

CENTRAL NEW YORK FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 127TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

**68th Annual Convention of the
Ladies Auxiliary of Central New York**

**Owego, NY
JULY 8-11**



*Photo credit:
Cherished Memories by Lisa L. Curatolo*



2021 CENTRAL NEW YORK FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

SEE YOU IN OWEGO!

THURSDAY, JULY 8

6 p.m. - Welcome Reception
American Legion, 263 Front St.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

9 a.m. - Golf Outing
Tioga Golf Club, 151 Roki Blvd.
Nichols, N.Y.

6 p.m. - Bob Powell's Block Party
Croton Hose Co #3 Fire Station
8 Talcott St., Owego, N.Y.

- "Fun" Firematics
- Firehouse Subs
- DJ Tommy D

9:30 p.m. - Fireworks
Front Street, Downtown Owego

9 p.m. - Midnight
Barleycorn Tavern, 216 Front St.
- The Beatles Band

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT PATRICK GAVIN:
(202) 494-9108
OWEGOHOSETEAMS@GMAIL.COM

SATURDAY, JULY 10 SUNDAY, JULY 11

8 a.m. - Memorial & Awards
Baker Fireman's Fountain

Immediately Following Awards
DNYFA Meeting
Owego VFW, 207 Main St.
(short walk from the fountain)

Noon - Lunch at VFW

1 p.m. - Hose Race
Main Street, Owego

- Ladder
- Wye
- Motor Hose

5 p.m. - Grand Firefighter's Parade
Downtown Owego

7 p.m. - Celebratory Dinner (\$25)
Owego VFW, 207 Main St.

9 p.m. - After Party
Rainbow Trail, 132 North Ave.
- Kitchen Sing Band 6-8 p.m.
- Blues Brothers 8-10 p.m.
- The Gents 10 p.m.-close



8-11 a.m. - Goodbye Breakfast
American Legion, 263 Front St.



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127th CNY FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
Owego, NY

July 2021

Dear Friend,

Owego Hose Teams, Inc. in partnership with the Owego Fire Department is hosting the **127th Annual Central New York Firemen's Association (CNYFA) Convention** July 8th through 11th in downtown Owego. We welcome our friends and families from Central to our Village.

Our wish is for residents, convention attendees, and visitors to have a safe and pleasurable experience. All current COVID-19 guidelines will be followed at all events. We have planned the convention with your enjoyment foremost on our minds and expect an exciting weekend.

CNYFA and the convention hold special meaning for Owego firefighters as the Association's founding member and first president was Owego's own Fire Chief Frank M. Baker. 2020 would have marked the 125th anniversary the Central convention was first held in Owego in 1895 but the year delay has given us even more time to put together a first-class convention.

Please join us at all events as we look forward to celebrating with you on this special occasion.

Sincerely,

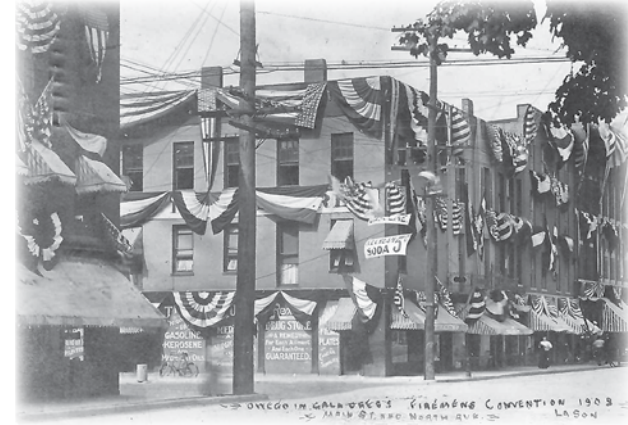
Patrick M. Gavin

Patrick M. Gavin
Convention Co-Chair

Edward L. Bidwell

Edward L. Bidwell
Convention Co-Chair

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Downtown Owego is decorated with banners for the 1908 Central NY Firemen's Convention.

Convention History of Central New York Firemen in Owego

DID YOU KNOW? On Aug. 25, 1828 Owego's first fire company was formed called the "Owego Fire Company." Fires at this time were fought with buckets of water, and businesses and residents alike were required to have buckets on hand.

1895

Founded in 1893 by Past Owego Fire Chief Frank Baker, Owego hosted its first Central New York Firemen's Association (Central) Convention in 1895. The convention is rotated around the state each year and was held in Auburn in 1893 and Ithaca in 1894.

Mr. Baker was president of the organization for its first six years. The village was decorated with patriotic bunting from street to street. An estimated 1,500 were in line and participated in the parade that included 51 fire companies and 25 bands.

Proceedings were held at the Ahwaga Place and the Courthouse. Hose races, prize drills, and hook and ladder races were held at the "Owego Driving Park."

"You can be a stranger in Owego but once," was the convention motto.



Owego's Floyd Angel became Owego's third president of the Central organization in the 1950s.

DID YOU KNOW? Owego's first Fire Chief was John J. Taylor, elected by the fire department membership in 1844, who would later serve in the United States Congress.

1908

Leading fire fighting authorities from England, France, Belgium, Denmark, and Italy all attended the Central convention held in Owego in 1908. Proceedings took place at the "New Owego House" and Courthouse.

Please see **HISTORY**
on page 4

History

FROM PAGE 3
with a focus on fire protection and prevention.

Hose races were held at the fairgrounds and included hose races, a hook and ladder race, hub and hub race, and prize drills. Attendees were provided motor vehicle rides around the village and boat launches on the Susquehanna River.

DID YOU KNOW? Owego's 1866 Amoskeag Steam Fire Engine owned by the Owego Fire Department and operated by the Owego Hose Team is believed to be the oldest operating steam fire engine in the country?

1924
Thirty (30) fire departments and 15 bands marched in the parade that lasted two hours from start to finish at the 1924 Central



PARADE—Owego Firemen march along parade route during yesterday's convention grand finale.

Owego firefighters march in the 1953 Central convention parade.

convention in Owego. Owego's new motorized fire apparatus was on full display for the convention participants. All seven Owego fire companies at the time participated, including Independent. Please see **HISTORY** on page 5

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OFD's Harry Van Riper is pictured with Owego's 1939 Sanford hose truck that was used for the motor hose race on Lower Front Street, and at the 1970 CNYFA convention.



The Parkview was a popular spot for firefighters from across Central New York in 1970.

History

FROM PAGE 4

dent Hose Company #7, which is comprised of young boys with a small two wheeled hose cart. A special display of fire badges and

ribbons collected by Frank Baker was shown at his downtown store.

DID YOU KNOW? The Baker Fireman's Fountain located in the Court-

house Square and the clock tower atop Owego Central Fire Station were gifts to the Village of Owego and its firefighters by past Owego Fire

Chief Frank M. Baker. Modeled by Caspar Buberl and sold by J.W. Fiske, the fountain type is called the "Fiske Fireman." Fourteen zinc statues of firemen similar to the one in Owego are located across the United

States.

1934

Called the most successful convention since its founding, the 1934 convention saw 10,000 people attend the parade with over 50 fire departments and drum and bugle corps par-

ticipating. Additional drum and bugle corps contests were held at Marvin Park with the Cortland Legion as the winner. Sherburne Fire Department won the hose races on lower Front Street.

Please see **HISTORY** on page 6



The Baker Fireman's Fountain was repainted for \$10 in preparation of the 1953 convention.

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"Fun Firematics" were held on Lake Street at the 1987 convention. Hose team member John Loftus lines up for the bucket brigade.



Company #3 hose team members Tom Ferguson and Louie Striley participate in the Motor Hose Race on Main Street, and during the 1987 convention.



Pictured is the 1970 CNYFA Convention program featuring Owego fire apparatus. Fire company foremen are proudly standing with their fire truck.

History

FROM PAGE 5

A professional boxing show was included in the events by Arista Athletic Club of Binghamton on Depot Street. Led by then OFD Chief D. Warren Brown, the 41st Central convention was a smashing success. Fireworks concluded the convention that ran Tuesday through Thursday, with Red Herson and his Ithaca orchestra highlighting the convention dinner at the Elks Club.

DID YOU KNOW? The Owego Fire Department is comprised of five (5) fire companies, with the oldest being the Susque-

hanna Hose Co. #1 - dating back to 1851. Other fire companies are Wave Hose Co. #2, Croton Hose Co. #3, Hiawatha Engine Co. #4, and Ahwaga Ladder Co. #5.

1953

The 70-unit Central parade featured fire departments, drum corps, and fire equipment in 1953. A color guard, followed by the Sampson Air Force Base Military Band, led the parade viewed by thousands.

Morrisville took two first place finishes and a second

Please see **HISTORY** on page 7

History

FROM PAGE 6

in the hose races held on lower Front Street, winning the overall point's trophy. Owego's Lloyd Angel was elected third vice president of the association and would later become Central's president, the second Owego native to hold the position.

DID YOU KNOW? The Owego Hose Team won its first Central New York firematic hose racing title in 1959 at Elmira. Over 20 championships have been won by the hose teams since that time to include wins at the last three Central conventions Owego has hosted (2010, 1995, 1987).

1970

The 1970 Central conven-

Please see **HISTORY**
on page 11



OFD's Ladder Co. #5 is pictured in the 1995 convention parade.

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Remembering Frank M. Baker

The Central New York Firemen's Association (CNYFA) holds a special place in the hearts of Owego firefighters as its founder and first president was Owego's own Frank M. Baker.

Baker, a past Owego Fire Chief in 1882, started the organization to bring together more closely, for mutual benefit, the volunteer firefighters of Central New

York and to advance the interests of the volunteer system.

Central was formed in 1893 with its first convention held in Auburn, N.Y. and Owego's turn at hosting the annual convention was two years later, in 1895.

Born in Owego in 1846, Mr. Baker took a keen interest in the activities of volunteer firefighters from boy-

hood. His idea to organize and unite area firefighters and fire departments lives on today, 128 years later.

Frank Baker was also instrumental in organizing the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY), of which he was secretary from 1874 to 1884, inclusive, and president in 1884 and 1885.

The Owego community

continues to enjoy the legacy of Frank Baker through the Baker Fireman's Fountain, located in the Court-house Square, and the clock tower atop Owego Central Fire Station - both donated through Mr. Baker's philanthropy.

The Baker Fireman's Fountain, depicting a firefighter holding a child, is often described as the symbol of Owego and its community minded residents - standing for the spirit of volunteerism that makes Owego great. The fountain was given to the Village of Owego and its firefighters by Mr. Baker as a memorial to his son, George Hobart Baker, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1913. The younger Baker was also past chief of the Owego Fire Department from 1900-1901. The fountain was recently restored and given



Pictured is Frank M. Baker, circa 1882.



Pictured is George M. Baker, Frank's son.

new life through the efforts of the Owego Hose Team.

The clock tower at Central Fire Station was a gift from Baker in 1912. A railroad man by trade, Mr. Baker had an extensive fire memorabilia collection, now in procession of the Tioga County Historical Society as he was well known in firefighter circles around the world.

Baker was the society's

first president and served and village trustee and mayor for several years. A notable token of appreciation from village residents to Mr. Baker can be found at the society.

Along with a silver trumpet he carried for ceremonial occasions is a cup with the following inscription, "Presented to Hon. Frank M.

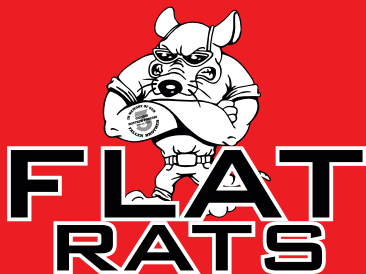
Please see **BAKER** on page 9



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Baker

FROM PAGE 8

Baker by the citizens of Owego, Old Home Week August 1909, as a slight token of affection for the man who ever has the interests of the village at heart and who has earned the ten-



The Baker Fireman's Fountain in Owego, and at the Courthouse Square.



Owego's Central Fire Station and its clock tower, donated through Mr. Baker's philanthropy.

der regard of every person."

Owego Hose Team members, Owego firefighters, and all Central New York guests

will raise a glass in honor of Frank M. Baker at this weekend's Central convention.



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Owego Hose Team Remains Stronger Than Ever

– Firematic Hose Races continue long-standing Owego tradition –

One hundred and twenty-six years ago, firefighters held races at the Owego Driving Park with prizes awarded to teams winning the hook and ladder and

hose relay competitions. Fast forward 126 years later; and similar races will be held on Main Street in downtown Owego as part of the Central New

York Firemen's Association convention, planned for Saturday, July 10, at 1 p.m. in front of the VFW. The public is invited to watch area firefighters

show off their firefighting skills.

Firematic hose racing carries on a tradition as old as firefighting itself. Ever since the beginning, when

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The Wye race at the Apalachin Firemen's Field Days.



Pat Gavin competes in the ladder race at the Baker Fireman's Fountain Rededication Hose Race.

ladders, hoses – and even buckets were invented as a way to extinguish fires, there was always a spirit of competition among firefighters as to who could be the first “team” to extinguish the fire. Even today, there is a healthy competi-

tion to get “first water” on a fire between engine companies within a department. In the early days, a monetary reward was paid to those who were able to extinguish a fire. Out of
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on page 13

History

FROM PAGE 7

tion was headquartered at the former Treadway Inn for the first time, "Where the Lamplighter meets the

Jolly Rogue." Convention meetings also took place at the Elks Club and Tioga Theatre.

The Kirby Band of Nich-



Pictured is the 2010 Wye race, with Tim "Bubba" Valentine on the fire hydrant.



Hose team member Steve Tiffany leads a bucket brigade at the 1995 convention.



Hose team members Joe Renda and Mike Bidwell participate in the equipment efficiency race during the 1995 convention on Temple Street.

ols treated guests to a concert at the Courthouse Square to kick off the convention. Owego's Hiawatha Engine Co. #4 hose team set a record in the "wye race" with a time of 20.6 seconds.

Co-chaired by then OFD Chief Billy Franz and Bill Ballard, the convention went off without a hitch.

DID YOU KNOW? Other than Frank Baker, "Old" Joe DeWitt is perhaps Owego's most famous firefighter serving as the longest ten-

ured fire chief in Owego's history in the mid-1800s, from 1849-1851 and 1865-1869 (eight years). He was regarded as the oldest living firefighter in New York State, hence the nickname "Old." The fire bell in the Courthouse Square is dedicated in his honor.

1987

"Fun Firematics" were held on Lake Street with 250 people cheering on the bucket brigade in 1987. Sidney took first place, with

Apalachin coming in second during the Friday night "mini-races."

The serious competitions took place Saturday morning on North Avenue and Main Street. Tied with two legs apiece on the overall traveling firematic trophy was the Montour Falls "Swamp Stompers" and Odessa "Ridge Runners." Standing in their way was the Flat Rats team of Owego's Croton Hose Co. #3, with one leg on the trophy. Three legs are required

to retire the overall trophy from circulation.

"Our hose teams are going to win," said then Owego Fire Chief Danny Cronk. "No question."

Win they did - in spectacular fashion.

"Every bar in Owego helped us celebrate that victory on our home turf," said Team Captain David Franz.

DID YOU KNOW? The Owego Fire Department

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The 2010 ceremonies at Croton Hose Co. #3 Fire Station on the Flats, led by Jim Raftis.

History

FROM PAGE 11

is a 100 percent volunteer organization that is always seeking additional volunteers. With four fire stations, eight fire trucks and two boats, helping hands are always welcome. Applications are available online at www.OwegoFire.org or by stopping by Central Fire Station on North Avenue.

1995

The 1995 convention in Owego saw a block party on Temple Street next to Owego Central Fire Station, hose races on lower Front Street, and a grand parade through downtown Owego. Owego's Susquehanna Hose Company #1 won the overall point's trophy at the hose races, becoming the youngest team to win in tournament history.

Comprising all 16-year-old

apprentice firefighters, the "Young Ones" team as they were nicknamed defeated 10 other fire departments to win the title. The youth were treated to non-alcoholic Champagne in celebration of knocking off the veteran hose racers.

DID YOU KNOW? Firematic hose races improve basic firefighting skills, helping firefighters better protect life and property.

2010

2010 was a tumultuous year in the history of the Owego Fire Department as the Owego Village Board let go over 150 volunteers from the fire department's ranks. Led by then OFD Chief Ed Bidwell, chairing his second convention, the department was able to put the negativity aside and pull off its 9th successful Central convention.



OFD members march at the 1987 convention parade on North Avenue.



Pictured is the convention parade, held in 2010 in downtown Owego.

Starting at Pheasant Hills Golf Club Friday morning, fire departments from around the state joined Owego in a fun-filled weekend. "Fun firematics" and a block party were held on Temple Street next to Owego Central Fire Station, with a beer tent provided by American Legion Post #401.

Twelve (12) teams participated in hose races Saturday morning on the Flats in front of Croton Hose Co. #3's Fire Station. Owego's own Susquehanna Hose Co. #1 took overall honors at the competition.

A grand parade concluded the festivities through downtown Owego.

DID YOU KNOW? Owego has a total of five Fallen Firefighters who have died in the line of duty - Roy Wiltse (1939), Winfield Knapp (1965), Richard Beck (1993), Steve Gavin (2003), and Matt Porcari (2013).

Team

FROM PAGE 10

this spirit of competition grew a unique form of racing called hose racing.

"Modern Era" firematic hose racing competitions started after World War II in the late 1940s. No one in Central New York has carried on the spirit of hose racing more so than the champion Owego Hose Team. Records indicate Owego started running in 1951 and stopped in 1961. Owego hosted the 1953 CNYFA convention and the races were held on lower Front Street. Twenty-two teams competed that day in the warm and humid weather. At that time the Owego teams rode around in a vehicle named the "Purple People Eater." Win-

ners in the races are required to also parade, per the rules, so the teams would parade in the Purple People Eater, a retired purple hearse.

More races were held at Croton Hose #3's Firemen Field Days throughout the 1950s. In 1959 Croton Hose #3 was crowned CNYFA champions for the first time. Team members included Dick Franz, Ed Franz, Leon Halstead, Dick Hilker, and Leo Lawrence.

The teams went on a hiatus from 1961 - 1967, but returned to action in 1968 under the leadership of rookie firefighter Joe Fuller. Owego has not missed a CNYFA race since. The team placed second in the wye upon its return. Prac-

tices took place on the Flats under the watchful eye of former hose racers Pete Porcari, the Franz brothers, and others.

Racing continue into the 1970s with the teams replacing the "Purple People Eater" with the "Goofy Grape" (also a retired purple hearse), and the Orange Peeler. Another convention was held in Owego in July of 1970. On that day Owego's Hiawatha Co. #4 set the record in the wye race. In 1972 Owego was crowned its second CNYFA championship in Sidney. Team members included Joe Fuller, Steve Gavin, Ernie Reese, Mike Stella, and Jim VanNordstrand.

Championships continued into the 1980s with



In the back row, from left, standing, are Fred McKeel, Pete Porcari, Dick Franz, Leo Lawrence, Dick Hilker, Leon Halstead, and Ed Valentine. In the front row, are Itchy Taylor, Ed Franz, and Bobby Halstead. They were the 1959 Central NY champions at Central races held in Elmira. Owego's 1930s Sanford Hose Truck is in the background.



Pictured are Joe Fuller, Scotty "Snowflake" Smith, Steve Gavin, Ric Morris, and Duane Newman. In 1970 the team was the wye race record setters, with a time of 20.9 seconds.



Owego Fire Department Hose Team
1983 Central N.Y. Champions

Winning its third Central New York firematic title in team history in 1983, Owego ran a first place ladder race in 12.7 seconds, second place wye race in 23.3 seconds and a record setting motor hose race in 22.2 seconds, defeating 24 other teams. Team members included Larry Ferguson, Tom Ferguson, Joe Fuller, David Franz, Steve Gavin, Rick Hinchcliffe, Lou Striley, and John Porcari with future racer, Pat Gavin.

victories in 1983, 1987, and 1989. In Utica, Owego set the record in the motor hose race in 1983. Owego hosted the 1987 CNYFA convention and won again on

its home turf, knocking off Odessa and Montour Falls. The Montour Falls "Swamp Stompers" became Owego's archrival. A 1989 champi-

onship in Ithaca allowed Owego to retire the overall traveling trophy because they had won it three times,

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on page 16

Pride of OFD repaired in Maine

- 1866 Amoskeag Steam Fire Engine due back to Owego in 2021 -

Owego Hose Team members transported the Owego Fire Department's 1866 Amoskeag Steam Fire Engine, known as the "Steamer" and often referred to as the "pride of the department," to Firefly Restorations in Hope, Maine in the Fall of 2020. The 154-year-old steamer has not been operational since the late 1980s at which time it was the oldest operating licensed steam fire engine in the United States. Now under the care, custody, and control of the Owego Hose Teams, the Steamer will undergo a complete resto-

ration - allowing it to reclaim the "oldest operating" title.

The Hose Team has divided the overall Steamer project into three phases. Phase I involves the steamer's restoration making it operational again and repair of the Steamer's 1984 trailer. Global Industrial Services donated parts and labor for the trailer repair that included new brakes, wiring, and lights allowing the steamer to be transported.

While at Firefly Restorations, Steamer work includes fire tube boiler

replacement (old boiler will be retained for display purposes); engine, pump and other work as required; construction of accurate reproduction of Steamer tiller (tongue) with "S" curve so the Steamer may be hand pulled; repair of lamps and mounts; manufacture and attachment of "ash" pan with draft control and clean out provisions preventing the Steamer wheels from catching fire; replacement of hard suction hoses; painting and gold leaf lettering decorations reflective of the 1866 time period; rebuilding



Long time Steamer caretaker Bob Kishpaugh polishes his "baby."

and certification water and steam pressure gauges to include new mounts; and right front wheel repair.

The overall cost of Phase I is estimated at \$50,000.

Phase II of the project involves the construction of a "Steamer House" that will house the Steamer for display purposes along with the Owego Fire Department's 1939 Sanford Hose Truck. Modeled after a Steamer house located in Marathon, N.Y., it will be constructed of cedar wood frame and glass solarium walls for 360 degree viewing with steeple supporting an antique fire bell.

Plans call for the building to be located next to Owego Fire Station #2 at the old Lloyd's Barbershop site on North Avenue. Hose Team members continue to improve the site and already removed the abandoned barbershop building. The overgrown trees on the property were

removed too allowing for additional site work. The wood from the trees will be used as fuel for the Steamer.

The anticipated cost of Phase II of the steamer project is estimated at \$75,000.

Phase III of the overall steamer project calls for the training of hose team members on steam fire engine operations and a partnership with area school districts including Owego Apalachin Central School District, Candor and Newark Valley. The hose team has contracted with the Fire Museum of Maryland and curator Steve Heaver to provide steam training for its members.

Hose Team Captain Patrick Gavin recently participated in hydrostatic testing of one of the museum's steamers kicking off the partnership that will continue in the coming

months. Additional steam training is planned with the Rough and Tumble Engineers Association of Kinzer, Pa.

Phase III also works with county school districts to incorporate the Steamer and steam powered technology into its curriculum founding a "steam team" comprised of high schoolers interested in learning its history, operation, and relevance today.

This blend of history and traditions with progress falls in line with the overall Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) model. Students will get invaluable experience and exposure they would otherwise not have as a direct result of the Steamer restoration and "steam team."

The steamer house will also provide a unique set-

Please see **OFD**
on page 15



Steamer delivery Photo from 1866

ting and backdrop for the fire department's existing elementary school fire prevention program. This program is designed to prevent injury, illness, and other unsafe situations for children as part of the department's mission of saving lives.

The total project cost of the steamer restoration and "steamer house" is expected to be in upwards of \$150,000. Significant financial support has already been received from the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation Fannie C. Hyde Charitable Trust, Pomeroy Foundation, and the Southern Tier Tuesdays Grant Program.

Limited fundraising due to the COVID-19 crisis by the hose team has been underway, including ongoing chicken BBQs. An account at the Neighborhood Redemption Center on 5th Avenue, Owego has also been set up to aid the project. Individuals can return their bottles and cans at the redemption cen-



OFD's 1866 Steam Fire Engine and recently repaired trailer.



Amoskeag Steam Fire Engine under repair at Firefly Restorations in Hope, Maine.

ter and apply their return funds to the Owego Hose Team account there.

Individuals can also contribute to the project by participating in the hose team's "Steam Booster" donor program. For a \$100 tax-deductible contribution, name(s) will be placed on a cast iron bronze

plaque that will proudly hang on the steamer house building. Donors will receive a letter and certificate thanking them for their donation. Bell stock is being sold for \$25 to aid the restoration of the historic Owego Central Fire Station bell that will ring on daylight hours and spe-

cial occasions atop the Steamer House.

Donors can also purchase benches that will surround the steamer house. Information on the "Steam Booster" bench program, and bell stock is available at the hose team's website, www.OwegoHoseTeams.com.

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FROM PAGE 13

another first for Owego. Team members in the 1980s were Larry Ferguson, Tom Ferguson, Dave Franz, Joe Fuller, Steve Gavin, Rick Hinchcliffe, John Porcari, Lou Striley, and Steve Tiffany.

More wins came about in the 1990s. The CNY #1 title was retained in Binghamton in 1990, 1994 in Norwich, and 1995 in Owego. The 1995 team of apprentice firefighters (all 16 years old) was the youngest team to win in tournament history at their first race knocking off their father's team. Team members were Brian Davis, J.T.

Fisher, Rob Marshall, Matt Porcari, and Pat Gavin. The year was rounded out with a title in 1999 by the Bidwell brother's Co. #5 team.

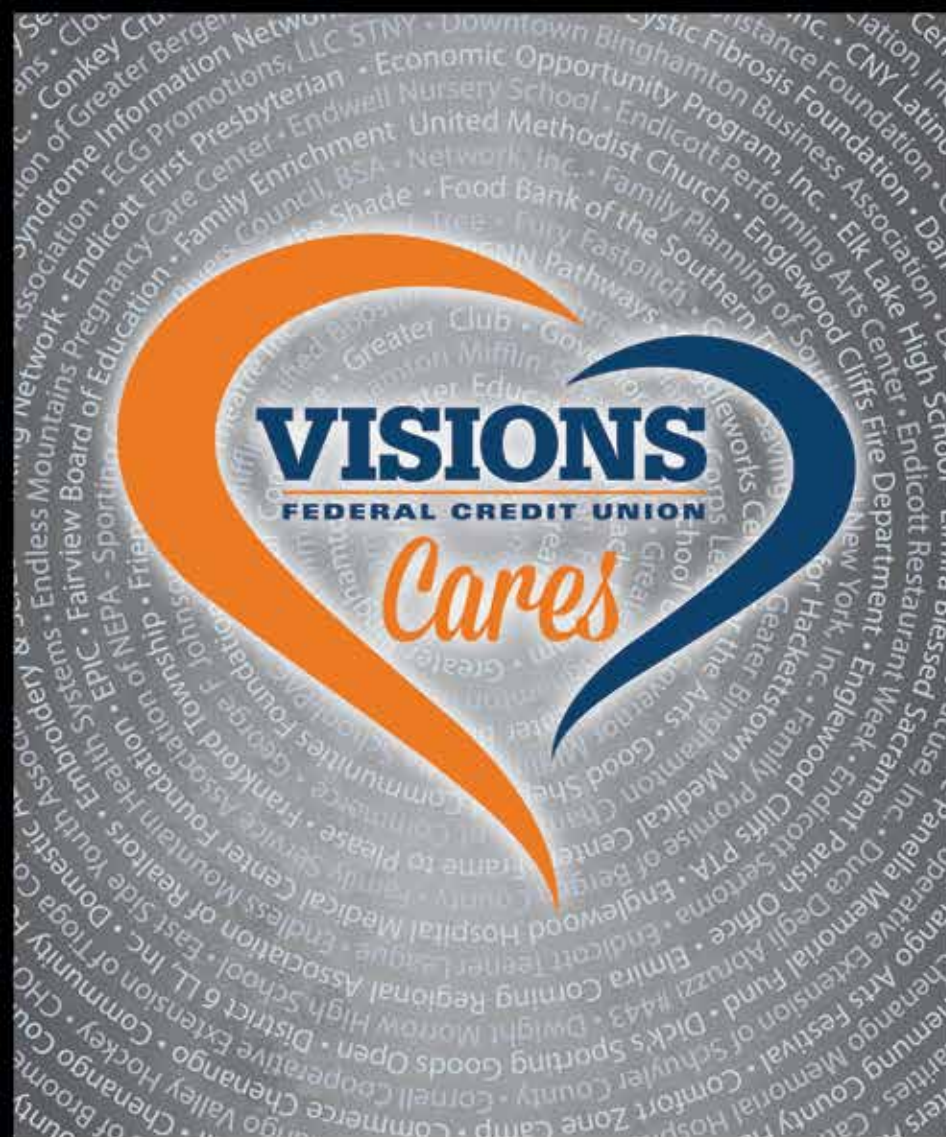
Racing has declined to a dozen or so teams, but Owego has continued to dominate in the 2000s. Championships have been held by different Owego teams for the longest winning streak in CNYFA history - from 2003-2014. Oriskany knocked off Owego in 2015, ending the 11-year winning streak. Team members from this period were many, but the constant participants were Jimmy Morris, Matt Porcari, Tom Donovan Jr., Tom Donovan III,

Joe Ward, Nick Jerzak, Mike MacNaughton, Lou Striley, Pat Gavin, Tim Gavin, Danny Gavin, Dayton Coney, Bill Herwerth, Andy McDowell, and Hank Thomas.

Racing continues today. Practices are still held each year on Delphine Street on the Flats like they have been for decades. The team now parades around in Owego's former 1969 Mack pumper much like the days of the People Eater, Grape and Peeler. The motor hose race is no more replaced by a straight lay race but the motor hose may return this year with the Purple People Eater II.



Tom Donovan and Joe Morabito compete at the Strawberry Festival hose races.



COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

Visions is about people, not profits. Giving back is what we do. Visions supports hundreds of causes with donations that fund good works, employee volunteers who pay it forward, and sponsorships that support community events. Because Visions Cares, where you bank can make a difference where you live.

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We are proud to support the Owego Hose Team, the Owego Fire Department, and the CNY Firemen's Association Convention!

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