

# **Shrewsbury Hose Company #1**

## **Department History**

The Shrewsbury hose company #1 was incorporated November 10<sup>th</sup> 1908 with the first chief of the department being Benjamin Lane. The first president of the department was Michael McGarity who was elected December 17<sup>th</sup> 1908. There were 21 charter members of the department.

The department's first vehicle was a hose cart pulled by hand which was purchased from White Plains New York, for \$75.00. In April of 1915 the Shrewsbury fireman purchased a "pope Hartford" automobile and mounted ladders and extinguishers. Around 1918 an American LaFrance Pumper was purchased. This vehicle had hard rubber tires and was right hand driven. This truck served the borough through November 1930 at which time another hose truck was purchased from the Neptune fire department. The department purchased another American lafrance 500 gallon Pumper in September 1938 to replace the older one. October 1947 saw the purchase of a seagrave quint 600 gallon Pumper, this truck served as a Pumper and ladder truck and was the first piece of modern apparatus purchased. In 1956 a ward lafrance 750gpm Pumper was purchased and was in service until approximately 1990. In 1962 a new gmc quint ladder truck was purchased with a 65 foot aerial ladder and a 750 gpm pump a Chevrolet step van was also purchased to carry additional equipment. A ford rescue vehicle was purchased in October 1973 to replace the old Chevrolet step van. In 1977 the department took delivery of a Hahn 1500gpm Pumper, which was the first of many diesel-powered pieces of equipment to come. In 1987 another Hahn was purchased this one was a 1500 gpm but held 1000 gallons of water on board, this piece of equipment is still in use today. Also being used is a 1992 Grumman aerial cat 92foot tower ladder with a 1500 gpm pump and a 2001 s&s 2000 gpm rescue/Pumper.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> 1909 a lot was purchased, just south of the current firehouse, and the first firehouse was built. The Fair Haven Fire Company donated a "gong" to alert firefighters to a call. A bell was also donated and a wooded tower assembled to install the alerting bell on the firehouse property. The first meeting was held in the new firehouse on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1909. August 8<sup>th</sup> 1915 an addition was put on the firehouse to house the expanding equipment. The current firehouse was completed on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1961 with the first meeting being held in the new firehouse on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1961.

Over the years the department has provided many activities for the community. Included in these are the Christmas party, which was held at the firehouse for many years with Santa arriving on a fire engine. Also bingo and dinners along with the present day Santa run which the fire company and recreation committee sponsors. The department also participates in soccer Sunday and opening day parade for baseball and softball.

**Throughout its existence over 500 men have served the community voluntarily and unselfishly. During these years a deeply rooted tradition and heritage has been established. This has been noticeable by the number of father and son combinations seen during the fighting of fires. Some of the father and son teams of the past and present include the Marx, Reynolds, Yorg, Sagurton, Lane, Bly, Forrar, Dancey, Clark, Longo, Borden, Lang, Parker, Scott, Riordan, Sange, Wentway, Dennis, and Gibson families.**