

Westchester Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT



Daniel Manning
Fire Chief

2024



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DEAR VILLAGE BOARD & CITIZENS OF WESTCHESTER,

We are honored to present you with our annual report. The men and women of the Westchester Fire Department have worked hard for the people of Westchester all year by helping them in their times of need, consistently training to get better at our job, and being good citizens of our community. We are fortunate to serve in such a close village where everyone knows us and we can be a part of so many events with our neighbors. You will see our progress as an organization through the following charts and data as well as the growth in our community's request for assistance from the Fire Department.

A metric that is difficult to gauge is the spirit of an organization and village. We believe our department is getting better every day through the hard work of many individuals with a common vision of being the best fire department we can be. The WFD has brought on some great new firefighter/paramedics this year who have jumped right into mix and helped better the organization and village with their eagerness to serve people and learn the craft. Three members retired in 2024 which led to promotions for lieutenants, captains, and a new fire chief.

As we look forward to continued growth in 2025, the department can also look back proudly at the work accomplished last year. Our department will continue to advance in skills and development as leaders, technical experts, and firefighter/paramedics who are ready to help our community when the time arises. We appreciate our village's continued support of the fire department and the faith the administration and elected officials have in our common mission to serve Westchester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DManning', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Manning
Fire Chief

MISSION & VISION

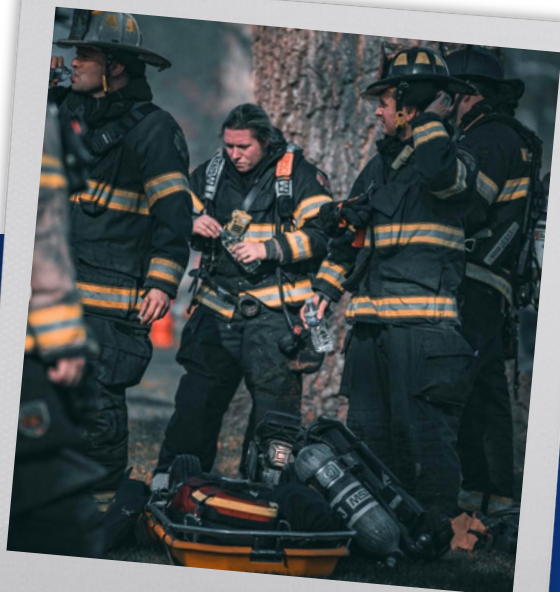


MISSION

The Westchester Fire Department is dedicated to protecting life and property, ensuring public safety, and strengthening our community through prevention, response, recovery, and emergency preparedness. As an all-hazards emergency provider, we put the needs of our residents first, delivering fire, rescue, and medical services with professionalism and care.

VISION

The Westchester Fire Department strives to be a leader in emergency services, providing exceptional fire, rescue, and medical response while fostering a safe, prepared, and resilient community. Through innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement, we are committed to delivering the highest level of service to those we protect.



CORE VALUES

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COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

We're more than just first responders—we're your neighbors, dedicated to keeping our community safe and strong. Every day, we strive to provide the best service possible through ongoing training, teamwork, and a deep commitment to those we serve.

INTEGRITY & TRUST

Earning and keeping your trust is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in honesty, accountability, and always doing the right thing—on and off duty.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

Good communication is key to a strong team and a safer community. Whether within our department or with the people we serve, we listen, learn, and work together to solve problems.

RESPECT FOR ALL

Our community is diverse, and we embrace that. We treat everyone with compassion, dignity, and fairness, ensuring every person we serve receives the respect, care, and services they deserve. Diversity and inclusion make our organization and our community better.

HEALTH & SAFETY FIRST

Keeping our community safe starts with keeping our team safe. We train hard, look out for one another, and stay prepared for whatever challenges come our way.

TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Everyone in our organization is a leader. We seek out and value the input and opinions of members at all levels of our organization. The department is only as strong as our teamwork and that drives our organization. We will work together locally and regionally to improve service to the public and to maintain a safe and effective work environment. We believe that all members have a duty to mentor others.

SERVING WITH HEART

We're here because we care. Beyond emergency response, we're committed to making a difference through community programs, education, and outreach that help build a stronger, safer Westchester.

INNOVATION & PROGRESS

The world is always changing, and we're changing with it. We embrace new ideas, technology, and methods to keep improving how we serve you.

**AT THE END OF THE DAY, OUR MISSION IS
SIMPLE: TO PROTECT, SERVE, AND BE THERE
WHEN YOU NEED US MOST.**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES

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The Westchester Fire Department continues to invest in high-quality emergency medical services to better serve our community. In 2024, we saw a **2% increase in overall call volume**, responding to a total of **3,508 calls**, with **2,531 of those being EMS-related**.

To keep up with the growing demand and ensure the best possible patient care, we have **ordered a new ambulance**, which is expected to be completed by **May 2025**. Additionally, we upgraded technology by **purchasing new computers** for both our **front-line and reserve ambulances**, improving efficiency and communication during emergency responses.

This year, we also acquired an additional **LUCAS device**, a mechanical CPR system that enhances life-saving efforts during cardiac emergencies. This device will be placed in our **backup ambulance** to further expand our capabilities.

Our paramedics are dedicated to continuous learning, attending **weekly continuing education classes** through the **Loyola EMS system**. These in-person training sessions, held every Thursday at **Station 25**, provide valuable hands-on education led by Loyola personnel, ensuring our team remains highly skilled and prepared for any emergency.

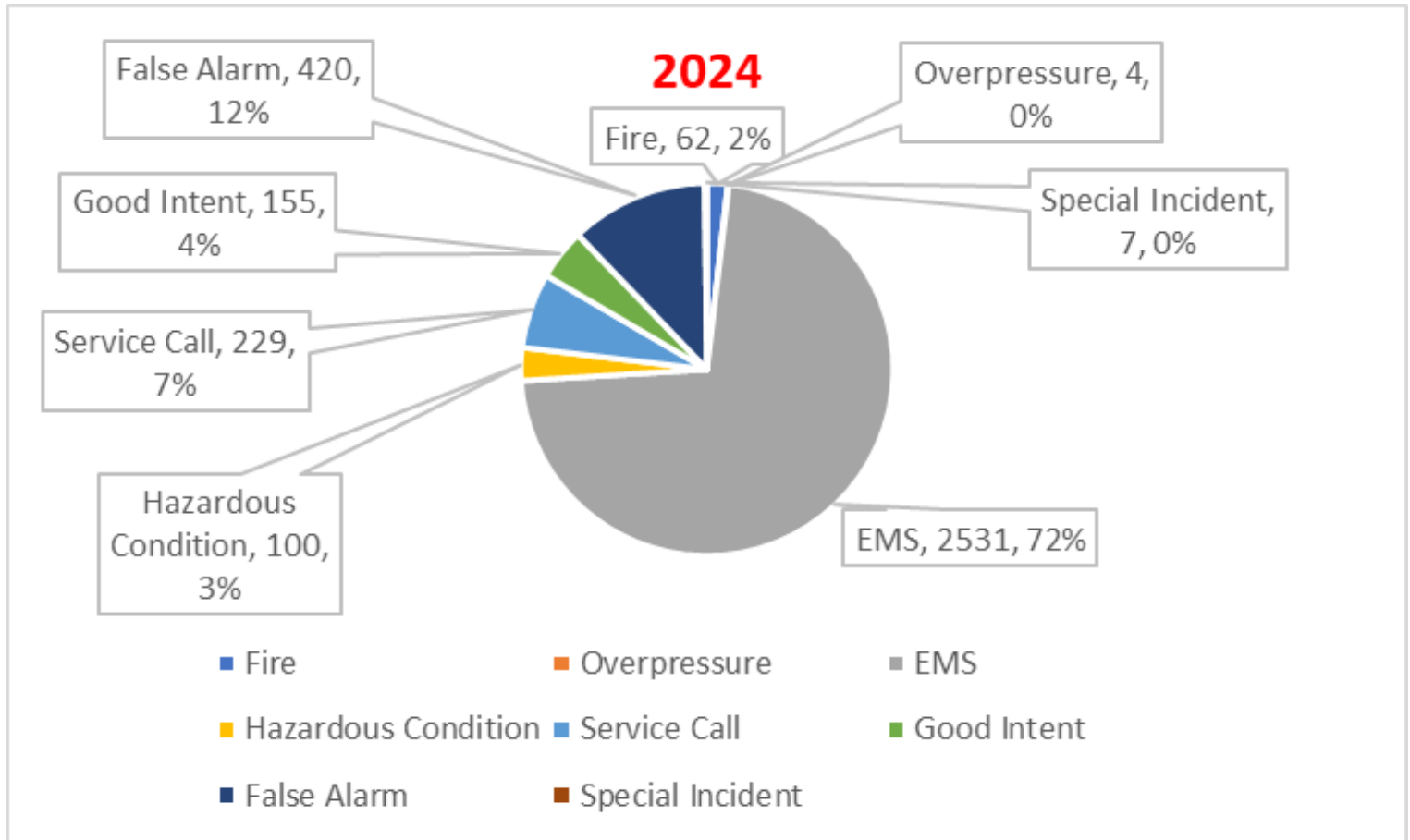
With ongoing investments in **training, equipment, and technology**, we remain committed to providing top-tier emergency medical care to the residents of Westchester.

72% (2,531) OF OUR RESPONSES IN 2024 WERE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE CALLS



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES

CONTINUED



Fire: 62 (34 Structure Fires, 16 Vehicle Fires, 5 Vegetation, 4 Outside Rubbish, 1 Special Outside Fire, 2 other)

Overpressure: 4

EMS: 2,531 (45 Medical Assist, 2,483 EMS, 2 Extrication, 1 Rescue Standby)

Hazardous Conditions: 100

Service Call: 229

Good Intent: 155

False Alarm: 420

Special Incident: 7

Total for year: 3,508 (Total for 2023: 3,482)

The call volume for 2024 is up 2% from the previous year.

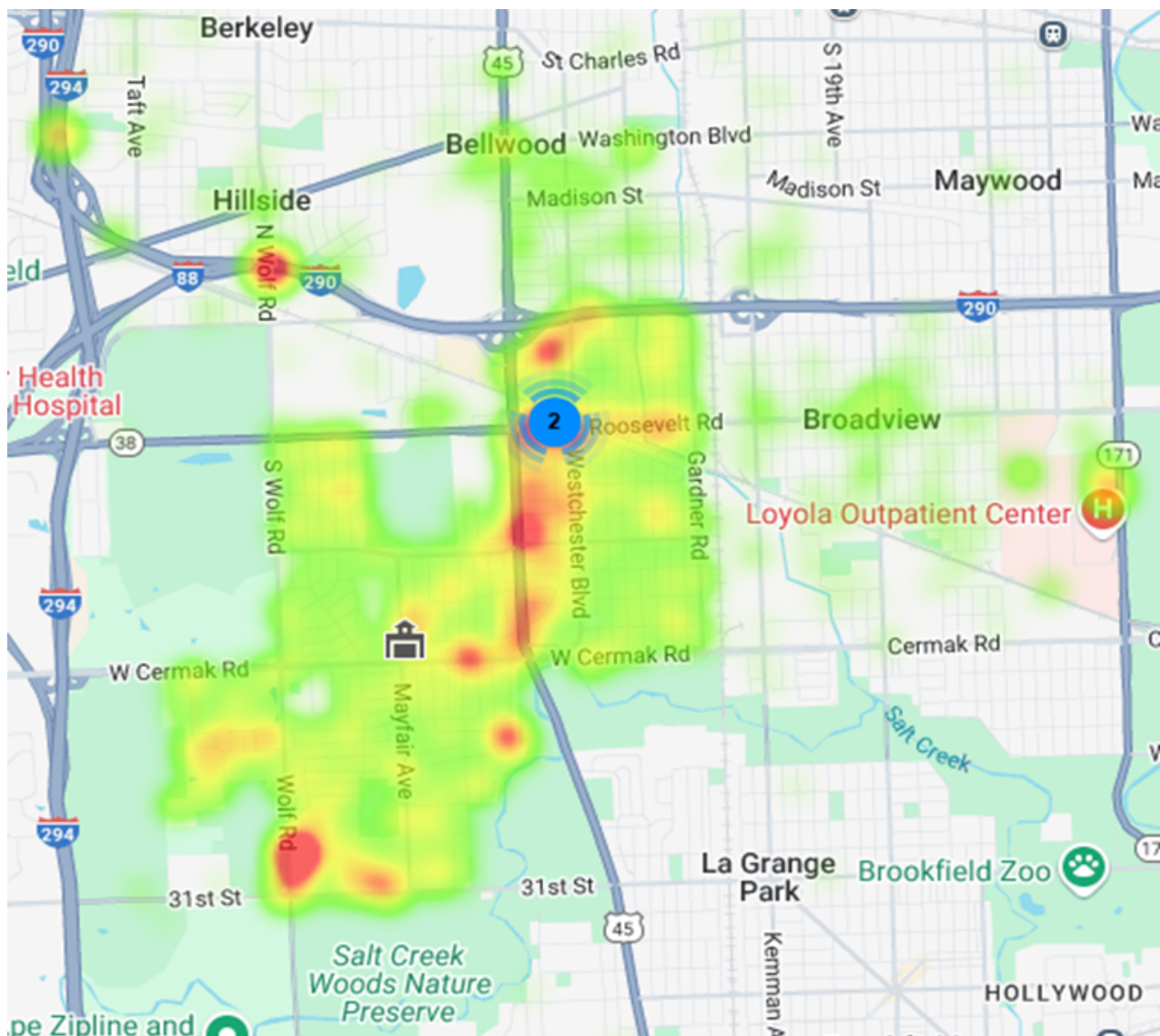
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES

CONTINUED

In 2024, **293 of our total calls** were **Mutual-Aid-Received calls**, where surrounding departments assisted us in emergency situations. Mutual aid plays a crucial role in ensuring that all residents receive prompt and effective emergency services, especially during high-demand periods.

To better illustrate our response patterns, we have included a **heat map** below. This visual representation highlights the areas in Westchester where our department responded most frequently—**with darker colors indicating higher call volumes**.

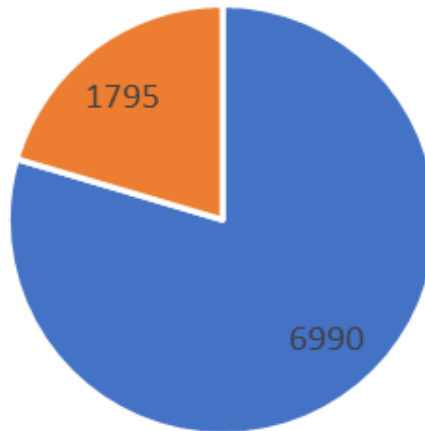
This data helps us analyze trends, improve response times, and ensure that our resources are strategically deployed to best serve the community.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES

CONTINUED

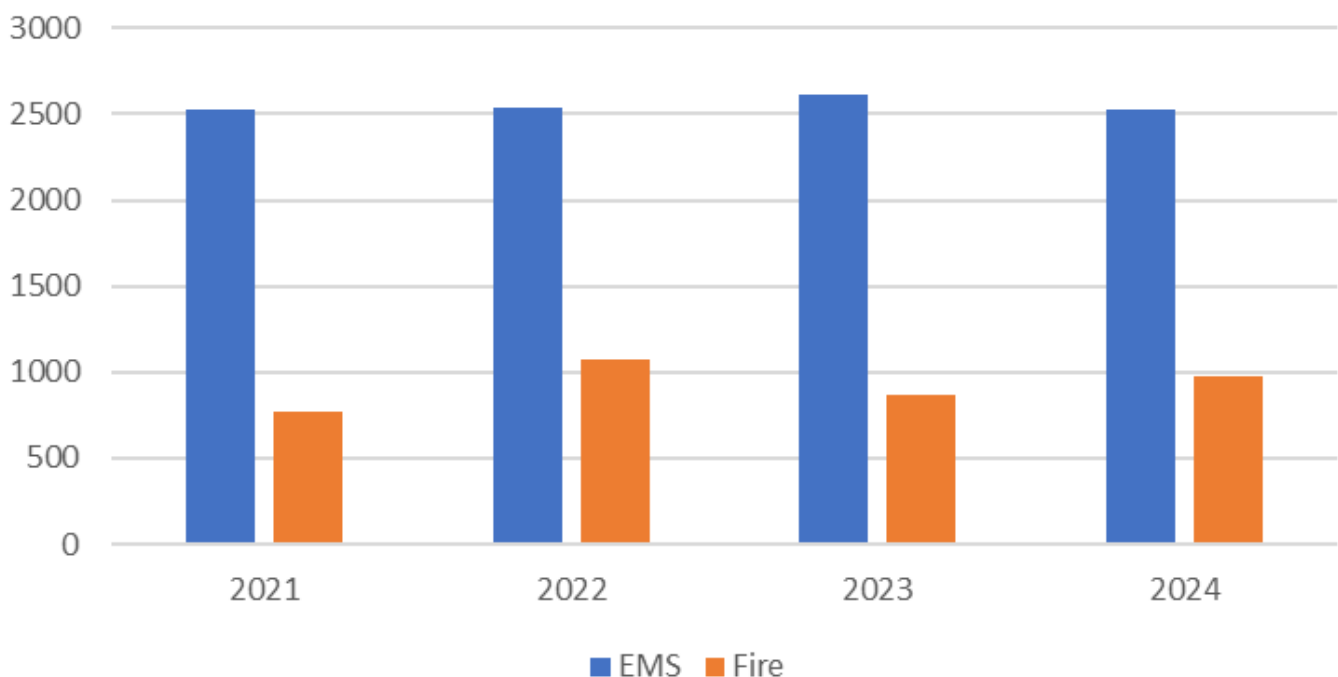
Consecutive Calls
Last 2 Years



26% of our calls are overlapping. We will need to staff a second ambulance in the near future.

■ Last 2 years' calls ■ Overlapping emergencies

Annual Responses



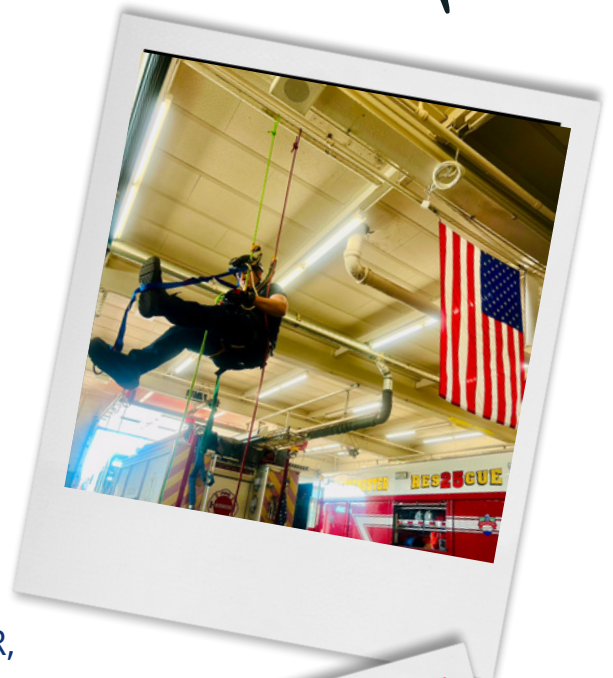
TRAINING

Part of the firefighter's creed is a dedication to training. At the Westchester Fire Department, we do not train to minimum performance standards, we train to be able to be at our best when our residents need us.

**WFD MEMBERS
COMPLETED A
TOTAL OF 4,353
HOURS OF
TRAINING IN 2024**

OSFM CERTIFICATIONS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- **ADVANCED FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER** – SNAVELY, WANDTKE
- **BASIC FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER** – SNAVELY
- **BASEK OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER** – CURRAN, KRUEGER, RODRIGUEZ
- **COMPANY FIRE OFFICER** – BASEK, HOMERDING, MIKA, PERZYNA, SNAVELY
- **CONFINED SPACE OPERATIONS** – JOHNSON
- **CONFINED SPACE TECHNICIAN** – BISKUP, JOHNSON, MIDDENDORF, SNAVELY, WANDTKE
- **DRONE OPERATIONS** – LEMAY
- **FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER** – CURRAN, KRUEGER, WARD
- **FIRE INSPECTOR I** – DOOCY
- **FIRE INVESTIGATOR** – HIDALGO, WANDTKE
- **FSVO** – WARD
- **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS** – CURRAN, KRUEGER, RODRIGUEZ
- **INSTRUCTOR I** – BASEK, JOHNSON, LEMAY, TIERNEY
- **PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR I** – SNAVELY
- **ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONS** – JOHNSON
- **ROPE RESCUE TECHNICIAN** – JOHNSON
- **STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE OPERATIONS** – JOHNSON



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2024, Lt. Mark Wandtke was officially named **Fire Marshal** for the Village of Westchester. After his promotion to Lieutenant, he took over the day-to-day operations of our Fire Prevention Bureau, ensuring that fire safety remains a top priority in our community.

Following the retirement of Firefighter Joseph Bejlovec, Lt. Wandtke has been conducting all **fire inspections** within the village. As we continue to strengthen our fire prevention efforts, we are actively working to certify more members as inspectors in the coming year. The village is home to **197** commercial buildings, and our department plays a **vital role** in assisting the Building Department with **fire code compliance and construction inspections**.



Village President Greg Hribal and Lieutenant Mark Wandtke

Last year, the Westchester Fire Department completed **97** inspections, covering new business licensing, fire alarms, and sprinkler systems. We also conducted fire drills in larger buildings, such as the Towers, ensuring preparedness for both residents and staff. Additionally, in-company inspections at local businesses provided our firefighters with hands-on opportunities to familiarize themselves with different building layouts, enhancing emergency response capabilities.

As part of our annual maintenance program, our team continued **hydrant flushing, testing, and repairs** throughout the village, ensuring that our water supply is reliable in case of an emergency.

In 2024, we also enhanced our firefighting capabilities by **purchasing a fire blanket**, a valuable tool for handling electric vehicle fires more effectively. This addition to our equipment allows us to stay ahead of evolving fire risks and better protect our community.

Westchester Fire Department remains committed to proactive fire safety measures, education, and preparedness—ensuring that Westchester stays safe for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

At the Westchester Fire Department, we believe that fire safety goes beyond emergency response—it starts with education and community engagement. Throughout 2023, we remained committed to providing valuable public education and safety programs to residents of all ages.

One of our key initiatives is **smoke alarm installation**, where we not only provide and install alarms but also educate residents on proper placement and functionality to ensure their homes are as safe as possible.



We were actively present at **senior events**, offering blood pressure checks, distributing first aid kits, hot/cold packs, and our **File of Life** packets, which provide critical medical information for first responders in an emergency.

Our department also has **three certified child car seat installers**, and we regularly assist families in ensuring their children's car seats are properly secured for maximum safety.

On **October 7th**, we hosted our **annual Open House**, an event designed to be both fun and educational. This year's event saw a fantastic turnout, allowing us to engage with the community while showcasing the importance of fire safety. A highlight of the event was our **live fire sprinkler demonstration**, which illustrated the life-saving benefits of fire sprinkler systems. In addition to demonstrations, we welcomed representatives from local hospitals and businesses who provided valuable safety information and resources.

During **Fire Prevention Week**, we visited all Westchester schools, conducted fire drills, and responded to special classroom requests to provide **fire safety education**.

Our department has **proudly participated in every village event in 2024**, using these opportunities to connect with the community and distribute educational materials, including fire safety pamphlets, smoke detector guides, fire extinguisher information, glow bracelets, fire hats, and even pencil cases for students.

Looking ahead, **CPR classes** for Westchester residents are expected to return in 2025, equipping more community members with life-saving skills.

Through these efforts, we continue to strengthen our relationship with the community while reinforcing the importance of fire prevention and safety.

FLEET, FACILITIES & OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

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COMMITMENT TO MAINTENANCE & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Westchester Fire Department takes great pride in maintaining its fleet responsibly to ensure safe, reliable service while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Through regular inspections, preventative maintenance, and strategic repairs, we maximize the lifespan of our vehicles, avoiding unnecessary replacements and keeping costs in check. By staying ahead of maintenance, we ensure that every emergency vehicle remains fully operational and ready to serve the community.

NEW AMBULANCE ON THE WAY

We are excited to announce that our new Ford F-550 chassis ambulance has completed the pre-build phase and is set for delivery in May 2025. Designed by Westchester personnel in collaboration with Wheeled Coach Inc., this state-of-the-art ambulance is equipped with cutting-edge emergency medical technology to provide the highest level of patient care. It features enhanced accessibility, advanced life support systems, and a custom interior layout to maximize efficiency for our paramedics in critical situations. This addition will be a huge asset to our department, reinforcing our commitment to delivering top-quality emergency medical services to Westchester residents.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AT STATION 25

A major safety improvement was completed this year with the successful asbestos abatement at Fire Station 25. Thanks to the expert work of Midwest Environmental Consulting and Kinsale Contracting, all hazardous materials were safely removed, creating a healthier environment for both firefighters and the public. The project included thorough inspections, strict containment procedures, and proper disposal in accordance with safety regulations. With this work completed, Station 25 is now safer and better equipped to serve the community for years to come.

NEW MECHANIC TO SUPPORT FLEET MAINTENANCE

The Public Works Department recently hired a new mechanic, a move that will greatly benefit the fire department by improving efficiency in vehicle maintenance and reducing long-term costs. Having an in-house specialist dedicated to our fleet means less reliance on outside repairs, quicker turnaround times, and better upkeep for our fire trucks and ambulances. This addition helps ensure that our emergency vehicles stay in top shape, minimizing downtime and keeping response times fast when residents need us most.

WITH THESE UPGRADES AND INVESTMENTS, THE WESTCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, ALWAYS WORKING TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

IAFF LOCAL 4851 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024, **IAFF Local 4851** achieved significant milestones in **expanding its membership, strengthening its role in the community, and collaborating with the Village** to support both its members and the residents of Westchester.

A key accomplishment this year was the **completion of a new collective bargaining agreement** with the Village, which reflects a **mutually beneficial outcome** for both the department and the community. This agreement ensures **competitive wages, strong benefits, and improved working conditions**, supporting the dedicated professionals who serve Westchester while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Additionally, the union expanded its membership, **further strengthening its ability to advocate for firefighters and first responders** in their mission to protect the community.

Beyond contract negotiations, **Local 4851 remained actively engaged in community service and charitable initiatives**, demonstrating its commitment to giving back. This year, members participated in:

- **Chili Cook-Off for Veterans** – Raising funds and awareness to support veterans.
- **Project Fire Buddies** – Bringing joy and support to children with critical illnesses, because no child should fight their battle alone.
- **Westchester Girls Softball** – Supporting local youth sports and community involvement.
- **Triton College Paramedic Scholarship Program** – Helping ease the financial burden for those pursuing EMT and paramedic training.
- **Special Olympics** – Contributing to fundraising efforts through events such as the Polar Plunge and the Oakbrook Golf Outing.

In addition to these efforts, **Local 4851** demonstrated solidarity with other unions in the area by supporting their charitable work. This included offering assistance with organizing events, fundraising, and lending resources to help other unions further their **charitable missions**. By supporting fellow unions, the Local Union helped strengthen the collective impact of organized labor in the community.

Together, these accomplishments highlight the Local 4851's dedication to its **members, the residents of Westchester, and the wider community**, laying a solid foundation for continued growth, advocacy, and solidarity in 2025 and beyond.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we step into 2025, the Westchester Fire Department is embracing a new chapter filled with renewed energy, collaboration, and a commitment to positive change. This past year brought exciting transformations, including new leadership and a strong partnership with Village administration to build a culture of trust, teamwork, and excellence.

In 2024, we focused on strengthening our department, enhancing our services, and improving morale, ensuring that every member of our team feels valued and supported. These efforts translate directly to better service, stronger community connections, and a department that Westchester residents can continue to count on.

With this fresh momentum, we look ahead to 2025 with gratitude, optimism, and a dedication to continuous improvement—always putting the safety and well-being of our community first.



(708) 345-0433



dmanning@westchester-il.gov



www.westchester-il.org

WE ARE WESTCHESTER

