

Fall 2018 ISSUE September | Volume 2 Issue 3

# The

# Fire Bell!

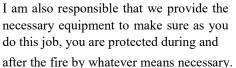
\* March • June • September • December \*

# A Quarterly Publication of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

# A Message from

GREENSBURG FIRE CHIEF

My Job as Chief has been to make sure that we not only have the best trained Firefighters to fight fires when called upon, but to make sure we do it in the safest way possible.





Today, we now have to battle another animal. That animal is Cancer. Cancer is now becoming a risk to Firefighters. The materials that are burning in fires today that we as Firefighters come into contact with, are what is absorbed into our equipment that has been linked as contributors to Cancer.

With the help of our Command Staff, the Board of Control, and the Relief Association members, we have now developed a way to make sure we do our part in making sure we get your gear cleaned after every fire to help in the prevention of this disease. Decon on the fire ground is our first step with all interior Fire-fighters where they MUST go through the designated DECON Station that is set up on scene.

Next, we have purchased a commercial extractor and drying cabinet and entered into an agreement with the Nu-Way Laundry on Highland Ave. Our procedures are not set up as of yet, but they are not very far away. When we are up and running, you will be able to, after a fire, bag your suit, drop it off and have it laundered. Nu-Way will have it ready for pickup in 24 to 48 hours from drop off. Gloves, Turn-Out Gear, Clothes you may have had on can go. All you have to do is get it there. You will be required to have your gear laundered at the facility once a year even if you don't use it in a fire.

Within the next few weeks, we hope to have the system up and running.

This is just another way that I am trying to make sure that safety is and will be the most important commitment I made to all of you......EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFE! PLEASE BE SAFE!

#### SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY

# Reminder, If Working in Traffic - Wear A Vest

If you are Running A Chain Saw - Wear Chaps

Please keep in mind the materials used in a building. The Sidewalk that surrounds a burning structure is considered a "HOT ZONE". Cyanide is used in Building Materials. You may not see smoke, but studies have determined that high level of toxins are five to twenty feet from the front door of a burning structure. The sidewalk is no place for spectators or firefighters not wearing **SCBA**.

Please Use Common Sense.



Raising the Flag at Gander Outdoors

Over 25 GVFD members joined over 80 others in raising the 40 x 80 foot United States Flag that is now flying proudly along Route 30 at the newly established Gander Outdoors Store.

If you are serious about being involved in the Volunteer Fire Service - It takes a commitment .... What is Life without a commitment?

#### **GVFD EVOC Renewals**

Starting this year, any GVFD member that drives any City Owned Vehicle is required to re-take the driving part of the State EVOC Class. Annually.



#### **NEW BUNKER SUITS 2018**

Twenty-Six new bunker suits are being issued this year to those who are regularly part of interior firefighting operations giving them a second compliant bunker suit and still be in service during bunker suit cleaning operations. 2018 marks the first year each new suit will include a new helmet, new pair of gloves, and a new hood. Twenty of the twenty-six suit ensembles were purchased through a \$60,000.00 grant secured by the Board of Control. The remaining six were purchased through the Relief Association. The total cost of the new suits and accessories was \$81,600.00 which works out to \$3,100.00 per member.

REMEMBER....You cannot work together efficiently if you don't train together. This past year's effort in Department Training has been OUTSTANDING. The Citizens of our City should be proud of the dedication you have all exhibited!

All Training will begin at 18:30 Hrs. Unless noted otherwise Check Spotted Dog Calendar for Updates

## FIRE | POLICE | EMS DAY June 9, 2018



Rick Steele, Chairman of the Chief's Youth & Community Program Committee reported the First Annual FIRE | POLICE | EMS DAY CAMP hosted 17 area youth. The day long event at Lynch Field presented demonstrations with both Police K9 and the Fire Department's Bloodhound Team along with demonstrations involving vehicle rescue operations and a tour of the features of one of Mutual Aid's Ambulances. Rick said he has already started to plan for next year's program and he plans to switch out presenters to allow for a showcase that will feature other area Emergency Services/Public Safety Resources.

#### Chief's Staff & Appointments

<u>Name</u> <u>Area of Responsibility</u>

#### **Assistant Chiefs**

Rick Hoyle C-2 Training

Tony Manley C-3 Structures

Lou Battistella C-4 Administration/Teams

Chet Bell C-5 Driver Training/
Fire Investigation

Kim Houser C-6 Advanced Training|Legal

Bill Wright 52 Records

Les Harvey 58 Emergency Management

#### **Deputy Assistant Chiefs**

David Klingler 41 Truck Company Operations
Richard Johnson 42 Hazardous Materials
Bob Baker 43 Rescue Operations
Calvin Kier 45 Firefighter Health

#### **Command Staff Special Officers**

Ken Bacha 46 Dept. Safety Officer

Mark Seighman 748 Incident Safety Officer

Chris Tantlinger 240 Public Information Officer

George McFarland 824 Captain—Dive\Swift Water

#### Committee Chairmen

Rob Giles Recruitment & Jr. Program
Rick Steele Youth & Community Prgm
Justin Calisti Notification Systems

#### **DECON**

In the local Fire Department Community it has been said the Greensburg Fire Department has not lost its ability through leadership in maintaining its status in holding onto being first in many areas. Just this past week, the GVFD was complimented in being the "poster child" in the area of Decontamination of PPE. Through a partnership arrangement with Nu-Way Cleaners, The GVFD Relief Association has purchased a commercial washer and drying cabinet. This equipment will be housed at Nu-Way Cleaners on Highland Avenue and will be operated by Nu-Way. The procedure is efficient and easy to use. The user simply "Bags and Tags" their suit, drops it off and picks it back up in 24 to 48 hours. Nu-Way will disassemble, inspect, process, re-assemble and wrap it. The GVFD will have record of the cleaning of all suits processed. The GVFD requires the cleaning of all suits that are worn in a fire. The suits that don't see interior operations will be required to be processed at a minimum of once each year.





#### Why.....The Fire Bell?

Communication is paramount for any Organization that wants to be successful. Minutes are provided after all department meetings, and *The Fire Bell* simply recaps three months as a reminder and serves as a Department Record of Accomplishment

Editor For "The Fire Bell" | Lou Battistella

#### **Parade Consideration**

The Commander is considering a bus trip to Oakland in Garrett County Maryland near Deep Creek Lake for the Fireman's Parade that kicks off the Weekend Event—Autumn Glory Celebration. The Parade will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018, starts at 7PM in downtown Oakland which features units from over 200 miles from throughout the Tri-State Area. Plan is to jump on the bus, parade, and then return. It is one of the biggest Fireman's Parade in the region.

2018 PARADE SCHEDULE							
Sept 29 - Sat 2 PM Mt. Pleasant							
Oct 11 - Thur	7 PM	Oakland MD - Tentative					
Oct 13 - Sat	11 AM	Fort Ligonier					

#### STANDPIPE BAGS

STANDPIPE BAGS have been assembled and passed out to all Greensburg Companies. These bags are to be kept in the compartment with high-rise packs. It is important that all members are made aware of the bags, their placement on the apparatus and the purpose of each item stored in the bags.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING							
August 27	RIT Training - Sta 7/Houser						
September 24	Salvage Ops - Drill Tower/Co. 8						
October 29	Gas Meter Review / Krulac						
November 26	Fire Scene Preservation / C. Bell						

#### IN THE PIPELINE

CPR Certification • Reading Smoke • SCBA Review

#### **Situational Awareness**

The Ability to perceive what is happening around you & the understanding of what is happening Around you

"Strive to Be the Best - by Being Informed"

# BLOODHOUND TEAM RECEIVES E.R.A.S.E. TRAINING



The Bloodhound Team was presented with an opportunity to participate in an ERASE (Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events) consisting of 10 hours of instruction hosted no charge by the South Fayette Township (Allegheny County) Police Department's CIRT (Critical Incident Response Team). This program was attended by 14 members of the Bloodhound Team who were taught important skills to help lessen the risk of being injured when confronted with situations involving an active shooting event. The course addressed a wide range of tactics and techniques when confronted with an armed aggressor. It covered equipment selections, reviewed the use of tourniquets and medical emergencies, and individual and team movement techniques. The course was physically challenging. SFTPD CIRT provided the abbreviated one-day course which was designed to prepare first responders for an open-air active shooter event. The CIRT previously unfamiliar with the use of Bloodhounds in tactical scenarios, utilized the dogs coupled with the use of simunition (AR-15's and hand pistols) to help familiarize all the attendees with high stress encounters and tactics to give the Bloodhound Team an edge in retreating safely out of a hot zone, with exercises to practice extracting injured teammates and/or tactical support personnel from an area if the team becomes a target of an armed suspect. The class ran for 10 hours in 90° heat and high humid conditions. The Bloodhound Team learned a lot and walked away with heightened awareness.

Remember to be Professional on the Radio
IT Speaks Volumes for
OUR Department's INTEGRITY
OUR RADIO IS NOT A CB
MAKE ONLY NECESSARY TRANSMISSIONS
AND DON'T PLUG UP THE AIRWAVES



# DRIVERS - PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE!

Take Care and Drive Always with Caution PLEASE USE <u>COMMON SENSE</u>

IF 9-1-1 ANNOUNCES an AFA as Burned Food <u>Turn Your Lights off and PROCEED</u>

The Call is <u>NEVER OVER</u> until someone from the Greensburg Fire Department physically checks out the Alarm

NEVER TAKE THE WORD OF THE RESIDENT OR OCCUPANT
!!! •INVESTIGATE• !!!

#### **Alarm Investigation**

On all alarms...our protocol is simply - "GO"
Especially at night, do not wait for the O.I.C., we need to find out for ourselves as nobody else is going to do it for us

## RUN THE TRUCKS LET'S FIND OUT

#### STAY CONNECTED TO THE GVFD

All events that occur with the Department can be found on our **TEAM-UP Calendar** 

This Calendar can be found directly at

#### https://teamup.com/ksm8v5frr4hvnp19ek

On the Department Website | www.gbgfire.org or by downloading the app and entering the participation code. The app can be downloaded onto any smart device. After launching the app you will be asked to enter an email address or participation code. In either case you will enter: ksm8v5frr4hvnp19ek. If you have any questions contact Rick Steele (724) 454-9519.

The **GVFD Website**: **www.gbgfire.com** has taken on an all new look and now features a **GVFD STORE** where you will find many new items offered by the Department. The Event Calendars are featured as well. Connect and <u>Check it OUT!</u>



THE COLLAPSE ZONE

IS <u>1.5 times</u> the Height of the Structure

2018 DEPARTMENT TRAINING TURN-OUT STATISTICS											
COMPANIES											
Date	Topic	1	2	3	6	7	8	R	Total		
1/19	Bleeding	4	12	7	4	11	13		52		
1/15	G1 Mask	7	14	4	8	12	13		58		
1/27	Veh Ext	0	1	1	1	4	5		12		
2/5	Palace	8	15	3	4	9	13		52		
2/17	Table Top	4	9	1	4	9	12		35		
2/19	Hampton	2	13	2	3	8	13		41		
2/26	Acc Scene	1	10	2	7	10	15		51		
3/19	Bair Bldg	4	10	1	1	3	11		30		
3/26	EMS Assts	8	12	4	3	9	14		50		
4/16	Cmwth Bk	8	16	4	4	10	15		57		
5/19	Sit. Awrns	1	7	0	1	6	10		25		
5/21	Veh. Resc	6	7	3	6	7	13	1	43		
6/18	Verizon	3	10	0	0	9	5		27		
6/22	Hi Rise FF	10	10	0	9	11	22		62		
6/25	Water Sp	4	11	1	4	4	13	1	38		
7/29	EVOC	3	3	3	5	8	4	0	26		
7/30	Ladders	4	14	1	1	6	13	1	40		
8/2	EVOC	4	3	2	7	10	10	1	36		
8/27	RIT	3	12	5	4	9	11	1	45		
Averages		4	10	2	4	8	12	.3	41		

#### GVFD CHALLENGE COINS AVAILABLE





\$10.00 See Website for Details





#### DEPARTMENT DRILLS

#### **GREAT JOB GUYS!**

To not only those that are taking the time plan, but to the Companies that are motivating their members to participate, and to the Members that take time out of their busy schedules to participate.

•

Fortunately we don't have that many incidents involving fires, but it is important that we remain proficient with the basic skills necessary to quickly and safely respond, primarily to save lives and secondly, to save property.

•

Take, for example ,our Ground Ladder drill just recently conducted. The drill was well-attended, well-received, and everyone learned something. Our Drills are HANDS ON and we need everyone that can to participate and contribute for good of the Department.

#### KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT WORK

# Our Next Building Tour.....will be September 17 - THE COURTHOUSE

#### Some Dates to Remember

Saturday, October 6

Station 8 Burger Sale - 11:00AM 'til Sold Out Station 7 & FOP Gun Bash - 4 PM at Station 7

Tuesday, October 9 | Fire Prevention Night - Westmoreland Mall Monday, October 29 | Gas Meter Review - Drill Tower Tuesday, October 30 | Department Meeting Wednesday, November 7 | Board of Control

Saturday, September 15
GVFD Station 8 & Fort Allen Cash Bash
At Fort Allen - 4 PM

Monday, November 26 | Fire Scene Investigation Station 7

For a Complete Listing Check the WEBSITE - www.gbgfire.com

#### PARADE UNIFORMS • PARADE UNIFORMS

Commander Tony Manley is requesting, if you are not going to Parade any longer, to please turn in your uniform so others may use it. There are many that want to Parade, but do not have a Uniform.

According to the list, it is apparent there are many that have uniforms that have not paraded for a long time.

Your Cooperation would be Greatly Appreciated.

#### Salvation Army's Back to School Bash

On Saturday, August 18th from 10 AM to 1 PM various members of the Department participated in this event at St. Clair Park. The Back to School Bash provides children of the Greensburg Area with haircuts, dental exams, vision screening, school supplies, hygiene kits, and clothing. Over the past few years, we had just shown off the trucks and equipment. This year the GVFD teamed up with Southwest and South Greensburg, West Point, Hempfield #2, Bovard, Luxor, Hannastown, Forbes Road, North Hempfield, Carbon and Fort Allen Fire Departments to provide 150 hygiene kits for elementary aged children. The kits contained shampoo/conditioner, body wash, anti-bacterial soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, Chapstick, a loofa, and a brush all contained in a drawstring bag. The kits were a huge hit with children. Special Thanks to all the individuals who helped pack the bags and participated in the event.



# FOP LODGE #56 AND GFD #7 FALL GUN BASH Benefits: FOP LODGE #56 and GFD #7 Saturday, October 6, 2018 - Doors Open at 4 pm Held at: GFD #7 - 625 East Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601 EARLY BONUS GUN (Must Be Present Belare the 4-45 Drawing to Win) SiG SAUER P369 9MM OR CARBON EXPRESS CROSSBOW WIT SIG SAUER P369 9MM OR CARBON EXPRESS CROSSBOW WIT OR RUGER 10/22 21, 11 S19 SSJ00 CASH (+\$50.00 BONUS CASH IF PRESENT) S10 MACRIUMS S10 CASH (+\$50.00 BONUS CASH IF PRESENT) S10 MACRIUMS S10 CASH (+\$50.00 BONUS CASH IF PRESENT) S10 CASH (+\$50.00 BONUS CASH IF PRES

Contact Jimmy Fontana For Tickets (724) 640-2690





Greensburg Fire Chief Tom Bell, Greensburg Asst. Chief Chet Bell and Youngwood Deputy Chief Seth Helman were recipients of this year's NOVA Insurance Valor Award at the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association 125th Annual Convention. These three men saved the life of a man that was critically injured. Congratulations to them All!



# **Bloodhound Team Activity**

The Greensburg Bloodhound Team has been busy this year making appearances and doing demonstrations across our region. So far this year the team has done 17 different events. Included, New Kensington Bureau of Fire; PSP Butler—Troop D Command; Allegheny Twp Police; Gbg. Rotary; Garrett County High Schools; Camp Soles - Gbg Salem Middle School; Murrysville Vet Associates; Norwin Elks Scouts; West Leechburg VFC; Camp Cadet - Westmoreland; Twin Lakes - CSI Camp; West Deer Twp. Community Days; C-Say Day - Allegheny Township PD; Salvation Army - Back to School; Westmoreland County Juvenile Family Fest; and so far this year the Team has been out on 16 use deployments. Just recently the team was asked to consider doing a part at Indiana University's Police Academy.

#### UNDERSTANDING & FIGHTING BASEMENT FIRES

The Monroeville Fire & Police Training Academy is offering the ISFSI program which is one of the most talked-about educational experiences in the fire service today. Basement fires present a significant hazard and makes tactical choices a challenge for even the most seasoned firefighter. The Class is a 9 hour class, which will be held September 21, 2018 at the Academy. The Class is free and Lunch will be provided . You must pre-register at:

www.isfsi.org/e/in/eid=95









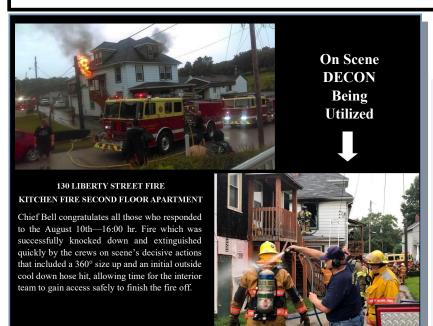
#### GVFD HIGH RISE DRILL

On June 22, 23, & 24 GVFD conducted a HIGH RISE drill which is defined by the NFPA as any building having 7 stories above grade. The City of Greensburg within its jurisdiction has 9 buildings that fall into that category and the life safety code requires apparatus that must reach the highest occupied story. The drill was planned by the Chief's Training Committee, chaired by Assistant Chief/Training Officer Rick Hoyle to better prepare the GVFD to be able to combat fire in the High Rise Buildings in the City and the Greater Community. The firm Safety & Survival Training LLC was engaged to conduct the High Rise Training Module of a course which consisted of three - 8 hour days of training. The drill was conducted at the Westmoreland Hospital. Friday's Classroom segment was attended by 28 members GVFD; 4 members from Station 24 Southwest Greensburg FD; and 4 members from Station 56 New Kensington FD. Saturday's attendance: 18 members GVFD; and Sunday's Attendance: 13 members GVFD; 4 members from Station 24 Southwest Greensburg FD; and 4 members from Station 56 New Kensington. The classes were limited by Safety & Survival Training LLC based in Barrington, NJ to a maximum of 30 Students per 8 hour day.

#### REMINDERS FROM THE CHIEF...

- Any accident or injury involving City Equipment and/or general public property, no matter how minor, must have a City PD Incident & Accident Report filed.
- Keep the Jabber on the radio off the airwaves, only transmit what absolutely needs to be communicated especially during an incident.
- Please email Lou any Company Event information so it may be included in the Fire Bell.

- The GVFD does not fill swimming pools
- Please request an incident number each and every time you are out of station for fire department activities. This includes Company Drills. This is for insurance purposes.
- Please remember the Provident Insurance Policy
- Social Media/Press Releases Do not answer questions pertaining to GVFD Codes/Laws or Programs. Refer to the Chief
- Be Aware of all hazards. Never do "blind-barehanded" searches for keys and the like.



# **IF YOU ARE NOT PARADING ....**.....You don't know what you are missing!





# The Red X Program | City of Greensburg PA

The following is a narrative of the City of Greensburg's Red "X" Program. This program has been explained many times, however it appears that even within the ranks of the Greensburg Fire Department, confusion for some still exists. I recommend that every Greensburg Fire Department Member read this. As a member of the Fire Department, if you find you need to explain the program to a member of the community, you need to know and understand the facts. This is the only explanation of this program and nothing else.

The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department is the Administrator of the City of Greensburg's Red "X" Program.

The Red "X" is a warning placard affixed to a vacant building structure which alerts first responders to the existence of structural or interior hazards in the building that warrant extreme caution when conducting interior firefighting or rescue operations with entry occurring only for known life hazards.

Vacant buildings can and do pose numerous hazards to first responder's health and safety. These hazards can include, but are not limited to, building deterioration or damage from previous fires, structural hazards when components of the building have been removed, and collapse hazards due to the integrity of the chimney tops, parapet walls, roof systems, and stair systems being compromised.

It shall be unlawful for any person including, but not limited to, any owners, government inspector, or repair person, to enter any building marked by a first responder Red "X" warning placard unless such person notifies the Fire Chief in advance of his or her intent to enter the building.

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than Authorized City Officials or their respective designees, to cover, obliterate, deface, damage or remove any first responder Red "X" warning placard unless written permission to engage in such activity has first been obtained from the Fire Chief.

Please note, the Red "X" is NOT an indicator of demolition and/or the property is for sale.

Thomas M. Bell Chief

#### **Share Your Training Experiences**

Members • Teams • Companies • Event Email Your Story to Lou For the Next Issue of THE FIRE BELL loub@eidemiller.com

#### Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

#### **Short Sleeve Shirts**

#### **Long Sleeve Shirts**

Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large - \$17.00 XX- Large - \$19.00 XXX - Large - \$20.00 XXXX - Large - \$20.00

#### **Hooded Sweatshirts**

Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large - \$22.00 XX- Large - \$25.00 XXX - Large - \$28.00 XXXX - Large - \$28.00

Baseball Hat - \$15.00

**Tossle Hat - \$15.00** 

GVFD/Greensburg Police Sticker - \$7.00

**GVFD** Coins - \$10.00



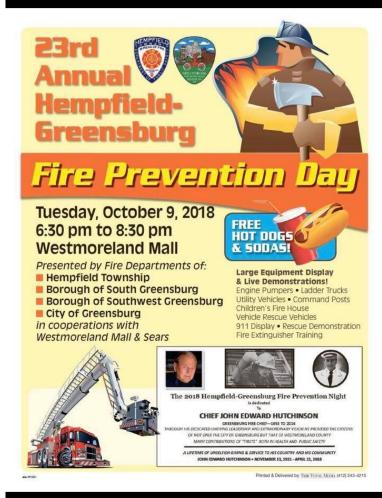
Station 8 Sgt. Mike Hartung
At the Community Living Care Center



## A History Lesson...

In October 1994, Station 8 participated in Ligonier Fire Department's Fire Prevention Night. Station 8 took their brand new state-of-the-art Salvage Truck. I was one of the Crew on board that night. Everyone that made the trip was impressed at the outpour of attendance by the townsfolk. At that time, the only event GVFD did was to stand-by in Station after a good cleaning and wait on the neighborhood to walk in so we could give them a tour. The trouble was, nobody ever came. Being pumped up over Ligonier's success, a proposal was made to Chief Hutchinson to allow us to do what Ligonier did. Discussions ensued and Westmoreland Mall came to mind. But the Mall was in the Township; therefore we would have to get Hempfield involved as well. After more discussions and secured permissions obtained from the mall ownership, a committee was formed and what started out in 1995 with less than 50 units and free hot dogs, ended up to become known as the Hempfield-Greensburg Fire Prevention Night featuring over 100 pieces of fire apparatus. This year the Hempfield -Greensburg Fire Prevention Night will honor the memory of Chief J. Edward Hutchinson.

~ Lou Battistella, Ass't Chief

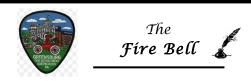








Purchased by the GVFD Relief Association



The Greensburg Fire Department Has a Zero-Tolerance Policy

# When It Comes To

# **Human Relations**

# Saying A Final Good-Bye

To Our Departed Brother Who Went In Peace

THIS LAST QUARTER

Raymond "Smokey" Shafer - Station 8 1928-2018 | 66 Years of Service GVFD

# **Station Updates**

Ladder and Pump Testing will be completed in September. Make sure all pumpers get monthly floor tests and that water is run through the pumps monthly

Station with Generators now are Stations 7 & 8. These Stations have now become cooling and warming areas that can be used in time of need during incidents of power loss or other utility losses in a neighborhood during the winter months or in an extreme hot spell

GVFD Health Fair OCTOBER 6, 2018 STATION 2

Contact Doc Kier for Questions

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPART-MENT, shall lead by example for all. Each member shall demonstrate self-restraint and be constantly mindful of their demeanor when speaking. When representing the GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, members shall avoid bringing discredit to the department by speaking poorly about one another or the department. All members are expected to be professional, courteous, and respectful at all times including conversations in a public setting and/or social media.





Chief J. Edward Hutchinson
DVD's for Sale
Photos & Memorial Program
Only \$ 5.00
All Proceeds Go to the Museum Fund

Contact Dave Klingler for more information

