

From the Chief's Desk

By Fire Chief Don Shoevlin



As we say goodbye to another year, we accept the upcoming year with open arms and will be prepared to face the challenges it may present.

I want to thank everyone in our community for a very successful "Keep the Wreath Red Campaign" and hope everyone had a joyous holiday season with family and friends. We had zero fires over the past month that related to Christmas decorations.

We had another great Christmas Drive, where we delivered to 19 families this year. Thank you to everyone that helped either by shopping, wrapping, delivering, or donating. It is a treat to see the faces on the individuals and gratifying to help them enjoy the holiday.

We continue to build and improve upon the excellent foundation of the district. This continues to be possible because of the dedication and commitment of all of our officers, firefighters and support staff.

We finished the calendar year of 2011 with 2429 calls. That is an increase of 160 calls over last year. The firefighters continue to amaze me with their commitment and dedication to the citizens and the community we protect.

Last year we accomplished a feat of 99% of our personnel completing state certification at the Firefighter II level, and have 50% who have continued and obtained their Firefighter III state certification. When I began here 10 years ago the number of certified Firefighter II's was under 20% and certified Firefighter III's was 1 individual. This is a fantastic accomplishment for our department and everyone is to be commended for it.

As the community continues to grow so will the needs for our services. As the needs grow, I can assure everyone we will remain proactive to our commitment to provide excellence, integrity and caring in our performance of our emergency fire, medical and rescue services.

A project we will be working on this year is building use to assure we get the most out of our buildings for personnel and response and utilize energy effectiveness. We will be taking delivery of a new engine sometime in late spring that was ordered last year. We will be ordering a new ambulance this year as well. Our commitment to training continues to allow us to better serve the community and protect your property.

We are fully entrenched in the winter season now (been mild so far) so stay warm and be safe but remember each day that passes we are that much closer to spring.

Remember to check out our website www.harlemroscoefire.com to keep up with the progress of the department, individuals and call we have had. As always don't hesitate to contact me or stop by if I can be of any assistance.

Family Christmas Drive

Photos by Sheryl Drost



Firefighters delivered food baskets and presents to 19 local families with 47 children Dec. 17, completing another successful Family Christmas Food Drive. Each family received a food basket complete with a full turkey meal, milk, butter and bread and then enough presents for each child.



Harlem-Roscoe Fire Chief Don Shoevlin accepts a check from Roscoe Chamber President Jason Naill and Village of Roscoe President David Krienke from proceeds from their Christmas Tree Decorating Event where local businesses and groups donated \$50 to decorate one of the Christmas trees located at Main St. and Bridge St. in Roscoe. The check for \$900 was generously donated to the department's Christmas Family Drive.



Firefighters sort through mounds of donated food.



Firefighter Santos delivered the food and presents on Dec. 17