

# WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT

## QUARTERLY REPORT

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2019



### 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER CALLS FOR SERVICE

Fire – 40	Service Calls – 178
Explosion/Overheat (no fire)– 11	Good Intent Calls – 108
Medical/EMS – 1,111	Severe Weather – 6
Hazardous Condition – 39	Special Type/Other – 66
False Alarm – 192	

### TOTALS:

Quarterly Calls - 1,751  
2019 Calls - 7,204

## NEW YEAR'S EVE BLAZE

The department responded to a massive fire on Wheeling Island New Year's Eve around 6:10 p.m. at the former Expo Hall/Indoor Skating Rink. Located near the casino, the building was fully engulfed in flames – prompting a second and later third alarm.

A Platoon personnel were the first to arrive and were later joined by several off-duty firefighters. WFD's Investigations Bureau was able to locate the origin of the fire, but the cause remains under investigation. Although the fire was one of the largest in decades, no one was injured.



## MOZART FIRE



Wheeling firefighters were called to the scene of a second alarm house fire around 3:15 a.m. Tuesday, October 15 on South Frazier Avenue in Mozart.

When the first responding engine company arrived, the house was fully involved in flames and collapsed within 20 minutes. The fire then spread to a neighboring house, which was later ruled a complete loss. A third house received exterior fire damage. No one was injured and the occupants of the second house were able to escape unharmed.

## KREITZER RETIRES

WFD's B Platoon surprised longtime Fire Engineer Chris Kreitzer with a retirement gathering on November 30 at Fire Headquarters. Assistant Fire Chief Tony Campbell, who oversees B Platoon, called Kreitzer "one of the best" on his roster.



Kreitzer celebrated his 42-year career with family and fellow firefighters. He joined WFD in May 1977 and started his career at the "old headquarters" at 17th & Eoff Streets before the current location was constructed in 1978.

## FALLEN FF MEMORIAL

On October 29, the Wheeling Professional Firefighters Local 12 held its annual memorial service at Heritage Port for the ten fallen City of Wheeling firefighters. Family members of Assistant Fire Chief Robert Foster, who died in 1991, shared their thoughts and spoke in his memory at this year's ceremony.



## PUBLIC SAFETY CEREMONY



The city's public safety forces came together on November 15 for its bi-annual Public Safety Ceremony at the City-County building. Chief Helms recognized several WFD personnel with for career milestones, promotions and department commendations.

## HAPPY 150!

Happy Birthday to...us! The Wheeling Fire Department was established on December 21, 1869 when Wheeling City Council acted and passed an ordinance creating paid fire department in the city. Prior to 1869, the fire department was volunteer. William Winder was the first chief. There have been only 14 fire chiefs in 150 years—the longest serving being William S. McFadden, followed by Cliff Sligar. Edward T. Rose served as chief twice.



## NEW RECRUITS JOIN WFD



Eight new recruits joined the Fire Department on October 21. This is one of the largest recruit classes in years. Pictured are (L to R) Hunter Bryan, Ryan LaCoe, John Wright, Jr., Dominik Vallera, Charles Zukowski, Logan Bell, Charles Myers, and Camden Boggs.