



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY  
NEW YORK

Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938  
Office: (518) 382-5000  
Cell: (518) 424-0483  
Fax: (518) 382-5272  
[gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov)

**For Release: Immediate**

**Date: Monday, August 5, 2013**

## **PRESS ADVISORY – PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

### ***MAYOR GARY R. McCARTHY ANNOUNCES Schenectady Fire Department's Promotions & Candidates***

**WHEN:** Monday, August 5, 2013

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall Rotunda

**DETAILS:** Mayor McCarthy announces that interviews were recently held at Station #1 for the position of Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant. There is currently one vacancy for Captain and two vacancies for Lieutenant. Three firefighters recently graduated from the Utica Fire Academy Training Program and were assigned to positions in the Department in early July. Four new firefighter candidates will be attending firefighter training at the Utica Fire Academy starting August 19. The following are brief summaries of candidates selected for promotion, based on work performance, interviews, personnel files, and records. Mayor McCarthy, along with Public Safety Commissioner Wayne Bennett and Fire Chief Michael DellaRocco, will announce the three promotions, the recent graduates, and will conduct a swearing-in for the new candidates, on Monday, August 5, at 10:00 a.m.

**Fire Captain: Lt/PM Guy Gioeli** joined the department in March of 1999, and was promoted to lieutenant in 2006. Prior to joining the Department, he was a combat corpsman with US Marine Reconnaissance. Lt. Gioeli is a seasoned firefighter and respected company officer who likes seeing things done the right way. Lt. Gioeli has an outstanding record of training outside the department and his level of expertise in tactical training is unmatched on the department. He is certified as a Hazardous Materials Specialist. He has developed course curriculum for several Tactical Medical programs. As lead instructor for the SFD Tactical Medic program, he has facilitated training at the federal, state, and local level, and the program has generated revenue for the City of Schenectady. Lt. Gioeli has been involved in several notable rescues at fires and has received departmental recognition for his efforts. His drive and motivation serve as an example to the rest of the department. He is in very good physical condition and is a good model for younger firefighters. A lifelong City resident, he attended Schenectady City schools and currently lives in Woodlawn.

**Fire Lieutenant: FF/PM Paul Bonitatibus** is a Haz-Mat Specialist and has attended national Hazardous Materials training courses. He is currently assigned to Engine 1, one of the busiest engine companies in the country. FF Bonitatibus is active in the community, with Little League, Pop Warner football, and the Schenectady Soccer Club, and keeps himself physically fit for firefighting duties.

**Fire Lieutenant: FF/PM Woodrow** is certified as a Hazardous Materials Specialist, and has attended national Haz-Mat training courses. FF Woodrow is currently assigned to Engine 1, Platoon 2. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and made the Dean's list during his Paramedic training at HVCC. He has received Departmental Commendations for his actions at several fires. FF Woodrow rides out-of-grade frequently and is able to make an effective transition to a supervisory role. He is physically fit and is often seen at the fire department gym after his tour of duty. FF/PM Woodrow and his family live in Bellevue.

### **Fire Academy Graduates:**

The following members have successfully completed their fire training at the Utica Fire Academy:

**FF/PM Joshua Kruk:** has worked as a paramedic for the Town of Rotterdam Ambulance and GAVAC Ambulance in Amsterdam. He has also worked for Moreau EMS, REMS (Rotterdam), and Mohawk Ambulance Company. FF Kruk received his AAS in Fire Protection Technologies in 2009 from SCCC.

**FF/PM Anthony Lucier:** Before joining the department FF Lucier worked for Broadalbin EMS and Community Emergency Corps in Ballston Spa. He also has worked at GAVAC. Mr. Lucier received his Paramedic training at SUNY Cobleskill, and has a BS in Physical Education from SUNY Cortland and an AAS in Physical Education from HVCC. He has worked for Schenectady ARC and has a strong work ethic.

**FF/PM Jacob LaCagnina:** has worked for Mohawk Ambulance Company and MED-E-Screen, a construction site EMS and medical screening company. He attended SCCC and received his paramedic training at HVCC. He also has studied at Empire State College. He is a 4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt and instructor in Taekwondo/Hapkido.

### **Firefighter Candidates:**

The following candidates, being appointed by the Mayor, will attend the Utica Fire Academy starting August 19, 2013:

**Nathan Kuhl:** This candidate currently works for Rotterdam Emergency Medical Services and several other EMS agencies. Mr. Kuhl received his paramedic training at HVCC, and has taken courses in Fire protection at SCCC. He has served as a volunteer firefighter. He has already passed the required Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT).

**Justin Pantalone:** This candidate is currently an employee of the City of Schenectady OGS. Mr. Pantalone is a lifelong city resident and attended city schools. He holds a Bachelor's degree on Communications from SUNY Oneonta, and completed his Paramedic training at HVCC. He has successfully completed his CPAT test.

**Domenico Santabarbara:** This candidate is currently employed by Mohawk Ambulance as an ALS provider. He also has worked as a Paramedic for GAVAC in Amsterdam. He holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam in French, Secondary French Education, and Communications and completed his Paramedic training at HVCC. He is fluent in Italian and has worked as a teacher in the Schuylerville and Guilderland School Districts.

**Austin Brasmeister:** This candidate is currently employed as a Paramedic with several local EMS agencies, including Moreau EMS, GAVAC, and Rotterdam EMS. He holds a Paramedic certificate from HVCC, an AAS in Fire Protection Technology, and a Certificate in Fire Science from SCCC. He has been a volunteer firefighter with several agencies.