003	30,542	2,018	1,582	5,271	21,671
2004	30,400	1,917	1,242	4,084	23,157
2005	30,300	2,087	1,766	4,902	21,575
2006	30,635	2,321	1,731	5,134	21,449
2007	30,185	2,263	1,765	4,989	21,168
2008	30,170	2,315	1,790	4,830	21,235
2009	30,165	2,457	1,752	5,099	20,857
2010	30,125	2,495	1,860	5,290	20,480
2011	30,145	2,550	1,865	5,530	20,200
2012	30,100	2,610	1,995	5,445	20,050
2013	30,052	2,477	1,971	5,797	19,807
2014	29,980	2,440	2,045	5,580	19,915
2015	29,727	2,651	1,893	5,421	19,762
2016	29,710	2,775	2,048	5,451	19,436
2017	29,819	2,785	2,316	5,405	19,313

GREENWOOD NEEDS MONEY

The Greenwood City Council is considering a new food and beverage tax to bolster staffing levels at city departments, specifically the police and fire departments.

The plan for a 1% food and beverage tax was made possible earlier this year when state lawmakers passed a bill that authorizes Greenwood and several other communities to impose such a tax. Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers and other city leaders hope the money raised by the tax will ultimately help increase the number of police officers and firefighters working throughout the city.

“The revenue generated – much of it from our city’s growing number of visitors will provide critical funding for quality of life, economic development and public safety initiatives,” Myers said in a statement. “We’ve worked hard to maximize current revenue streams and create capital for essential public services, all while maintaining the state’s fourth lowest tax rate. We have been successful, but the additional funding will provide a much-needed boost on all fronts.”

According to guidelines from the Department of Justice and National Fire Protection Association, Greenwood has just over half the number of police officers and firefighters recommended for a city of its size. City council member and former Greenwood Police Chief Bob Dine says growth and development around the city have outpaced the hiring of new officers and firefighters.

“Usually, the police and fire departments are the last ones to get funding,” Dine said. “So it’s not a Greenwood thing, it’s just a trend.”

“We’re not growing taller with apartment buildings, we’re spreading out with housing developments,” Dine said. “And we need a fire station further on the east side of Greenwood, that is in need now.”

At 1%, the new tax would add \$0.50 on a \$50 dinner bill. Several Greenwood residents and visitors said Monday that’s a tax they could live with if it meant boosting public safety throughout the city.

“I’m never for a tax increase of any kind,” said Rosie Van Deventer. “But in this situation, I would have an opinion that, yeah, I think it’s a good idea.”

“The crime rate isn’t going down, unfortunately,” said Barbara White. “So I think we need to hire more police officers.”

The proposal comes just a few weeks after voters in the Center Grove school district rejected a property tax increase to improve school safety and mental health services.

Greenwood resident Lori Hillstrom says the food and beverage tax seems to be more palatable because it is relatively small and optional.

“Property taxes always make people a little bit nervous when you talk about adding that,” Hillstrom said. “Food and beverage, it’s a choice to eat out.”

The plan would require some creative budgeting because the bill legalizing the tax requires that the revenue be used for parks, capital projects and economic development. Dine said the council should be able to redirect money from the parks budget to the police and fire departments, then replace the funding with money raised by the tax.

“This administration is trying to get public safety built back up, and we have quality police and fire, and we’ll be able to add to that,” Dine said.

A 1% city food and beverage tax would add to an existing 1% Johnson County food and beverage tax for Greenwood diners. That would equal the 2% food and beverage tax already in place in Indianapolis.

The proposal is scheduled for an initial vote before the council on December 2. If it passes, a second vote would take place December 9. If the measure is adopted by the council, the new tax could take effect 60 days later.



How About Some Good News For A Change

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1059 – survivor benefits for PERF members

In previous laws, qualifying survivors of PERF and TRF members received benefits if:

- The member had over 15 years of service,
- The PERF or TRF member had over 10 years of service and was age 65,
- Or if the legislator had 10 years of service.

• However, under the new law, PERF and TRF members only need 10 years of service in order for their qualifying survivor to receive benefits. The change applies to active and inactive PERF/TRF members who dies after June 30, 2018.

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 85 – 1977 Fund retirement and surviving spouse benefits

If a 1977 Fund member retires after June 30, 2019, and has 20 years of service, he/she will receive an increase of 52% (from 50%) to their basic monthly pension benefit.

If a 1977 Fund member dies other than in the line of duty after June 30, 2019, the member's surviving spouse will receive an increase of 70% (from 60%) to their monthly benefit.

COLAs and 13th Checks

Effective July 1, 2019

PERF, TRF, and EG&C members will receive 13th checks no later than October 1, 2019, and October 1, 2020.

If a member's creditable service is:	The Amount is::
At least 5 years, but less than 10 years*	\$150
At least 10 years, but less than 20 years	\$275
At least 20 years, but less than 30 years	\$375
At least 30 years	\$450

**only the case if a member is receiving disability retirement benefits*

LAST ALARM

Marc Alan Gehlbach, 48, of Zionsville, passed away November 22, 2019 surrounded by family and friends. He was born December 24, 1970 to Richard and Carolyn Gehlbach of Carmel, IN.

Marc was a graduate of Carmel High School and Ivy Tech Community College. He joined the Carmel Fire Department family in 2006, where he dedicated his life's work to the CFD Family that never left his side throughout his 13 years of service and during his last few days of life. Marc lived every day a hero. He was the first to help others by not only giving them his time but his talent. Those who knew him best would describe him as confident, funny, and selfless. He was a man of few words and never wasted them complaining.

Survivors include his son, Wyatt Levi; girlfriend, Jacquelyn Fuller; parents, Richard and Carolyn Gehlbach; siblings, Eric, David, Teresa (Adam Baxmeyer), Amy (Joey O'Neill); nieces and nephews, Amelia, Alan, Elsie, Jack, and Quinn.

Marc gave his last gifts to the world as an organ donor, carrying on his legacy as a hero even after he is gone. His family and friends will forever be proud of him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hoosier Burn Camp in his memory at <http://hoosierburncamp.org/>



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There is always hope