

For Immediate Release
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Greenfield Fire District Receives Grant from Senator Hugh Farley to Purchase Defibrillators

GREENFIELD CENTER, NY – the Greenfield Fire District has secured a \$10,000 grant from the office of Senator Hugh Farley to be used for the purchase of five defibrillators. During a heart attack a patient's heart operates ineffectively, a condition that defibrillators can detect. This device can then administer an electric shock to the patient, effectively "jump starting" the heart back into normal rhythm. Defibrillators are considered to be the key component in saving someone's life used in conjunction with CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation).

The district plans to supplement the recently revamped EMS (Emergency Medical Services) program with these devices. Two Jeep Cherokees were purchased to respond to the nearly 700 EMS calls per year. Scheduled to go into service in September, it is anticipated that these vehicles will cut down on maintenance costs in lieu of running larger fire engines to these emergencies.

Maple Avenue firefighters have seen the advantages of defibrillators first hand. In the winter of 2003 the Maple Avenue Fire Department was dispatched to a middle-aged male having difficulty breathing while snow-blowing his driveway. One minute after they arrived, they witnessed the gentleman go into cardiac arrest. Crews from both Wilton EMS and Maple Avenue resuscitated him less than a minute later with a defibrillator. The importance of these devices was realized that evening as they really do save lives.

The five defibrillators will be distributed amongst the fire district, where one will be housed in the district off road rescue sled located in the Porter Corners fire station. That rescue sled is an invaluable resource to retrieve patients from off road emergencies. It has already proven its worth numerous times during rescues in the woods and trails behind Skidmore Stables on Daniels Road. In the instance where someone is having a heart attack in the woods, the rescue sled will carry a defibrillator so rescue personnel can get these lifesaving devices out to the patients.

Picture requests and questions concerning this press release can be forwarded to Commissioner Richard Spackmann at the email above or Chairman Donald Kuglar.

About the Greenfield Fire District

The Greenfield Fire District encompasses all of the Town of Greenfield and the southeastern part of the Town of Wilton including the Exit 15 commercial corridor.

The Greenfield Fire District is composed of four sister fire companies: Greenfield Center,

Porter Corners, Middle Grove and Maple Avenue. It is the largest fire district in Saratoga County and is the busiest volunteer fire district in the county running over 1100 calls annually.