

"RETIRED"



"RETIRED"



GRFFRA MONTHLY

STAY INFORMED - STAY HEALTHY - STAY SAFE



ALWAYS CARING FOR OTHERS



ISSUE #1 -1/20

Here we go, our very first issue, the deal is we will publish the last month or so worth of interesting/important issues which have come to our attention to pass along. We may throw some humor or past events of interest as well but we will always continue to stay with current and future events that can affect our lives. Anything a retiree would like to pass along please feel free to submit to the publishing committee (grffra@gmail.com) by the last week of each month.

With all the information available we have emailed this newsletter to 171 Retirees/Guests and have physically mailed approximately some 30-35 by the US Postal Service to those Retirees without internet service. If you know of someone not receiving this please forward their contact information so we may keep them informed as well.

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During these times of uncertainty it is always nice to maintain communication with your loved ones.
Stay Healthy and we hope you all and your families have had a very good holiday.

Our Brothers who were called up to a Higher Department

"2020 IN MEMORY FOREVER"



We would like to Thank the GRFD Honor Guard who have assisted in these family's time of need and support!

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With a vaccine just around the corner, let's not let our guard down.



STAY MASKED UP FOR EVERYONE'S HEALTH!

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Health Updates

Retirees....

Ray Braate - Ken Crouch - Al Currie - Ray Sasak - What has been passed along is all are recovering well. We will continually keep you informed as time goes on. If you know of any health issues to be passed on please submit those with the affected persons approval.

Retiree Spouse(s)...

Henny Sjoerdsma - recovering well from a stroke at her daughters home

Active GRFD Members... Reported by Ryan Sparks GRFD Good & Welfare Officer

Steve Przybysz - Back Surgery Recovering

Jim Pulsipher --- Heart Surgery Recovering

Kurt Kolenda ---- Back Injury Recovering

Members Covid-19 Update ----- GRFD has had a tough time with OT unusually high due to positive test and quarantine protocols (numbers are well over 100). I have received word that several of our retiree family has had the virus and have recovered well.

Let's keep all of the GRFFRA/GRFD Family members in our thoughts and prayers.

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13th Check Recipients there will not be a disbursement this year due to the market return.

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To those in the **MediCare Supplement Trust Fund Premium Assistance Program** the disbursements remain the same - \$115.00 for the Retiree and \$57.50 for the Surviving Spouse. These payments are monthly but are issued to your Insurance Co. quarterly through the City Comptroller's Office. We can not thank the Local enough for their forward thinking back in the late 80's to negotiate this benefit. Any questions feel free to contact us.

If you have not shopped for the best fit plan for the cost there is still time to change, new plans are available at low premium costs check them out before it is too late for a change. Stay Healthy!

From the GRFF BLDG. CORP. there are 25 pre 1989 retirees/surviving spouses that are not eligible due to the contract negotiation ratification year. The Bldg. Corp has been assisting those with an assistance payment annually. In these trying times they have sent the assistance payments (\$500.00 each) to those 25 for a total disbursement of \$12,500.00. Pres Matt Keusch has reassured us of the work they have done working with the leased tenants through these unprecedented times. We thank the Bd. of Directors for continuing forethought to assist those in need while representing the financial responsibility that comes with being a representative. They hope you and your family had a Happy Holiday Season. The Board hopes to see you at the 2021 annual meeting.

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If you are concerned about paying **your 2021 voluntary dues (\$10.00 per year)** you may at any time, pay by check, money order, use your Paypal Acct, or if you would prefer to wait for the tentative scheduled May 11, 2021 Breakfast Meeting you may. You will be notified of your receipt of dues.

Make checks or money orders out to GRFFRA and mail to;

GRFFRA
9101 Whittall NE
Rockford, MI. 49341

OR

When using your Paypal Acct.

Enter - **paypal.me/GRFFRA**

Enter your preferred Dues Amount \$10.00 (voluntary annual dues)

Complete by following any further instructions

NOTE: You will need to sign up for a Personal Paypal Account, it is safe and easy to use, it costs nothing...

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A LITTLE HUMOR - Can we relate???



Can any of you remember the time a groom of the bride showed up at 1's requesting to have a toilet chained to him removed before his wedding....What a Stag Party that was?

****SEND US ANY STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON FOR GRINS - KEEP THEM BRIEF****

LONG LONG TIME AGO ----- Firemen are good at tossing shoes

July 18, 1929, the Grand Rapids Press announced a City tournament for horseshoe throwing that could lead to participation in a Western Michigan tournament later in the summer and that trophies would be awarded for both events.

Have Grand Rapids Firemen forgotten how to pitch horseshoes?

An inquiring look any day into the Battalion Chief car of Walter F. Corbin will disclose a pair of horseshoes, battered with scars of many conflicts, which the chief carries with him constantly as inspector of horseshoe pitching and to be always ready for a bout with some of the blue-clad experts. Whatever engine house he visits in the city he is virtually sure to find a game of horse-shoes in progress unless the boys are out on an alarm or busy with their daily routine.

The rear wall of Engine House #2 is scratched with hundreds of marks representing the scores in perennial horseshoe battles which Chief Corbin has waged with Dick VerLee for many years. VerLee is Corbin's neighbor on Front Avenue and whenever they meet at home or the engine house a bout with the shoes is almost sure to occur.

Another of the veteran followers of the game is Captain Joe Gundy at Engine House #11, who has been pitching shoes ever since he entered the department in 1912. Glen Hill, Walter Andrie and Tony Stanko are the men in his company who are always ready to take on the captain with the shoes.

The pitchers at Engine House #1 are in the hole when throwing the shoes. The court at this engine house is laid out at the bottom of an excavation adjoining the north side (just across a narrow alley) of the fire station building where according to unprejudiced testimony the temperature is at least ten degrees hotter than at the surface. The firemen make light of their discomfort and at any time when their duties permit, Fred Case, Case Honton, Tony Smith, Robert Tubbs, Paul Meinke, Steve Bolthouse and Pete Borgman can usually be found pitching shoes or critically judging the prowess of their comrades.

Firemen Glen Allen, Alex Salik, Leo LaBree and Neil Rosendall constitute Engine House #5's team of most constant horseshoe pitchers, with most of the other men of the company joining the game now and then for exercise. So enthusiastic is Rosendall that he forges his own horseshoes. Several crack civilian pitchers from the neighborhood drop in regularly to join the firefighters in their games across Monroe Avenue from the engine house. Number 5's crew have picked up many of the fine points of the game from visiting cracks and expect to do well in the City and West Michigan tournaments.

Another of the engine houses which enjoys the benefit of competition with outside experts is Engine House #2 on Barclay Avenue. A couple of the best pitchers in the city are among the outsiders who drop in to match shoes with Tom Forner, Dick VerLee and other firemen at Station #2.

Engine House #7 on Madison Avenue near Franklin Street has for a long time been one of the chief horseshoe pitching centers in the city. Billy Hemphill, Ralph Rosema, Tom Marrin and Charlie Forward are among the players there who are keeping in steady practice with a view to entering the city and regional tournaments to see if they can pull down one of the trophies offered by the Grand Rapids Press for the best shoe pitching in the city and Western Michigan.

The court in the school yard opposite Engine House #8 on Lexington Avenue has been deserted earlier this summer owing to a temporary slacking of interest among the firemen at that engine house and Jess Coan the station champion has found little chance for competition. With the announcement of the Press tournament and prizes offer, interest has picked up.

The only station where firemen are not into trim is Engine House #4 at Crescent and Bond Avenue. This business district station is so closely built up that no convenient place can be found and the fire boys have obliged to drop the sport.

Engine Houses #3, #9 and #10 are not mentioned in the article but I am sure they entered the City tournament, as well. **Presented by: Bob Imhoff**

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Hi Everyone,

I am going to try having a traveling golf league this 2021 summer, with that in mind I need to get an idea of how many are interested. If you are willing to sign up each week then let me know. I'm planning on **Wed. morning at 9 each week starting May 12 and going to Sept. 15**. You don't need to go to every outing, but need to sign up for whatever date you'd like to play on. This will let me know how many tee times to reserve. We plan on going to golf courses that are in and around GR and will try to get a group rate. If you're interested, email me at lplayter@yahoo.com and I'm hoping that this takes off. We'll be playing 18 holes and might have a different format each week. Any suggestions you have, please let me know.



Thanks!
Steve (a.k.a. Zonky)

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2021 TENTATIVE REMINDER SCHEDULE - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These times and dates may change or may be canceled due to the current health issues and protocols...

GRFF BLDG. CORP MEETING ----- APRIL 28, 2021 @ 6:00 PM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

ST. FLORIAN'S BREAKFAST MASS ----- UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

GRFFRA BREAKFAST MEETING ----- MAY 11, 2021 @ 9:30 AM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

GRFFRA GOLF OUTING ----- JUNE 28, 2021 @ - COURSE/TIME TBD

RETIREES DINNER/DANCE ----- FIREFIGHTERS HALL - DATE/TIME TBD

GRFFRA BREAKFAST MEETING ----- OCTOBER 12, 2021 @ 9:30 AM - FIREFIGHTERS HALL

Stand-by for any updates as they come about, we will keep all informed if possible...

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INFORMATION RESOURCE LIST.... Emails and Phone #'s

GRFFRA Officers - Don Quick ----- grffra@gmail.com ----- 616-490-1040
Dave vanderWall ----- Dandmwall@aol.com ----- 616-648-1185
Roger Rohloff ----- rrohlofl@att.net ----- 616-453-3180

GRFF BLDG. CORP. Matt Keusch ----- mattkeusch@yahoo.com -- 616-443-6246
John Fredricks Hall Mgr. ----- jfred62@gmail.com ----- 616-485-1172

GR City Ins. Services - Lisa Rule ----- lrule@grcity.us ----- 616-456-3300

GR Pol/Fire Pension Bd. - Peggy Korzen -- pkorzen@grpensions.org --- 616-365-5015