



The Elm Tree

Our Local Heroes



Public Safety is a hallmark of a desirable community, and our local Fire Departments are excellent examples! There are forty-two Fire Departments in Albany County. The Albany fire departments are made up of career

firefighters whereas outside of Albany, fire departments can be all volunteers, or a combination of paid career firefighters and volunteers. Stations in Menands, West Albany and Fuller Rd, for example, are all-volunteer departments. Shaker Rd - Loudonville Fire Department is a combination, with five full-time staff members who work 6am - 4pm during the week, and roughly one-hundred volunteers. Out of those volunteers, about sixty are firefighters, five of whom are women. Our stations regularly assist one another and join forces on calls, especially during daytimes and

summertime when there are fewer first-responders available.

Bob Stevens is a veteran firefighter who has been a volunteer for fifty-six years. Bob grew up in West Albany and is from a family of firefighters; his father, grandfather and great-grandfather all served, as well as his wife's family, and now Bob's two sons' uniforms hang next to his at Shaker Rd. Fire Department where he has volunteered since 1998. Bob is also the Deputy Fire Coordinator for Albany County.

Since Albany is the state capital, it has a huge state emergency management

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Future Heroes and First Responders Explorer Program

This June, the existing Explorer Program was expanded to become a county-wide public safety youth program which will provide more resources for recruitment, training and retention of our future first-responders.

The Future Heroes and First Responders Explorer Program will provide classroom and hands-on experience for young men and women who want to see what it's like to be a first-responder. West Albany and Shaker Rd - Loudonville

Fire Departments have benefited from this program for years. Shaker Rd Explorer Post 475 has been in existence since 1975, and West Albany since 2001. West Albany has had more than fifty youths go through the program with ten who became either a firefighter, EMT or paramedic.

Explorers get classroom and hands-on experience. They provide many hours of community service at the Fire Department with training in emergency call response

and assistance for active duty firefighters.

This team-building leadership program is for 14 - 17 year olds. At age 16, they are eligible to become a Jr. Firefighter, and age 18 they can become a full member. This program not only helps them grow into productive citizens, but they also become a positive influence among their peers. It is a wonderful opportunity for leadership experience and career exploration!

President's Message



It is an honor and pleasure to have been elected as the new President of the Greater Loudonville Association. I would like to thank Darcy Harding for her excellent leadership over the last several years while leading the GLA.

As a long-time resident of the Town of Colonie and as an elected official for 24 years, I have had the joy of working with many residents and business leaders. For the last 14 years, I have been a Board Member of the GLA and again, have worked side by side with the many wonderful volunteers of the organization.

As we continue through 2022, the GLA will concentrate on maintaining the quality of life we have all come to know in our town and, when possible, we will seek to make improvements.

One project that I would like to set as our top priority is the replacement of the brick sign located in the Loudonville Triangle. Darcy Harding has chaired this committee and we are grateful to her and the entire committee for their hard work. We are well on our way to a new sign and we hope to be circulating a brochure soon with the new design, estimated costs, etc.

In closing, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation for our organization's ongoing productive relationship with the Town of Colonie and their willingness to work with the GLA to protect and enhance our quality of life. I wish a warm welcome to the new Town Supervisor, Peter Crummey. Peter is no stranger to GLA as he is a long-time member and an even longer time resident of our town.

As always, we welcome new members to our organization and hope you will join us in our various activities and events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Brizzell

GLA Board

Mary Brizzell	<i>President</i>
Kevin M. Bronner, Jr.	<i>Vice President</i>
Mary Durgee	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carolyn Martel	<i>Secretary</i>
Darcy Harding	<i>Past President</i>

Lonnie D. Clar
Keith Cunningham
Linda Fitzgerald
Kevin A. Franklin
Bruce Gembala
Lynne Jonquieres
Mary Elizabeth Mahar
Greta McNamara
Sarah Mukerji
Louis W. Pierro
Teresa Rossi
Susan O. Smith
Thomas Suraci
Chris Wessel

Welcome New Members!

Gerard and Kimberly Cuva
Christine Florez
Mahmood K. Hakak
Chris Thornton & Gretchen Meyer
Sean Stephens & Kimberly Rose

A Little History



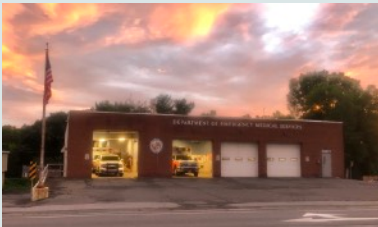
First home to Shaker Rd - Loudonville Fire Department 1932-1949

This was formerly a Sunday school house.



Second home - 1949-1989

This building now houses our Emergency Services Department



Current home to Shaker Rd. - Loudonville Fire Department. Built in 1989, there is an additional station on Old Niskayuna Rd. which was built in 1972

response system. Extensive and ongoing training is essential for all firefighters. Because the city of Albany has such comprehensive Emergency Services, they are considered an “All Hazards” Fire Department. One of Bob’s responsibilities as Deputy Fire Coordinator is to write and manage grants for the Fire Services of Albany County. Procuring state and federal funds is an ongoing challenge, but critical as funding is needed to upgrade our training facilities.

Training

There are four training centers in the Capital District, one located on Wade Rd. in Colonie. Each of the four structures is aging and in need of renovation. Think *fire training*; fires are set in and around training centers in order to be put out!

Anyone can join the volunteer team without having any training. Of course, the younger you are, the better. There is a NYS Fire Academy where you can get certified, or you can take certification classes on your own. All of this training is provided by your department. Your first designation is Firefighter 1 status with the option to move onto Interior Firefighting Operations. More specialized training can take you even further. All Firefighters are known as professionals, whether one is a volunteer or career.

Remember!

- Our Fire Departments are always looking for new volunteers!
- Install smoke detectors, test them regularly and keep the batteries fresh. It’s your first line of defense.

Ultimately, being a firefighter is a lot more than putting out fires. It’s also the camaraderie and mutual support you earn through your time and experiences together that is the biggest reward.

Carolyn Martel



Squad 9 ready to go. A full set of turnout gear - bunker pants, coat, gloves, hood etc. for each firefighter costs about \$3,000



Tom Campion has spent 57 years as a volunteer - the last 14 with Fuller Rd Fire Department. His wife volunteers for Shaker Rd.-Loudonville. Pictured here, Tom is responding to a call on Wolf Rd.

Did You Know

Some of the terminology and rank structure in the fire service is known to have originated from the Civil War. Prior to the Civil War, US fire departments were managed like private businesses, either freelance or run by insurance companies. The department had bosses, leaders, foremen, etc. During the war, entire fire departments enlisted as a unit like Infantry “Companies”. The leaders were given rank, and that rank survived the war. After the war, some men were known as “Captain” for the rest of their lives, and when they were replaced, the fire department would get a new Captain for that Company.



Gardens in our area

We love our gardens!

This summer's heat wave posed challenges to every gardener. Still we and our hardier plants persevere. Here are some lovely gardens your neighbors are nurturing.



Shade garden on Chestnut Hill



Pruyn House Garden



Front yard welcome on Upper Loudon Rd



Backyard beauty on Yardley Court



Raised beds at Beltrone



Poolside on Pheasant Lane



Through the kitchen window at "Friendship"



Colorful entrance on Loudon Parkway



Greater Loudonville Association

Neighbors Dedicated to Protecting and Improving the Character of our Historic and Ever Changing Residential Community

www.GreaterLoudonville.org

Annual Dues:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Individual \$25 | _____ President's List \$350 |
| _____ Family \$50 | _____ Patron \$750 |
| _____ Friend \$100 | _____ Benefactor \$1,000 and up |
| _____ Supporter \$250 | |

Please specify _____ New Member _____ Renewal

Yes, I'd like to help! Please contact me about these activities:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ The Elm Tree (newsletter) | _____ Media Relations |
| _____ Loudon Green/Triangle maintenance | _____ Event Planning/Coordination |
| _____ Town Government (monitoring Planning Board) | _____ Other _____ |

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please write Email Address Again: _____

Please make your check payable to "Greater Loudonville Association" and mail to:

Greater Loudonville Association

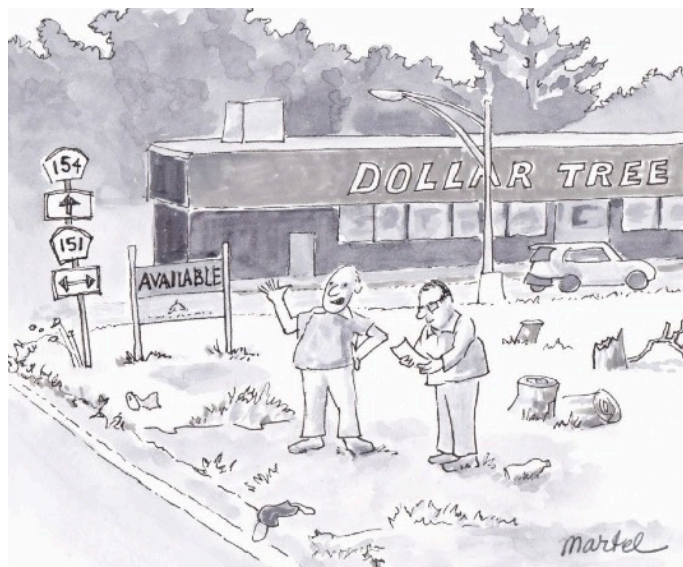
PO Box 11144

Loudonville, NY 12211

Membership contributions (dues) are tax-deductible within the full extent of the law.

Tips for heat waves to come:

- Add mulch to your garden. No more than 2-3 inches, and keep it away from tree trunks.
- Water regularly, preferably early or late in the day at the base of your plants. Consider a soaker hose to soak the soil slowly and deeply to ensure healthy growth.
- Avoid stressing your plants which can put plant health at risk. When temps spike, avoid pruning, fertilizing or transplanting.
- Native plants and shrubs are more adapted to climate extremes where they grow naturally, and chances are they will be easier to keep alive during peak heat than non-native shrubs. Go with native for many reasons!
- Keep weeds at bay and try and pull them out prior to a heat wave. They can rob other plants of water and nutrients. Herbicide spray is not recommended as it can drift and settle on other plants, not to mention it eventually gets into our groundwater.



"I'm thinking a gas station and maybe a barber shop and dry cleaner right up there!"

Member Spotlight



Meet Sean Stephens and Kimberly Rose

What motivated you to become a member of the GLA?

We attended an event at the invitation of a friend and feel that it would be a great fit for our growing family. We plan to live and raise our daughters here for many years, and want to instill in them the importance of giving back to their community.

Tell us a bit about yourselves

I am a Senior Associate in the Risk & Compliance Advisory practice at KPMG, where I provide consulting services for our state and local government clients, particularly in healthcare. I met my wife Kim during my time in the public sector, when we were both working in the NYS Legislature. While her background is in early childhood education, her favorite job, and one I am constantly in awe of, is being a superb mother to our

beautiful twin girls, Anastasia and Caelynn.

In our free time, you could find us climbing mountains, playing golf or volunteering, like last Thanksgiving when we delivered turkeys on behalf of the Capital Districts YMCA's annual basket brigade. Lately, most of our free time nowadays is spent catching up on sleep after chasing our daughters, cats and dog around!

What's your favorite thing about living in Loudonville?

Loudonville is the heart of the Capital Region. Everything is within arm's reach, including our school, library, the Crossings and the amazing history of the Pruyn House. We also love that we are a stone's throw away from the Adirondacks and NYC in equal measure.

What do you hope to contribute and receive from being a member?

Kim is an active advisory council member of the Troy YMCA and would love to get involved with any community initiatives the GLA is planning, especially once the girls are a little older! With a background in finance and project management, I'm also excited to do the same.

Greater Loudonville Association
PO Box 11144
Loudonville NY 12211-0144

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit 720
Albany NY 12211

or current resident

DATED MATERIAL

Coming Up!

Fall Family Fest at the Pruyn House
Sunday, September 25th
2 - 4 pm

Come and celebrate the season with your family!
Pony rides, farm animals to pet, games and tractor
rides around the property.

Tree Lighting at Loudon Green
November 27th 4 pm
Loudon Green

