

# *Fire Department*



*Cuyahoga Heights Fire Station  
5480 Grant Avenue*

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



*Fireman Ray Wasky in the 1940s*

Ray Wasky in driver's seat, (left to right) Chief Saunders, Walter Kaczmarek, Paul Koran, Elia Contipelli, Jim O'Malley, Unknown, Harry Blue, Unknown, Renato Guidotti, Al Preisendorf, Vic Trevisani, Guido Fontana, Jack Lynch and Cleri Adorni.



*Fire Chief Ray Wasky in 1970*

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# Fire Department

by Chief Michael Suhy

### Early Days | The First Firehouse

When Cuyahoga Heights' fire protection began in 1918, it was simply a service provided by residential volunteers with assistance from the City of Cleveland. Cleveland firemen were called for major fires, charging \$350.00 per response as noted in the October 14, 1924 *Plain Dealer* article.

It was that same year, 1924, when the village hired its first full-time fire department. With a force of four men it became the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department. In these early days, sheet metal sheds on East 71st Street and East 49th Street housed hand-hose carts that were hauled to the fire scenes by volunteers. Equipment was stored in a garage at the Brodhead-Garrett Company until the first firehouse was built on Grant Avenue. Jacob Gallitz sold the property to the Village of Cuyahoga Heights on September 17, 1924. The village then used the house for a residence for the fire chief and either used the barn or a garage to house the equipment until a firehouse could be built. A legal notice was published requesting sealed bids being received the 28th day of July, 1924 "Sale of Bonds for \$30,000 for procuring real estate as a site for building necessary for a fire department..."

The first official firehouse was located where the northbound entrance ramp of I-77 is today. Former Council member, James Masek, included a picture of four firemen standing in front of that fire station in the 1976 history he wrote. The historical committee has the brass print block of that picture in its possession. The committee could not find anyone that would or could print a picture from the brass block. Thomas A. Gough, taking over the force in 1924, was involved when the new firehouse was being built. The new structure would have "quarters for 20...and is a duplicate of the modern Number 2 fire house in Lakewood..." according to Chief Gough.

In the 1930s, the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department was one of the first to institute emergency ambulance service to the local area. Jake Gallitz, Frank Kreiger and Ernie Knaack were among the first to serve on the fire force. The early department was eventually directed by Frank Gaul and Marshall Del Davis. When the first firehouse was built on the north side of Grant Avenue, trained men were brought in from Cleveland, including William Saunders, to serve the department as chief. Firemen had 72-hour tours of duty on a weekly basis.

### The Second Firehouse | A Real Safety Headquarters

Bob Mantell shared that when the Willow Freeway was going to be built, causing the village to forfeit its fire house location, the rumored deal was that the State of Ohio would build the village a new fire station, since the old one was in the path of the freeway, but no one is sure if that is factual or a myth.

A combination police-fire station was built at the present site, (southwest corner of Grant at Willow Parkway) George Fox designed the building. R. C. Carbone Company was awarded the contract on March 1,

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1942. A March 19, 1942 *Plain Dealer* article mentions Cuyahoga Heights getting a new fire station, and also that the old fire station was being torn down to make way for the Willow Freeway. The stakes for the new fire station were laid on March 18, 1942. The *Plain Dealer* also reported on July 24, 1942, that Cuyahoga Heights Fire Station was a new reporting center for the Office of Civil Defense.

The 1942 firehouse may have been considered as an air raid shelter, because when the men were cleaning out the attic, they gave the historical committee an air raid shelter sign and two hats/helmets, plus some pieces of paper with air raid rules. It is possible that the firehouse shelter may have just been for the police and firemen or East 49th Street residents.

Once this firehouse was built, the Gallitz house was then sold and moved to 4615 East 49th Street over the open fields, and it became the O'Malley's house. Upon completion of the second firehouse, which stands today on the south side of Grant Avenue, William Saunders took over the department as chief.

### Civil Defense

Walter Kaczmarek who later became chief, served as the area's Civil Defense Warden and trained area fire departments how to fight fires if a situation arose where bombs were being dropped on factories. Public hall and parts of the Cuyahoga Heights School were bomb shelters. There was also a small garage-like building near the home of Michelle Mack McManus, located behind the village hall, that was used to store air raid supplies. The tunnels under the school and Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant would have made excellent air raid shelters.

The Civil Defense group met and stored emergency response equipment (Army DUKWs) in a location where Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant is located today. Robert Mantell's father, Joseph E. Mantell, drove the DUKWs, or the "ducks" as we called them. Army DUKW is not an acronym but a manufacturer's code for a type of military wheeled amphibious landing craft. D meant 1942; U meant utility; K meant all-wheel drive and W meant two-powered rear axles.

### Today's Modern Department

#### Medical Training Requirements

The first Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) were trained in the late 1970s to be shortly followed by training for paramedics. The department did not require either to be mandatory until the late 1980s. From the 1920s to 1930s, most firemen were trained only with basic first aid. Retired Lieutenant Dennis Suhy remembers getting hired and simply sent to a one-day Red Cross first aid class. Currently, all part-time and full-time firemen are required to complete a two-year certification to maintain their Firefighter II, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic training.

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## **Giving Back**

The Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department remains enthusiastic about giving back to organizations for which they are passionate. Over the years, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) has been the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department's major organization of choice. Coordinating "Fill The Boot" days, charity basketball games with the Cleveland Browns, the 50s Dance, golf outings, Walk-A-Thons and more, the department has raised tens of thousands of dollars for those affected by Muscular Dystrophy.

## **Affiliations**

Many firemen from the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department remain involved with professional organizations outside of the department. This allows for extended expertise and leadership opportunities throughout the region and state. Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department members are involved in the following organizations: Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) which includes Hazardous Materials Unit (HAZMAT); Fire Investigation Unit (FIU); Land Based Rescue and Water Based Rescue; County Fire Chiefs Association; Ohio Fire Chiefs Association; Northeast Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NEOFPA); International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI); International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters.

## **A Family in Department's History**

The Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department has a long-standing lineage of both shared family and family history that has come through the department. Current Captain Pat Koran, Assistant Chief Howard Selig, and Firefighter James Henley all share a common set of great grandparents. Chief Paul Kornowski, their great uncle, began his career at the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in 1928, and retired after 42 years in 1970. During his career, his brother, Edward Kornowski, began as a fireman in 1942, until his death in 1958. Captain Koran's father, Assistant Chief James Koran, started in 1964 and worked alongside his uncle for six years. Therefore, there has been a Kornowski working continuously for 90 of the village's 100 years at the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department, and will be for many more years.

## **Then and Now**

The evolution of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department began as a four man department and now employs a total of 29 firemen—a combination of both full-time and part-time members including a full-time fire chief and assistant chief. All are certified paramedics and approximately 10 of whom are inspectors. Beyond daily firefighting and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the department performs annual fire inspections on all commercial buildings, conducts classes in CPR and Stroke 101 as well as fire extinguisher training, installs smoke detectors and shares information via annual residential fire prevention outreach and Health Watch management.

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Technology has become an important function within the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department. From paper to typewriters, to computers to iPads, the department is now almost a paperless operation. This seamless transition now assists with personnel, mapping, pre-plans, dispatching and EMS/Fire reporting.

### **History of Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department Chiefs**

#### **Thomas J. Gough | 1924 to 1928**

Thomas J. Gough was born April 27, 1864 in Pennsylvania to Thomas and Mary Mapleton Gough. His parents were both from Ireland. Thomas was fire chief in Conneaut, Ashtabula County, Ohio from 1900 until sometime in 1924. He became the first fire chief of Cuyahoga Heights village from before December, 1924 to January, 1928. Thomas never married and died April 29, 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### **Delbert L. Davis | 1929 to 1931**

Delbert Leroy Davis was born November 15, 1883 in Delaware County, Ohio to Joseph C. and Catherine A. Mervine Davis. His siblings were: Rose, Christopher, Manlen and Joseph Ernest. Joseph was a village fireman in the 1930s. Delbert worked on farms in Scioto and Delaware Townships and married Della before coming to Newburgh Heights. Delbert and Della raised their four children: Goldie, Donald, Lester and Florence on East 71st Street and Marcelline Court.

Delbert was elected Marshal for Cuyahoga Heights when the village was formed in 1918. He retired in 1931 and was the only village marshal. The mayor and council selected the “police chiefs” after Delbert. He served also as the fire chief from January 1, 1929 until he retired from the village on February 24, 1931. Records show him as the village custodian in 1924. During the 1940s, Delbert worked for the Southerly Sewage Plant. Delbert died May 31, 1966 in Geneva, Ashtabula County, Ohio.

#### **Bernard Scott | 1932 to 1943**

Bernard Scott was our chief from 1932 to 1943. A village ordinance was passed to eliminate the fire chief’s job in 1940. A 1942 court case reinstated Chief Scott with back pay. The court ruled that Ohio statutes mandated a municipality to have a fire chief. He retired in 1943.

#### **William J. Saunders | 1944 to 1964**

William J. Saunders was born December 4, 1890 in Cleveland, Ohio to Charles and Ida Saunders. His parents and three of his grandparents were also born in Ohio. His grandfather on his father’s side was born in Scotland. William’s eight known siblings are: Mable, John, Helen Brugge, Edwin, Flora Walters, Edna Presterl, Marguerite Restanis and Dorothy Metzger. He married Marguerite, daughter of Patrick and Nellie Marion of Cleveland. William and Marguerite had two children: Kenneth and Ruth O’Grady. He and Marguerite had seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren at the time of his death.

William liked to fish and play handball. As a young adult, he was a Golden Gloves Boxer and a well-known baseball player. He became a Cleveland firefighter in 1916 and was stationed most of the time at 37th Street and Central Avenue. Being the sports enthusiast that he was, he founded the annual Police

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and Firemen's Athletic Field Day. William also co-founded the Police and Firemen's Holy Name Society in 1930. He became the Cuyahoga Heights fire chief in 1944, retiring in 1964. William died July 26, 1970 in Parma Heights. Monsignor Kenneth Saunders offered Mass of the Resurrection for his father at St. Bartholomew Church.

### **Walter (Wladislaus) J. Kaczmarek | 1964 to 1968**

Walter Joseph Kaczmarek was born September 20, 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio to Martin Joseph and Michaelina Lewandowski Kaczmarek. His parents and two older siblings were born in Poland. They came to America in 1900. His siblings were: Stanislav (Stanley), Pelagia (Pauline), Edward and Bernard. The family moved to Cuyahoga Heights in the early 1920s. He attended South High School. Walter worked on farms in Brooklyn Heights and joined a traveling carnival in his youth.

Walter married Wladyslawa (Charlotte "Lottie"), born February 21, 1910, daughter of Stanley and Nathli Borkowski, on August 4, 1931 in Saints Peter & Paul Church in Garfield Heights, Ohio. They had two daughters: Phyllis and Andrew Baumgardner and Mary Lou and Alan Kalish. Grandchildren are: Marlene Kalish, Stephanie Volek, Mark Baumgardner, Jennifer Spears, Lisa Ocheltree, Richard Kalish and James Baumgardener. They lived all of their married life in the village and many years on Bletch Court. Walter and Lottie were married over 71 years before his death October 17, 2002 and her death November 22, 2002.

When the Cuyahoga Heights Village Fire Department was started in the late 1920s, he was one of our first firemen. During World War II, his duties included being a Civil Defense Warden. He trained workers in firefighting techniques at the large plants in the area. During this time workers were expected to fight fires if their plants were bombed. He helped with training at the Newburgh Heights Fire Department in 1942. Walter was ahead of the times, encouraging his men to stay physically fit and mentally alert. He was a member of our fire department for 38 years, holding the chief's position from 1964 to 1968. Walter was an active member of the Ohio Firefighters Association and the Cleveland and Ohio Fire Chief's Association.

During the early 1950s, Walter and Ed Koran started a building and remodeling business. They built many homes in and around Cuyahoga Heights. Walter was a member of the Cuyahoga Heights Men's Club, Senior Citizens as well as the American Association of Retired People (AARP) of Garfield Heights.

### **Paul Koran (Kornowski) | 1968 to 1970**

Paul Koran was born May 3, 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio to Paul and Martha Schroder Kornowski. His parents both came from Poland, Paul in 1884 and Martha in 1890. Paul's siblings are Mae Swencky, Anne Marek, Florian, Edward and Clara Klima. He attended Harvard School and South High School. Paul shortened his last name to Koran sometime before he married. While caring for Albert Bletch's horses on the Bletch farm, that covered most of the land now known as Bletch and Marcelline Courts, he met his future bride, Mrs. Bletch's housekeeper. He married Ann Elizabeth and they had two children: a son, who died very young and Carol Gillett. Paul and Ann had two grandchildren: Michael and Paula.

Paul was one of the first firemen of the Cuyahoga Heights Village Fire Department. He joined the department in 1928 along with Frank Kreiger, Jacob Gallitz and Walter Caddy. During the early 1950s, Paul went to many conventions to help set up the Firefighter's Pension & Retirement Funds.

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He was chief from 1968 to 1970. He built the garage, then the house on land he and Ann bought from Mr. and Mrs. Bletch on Marcelline Court. He loved working outdoors. Paul died February 15, 1977 at his home in Cuyahoga Heights.

### **Raymond Wasky (Wojciechowski) | 1970 to 1978**

Raymond Wasky was born in 1915 to Jacob and Clara Sryzmanski Wojciechowski. They were both born in Poland, Jacob in 1871 and Clara in 1875. He had eleven siblings: John, Mary, Walter, Bernard, Vincent, Florence, Michael, Al, Loretta, Albert and Benjamin. Ray shortened his last name to Wasky. Ray joined the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in 1940 and was Chief from 1970 to 1978.

### **Lester G. Davis | 1978 to 1984**

Lester G. Davis was born September 12, 1923 in Cuyahoga Heights to Delbert Leroy and Della L. Davis. He has three siblings: Goldie, Donald and Florence. Lester played on the school basketball team during the 1939 to 1940 season. He was a member of the first class to graduate from Cuyahoga Heights High School. He married Lois and they had two children: Mark, who currently serves in the police department, and Lisa.

Lester enlisted in the Army during WW II on March 16, 1945. Following in the footsteps of his father and uncle Joseph, Lester joined the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in 1946 and served as fire chief from 1978 to 1984. Lester died September 23, 2007 at his home in Cuyahoga Heights.

### **James G. Bloam | 1984 to 1985**

James George Bloam was born June 20, 1923 in Pennsylvania. He is the son of John Clarence and Margaret Haynes Bloam. James had three sisters: Marie Leslie, Luella Ryan and Patti Ezzo. Jim played football, basketball and baseball. While he was playing football, he gave the whole Strongsville team impetigo. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1942.

He had just started college when the United States entered World War II. On December 28, 1942, he enlisted and served in the Army Air Corps, 509th Composite Group, 309th Ordinance Wing. While he was in the service, he was one of the people who worked on the atomic bomb. Jim married Mary Jean and they had two children: Diane Marie "Pixie" and James John. Jim joined the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in 1954 and served as its chief from July, 1984 to January, 1985. He died January 16, 2000 at his home in Cuyahoga Heights.

### **Kenneth W. Nichols | 1985 to 1996**

Kenneth W. Nichols was born July 19, 1937 in Bedford, Ohio to Paul E. and Florence Nichols. He had two siblings: Norman and Geraldine Schuman. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1955. On May 18, 1957, Ken married Barbara Ann, daughter of Andrew and Sophie Baracz. She was born April 10, 1937. Ken and Barb have two children: Timothy and Kathleen. They have three grandchildren: Anne, Sally and Jim. Before becoming a fireman, he worked as a printer for the Federal Reserve Bank.

He joined the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department on February 28, 1964 and was the first fireman to learn CPR. After learning CPR in a class Harris-Seybold offered to their employees, he taught it to the

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Cuyahoga Heights, Brooklyn Heights, Valley View, and Newburgh Heights firemen. Ken was chief from January, 1985 to September 4, 1996. As chief, he pushed for funding of four hazardous-materials teams in Cuyahoga County and in establishing the county's local Emergency Planning Committee. About 30% of his department were young men from the Cuyahoga Heights Boy Scout Troop where he had been scoutmaster. Ken is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He was 2nd Vice President in 1992; 1st Vice President in 1993 and President in 1994 of the Great Lakes Region.

### **James J. Mantell | 1996 to 2003**

James Joseph Mantell was born July 18, 1952 to Joseph and Alvena Mantell. Jim has a twin brother, Robert. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1970. Jim is married to Jeanette. He has two daughters: Tessa and Lindsay and four step-children: Jeff, Mike, Ryan and Megan. He joined the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in 1976, serving as chief from 1996 to 2003. Jim enjoys playing golf.

### **Lee E. Zmija | 2003 to 2010**

Lee E. Zmija was born May 21, 1951 to Steve and Marion Zmija. His siblings are Ralph and Dale (deceased). He played basketball in high school. Lee graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1969. He also studied at Cuyahoga Community College for two years. He is married to Cathy, who serves as dispatcher in the police department. They have three children: Krystal, Clint and Brandy.

The Zmija family created one of the largest Christmas displays in the Cleveland area for 24 years. Lee became fire chief of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department on April 1, 2003 and retired in 2010.

### **Neal Cash | 2010 to 2015**

Neal Cash was born June 4, 1951 to Howard and Lena Cash of Cuyahoga Heights, he has one brother, Larry. Neal graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1969 and was drafted into the Army in 1971, and served in the Army 101st Airborne division during the Vietnam war from 1971 to 1972. He was honorably discharged as a Army Specialist 4. During his time in Vietnam, he received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The Army gave Neal the skills and the discipline that he used in his 37-year career as a Cuyahoga Heights firefighter. He has been married to Barb since 1980. Barb is the current Cuyahoga Heights Police Department Dispatch Center Supervisor and a veteran dispatcher for 29 years. They have three children: son, Jason, married to Kristen and father of Lila and Lincoln; son, Andrew, married to Courtney and father of Gianna, Francesca and Malena; and daughter, Rebecca.

Neal became a firefighter in 1978 and then, a certified paramedic in 1980. He earned the rank of lieutenant in 1991 and captain in 2001. He served as chief from 2010 until his retirement in 2015. He is enjoying his retirement by running, kayaking and golfing and spending time with his family.

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### Michael Suhy | 2015 to Present

Michael Suhy was born in 1973 to George and Dianne Suhy. He has a sister, Kelly Hartman. He is a 1991 graduate of Cuyahoga Heights High School. Michael enjoys playing basketball, softball, golf and spending time with his wife, Rebecca, and children: Allison, Jenna and Ryan.

Chief Suhy, a certified paramedic and fire inspector, has led the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department since 2015. As a more than 20-year veteran of the department, his career has certainly been an inspirational story. During the 2009 recession, the department was cut to nine men. Michael was one of many laid off. As finances permitted, the village was able to call employees back to work. He returned to work after a 15-month hiatus, during which time he joined the Brecksville Fire Department part-time and worked toward his fire inspector's license.

After returning to the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department full-time in 2011, he quickly moved up the ranks to assistant chief in 2012 and was sworn in as chief in 2015.



### History of Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department Chiefs

<b>Chief Thomas J. Gough</b>		1924 to 1928
<b>Chief Delbert L. Davis</b>		1929 to 1931
<b>Chief Bernard Scott</b>		1932 to 1943
<b>Chief William J. Saunders</b>		1944 to 1964
<b>Chief Walter J. Kaczmarek</b>		1964 to 1968
<b>Chief Paul Koran</b>		1968 to 1970
<b>Chief Raymond Wasky</b>		1970 to 1978
<b>Chief Lester G. Davis</b>		1978 to 1984
<b>Chief James G. Bloam</b>		1984 to 1985
<b>Chief Kenneth W. Nichols</b>		1985 to 1996
<b>Chief James J. Mantell</b>		1996 to 2003
<b>Chief Lee E. Zmija</b>		2003 to 2010
<b>Chief Neal Cash</b>		2010 to 2015
<b>Chief Michael Suhy</b>		2015 to Present

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### Previous Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department

<b>James O'Malley</b>		1925 to 1964		39 Years of Service
<b>Chief Paul Koran</b>		1928 to 1970		42 Years of Service
<b>Frank Kreiger</b>		1928 to 1931		3 Years of Service
<b>Jacob Gallitz</b>		1928 to 1932		4 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Walter Caddy</b>		1928		
<b>Chief Walter Kaczmarek</b>		1930 to 1966		38 Years of Service
<b>John Bloam</b>		1930 to 1938		8 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Elia Contipelli</b>		1935 to 1964		29 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Placido Pallini</b>		1936 to 1966		30 Years of Service
<b>Chief Ray Wasky</b>		1940 to 1978		38 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Eugene Crombine</b>		1942 (Part Time)		
<b>Ed Koran</b>		1942 to 1958		16 Years of Service
<b>Renato Guidotti</b>		1942 to 1968		26 Years of Service
<b>Harry Schuman</b>		1942 (Part Time)		
<b>Captain Walter Hazel</b>		1942 to 1969		27 Years of Service
<b>Wilbur Arnot</b>		1942 to 1950		8 Years of Service
<b>Chief William Saunders</b>		1944 to 1964		20 Years of Service
<b>Assistant Chief John Lynch</b>		1946 to 1975		29 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Captain Alvin Preisendorf</b>		1948 to 1976		30 Years of Service
<b>Captain Guido Fontana</b>		1946 to 1989		43 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Captain Steve Baracz</b>		1946 to 1978		32 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Chief Lester Davis</b>		1946 to 1984		38 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Victor Trevisani</b>		1946 to 1985		39 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Captain Harry Blue</b>		1950 to 1978		28 Years of Service
<b>Cleri Adorni</b>		1950 to 1976		26 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Leo Billi</b>		1950 to 1969		19 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Bruno Guidotti</b>		1954 to 1978		24 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Charles Podolski</b>		1954 to 1975		21 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Chief James Bloam</b>		1954 to 1985		31 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Gerald McCandless</b>		1954 to 1975		21 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Henry Nobili</b>		1954 to 1978		24 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Tony Wencke</b>		1954 to 1976		22 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Edmund Guilfoyle</b>		1960 to 1992		32 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Tom Borowy</b>		1962 (Part Time)		
<b>Assistant Chief James Koran</b>		1964 to 1988		24 Years of Service
<b>Assistant Chief Ron Henry</b>		1964 to 1991		27 Years of Service
<b>Captain Vic Duber</b>		1964 to 1987		23 Years of Service   Veteran

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<b>Chief Kenneth Nichols</b>		1964 to 1996		32 Years of Service
<b>Captain John Pallini</b>		1966 to 1991		25 Years of Service
<b>Captain Lee Billi</b>		1968 to 2002		34 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Ralph Faragone</b>		1968 to 1999		31 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Captain Martin Malek</b>		1969 to 1999		30 Years of Service
<b>Daniel Tucholski</b>		1969 to 2000		31 Years of Service
<b>Lieutenant Eric Waldemarson</b>		1970 to 1994		24 years of Service   Veteran
<b>Reno Santini</b>		1975 to 1966		11 Years of Service
<b>Stan Jakosh</b>		1975 to 1985		10 Years of Service
<b>Captain Edward Rudd</b>		1975 to 2002		27 Years of Service
<b>Lieutenant Dennis Suhy</b>		1976 to 2002		26 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Chief James Mantell</b>		1976 to 2003		27 Years of Service
<b>Randy Piasecki</b>		1978 to 2002		24 Years of Service
<b>Charles Podolski Jr.</b>		1978 to 1979		1 Year of Service   Veteran
<b>Chief Neal Cash</b>		1978 to 2015		37 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Kevin Domzalski</b>		1985 to 2008		23 Years of Service
<b>Captain Ronald Dorris</b>		1978 to 2010		34 Years of Service
<b>Assistant Chief Larry Lipiec</b>		1978 to 2010		32 Years of Service
<b>Chief Lee Zmija</b>		1978 to 2010		32 Years of Service
<b>James Bloam</b>		1979 to 2010		31 Years of Service
<b>Lieutenant Donald Pallini</b>		1984 to 2018		34 Years of Service
<b>Peter Panizzutti</b>		1985 to 2018		33 Years of Service
<b>Captain Pete Angiocchi</b>		1985 to 2014		29 Years of Service
<b>Raymond Smosarski</b>		1988 to 2013		25 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Richard Bacci</b>		1991 to 2014		23 Years of Service
<b>Jason Grabowski</b>		2000 to 2016		16 Years of Service



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### Current Roster of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department

<b>Randy Eliason</b>		1986 to Present		33 Years of Service
<b>Captain Patrick Koran</b>		1987 to Present		32 Years of Service
<b>Assistant Chief Howard Selig</b>		1989 to Present		30 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Lieutenant Reno Contipelli</b>		1991 to Present		28 Years of Service
<b>Stanley Schab</b>		1993 to Present		26 Years of Service
<b>Lieutenant Steven Harris</b>		1995 to Present		24 Years of Service
<b>Bryon Borowy</b>		1995 to Present		24 Years of Service
<b>Chief Michael Suhy</b>		1996 to Present		22 Years of Service
<b>Bryan Rini</b>		1998 to Present		21 Years of Service
<b>Anthony Dorris</b>		1999 to Present		20 Years of Service
<b>James Henley</b>		2002 to Present		17 Years of Service
<b>Brian Baciak</b>		2005 to Present		14 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Brad Unger</b>		2008 to Present		11 Years of Service   Veteran
<b>Thomas Kekelis</b>		2009 to Present		10 Years of Service
<b>Wesley Unger</b>		2011 to Present		8 Years of Service
<b>Tom Nova</b>		2011 to Present		8 Years of Service
<b>William Malovrh</b>		2015 to Present		4 Years of Service
<b>Patrick Goldsworth</b>		2015 to Present		4 Years of Service
<b>Nick Heintz</b>		2015 to Present		4 Years of Service
<b>Damon Schreiber</b>		2015 to Present		4 Years of Service
<b>Anthony Fellenstein</b>		2016 to Present		3 Years of Service
<b>Joseph Cipriano</b>		2016 to Present		3 Years of Service
<b>Anthony Kotar</b>		2016 to Present		3 Years of Service
<b>Justin Gvora</b>		2016 to Present		3 Years of Service
<b>Michael Petti</b>		2016 to Present		3 Years of Service
<b>Sean Coubrough</b>		2018 to Present		1 Year of Service
<b>Josh Elenniss</b>		2018 to Present		1 Year of Service
<b>Nick Mancini</b>		2018 to Present		1 Year of Service
<b>Nick Frye</b>		2019 to Present		1 Year of Service
<b>Dan Bauccho</b>		2019 to Present		1 Year of Service
<b>Marc Sherriff</b>		2019 to Present		1 Year of Service

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*Full-time Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department*

*(left to right)*

Tom Kekelis, Brad Unger, Brian Baciak, James Henley, Anthony Dorris, Bryan Rini,  
Bryon Borowy, Lt. Steve Harris, Stan Schab, Lt. Reno Contipelli, Capt. Pat Koran, Randy Eliason,  
Assistant Chief Howard Selig and Chief Michael Suhy

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### *Entire Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department*

*(left to right)*

*(Back Row)* Nick Mancini, Wes Unger, Bryon Borowy, Bryan Rini, Lt. Reno Contipelli,  
Chief Michael Suhy, James Henley, Randy Eliason

*(Front Row)* Michael Petti, Brad Unger, Capt. Patrick Koran, Anthony Dorris, Tom Kekelis,  
Lt. Steve Harris, Assistant Chief Howard Selig, Brian Baciak, Stan Schab



*Changing of the Guard  
June 25, 2015*

*(left to right)*

Chief Michael Suhy, Retiring Chief Neal Cash,  
Assistant Chief Howard Selig and Mayor Jack Bacci



*Retiring Fire Chief Neal Cash with Mayor Bacci*



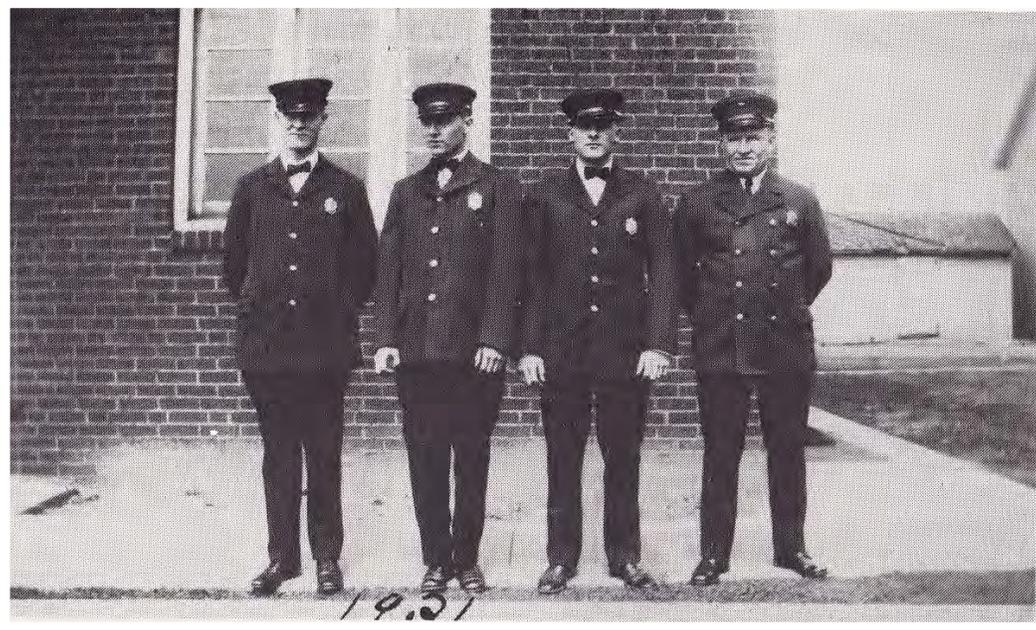
*Fire Chief Neal Cash with his family*



*New Fire Chief Michael Suhny with Mayor Bacci*



*Fire Chief Michael Suhny with his family*



*1931 Fire Department Shift:  
James O'Malley, Paul Koran, Walter Kaczmarek  
and Ed Radcliffe at the first fire station*



*Fireman Harry Blue with the department's  
1953 Superior Cadillac Ambulance*



THE LAKE ERIE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION hold a meeting. Chief Charles B. Scott of Cuyahoga Heights explains his equipment to chiefs attending the meeting as his guests. Fire chiefs from Cuyahoga, Medina, Lorain and Lake Counties attended.

*Lake Erie Fire Chiefs' Association meeting  
in the Cuyahoga Heights firehouse*

BER 14, 1924

**Drills Men in Tossing Water About Village**



**THOMAS J. GOUGH**

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Citizens of Cuyahoga Heights enjoy seeing the fire engine rush by. But \$350 per thrill is too expensive, and that's what it cost the village every time the Cleveland fire department answered an alarm. So they voted a new fire house for a Christmas present. Construction is well underway. It will cost about \$30,000 and is a duplicate of the modern No. 2 fire house in Lakewood.

Thomas J. Gough, fire chief of Conneaut, O., for thirty-one years, took command of the five firemen and \$13,500 fire truck Sept. 1, and is drilling his men in the art of throwing cold water on things when they get too warm. The force later will be increased to ten men and the fire house will have quarters for twenty.

"The village needed its own fire equipment badly," Chief Gough said. "The tax duplicate for the community is \$122,000,000, most of which is industrial and railroad property."

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(left to right)

Ralph Faragone, John Pallini, Vic Duber,  
Tony Wenke, Jeb McCandless,  
Bruno Guidotti, Leo Billi, Captain Walter Hazel  
and Chief Paul Koran

1924 newspaper article about the need for a new Cuyahoga Heights fire station

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

WILLIAM J. SAUNDERS, FIRE CHIEF  
FIRE DEPARTMENT: 5480 GRANT AVE.  
RESIDENCE: 7130 DRESSLER COURT  
CLEVELAND 9, OHIO

April 23, 1951

FIRE FLOW TEST - GRANT AVENUE AT THE FORD PLANT.

Honorable Mayor William R. Gordon  
Village of Cuyahoga Heights

Dear Sir:

I respectfully report that on Wednesday, April 18th, 1951 a fire flow test was ~~MADE~~ made for the purpose of determining the amount of water available at the above location. This test was made between 2:10 P.M., and 2:15 P.M., under the directions of Engineer T. E. Stanton, Superintendent of the Woodland Yard., Cleveland Water Division.

The residual pressure was observed at the second hydrant on Grant Ave west of the New York Central Railroad. A flow was induced by simultaneously opening hydrants at the following locations:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FLOW (G.P.M.)</u>
First hydrant on Grant Ave., west of the N.Y.C.R.R.....	890
Third hydrant on Grant Ave., west of the N.Y.C.R.R.....	900
Total induced flow.....	<u>1790</u>
Pressure with hydrants closed.....	70 lbs./sq.in.
Pressure with hydrants <del>closed</del> <sup>OPENED</sup> .....	30 lbs./sq.in.
Flow available at 20 lbs./sq.in.....	2,010 G.P.M.
Flow available at 10 lbs./sq.in.....	2,225 G.P.M.

Respectfully yours,

*William J. Saunders*  
William J. Saunders, Chief of  
Fire Department  
Village of Cuyahoga Heights

*A 1951 Flow Test Document signed  
by Chief William J. Saunders*

## Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



### *Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department in action*

*(top)* Assisting Brooklyn Heights with a 2015 fire at North Shore Strapping Company.

*(bottom)* Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) HazMat and the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department on the scene of a 2019 chemical spill at 3800 Harvard Avenue.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



*Damon Schreiber with a Youth Firefighter Combat Challenge contestant*



*August 11, 2018 Centennial Parade*

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



*Safety Town fun in the firehouse*



*Safety demonstration at Cuyahoga Heights School*

# Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial