

The Monroe Evening News Paper Articles

Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department

Records from the current fire department indicated they were organized in 1958 however some of the following newspaper article(s) are pre 1958.

Following are articles from the Monroe Evening News covering the establishment of the Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department. They were obtained from the research of microfilm at the Monroe County Library by Mark Manor of the London Maybee Raisinville Fire Department (LMR) in the course of documenting the history of the Maybee and LMR fire departments.

August 07, 1936: COUNCIL ORGANIZED AT ESTRAL BEACH

The new council of the village of Estral Beach on Lake Erie northeast of here organized for the year at a meeting held in the village hall Wednesday evening. The president of the village and the councilmen were elected last month. Fred Herrington is president of the village and Edwin Reno is village clerk.

The village council Wednesday evening named appointive offices including chief of police and **chief of the fire department**. Orin P. Barron was named village attorney.

The council also decided to have the road surface treated from the village to the Dixie highway, about a mile and a quarter.

August 06, 1937: RECEIVES NO SALARY

Fred Harrington, recently elected president of the village of Estral Beach, does not take his salary of \$75 a year as head of the village. He turns it back to the village. Estral Beach is a summer resort located on Lake Erie about 16 miles northeast of here. **The village council voted Wednesday to purchase a new fire truck. It will be equipped with a rotary pump and chemicals.**

May 19, 1939: NEWPORT FIREMEN MAKE FIRST RUN

The Newport volunteer fire department, using its high pressure pumping unit, made its first run to Estral Beach at 9:15 last night and assisted in extinguishing a fire in a cottage.

The cottage, owned by Charles Shain and family was damaged about \$500 by flames caused by an overheated stove, Dr. L. H. Tomlinson, chief of the Newport department, said. **Estral Beach has a volunteer department** but it was unable to cope with the blaze. A call was sent to New-

port by telephone. The Newport firemen made the run of six miles and had water pouring on the blaze within 15 minutes, Chief Tomlinson said.

The Shain family was visiting at Pete Sovey's hotel in Estral Beach when the fire broke out. The cottage is located a short distance from the hotel. The fire was lighted in the stove a short time before the family left for the hotel. They remained at the hotel for the night. The damage is covered by insurance.

Two dogs, one a 12-year old Boston terrier valued at \$150, died from suffocation during the fire. They had crawled under beds in separate rooms in an effort to escape the smoke.

Residence of Estral Beach praised the Newport volunteers for keeping the fire from spreading. Chief Tomlinson and 15 men answered the call for help. The Newport department was recently organized with 30 volunteers after the village had two disastrous fires. A reconditioned high pressure pumping engine was purchased.

(The following is only a small sentence that references a fire department in Estral Beach)

January 17, 1950:

OUSTER OF ESTRAL BEACH OFFICIALS IS SOUGHT

A recall election has been petitioned at Estral Beach in an effort to oust the present president and village clerk...

... The incorporation charter provides that the village repair its own roads and maintain its own police and **fire department** and water system.

(The following article dates the beginning of the Monroe County Firemen's Association)

August 10, 1950:

COUNTY FIREMEN ELECT EMERSON

South Rockwood – An association of all Monroe County firemen, both paid and volunteer, was formed last night at the fire station at South Rockwood. Officers for the coming year were elected and a program of action was discussed. The group was named the **Monroe County Firemen's Association**.

Chief Henry Rambow of the Frenchtown volunteer fire department pointed out that there were 14 departments with a membership of 450 firemen in the county. A membership drive is now underway and any fireman interested in the group is urged to notify Chef Rambow. Purpose of the new group is to discuss and take action on common firefighting problems. Through a centralized agency it was felt these problems could be discussed and solved more easily.

Meetings will be held every two months with the next one scheduled Sept. 13.

At last night's meeting the role of county fire departments in the civilian defense setup was discussed. Officers elected were Chief Russell Emerson of the Monroe fire department, president: Chief Floyd Clark of Bedford No. 1 department, vice-president: Chief Glenn Cavanaugh of South Rockwood station, treasurer and Chief Rambow, secretary.

April 17, 1956:

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT GIVEN

Estral Beach – Gibraltar, which recently purchased new firefighting equipment, **will donate its old equipment to Estral Beach.**

That will be the report which John Knierim and William Broge will give to the Estral Beach village council at its next meeting.

They had been appointed a committee to see what could be done to provide fire equipment for the village.

Estral Beach has had several fires in recent months. Having no equipment of its own, it depended on its neighbors, and the nearest fire department is five miles away.

June 29, 1956:

FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE ORGANIZED

A **volunteer fire department** will be organized with profits from a Fourth of July picnic at Estral Beach. The picnic, beginning at 1 p.m., will include free dancing and games, with prizes for children.

Other activities will be a baseball game and pony rides, with fireworks at dark.

Profits also will go to the Boy Scouts in the area and the community hall. The picnic is open to the public. Refreshments will be sold.

(Once again I came across an article that referenced the fire department at Estral Beach before the 1958 organizational date. Only the part of the lengthy article mentioning the department is reproduced here)

April 01, 1957:

ESTRAL BEACH PRESIDENT FACES RENEWED OUSTER PROCEEDINGS

Estral Beach – Estral Beach commissioners have asked for another try at ousting President Joseph Vasicek after Mr. Vasicek presided over a meeting on the removal proceedings Saturday and broke a tie vote to say that the charges were dismissed for “insufficient evidence.”

The president has been charged with neglect of duty and violation of state and Estral Beach laws...

... Another charge against Mr. Vasicek is that he “fired” the chief of the **village volunteer fire department** without notifying or seeking the approval of the commission. Mr. Szewczyk said Mr. Vasicek also ruled out of order about the time a motion for a hearing for the fire chief, William Farkas.

Mr. Vasicek blamed Mr. McCormick for a delay in another of the charges that the president neglected his duty by not seeking legal opinion on the status of the **village fire volunteers.**

August 17, 1957: ESTRAL BEACH WORKS TO BUY FIRE TRUCK

Estral Beach volunteer firemen and others in the village have volunteered to buy a fire truck.

The truck, complete with all auxiliary equipment, will be exchanged for a \$1,500 check with the South Rockwood Volunteer Fire Department at 8 p.m. Monday at the Estral Beach Village Hall.

Twenty-six village residence signed personal notes with the Newport State Bank to finance the purchase. The village will hold special activities, beginning with the area's first annual picnic and dance Sept. 1, to help pay for the truck.

Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department, initiated two years ago with seven members, now has 41 active volunteers and a roster of 57.

Credited for much of the work in raising the truck funds are Philip Nietubicz, captain; Daniel Knierim, lieutenant; Otto Gearhart, assistant chief and William Broge, a volunteer.

August 31, 1957: FIREMEN PLAN BENEFIT CARNIVAL

Estral Beach volunteer firemen hope for no fires Sunday. They'll be busy enough sponsoring a combination picnic, dance, carnival and whatever else they may dream up for fun.

Profits will be used to pay for the newly acquired fire engine which Estral Beach residence backed with their own credit for financing, and for building supplies for a new fire hall. The volunteers plan to construct the station themselves.

Sunday's activities will start at noon around the village hall. Games, refreshments and other attractions for both adults and children will be included.

December 11, 1957: MARSHALL HEADS FIREMEN'S GROUP

Warren Marshall, chief of the Monroe Township Volunteer Fire Department, was elected president of the Monroe County Firemen's Assn. for 1958 at a meeting Tuesday night in the Erie fire department building.

Other officers elected were Ida Chief Russell Schied, vice president; Monroe Fire Department Lt. Eugene Ferguson, secretary and South Rockwood Chief Robert Gildersleeve, treasurer.

Chief Floyd Clark of Temperance and Harold Goodnough of Maybee were elected to the Monroe County Civil Defense Board.

Eighty-seven men, representing 22 fire companies, attended the Tuesday meeting. Emanuel Cousino, chief of the Erie department, was host. The association's next monthly meeting is Jan 14 in the village hall at **Estral Beach**.

January 14, 1958: FIREMEN MEET TONIGHT

Monroe County Firemen's Assn. meets at 8 tonight in the village hall at Estral Beach. Guest chief is William Farkas of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**. A film on arson will be shown.

March 13, 1958: BEACH VOLUNTEERS DOUSE TV FLAMES

Estral Beach - **Estral Beach volunteer fire department** had a job Tuesday, it's first in a very long time. Twelve volunteers extinguished a fire that started in a television set in the home of Virgil Morris of 7310 Lakeshore Dr. The flames, which broke a window and scorched a wall, were controlled before the Newport Volunteer Fire Department arrived, a village resident reported.

Estral Beach residence, who organized their firefighters less than three years ago, last August signed personal notes to finance the purchase of a fire truck from South Rockwood. Special activities such as picnics were sponsored to pay the cost.

Villagers also are raising money for materials for a new fire hall, which they will build themselves.

March 20, 1958: FIRE DAMAGES COUNTY HOMES

Volunteer firemen from Estral Beach and Newport battled the flames that broke through a bathroom wall, and two of them were injured slightly. Don Meyers suffered face and hand cuts and Stanley Nietubicz was burned above his right ear by hot tar.

July 03, 1958: OUTING PLANNED FOR FIRE FUNDS

Estral Beach – **The volunteer fire department** will sponsor a two-day picnic, outing and game-time this weekend to raise funds to repay loans on its new fire truck.

The activities will be from noon until the early morning hours Saturday and Sunday at the village hall and playground. Refreshments, games and rides will be available, as well as a four-piece band for free dancing.

November 09, 1959: RESIDENTS THANK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Estral Beach – A letter of appreciation signed by nearly 50 Estral Beach residents was received Saturday by Michael Dasgalos, president of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**. The letter cited the department's prompt action at a recent house blaze here.

Persons signing the letter promised support of the annual party, sponsored by the fire department, which will be on Nov. 21 at the Village Hall here.

Firemen have purchased a resuscitator from proceeds of their annual picnic, and the equipment was used Oct. 28 to revive Amos Blake, a village resident who has suffered a heart attack.

(Only that portion of a larger article that deals with the fire department is reproduce here)

June 06, 1960: ESTRAL BEACH CANCELES PRIMARY

Estral Beach – A primary village election originally scheduled here June 21 will not be held, Estral Beach Village Clerk Louis B. Wilde said today. Instead, village officers for the coming year will be chosen at a general election July 12...

... At the meeting, the council passed a resolution to place a three-mill tax assessment for improvements in the local volunteer fire department on the ballot in the July election. The resolution requires the approval of County Auditor J. Emmett Kirby before it can appear on the ballot, Mr. Wilde said.

The ultimate objective, he explained, is for the village to take over operation of the volunteer fire department which now is an independent unit.

July 01, 1960:

ESTRAL BEACH

The fifth annual July 4 celebration here will be a two day affair Sunday and Monday. Picnics and baseball games will be held both days, starting at noon.

There will be games for children and concessions. Fireworks are planned Monday night.

The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** is sponsoring the celebration, and fire equipment will be on display. Chief Otto Gearhart, Michael Dasgalos and Henry Knierim are the committee in charge.

(Only that portion of a larger article that deals with the fire department is reproduce here)

July 09, 1960:

ESTRAL BEACH PLANS ELECTION, MILLAGE BALLOT

Estral Beach – Two issues will face Estral Beach voters when they go to the polls here Tuesday.

Five candidates are running for three openings on the board of village commissioners, and on a separate ballot voters will be asked “yes” or “no” on a special fire protection assessment...

... Village voters will be asked to approve or disapprove a three-mill increase in taxes for five years to provide more adequate fire protect and **enable the village to acquire the local volunteer fire department, which now raises operating funds on a private basis.** Having a municipal controlled volunteer fire department would result in a better insurance rate for the residence, according to Village Clerk Louis S. Wilde.

(Only that portion of a larger article that deals with the fire department is reproduce here)

July 13, 1960:

ESTRAL BEACH PRESIDENT LOSES

Estral Beach – Joseph Szewczyk, running as a sticker candidate for village president, upset incumbent James T. Carey Tuesday in Estral Beach village election...

... Also be a six-vote margin voters approved, 58 to 52, a three-mill tax increase for five years to provide adequate fire protection for residence. **Plans are for the village to acquire and operate the local volunteer fire department, which has been a self-supporting unit.**

After the swearing-in tonight, the new president will call a special meeting to appoint committees, police and **fire chiefs**, village attorney, road administrator and health officer, Village Clerk Louis S. Wilde said.

(Once again below is only a small part of a larger article about Estral Beach)

July 25, 1960:

ESTRAL BEACH APPOINTMENTS ARE ANNOUNCED

Estral Beach – A slate of officers presented by Village President Joseph Szewczyk was approved by the Estral Beach Council at a special meeting here Saturday...

... Ford G. Wallace was reappointed chief of police with Stanley Nietubicz as police officer and Mary Wallace policewoman. **Otto Gearhart again received the office of fire marshal...**

November 21, 1960:

FIRE BURNS HOUSE AT ESTRAL BEACH

Fire broke out Sunday in the rear of a house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose McLaughlin of 7380 Sovey Dr., Estral Beach.

The fire destroyed the rear portion of the dwelling and its contents. **Estral Beach volunteer firemen** assisted by members of the Newport Volunteer Fire Department put out the blaze.

No estimate of the damage was made and the cause of the fire was not determined.

(Below is just a portion of an article covering village business)

December 05, 1960:

.... The council also voted to purchase two-way radio equipment for the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** for \$528. Half of the cost will be repaid to the village later under a matching funds arrangement with the Civil Defense office.

January 25, 1961:

THAWING OF PIPES LEADS TO BLAZE

Estral Beach and Newport volunteer firemen were called to 7489 Erie St., Estral Beach Tuesday when an attempt to thaw frozen pipes led to a fire under the house of Mrs. Florence Maroney.

An attempt was made to thaw the pipes with a heat lamp and a propane torch. The heat lamp fell from its position and ignited straw under the house.

Damage was minor and no estimate was made.

June 05, 1961:

FIREMEN AT ESTRAL BEACH BEGIN DRIVE FOR NEW TRUCK

Estral Beach – **Volunteer firemen** in this Lake Erie village have begun a campaign to purchase a new \$10,000 fire truck to replace a vehicle which will be considered obsolete in another year.

Firemen will ask for a 1 per cent assessment on village property over a four-year period to pay for the new truck. They hope to place the question on the ballot in the village election July 11.

If approved by voters, collections of the new assessment will start in 1962. The **volunteer fire department** then will become a village-operated function and lower fire insurance rates of property owners will result, village officials said.

Should the new truck be purchased, the present truck will be sold and the proceeds used to help an addition to the fire hall here, according to President Joseph Szewczyk...

... The village annual July 4 picnic will be held again this year, with volunteer firemen and the village council sharing the cost of the fireworks display, the president said.

July 10, 1961:

ESTRAL BEACH GOES TO POLLS TOMORROW

Estral Beach – Voters will go to the polls here tomorrow to elect a village clerk, treasurer and three councilmen. They will also vote on a 1 per cent increase in assessments to finance the purchase of new fire equipment. Polls are open from 7 a.m. To 8 p.m. in the village hall at 7194 Lakeview Blvd...

... The proposed assessment increase would be payable from 1962 through 1965.

July 12, 1961:

BEACH STICKER HOPEFUL WINS; ASSESSMENT BOOST IS BEATEN

Estral Beach – Sticker candidates, one of whom was successful, added considerable interest to yesterday's election here. A proposed tax assessment increase of 1 per cent was defeated by fewer than the required 60 per cent of the voting property owners who approved it...

... The tax increase proposal drew 124 votes, 68 of whom approved the additional assessment. The number fell 7 short of the 75 votes necessary to carry. The funds the assessment was expected to raise were to be used to purchase firefighting equipment.

The firemen will meet at 8 tomorrow night in the fire hall to determine what to do as a result of the assessment defeat.

Fire Chief Otto Gearhart said the village is serviced by only one truck which is owned by the fire men themselves and not the village. During the last four years the firemen answered 22 fire and nine resuscitator calls, he added.

(The following article is below a photograph of the new addition going up)

November 20, 1961:

ESTRAL BEACH ADDITION

Appraising an addition to the Estral Beach Village Hall are (left to right) Michael Dasgalos, village councilman; Joseph Szewczyk, village president and Otto Gearhart, chief of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**. The 27-by-42-foot masonry addition, costing \$4,500, will house newly purchased village equipment, according to Village Clerk Louis S. Wilde. The village recently purchased a dump truck, a tank vehicle for heating and dispensing tar, a road roller and a tractor loader from a Madison Heights paving firm. The total cost of all the vehicles was about \$3,700. Village streets recently were repaved and new guard rails installed on bridges over a canal in the community. A vacant lot on Lakeshore will be converted to a turn-around area for automobiles and a new supermarket will be located in the town, Mr. Wilde said. Some of the cost of the improvements will be defrayed by community dances and parties, he added. A pre-advent dance is planned Saturday in the Newport Community Hall. Bud Ochs and his Orchestra of Newport will furnish music.

May 14, 1962:

ESTRAL BEACH BUYS FIRST POLICE CAR

Estral Beach – The Village Council Saturday voted to accept the low bid of S. O. Reeves and Sons, Inc., of Carleton for purchase of the village’s first municipally-owned police car.

The Reeves bid, one of six received, was \$2,113.28. The new vehicle will be a station wagon which also may be used for rescue work.

Delivery is expected in two weeks, Village Clerk Louis S. Wilde said.

June 04, 1962:

ESTRAL BEACH VILLAGE ELECTION IS DUE JULY 10

... In other business Saturday, the council approved a special ballot in the election for purchase of a **new fire truck**. The cost of the vehicle, estimated at \$14,500, would be paid from a 1 per cent village property tax assessment which would start in 1963...

(The following article is found below a photograph of the new police car)

June 15, 1962:

ESTRAL BEACH FIRE-POLICE VEHICLE DELIVERED

A new fire and police station wagon was received this week by **Estral Beach voluntary Fire Department Chief Otto Gearhart** (left) and Police Chief Stanley Nietubicz. Holding a bottle of champagne with which the car was christened is Barbara Bussell, Miss Monroe of 1962. The vehicle, costing \$2,100, will be equipped with a hand fire extinguisher, a resuscitator and stretcher, Estral Beach Village President Joseph Szewczyk said. Payment for the car will be made from the village’s general fund and the money will be repaid from the police and fire department treasury.

July 06, 1962:

ESTRAL BEACH VOTE SLATED FOR TUESDAY

Estral Beach - Voters at Estral Beach will go to the polls Tuesday to name five village officials for two year terms and to ballot on a special **tax proposal to provide a new fire truck for the village**.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Village Hall at 7194 Lakeview Blvd....

July 11, 1962:

ESTRAL BEACH APPROVES TAX OF 1 PER CENT

Estral Beach – Voters at Estral Beach yesterday approved a 1 per cent levy for five years to provide funds for fire protection and the **purchase of a new fire truck**. The vote was 91 Yes and 45 No, seven votes more than required three-fifths of the total vote necessary for passage.

The levy, to be collected from 1963 through 1967, will continue the 1 per cent special levy for canal-dredging projects being collected for the last time this year. The dredging projects are nearing completion...

August 02, 1962:

MATTRESS CATCHES FIRE

A mattress burned and a wall was scorched in a vacant cottage at 7430 Lakewood, Estral Beach, yesterday. **Beach volunteer firemen** extinguished the blaze in the cottage owned by the Illingsworth family of Garden City. Cause of the fire was not determined.

August 06, 1962: ... The council voted to advertise for bids for the cab and chassis of a **new village fire truck**. Bids also will be taken for a front mounted pump for the truck.

August 28, 1962: ESTRAL BEACH TO BUY TRUCK

Estral Beach – **A new fire truck** for this village will be delivered in about five months, Estral Beach Clerk Louis S. Wilde said yesterday.

Contracts totaling \$13,029 for the vehicle have been approved by the Estral Beach Village Council, Mr. Wilder said.

The bid of \$4,179 submitted by S. O. Reeves and Sons, Inc., of Carleton for the cab and chassis was accepted. Specifications call for a 192-horsepower, V-8, heavy duty engine in the 1963 model machine. The wheel base will be 176 inches. There were six bids.

The contract for the body equipment was let to the American Fire Apparatus Co. of Battle Creek which submitted a bid of \$8,850. Included are a pump with 500 gallon-a-minute capacity, a 900 gallon water tank, 600 feet of hose, aluminum ladders and two search lights. Two bids were received for this equipment.

The **volunteer fire department** here will become a village operated department, and the new truck will be financed by a levy of 1 per cent a thousand assessed valuations on village property.

The levy, which will be collected annually for five years, was approved by village voters at a municipal election this summer.

January 16, 1963: STREET TAX STUDIED BY ESTRAL BEACH

Estral Beach – ... An open house id planned when **Estral Beach's new \$14,000 fire truck** is delivered, probably late this month. An addition to the village hall to house the vehicle has been completed. "The new engine will have the largest chassis of any fire truck in the county outside of Monroe," Mr. Szewczyk said...

March 04, 1963: NEW \$13,000 FIRE TRUCK DELIVERED TO ESTRAL BEACH

Estral Beach – This village's new fire truck, costing more than \$13,000, was delivered here Saturday and placed in Estral Beach's recently enlarged fire house.

Formal notice of the delivery was made to the Estral Beach Village Council at its meeting Saturday.

An open house for public inspection will be held from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday under the auspices of the village council and the **Estral Beach Fire Department**, now a municipally operated organization.

Village President Joseph Szewczyk and fire chiefs from neighboring villages and townships have been invited as well as officials of Berlin Township.

The **Estral Beach Fire Department** now has four pieces of equipment but three will be disposed of in favor of the new truck, Mr. Szewczyk said.

A levy of \$10 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation for five years was approved by village voters last summer to pay for the new engine.

Mr. Szewczyk said an issue involving millage for improvement of village streets will be on the ballot in a municipal election here in July.

(The follow article is found below a photograph of the new fire engine at the station house)

March 12, 1963: NEW FIRE TRUCK DELIVERED AT ESTRAL BEACH – Estral Beach Fire Chief Otto Gearhart (left) Saturday accepted the keys to the village's new fire truck from Village President Joseph Szewczyk (right) as Daniel Knierim, president of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, watched. The truck was in display at an open house at the Estral Beach Village Hall. Weighing 12½ tons, the 1963 vehicle will carry 900 gallons of water and modern fire-fighting and life-saving equipment. Its cost of more than \$13,000 will be paid over five years by a levy of \$10 a year for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation approved by village voters last year. Village officials said the community of fewer than 200 persons in the last three years also has paid for widening and deepening of its live-water canals, purchased road-construction equipment and build an addition to the Village Hall. Estral Beach residence, members of the Berlin Township Board and chiefs of volunteer fire departments in nearby villages and townships attended the open house.

May 03, 1963: A fire about 3 a.m. today destroyed a summer house at 7323 Estral Ct., Estral Beach. The residence is owned by Frank Geladine of Detroit.

Estral Beach and Newport volunteer firemen fought the fire in the five-room frame dwelling. The cause of the fire was not determined and no damage estimate was made.

(The following article is located below a photograph of the Estral Beach Village Hall)

June 26, 1963: VILLAGE HALL
The Estral Beach Village Hall boasts a recently completed addition erected with volunteer help from the townspeople. **The addition houses a new \$13,000 fire truck** and other equipment. The community of some 250 persons has made many other civic improvements during the last few years, including dredging of canals and purchase of street-repair equipment. Voters July 9 will accept or reject a proposed tax levy for street maintenance.

November 04, 1963: BEACH RESIDENT AIDED
The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department Rescue Squad** was called yesterday when Michael Keller, 73, of 7387 Lakeview Dr., Estral Beach, had an asthma attack. He was taken to Riverside Hospital at Trenton.

January 11, 1964: FIREMEN ELECT NEW OFFICERS
Estral Beach – The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** held a convention Thursday for the election of new officers.
Elected were chief, Oto Gearhart; assistant chief, Arthur Hamlett; captain, Earl Woodward, and lieutenant, Bill Lonsberry.

Assistant firemen elected were president, Dan Knierim; vice president, Mike Dasgalas; treasurer, Thomas Walters, and clerk, Julius Wiegand.

The new clerk was sworn in by the president, and the clerk swore in the new officers.

The president appointed a board of review which included John Knierim, Otto Gearhart, Mike Dasgalas and Arthur Hamlett.

The **Estral Beach Volunteer Firemen** will host the Monroe County Firemen's Association Feb. 11 at Estral Beach Village Hall

March 16, 1964: FIRE DESTROYS ESTRAL BEACH STORAGE SHED

The loss in a storage-shed fire in Estral Beach last night was estimated at about \$250 by Mrs. Ambrose McLaughlin.

The shed was on Sovey Dr. and contained lawn furniture, other furniture, trunks of clothing and children's toys.

The building measured 12 by 15 feet.

April 19, 1964: OTHER FIRES REPORTED

... Numerous other fires were reported to Fire-Control center...

... 1:45 p.m. – 7249 Lakeview Rd., Estral Beach, car fire, **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**...

August 06, 1964: CHOKING BABY RESCUED

Estral Beach volunteer firemen were called at 2:30 this morning to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gee on Lakeshore Dr., Estral Beach when the couple's week-old son began to choke as a result of an undetermined obstruction in his throat. Firemen inserted a tube into the infant's throat so he could breathe. He was taken to Wyandotte Hospital for further treatment.

January 06, 1965: ESTRAL BEACH VFD REPORTS FEW FIRES

Estral Beach – Fires in this village were at a minimum last year, according to a report submitted to the Estral Beach Village Council last night.

The report, prepared by **Fire Chief Otto Gearhart**, listed only one fire loss, with damage of \$50.

Volunteer firemen had received only eight calls during the year. Five were resuscitator runs and two were for alarms outside Estral Beach village limits. Firemen used six tanks of oxygen.

May 13, 1965: **Estral Beach Volunteers** were alerted at 1:2 a.m. today when flames and smoke, possibly from a defective furnace, caused an estimated \$500 damage in the home of James Klaes at 7384 Lakeview Blvd.

Mr. and Mrs. Klaes moved into the home Saturday. The family was awakened when their son, Jeffery, 3, began coughing because of the smoke.

(Following is a caption below a photograph of the burned out structure)

November 29, 1965: REMAINS OF ESTRAL BEACH HOME – “We were in the tavern shooting pool when some kid came in and said. ‘There’s a house on fire.’ I did not pay much attention until someone else looked outside and told me it was my house.” This was the way Joseph Ciupak of Wyandotte found out his weekend 12-room house at 7914 Lakeshore Dr., Estral Beach, was on fire last night. By the time he reached the building, the flames had burned out the interior of the furnished eight-bedroom frame house and were shooting 30 feet into the air. **Estral Beach volunteer firemen called for assistance from fire departments in Frenchtown Township, South Rockwood and Newport.** Firemen said they were forced to use tank trucks for their water supply because the lake, only a few feet away, was too low to be used. The firemen’s efforts saved a small house south of the Ciupak home. That house, whose owner has not been determined, was damaged slightly. A garage next to the destroyed dwelling also was damaged. Sheriff’s deputies directed traffic. Cause of the blaze was not determined. A coal furnace had been lit hours before flames broke out.

December 08, 1965: BEACH PLANS ANNUAL PARTY

Estral Beach – This village’s annual children’s Christmas party will start at 6 p.m. Dec. 19 in the Village Hall here, the Estral Beach Council decided last night.

Santa Claus will be on hand with treats for youngsters. Movies will be shown and refreshments served. This event is sponsored jointly by the Village Council and the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department...**

June 22, 1966: BEACH FIREMEN PLAN HORSE SHOW

Estral Beach – **Volunteer firemen** here will sponsor a horse show at noon Sunday on the Estral Beach Village Hall grounds.

Staged for the first time by the firemen, the all-western show will offer 13 events with prizes for the winners.

The village can be reached by turning off U.S. Turnpike onto Port Sunlight Rd.

Proceeds from the show will be used toward the purchase of new equipment for the fire department. Refreshments will be available on the grounds.

June 29, 1966: ESTRAL BEACH SHOW DRAWS 200

Estral Beach – An all-western horse show held on the Estral Beach Village Hall grounds attracted about 200 persons from Trenton, South Rockwood, Newport, Monroe, New Boston and Lincoln Park.

The event was sponsored by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, with all proceeds to be used for new equipment for the fire department.

In the senior division, the trophy winner was Bill Van Washenova of South Rockwood; in the 11-15 age group, Sharon Rasch of New Boston, and in the 10 and under age group, Robin Ames of Newport. The runner-up trophy winner was JoAnn Klebba of Lincoln Park.

The timekeeper was Clarence Lopshire of Trenton, field man was Eddie Ames of Newport and the announcer was Ed Goodman of Trenton. Mrs. Frank Borbely, Mrs. Earl Woodward and Mrs. Otto Gearhart were in charge of a bake sale.

June 30, 1966: FIREWORKS SHOWS TO COVER COUNTY

Estral Beach – A fireworks show for the public will be presented by **Estral Beach volunteer firemen** after dark Monday near the Estral Beach Hotel.

July 02, 1966: MATTRESS FIRE EXTINGUISHED

The **Newport and Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Departments** responded to a call from Kenneth Toth regarding a fire at 6348 Blanchette St. next to the Swan Creek Boat Club in Berlin Township at 1:20 p.m. yesterday. A mattress blaze was extinguished by the firemen.

July 13, 1966: COUNTY DATEBOOK

Estral Beach – The financial committee of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** will have a fish fry from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday in the Estral Beach Hotel.

(The following article is a caption below a photograph of the newly acquired rescue vehicle)

May 16, 1967: RESCUE TRUCK NEARS READINESS – The recently purchased rescue truck for the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** will be placed into service as soon as two-way radio equipment can be installed and 18 of the 27-member volunteer fire department complete their first-aid training. Fire Chief Otto Gearhart (above) checks some of the gauges of the vehicle which was purchased from Lincoln Park for \$470. The truck will carry 150 gallons of water, 15 gallons of foam and 100 feet of one-inch hose mounted in the rear. The 1956 model vehicle will be able to carry three stretchers. It also will be outfitted with a resuscitator unit and other first-aid equipment. An open house for the public to inspect the new rescue truck and the fire hall was held Saturday. Chief Gearhart, who has headed the department for 10 years, said the firemen raised the money themselves for the vehicle after several fund-raising drives.

May 18, 1967: ESTRAL BEACH FIREMEN HAVE FIRST-AID CLASS

Estral Beach – Volunteer firemen here are taking instructions in first aid from Lt. Richard and Officer Fred Shavalia of the Monroe County Auxiliary Police. When the present class is completed they will begin a six-week-long advanced class in first aid.

Estral Beach Fire Chief Otto Gearhart said about 75 persons attended an open house Saturday in the Estral Beach Fire Hall. A recently-purchased rescue vehicle and other department equipment were on display and demonstrations of firefighting and life-saving techniques were given. Members of the department were introduced by John Knierim.

- July 06, 1967: ... The council also decided a village election Tuesday at which a clerk, treasurer and three councilmen will be elected. Voters will also be asked to approve or disapprove a special levy of one per cent per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. If approved, half of the money raised will be used for maintenance of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and half will go into a fund to construct officers for village officials in the Village Hall. The assessment period will extend over three years, from 1968 to 1971...
- July 12, 1967: ... A proposal to levy a mill per \$1,000n of assessed valuation for five years was defeated 81-57. Purpose of the levy was to help with maintenance of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and to construct village offices in the Village Hall...
- July 18, 1967: TWO RESCUE GIRL PULLED TOWARD LAKE
- Estral Beach – A swimming party almost was turned into a tragedy here last night as a girl tried to swim across Swan Creek at its entrance to Lake Erie to an island and was caught in a current which pulled her toward the lake.
- Sandy Tucker, 19, of Southgate had started swimming across the 150-foot wide canal which leads into the Swan Creek Boat Club at 10:30 p.m. The girl was in the middle of the canal when the current began pulling her toward the lake.
- Estral Beach Police Chief John McDonald said Reed Watkins, 19, of Lincoln Park and Dave Forest, 19, of 15605 Woodruff, Rockwood, went to the girls rescue and brought her to shore.
- Dave Fouchey, 19, of Lincoln Park had made to the island and started to swim to the aid of Miss Tucker when he suffered a cramp and was forced back to the island.
- Members of the **Estral Beach Fire Department Rescue Squad** were called to the scene and assisted. A boat belonging to Joe and John Weigand of Lakeshore Dr. was used to rescue the Fouchey youth along with Dave Forrest who had gone back to help Dave Fouchey from the island.
- Miss Ticker was not injured from her experience other than being scared, according to the police chief.
- August 22, 1967: BARKING DOG'S ALARM SAVES VACANT COTTAGE
- Estral Beach – Fire broke out early this morning in a vacant cottage owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Terry of Lincoln Park at 7+986 Lakeshore Dr. The blaze started with defective wiring between the walls and crept between the flooring of the structure.
- Estral Beach Fire Chief Otto Gearhart** estimated damage at \$500.
- The barking of a neighbor's dog aroused Paul Frendo of 7910 Lakeshore Dr. Mr. Frendo turned in the alarm at 4:30 this morning.
- September 01, 1967: The Rescue Squad of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** was called at 5:30 today at 7325 Center St. after Christopher Klass, 6 months old, became ill. The child was taken to Mercy Hospital Monroe where he was treated. He is the some of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klass of Holland,

Mich. The child and his parents were visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Klass of the Center St. address.

September 04, 1967: ESTRAL BEACH VOLUNTEERS EXTINGUISH BLAZE IN HOUSE

The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** answered a call at 12:30 a.m. today when fire damaged a vacant house at 7490 Starlight Rd. It is owned by Howard Priebe of Detroit and Florida.

Damage was estimated at between \$500 and \$700 to the two-story frame structure. The fire was confined to the living room where a chair and davenport were destroyed in addition to damage to the walls.

Chief John McDonald of the Estral Beach Police Department said cause of the blaze has not been determined.

September 06, 1967: ... The **Estral Beach Police and Volunteer Fire Departments** received a check for \$125 from the Hungarian Park Association. The check sent by President William Zrenchik was payment for the department's services in parking cars and regulating traffic during Sundays annual autumn festival held in the park by the First Szekely Magyar Association of Detroit.

October 04, 1967: ... The council also voted, subject to the approval of the village attorney, Paul Braunlich, to transfer monies from a \$1,247 fire fund to reimburse the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, which recently made equipment purchases totaling \$957.

Fire department president John Knierim was placed in charge of a program to repair and paint two school bus shelters. Mr. Knierim will ask for youthful volunteers to aid with the work.

November 08, 1967: ... The council also voted to reimburse the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** \$957 spent by the department for maintenance of fire equipment. Firemen said the money would be used toward the construction of a 10-by-30-foot addition to the fire hall. The addition will be used for storage of department apparatus.

December 12, 1967: ... The council also voted to contribute \$100 to the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** for the department's annual Christmas party for children here. A date for the party will be set soon by the firemen...

December 20, 1957: SANTA TO VISIT ESTRAL BEACH

Estral Beach – Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the Estral Beach Village Hall from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and all Estral Beach children are invited to attend to receive gifts and tell their Christmas wishes to Santa.

The visit is sponsored by the village council here, which has contributed \$100 toward the cost of the event. **Estral Beach Volunteer firemen** will be in charge of the program.

January 12, 1968:

JACK SKEGGS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ESTRAL BEACH FIREMEN'S UNIT

Estral Beach – Officers of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** for the coming year are Jack Skeggs president; John Knierim, vice president; Michael Dasgalos, treasurer and Joseph Szewczyk, secretary. They were elected by the firemen last night.

Also appointed chief for the 11th consecutive year was Otto Gearhart. The chief named Daniel Knierim deputy chief; Frank Borbely, assistant chief; David Dempsey, captain and Edward Medvegy, Lieutenant.

Firemen also voted to hold their meetings at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the Estral Beach Fire Hall.

April 11, 1968:

ESTRAL BEACH COUNCIL APPROVES FIRE HALL PLANS

Estral Beach – The **Estral Beach Volunteer fire Department** got the blessing of the Estral Beach Village Council last night to construct a 20-by-24-foot addition to the fire hall here.

Firemen told the council the project will be financed with funds they have raised through sponsorship of social events in the community.

Plans call for the addition to be used for recreational purposes for local residence.

May 13, 1968:

ESTRAL BEACH VFD TO BEGIN CAMPAIGN

Estral Beach – Members of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** have voted to begin a fund-raising campaign to build a 25-by-50-foot addition to the Fire Hall here. The hall also has a section which serves as the meeting room for the Estral Beach Village Council.

Firemen will conduct a campaign beginning now and June 30 to raise about \$3,000 which they say will help construction get started. The department has allocated \$600 to open the project and has voted to contribute 70 per cent of all future monies earned by firefighting activities to the fund.

Department president Jack Skeggs said present facilities are inadequate for present and planned future equipment.

The addition will be designed to hold the firemen's rescue vehicle, provide an office area with desk and filing cabinets and to give space for a workshop and combination meeting and recreation room. Firemen also said it will provide room for a tanker truck which they hope to add to their equipment in the future.

Much of the work on the addition will be done by the firemen themselves. Chief Otto Gearhart said he is hoping for completion of the structure by October, at which time a meeting of the Monroe County Firemen's Association will be held in Estral Beach.

Firemen also have named Joseph Cunningham of 7445 Lakeview Ave. director of an athletic program which will include boy's baseball. The program will be financed by contributions of \$50 from the village council and \$50 from the firemen.

May 17, 1968: A summer cottage owned by Art Vance of Grosse Ile was damaged this morning when fire swept through the vacant building in Estral Beach. The fire was extinguished by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** after firemen were summoned to the home at 10 a.m. No estimate was available on the extent of damage.

(The following article appears below a photograph of the addition underway)

June 22, 1968: ESTRAL BEACH FIRE HALL ADDITION UNDERWAY – Work has begun on a 25-by-50 foot addition to the **Estral Beach Fire Hall** with village volunteer firemen providing much of the labor. They also are staging a campaign to raise \$3,000 to help defray the cost of the project. The addition will house the department's rescue vehicle and a workshop, meeting and recreation room. Completion of the construction is expected by October when the **Estral Beach department** will be host to a meeting of the Monroe County Firemen's Association.

October 09, 1968: FIREMEN MEET IN NEW HALL

Estral Beach – The first meeting to be held in the newly completed 25-by-50-foot addition to the **Estral Beach Fire Department** was last night when about 50 members of the Monroe County Firemen's Association gathered.

The single-story, block building which was started on May 1, received finishing touches on Monday by members of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.

The building, valued at \$14,000 cost about \$5,000 with about 92 per cent of the work being done by department members. Official dedication ceremonies have not been scheduled...

(The following article is accompanied by a photograph of the new addition to the fire hall)

October 28, 1968: FIRE HALL ADDITION DEDICATED – **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** Chief Otto Gearhart stands in front of an addition to the village's Fire Hall. The addition was dedicated yesterday at an open house attended by more than 100 persons from the village, Berlin Township and Lincoln Park, Wyandotte and Detroit. The 26-by-50-foot addition, only part of which is shown, cost \$5,500, much of which was raised by contributions from more than 160 individuals and business firms. Firemen did much of the work themselves. The addition will be used as a fire department office, for maintenance work on vehicles and for department meetings and social events. Also underway in the village hall, which the fire hall is joined, is a program of painting the structure inside and outside, Village President John Knierim said.

November 08, 1968: ESTRAL BEACH HEARS REPORT

Estral Beach – The Estral Beach Village Council last night received a report that painting the interior and exterior of the village hall has been completed and a new storage building for mobile equipment is in use.

An addition to the fire hall, adjoining the village hall, also is finished and painted. This work was handled by members of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.

A general cleanup of the village also is underway, the council was told.

Daniel Mercure of Rockwood, an insurance agent, gave an explanation of the council's insurance program, but no action was given on the matter.

January 10, 1969: VOLUNTEERS RE-ELECT FIRE CHIEF

Estral Beach – The annual election of officers for the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** was held Wednesday night in the fire hall.

Elected to office were Otto Gearhart, chief, this is his 23th consecutive year for this position; Fred Klaes Jr., recording secretary; Michael Dasgalo, treasurer; Joseph Szewczyk, president; Daniel Knierim, vice president; Frank Borbely, assistant deputy chief; Michael Dempsey, fire captain and Edward Medvegy, fire lieutenant.

April 02, 1969: Fire Chief Otto Gearhart was given authority to purchase a new fire siren capable of being heard throughout the

February 05, 1969: ESTRAL BEACH WOMAN AIDED BY RESCUE UNIT

Estral Beach – The Rescue Squad of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** was called last night to 7591 Center St. where Mrs. Joseph Kadi was ill. Firemen administered oxygen to Mrs. Kadi and she was taken to Seaway Hospital in Trenton where she was listed in a satisfactory condition today.

March 20, 1969: HOUSE IN ESTRAL BEACH DESTROYED BY FIRE

A vacant house in Estral Beach was destroyed last night by fire of an undetermined origin. The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** was called to the two-story home on Gladys St. about 10. The building was owned by John Schmieder of Dearborn.

No estimate on the damages was given.

May 07, 1969: ... The council also voted to place a millage proposition on the ballots in the July election. Acting on a request of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, village residence will be asked to approve a millage levy which will permit the firemen to purchase hoses and other firefighting equipment.

The amount of the millage to be asked will be determined by village attorney Paul E. Braunlich.

July 02, 1969: ESTRAL BEACH

The village's Fourth of July celebration has been named "Tot, Teen and Adult Day" and will be Friday on the grounds of the village hall.

Games and contest will be held for children from noon to 3 p.m.; public dancing will be offered from 3 to 6 p.m. with music furnished by a rock and roll group. The fireworks display will be presented at dusk. Pony rides will be available and the Estral Beach TOPS Club will offer a bake sale.

The celebration is sponsored by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.

- July 07, 1969: ESTRAL BEACH VOTERS TO FIL SIX OFFICES
- Estral Beach - ... Also facing voters will be a special issue. They will decide whether a one-mill tax will be levied for two years to buy equipment needed by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**. The money to be raised, between \$2,500 and \$3,000, would be used to purchase fire hose and other apparatus, Fire Chief Otto Gearhart said.
- July 09, 1969: ... Voters also approved a one-mill levy for two years to furnish funds for **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**. The vote count was 121 in favor and 55 against.
- September 03, 1969: ESTRAL BEACH OFFICER NAMED
- Estral Beach - ... The council last night authorized the purchase of \$175 electric power plant for the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** as a special purchase which the funds were allotted in this year's budget...
- October 23, 1969: The interior of a garage owned by Joseph Vasicek of 6896 Lakeshore Dr., Estral Beach, was burned by fire yesterday. Mr. Vasicek was unable to make an estimate of the damages but said it probably would be several thousand dollars to the garage and contents.
- The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** was called but the men were unable to fight the fire effectively because they could not open the garage. No cars were in the garage at the time of the fire.
- January 19, 1970: NEWPORT BARN RAZED BY BLAZE
- A barn owned by Leo Cousino of 4865 Anteau Rd., Newport, was damaged extensively by fire Saturday night. The 100-by-36-foot structure, five tractors and two large farm wagons also were damaged extensively. An undetermined amount of hay and straw were lost.
- Firemen from four volunteer fire departments were called to the blaze. The Newport and South Rockwood units of the Berlin Township Volunteer Fire Department, The Frenchtown Township Volunteer Fire Department and the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** all were called and were at the scene within 20 minutes after the fire was reported...
- ... The Newport unit of the Berlin Township Department and the **Estral Beach** department stood by until daylight to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent buildings...
- February 02, 1970: GEARHART NAMED FIRE CHIEF AGAIN
- Estral Beach – Otto Gearhart has been re-elected chief of the Village of **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and begins his 14th year of service in that capacity.
- Also elected at the annual meeting Thursday were Daniel Knierim, assistant fire chief; Frank Borbely, deputy fire chief; Michael Dempsey, captain and Joseph Cunningham, lieutenant.
- The Volunteer Firemen's administrative officers also were elected. They were Mr. Borbely, president; Jerry Lore, vice president; Michael Desgalos, treasurer and James Klaes, clerk.

- April 08, 1970: ... Heard the annual fire report of Fire Chief Otto Gearhart which indicated the **volunteer department** made 11 calls during 1969. Total damage due to fires was reported at \$6,200...
- June 03, 1970: ESTRAL BEACH PAY INCREASES ARE RESCINDED
- Estral Beach – A general operating budget of \$22,125 for the 1970-71 fiscal year was adopted last night by the Estral Beach Village Council after it rescinded wage increases approved at its May 18 meeting.
- The action in rescinding the new salary scale was necessitated by a lack of sufficient projected income to keep the budget in balance. Taxes of \$23,200 are anticipated for the year, and expenditures, with the salary scale approved last month, were estimated at \$24,685.
- The council approved increasing the annual salaries of the village clerk from \$200 to \$400 **and the fire chief from \$50 to \$100** and setting treasurer’s annual salary at \$400 in lieu of a one per cent fee for taxes collected...
- ... At the regular council meeting, following the special budget hearing, the council also:
- 2 – Tabled action until July 7 on Fire Chief Otto Gearhart’s request for a \$25 a month salary. The chief receives \$100 a year...**
- July 29, 1970: ESTRAL BEACH HOMECOMING TO BEGIN
- Estral Beach – A four-day homecoming, sponsored by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, will begin here tomorrow on the grounds adjacent to the Estral Beach Village Hall.
- Amusement rides and booths will be open throughout the festival, as well as food and refreshment stands...
- December 02, 1970: The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** rescue squad was called last night when Mrs. Patricia Simms of 6494 Masserant Rd., Estral Beach, had difficulty breathing. She was treated in Mercy Hospital.
- December 17, 1970: ESTRAL BEACH PARTIES PLANNED
- Estral Beach - Two events for the young residence of the Village of Estral Beach have been scheduled for this weekend.
- A party for village teen-age residence is slated from 7 p.m. tomorrow while Santa Claus is to visit the children’s party at 6 p.m. Sunday.
- Cooperating in sponsoring and arranging the affairs are village officials, the **Estral Beach Fire Department** and the Estral Beach Mothers Club and village residence.
- December 24, 1970: FIREMEN ELECT MAN TO 14TH TERM AT ESTRAL BEACH
- Estral Beach – Otto Gearhart was elected chief of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** at the group’s annual meeting last night making this the 14th consecutive year for Mr. Gearhart to hold the post.

Two new offices were established by the group. Daniel Knierim was elected to the new post of department photographer and James Dempsey and Mr. Knierim will serve as sergeants-of-arms.

Other officers elected last night were: Joe Cunningham, president: Michael Dempsey, vice president: Michael Dasgalos, treasurer: Mr. Knierim, assistant chief: Michael Dempsey, deputy chief: Mr. Cunningham, captain and Frank Borbely, lieutenant.

The department has 30 regular firemen and five junior firemen, all on call at all times.

December 31, 1970: Jeffery Longhway, 2, don of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Longhway of 7415 Lakeview Dr., Estral Beach, was treated in Seaway Hospital, Trenton, early today when he had difficulty breathing. The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** rescue squad was called shortly before midnight.

February 03, 1971: ESTRAL BEACH PUTS STRICT LID ON ITS SPENDING

Estral Beach – All expenditures by Estral Beach Village officials must have the prior approval of the village council, according to the directive issued by the council last night.

Only emergency expenditures such as in the case of police or **fire department** vehicle breakdowns are excepted from the ruling...

The council also:

2 – Authorized Mr. Borbely and Fire Chief Otto Gearhart to attend the Berlin Township Board meeting Monday to ask for new fire hose for the **village fire department**...

April 13, 1971: GRASS FIRE RELIEF ARRIVES

The long sad faces on children home from school because of today's rain are absent from the faces of Monroe County firemen...

... There were another some 40 field and grass fires yesterday with two blazes resulting in damage to buildings...

... The some 40 grass fire calls yesterday boost the number for Monroe County weary fire departments to at least 150 since early last week when county firemen also answered regular fire and rescue alarms...

... A trash fire also went out of control on the property of James Brown, 8600 N. Dixie Highway, which is at the end of Roberts Rd. in Berlin Township.

Chief Gaynier said the blaze caused damage to a building formally used as a grainery. Firemen were able to put out the fire before it spread to a house and barn on the property and also prevented it from reaching a wooded area.

Both Newport and **Estral Beach VFDs** were at the scene to extinguish the fire...

May 18, 1971: The Ida Township Volunteer fire department members answered a to grass fire calls during the weekend while others were answered by Maybee, Luna Pier, Lambertville, **Estral Beach** and Erie firemen.

- August 27, 1971: ESTRAL BEACH UNITS PLAN HOLIDAY FETE
- Estral Beach – A Labor Day picnic is planned in the Village of Estral Beach, Sept. 4 and 5, sponsored by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and the Estral Beach Mother’s Club.
- Food and game booths are to be open noon to 6 p.m.
- Included in the plans are a dance, open to the public in the village hall the night of Sept. 4, and a baseball game between a women’s team and a men’s team, 2 p.m. Sept. 5.
- Final plans for the picnic are to be made at a Mother’s Club meeting Sept. 2 in the village hall.
- September 04, 1971: ESTRAL BEACH PICNIC BEGINS
- Estral Beach – The two-day Labor Day picnic sponsored by the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** and the Estral Beach Mother’s Club opened at noon today.
- Booths for games and refreshments are set up in the Estral Beach village hall and will be in operation until 6 tonight and a father-son baseball game was scheduled for 1 p.m.
- A band is to provide music for a dance at the village hall, slated to start at 8 tonight.
- The booths will be set up again tomorrow noon to 6 p.m. and a baseball game with women residence competing against men is planned.
- September 07, 1971: ESTRAL BEACH PICNIC DRAWS 650
- Estral Beach - An estimated 650 persons attended the two-day Labor Day picnic in the Village of Estral Beach sponsored by the Estral Beach Mother’s Club and the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.
- Proceeds of the refreshment and game booths are to be used for club and fire department projects.
- Women residence defeated the men residence 12-4, in the baseball game Sunday after a few minor changes to the rules, and the fathers defeated the sons, 6-5, in Saturday’s game.
- December 17, 1971: CHRISTMAS PARTY SET IN VILLAGE
- Estral Beach – Estral Beach children under 12 will be guest at a Christmas party at 5 p.m. Sunday in the Village Hall. Sponsors are the Estral Beach Village Council, the **village volunteer fire department** and the Estral Beach Mother’s Club.
- Entertainment will be provided by Ted Koss, magician. Santa Claus will distribute gifts. Refreshments are to be served.
- December 20, 1971: CHILDREN ENTERTAINED AT ESTRAL BEACH
- Gifts were distributed by Santa Claus yesterday to more than 100 youngsters at the Christmas party sponsored by the Estral Beach Mother’s Club, the **volunteer fire department** and the village council.

Tod Koss, a local magician, presented the program and refreshments were served.

January 14, 1972: ESTRAL BEACH VFD RE-ELECTS CHIEF

Estral Beach – Otto Gearhart of 7405 Otilie, Newport, was re-elected chief of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** for the 15th year in the organization's annual meeting Wednesday.

Elected to serve with him were Dave Dempsey, president: Joe Cunningham, vice president: Frederick "Corky" Klaes, secretary and Michael Dasgalos, treasurer.

The department, which serves the village of Estral Beach and adjacent territory, has 28 regular and 5 junior members.

February 16, 1972: ESTRAL BEACH SETS FIRST-AID COURSE

Estral Beach – A six-week Red Cross standard first-aid course will be conducted in the Village of Estral Beach with the first class slated for 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Arrangements for the classes, scheduled for Monday and Friday evenings, were made through the efforts of the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.

Instructors for the classes, open to the public, are to be provided by the Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross.

May 15, 1972: MARBLE-SIZE HAIL, RAIN PELT COUNTY

Hail larger than marbles fell in parts of Monroe County yesterday, but the most serious damage reported was caused by lightning.

It struck a barn owned by Irvin Venier of 7686 Reaume Rd., Newport, yesterday afternoon as a heavy thunderstorm with rain pelted the northern portion of the county.

The Newport Volunteer Fire Department was unable to save the barn or the strawm hay, farm-machinery and 15-foot boat inside after lightning struck about 5:30 p.m.

The machinery included two tractors, a grain planter, a corn planter and combine. Also lost were two outboard boat motors.

Newport firemen were assisted by the **Estral Beach VFD** and Newport Fire Chief Robert Barron reported his unit returned to the scene about 11:30 last night when the barn began to smolder again.

No damage estimate to the barn or its contents has been made to Chief Barron. He said the damage is still being itemized.

Monroe County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene at 5:40 p.m. and reported that neighbors said the barn "had gone up in one great ball of fire."

"Because of the straw and hay in the barn the fire spread quickly," Chief Barron said," and the barn was virtually destroyed by the time we arrived."

- September 06, 1972: 6 – Heard an announcement that the **village Volunteer Fire Department** is participating in the Field Day to be held in Temperance Sunday. The Newport fire department is to substitute for the village department in the event of fire.
- January 03, 1973: BLAZE PROBES IN BERLIN TOWNSHIP
- Arson is being investigated concerning a fire about 10 last night which resulted in little damage to an abandoned house owned by the Swan Boat Club at 6304 Blanchette Rd., Newport.
- Newport and **Estral Beach Volunteer firemen** were dispatched to the scene at 10:03 p.m. with the fire out on arrival. The house is next to the boat club on Swan Creek.
- The fire was discovered by H. W. Dennison of 6477 Blanchette Rd., Newport, who saw flames in the house while leaving the boat club where he was attending a meeting.
- Mr. Dennison reported to deputies he saw two youths leaving the scene when he discovered the fire.
- The fire, consisted of pieces of wood burning on the living room floor of the house, was extinguished by Mr. Dennison and other persons who were attending the boat club meeting.
- Deputies reported the youths apparently had ignited the fire to keep warm.
- February 19, 1973: VOLUNTEERS ELECT NEW FIRE CHIEF
- Estral Beach – Daniel Knierim of 7750 Lakeshore Dr. Estral Beach, has been elected chief of the **Estral Beach Fire Department** succeeding Otto Gearhart who resigned after 16 years of service.
- Also elected were Arthur Hamlett, president; Leonard Lundgren, vice president; Michael Dasgalos, treasurer and Fred Klaes Jr., secretary.
- Chief Knierim named Mr. Klaes, assistant chief; Ted Cornett, deputy chief; James Dempsey, captain and Kurt Beidlingmaier, lieutenant.
- The officers were elected at the group's annual meeting Wednesday.
- April 09, 1973: VETERAN FIRE CHIEF CITED AT BANQUET AT ESTRAL BEACH
- Estral Beach – Otto "Bay" Gearhart, who retired in January from the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, was honored at a banquet Saturday for his 17 consecutive years of service as fire chief.
- Village President Mrs. Edward Shirlanne Wellner read a proclamation naming Mr. Gearhart the Estral Beach Citizen of the Year for 1973 and presented him with a plaque from the village council.
- On the behalf of the department the new chief, Daniel Knierim, made the presentation to his predecessor of an engraved firemen's watch.
- Also honored were Frenchtown Township Fire Chief and Mrs. John Rogers and Michael "Grandpa" Dasgalos.

About 70 persons, firemen and their wives, members of the village council and guest attended the affair held at the village hall. Dinner was prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Domako.

January 06, 1974:

ESTRAL BEACH DIKE DAMAGED IN BLAZE

Estral Beach volunteer firemen were called to 7240 Lakeshore Dr., Estral Beach, at 3:44 a.m. to-day and were called back to the same location at 7:30 a.m. to battle a fire which destroyed about 50 feet of the dike cribbing.

The wood portion of the Operation Foresight diking caught fire as a nearby house which had been demolished because of flooding was being burned, neighbors said.

Volunteer firemen were called back to the scene after the fire which they thought they had extinguished ignited again.

A neighbor charged the damage to carelessness, said the fire from the burning heap of rubble spread to the dike cribbing after it was left unattended.

April 22, 1974:

The following Monroe County fire departments extinguished grass and field fires during the weekend:

... Monroe Township and **Estral Beach firemen**, Saturday night in the village.

April 21, 1975:

BLAZE LEVELS EMPTY HOUSE

Fire, blamed on arson, leveled a vacant house at 2801 Trombley Rd., Newport early today. The owner was Arnold Masserant of 5701 Trombley Rd., Newport.

Volunteer firemen from Newport were called to the scene but said that the one-story home was already engulfed in flames by the time they arrived. It was reported that fuel was believed used in the fire, as the house burned quite rapidly, firemen told deputies who investigated.

According to policer, neighborhood children recently had used the building for a club house.

Volunteer firemen from Estral Beach were called to assist.

(The following article contains a photograph of the Water Ball tournament)

May 27, 1975:

WATER BALL – Volunteer firemen from Estral Beach (left) battle volunteer firemen from LaSalle Township in a water ball game Monday as part of a tournament between area fire departments at the Newport Volunteer Firemen's Homecoming. The object of the contest is to have four man teams use the spray from the hose to push the iron ball along a cable to the other team's goal. Whiteford Township No. 1 was the winner of the contest and Gibraltar No. 2 runner up. Frenchtown Fire Station No. 4 finished third. Whiteford and Gibraltar were awarded trophies. After the team competition a "super match" water ball contest pitted South Rockwood Fire Chief Charles Schaeffer against Robert Barron, Newport chief, in a one-on-one competition was held with Chief Barron victorious.

May 31, 1975:

GIRL CRITICALLY BURNED IN FIRE

Estral Beach – A 10-year-old girl was listed in critical condition this morning from burns she suffered earlier in a house fire in this Monroe County beach community.

In the burn center at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor is Frankie Pop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Miles of 7528 St. Clair Ave. Mr. Miles also suffered a burned right shoulder in the fire and was treated and released from Memorial Hospital Unit.

Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department Chief Daniel Knierim said the fire apparently started in the child's bedroom about 5:35 a.m.

"It looked like it was faulty wiring with too many services on an extension cord," Mr. Knierim said. He said the fire was confined to the bedroom but he had no estimate of damage.

Simon Lapencckas of 7532 St. Clair Ave., the Miles neighbor, said the Miles' dogs saved the family by barking when smoke filled the house.

The dog's barking woke up Mr. and Mrs. Miles, he said, and they were able to get Frankie and the family's other three children out of the house.

He said no one else was injured in the fire but Mrs. Miles, who is seven months pregnant, was extremely upset.

The child was transported to Memorial Unit, then to St. Joseph's.

The **Estral Beach fire department** responded to the call at 5:39 a.m. and was assisted by the Newport Fire Department.

June 20, 1975:

BARN, CONTENTS ARE DESTROYED BY FLAMES

Fire destroyed a large barn and \$10,000 worth of contents on Swan Creek Rd., Newport, early today.

The barn is owned by Robert Duffey of 222 Hollywood Dr., although Robert Welch is living in the house on the property at 9243 Swan Creek Rd.

Mr. Welch told volunteer firemen from Newport, along with the **Estral Beach** and Frenchtown Township volunteers battled the blaze, that he was awakened by a barking dog about 3:15 a.m. and discovered the barn burning.

It was engulfed in flames by the time firemen arrived.

A horse that had been in the barn managed to break loose. Destroyed in the blaze were a tractor, a riding mower, seven saddles, nine bridles, numerous garden tools, 200 bales of hay and 75 bales of straw.

The cause of the fire is undetermined although arson is suspected. Sheriff's deputies investigated.

July 10, 1975:

FIREMEN CALLED AS OWNERS BURN SCRAP WOOD

Volunteer firemen from Newport and **Estral Beach** were called late Wednesday when it was reported that one of the vacant houses on Fisher Rd. was on fire.

Upon arrival, firemen said, they found the fire was scrap wood from a shed which had been torn down by property owners for disposal.

Sheriff's deputies investigated, firemen reported.

July 11, 1975:

A vacant house in Estral Beach was leveled by fire late Thursday.

The one-story house, owned by the Federal Housing administration and vacant for about two months, is located north of Gladys St. at the end of Lakeview Dr.

Volunteer firemen from both **Estral Beach** and Newport battled the blaze, the cause of which is still under investigation.

July 31, 1975:

Numerous other fires were fought by area agencies Wednesday...

... Both Monroe Township and **Estral Beach volunteer firemen** battled field fires in their areas Wednesday afternoon.

(The following article includes a photograph of the fire being investigated)

August 02, 1975:

HOUSE FIRE INVESTIGATED – Newport volunteer firemen and former fire department chief Camillus Ochs looks for clues for the cause of a house fire Friday at the Frank Fountain home at 6016 Lily Patch Dr., Berlin Township. Mr. Ochs said the fire started in one of the house's main floor bedrooms or in the closet of the bedroom, where there was extensive fire damage. The fire started to burn through to the attic of the house but firemen from the Newport unit and the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** were able to contain it at that point. There was severe smoke and water damage through the rest of the house. Mr. Ochs said no one was in the house at the time of the fire and it hasn't been determined what caused it. He was unable to give a damage estimate. The Newport firemen responded to the fire at 12:30 p.m. Friday afternoon after neighborhood children noticed and reported it. The Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross, was notified.

August 06, 1975:

Fire Chief Daniel Knierim was authorized by the council to make grant application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire division for equipment for the **village volunteer fire department**. The grant will allow for 50 per cent coming from the village, matched by the DNR.

February 12, 1976:

Arson is the cause of a car fire on N. Dixie Highway west of U.S. Turnpike Wednesday night, sheriff's deputies reported.

Deputies said the car was shoved into a ditch on the north side of the road. Firemen of the Newport Volunteer Fire Department told deputies gasoline was apparently poured into the interior of the car and ignited. A plastic bottle with the odor of gasoline was found on the scene, deputies said.

The car was destroyed, deputies reported. The automobile was owned by Danny Smith of Wayne. The **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department** assisted.

March 26, 1976:

STOLEN CAR IS DESTROYED

A stolen car was stripped and burned in a field on Masserant Rd. early today resulting in a call to the **Estral Beach Volunteer Fire Department**.

The car was destroyed by the blaze. It is owned by Dean Herbert of Wayne from where it was stolen, sheriff's deputies reported.

June 09, 1976:

Estral Beach firemen early Tuesday put out a fire in an abandoned cinder block garage on Lakeview Ave. The garage was no longer being used since the house it was next to burned last year, according to Fire Chief Fred Klaes Jr.

Name of the owner of the garage which was destroyed was not immediately available. The cause was undetermined.

July 22, 1976:

ESTRAL BEACH CRASH INJURES MOTORIST

Carl F. Hopper of 9511 Shady Lane, Newport, was reported in satisfactory condition this morning at Seaway Hospital in Trenton where he was taken following an early morning accident Wednesday in Estral Beach.

Sheriff's deputies reported the car he was driving northbound on Lakeview St. went off the east side of the road into a ditch and rolled over.

At first it was thought the victim was pinned in the car and members of the South Rockwood Volunteer Fire Department were called to bring their cutting equipment. Their services were not needed, however.

Estral Beach volunteer firemen administered first aid.

Two passengers in the car walked away from the crash and were arrested by deputies on charges of being drunk and disorderly as they were walking down the road. They were Henry J. Ouriain, 19, of 4403 Ivers Dr., Stony Point and Leland T. Gill, 18, of 4455 Erie St., Newport.

