



IN THE NEWS

IN MEMORY



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Photo: Brian Hoxsey

The **Serena Fire Department** is finally closing in on being able to use its new training facility after 10 years of planning and saving money.

The department, which boasts about 40 volunteer members in the district that covers 130 square miles, already has a building in Serena air pack training, but the new facility will allow firefighters to train for dozens of other situations they may encounter on a fire call.

The training facility was funded completely by donations from many businesses and residents within the district.

"It was just the money ... it took a long time to raise it," Serena Fire Chief Steve Kellogg said of the decade-long project that cost \$228,000. "We didn't want to use any tax money for this. We send out fundraising letters to let people know what we were doing every year and asked for donations. Kellogg credited companies, businesses and residents for making the plan a reality.

The training facility is made of five connecting, specially designed shipping containers built and installed by American Fire Training Systems Inc. from Lockport.



Grantfork Volunteer Fire Department welcomed Truck 2970 quick response and brush truck designed by the department to their fleet. They are particularly excited about how it will assist them on field fires, structure fires, and motor vehicle accidents.

As a dual purpose truck, it has many different features that work in tandem with each other for a tactical advantage on scenes: 4-wheel drive, a water/foam spraying gun controlled from inside the cab, numerous high voltage lights, and two reels of ready-to-go booster line. As a quick response truck, it has the ability to pump and store water, easy navigation, cache of battery operated extrication tools, and two SCBA.

The purchase is attributed to the support of many individuals. The GVFD would like to especially thank their department's truck committee, their dedicated district, and their extremely supportive community.



Rodney B. Reese (76) retired Serena FPD Fire Chief passed away May 8, 2020. Reese grew up following his dad's footsteps as a Serena Firefighter, beginning his career in 1966. He rose through the ranks, served 49 years total with the department and 15 as Chief retiring in 2015. He was an originating member of the 911 board for LaSalle County, Past President for MABAS 25 Division, past township trustee for Serena township, devoted member of Retired Fire Chiefs Association, Illinois Firefighters Association and the IAFFD.

Chief is survived by his loving wife of thirty years, Judy, 3 sons, 2 sisters, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Floyd Arthur Dierzen (78), of Newark passed on May 15, 2020. Starting alongside his father, Floyd was a welder and metal craftsman for Dierzen Welding in Newark. Floyd was an Eagle Scout and member of the Navy ROTC during college. As an avid supporter and member of the Newark Fire Protection District for nearly 60 years, Floyd was a fireman and the president of the board of trustees. He had also lent his experience to the Kendall County Zoning Board for 20+ years. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, their two sons, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Martin G. Perenchio (69) formerly of Harvard and Crystal Lake, died June 1, 2020 after a five-year battle with brain cancer. Marty was a firefighter/paramedic for 42 years. He served on Harvard Fire Protection District and chief for 17 years and later as Trustee. He oversaw the merger of Harvard Rescue into HFPD, retiring in 2000. He also served Crystal Lake Fire Rescue, Northwest Rescue Critical Care transport, and was an instructor at McHenry County College. Marty also worked 37 years as a union commercial journeyman plumber. Marty is survived by his wife of 20 years, Dr. Carol (Wilt) Perenchio, their six children, five grandchildren, his mother and seven siblings.



James "Jim" R. Seabert (69) of Martinton passed away on June 12, 2020. He was born on May 23, 1951 in Streator. Jim served as fire chief in Martinton for 16 years and served 30 years on the fire department. He was also on the Martinton Town Board for 16 years. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carolyn "Sue" Seabert, one daughter, eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and three siblings.

He is preceded in death by his son and daughter-in-law, and one grandson, Braeden Seabert; his father, his mother, and his step-father.