



News From The Elmont Fire District



Vol. 1, Issue 3, Summer 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DISTRICT

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The members of the Elmont Fire Department (EFD) recently elected their new leader for the 2012-13 term and the Board of Fire Commissioners would like to congratulate Chief Angelo Chilelli on being elected Chief of Department. Chief Chilelli has been a part of the Elmont FD family for most of his life, starting as an Explorer as a teenager. We know that his extensive knowledge and experience, combined with his dedication to our fire department and the community of Elmont, will make him a great Chief. (Read more about Chief Chilelli and his plans for his term inside on Page 3.)

Chief Chilelli's predecessor is former Chief of Department Michael Capozziello, who led our fire department with a combination of excellence, poise and class at a time when we really needed a strong leader. The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to thank Chief Capozziello for his service and we know that he will remain a very active member of our fire department now that he has left the Chief's office.

The Board of Fire Commissioners would also like to congratulate Assistant Chiefs Domenic Francavilla, Brian Schriever and Robert Schriever, as well as all the Company and administrative officers of the EFD for the coming year, on their elections, as well. Having a strong and devoted team of firefighters and officers that is dedicated to serving their community is one of the greatest attributes of the EFD.

EFD IN ACTION



Elmont FD members fight fire at the New Hope Church on Oliver Ave. in North Valley Stream on February 8. No one was injured.

FIRE COMPANY PROFILE

BELMONT CHEMICAL ENGINE & HOSE COMPANY 1: HISTORY OF FIREFIGHTING FAMILIES AND DEDICATED MEMBERS



Members gather in 1929 photo in front of their old firehouse on Biltmore Ave. just south of Hempstead Tpke., which still stands today as a church

It's hard to believe, but Belmont Chemical Engine & Hose Company 1 started out in a garage on Hempstead Turnpike at the corner of Biltmore Avenue, back in the 1920s. The owner of the garage was a member at the time and the very first Chief of Department, John (J.P.) Lehrer. To this day, the Lehrer name lives on at the fire company.

Belmont Chemical Engine & Hose Co. 1 was organized on January 5, 1922 due to a need for fire protection at Belmont Race Track and the increasing population in the neighborhood. Local horse racing tycoon August Belmont, Jr. helped fund the fire company and its first fire truck, a 1922 Packard Motor Truck. It was the third company running to protect the area of Elmont, known at the time as a "neighborhood fire company," which operated on its own as did the other existing companies. Belmont Chemical Engine & Hose Co. 1 would later be referred to as Engine 1. (See page 5 for current photo of Engine 1 members taken at this year's Installation Ceremony.)

J.P. Lehrer's grandson, Ex-Chief & Ex-Commissioner Joseph Lehrer, 75, is currently the oldest living active member of Engine 1. The Lehrer's are a fourth generation

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FIRE FACT: One length of a fire hose equals 50 feet.

Elmont Engine & Hose Company 2 (continued from cover)

firefighting family out of this company. Joseph Lehrer's father John P. Lehrer II, and his brothers Ex-Chief John P. Lehrer III and Buddy had all served before their passing. Joseph's son, Ex-Captain Joe Lehrer, was also a member prior to his retirement, and even his son-in-law, Ex-Captain Charlie Walsh had joined Engine 1 and now works for the District.

"It's a good feeling to be surrounded by family members in the firehouse, and I've made so many friends through the years," said Lehrer. "We do important work for the communities we serve. Our members demonstrate a tremendous amount of dedication, and we are well-schooled and well-trained. In the early days and now, we often see the fruits of our labor when neighbors express their appreciation for our efforts at fires and emergencies. The volunteer fire service is unlike any other organization."

Engine 1 operated out of J. P. Lehrer's garage until June of 1924, at which time, the firehouse relocated to a rented building around the corner on Biltmore Avenue. In 1934, the fire company moved to its current location on Gotham Avenue. Members had to take out home mortgages and Engine Company 2 pitched in money to make this happen.

Through the years, members of this company have attended many community and special events. On October 12, 1940, Engine 1 took a trip to Queens to attend the historic New York World's Fair, and participated in firefighter events. It was a thrill for everyone involved.

In 1950, the Elmont FD purchased its first ambulance and would house it at Engine 1 for the next 20 years. In 1979, Engine 1 was one of the first companies on Long Island to have 5-inch supply hose on their apparatus, and because of this feature, the company was frequently requested by fire departments outside of the district to provide mutual aid.

"I've seen so many changes through the years. I remember when we used to share fire gear. Whatever was available you would take, and just hope that it fit," added Lehrer with a chuckle.

In addition to Lehrer, three other members served more than 50 years of service at Engine 1 until their passing - Former Chief & Former Commissioner Robert L. Conti (see memoriam below), Honorary Chief Mel Triola and Honorary Chief Joe Joe Nocella.

Today, Engine 1 proudly maintains the volunteer spirit of its members, providing fire and emergency services to the Elmont community in the western most portion of Nassau County, along the border of Queens. In 2011, Engine



Engine Company 1's current apparatus

1 responded to 809 alarms, and responds to approximately 65 calls per month.

A cousin of the late Robert Conti who is Captain of Engine 1, Ronnie Conti says, "It is a team effort here, and we have good players on the team. New members recently came in and I enjoy passing my knowledge onto them, so they get the chance to rise through the ranks. Teaching others is one aspect that makes Engine 1 and the Department so special."

Captain Conti, a 32-year member, recalls many memorable moments, one of which earned him, Ex-Captain Charlie Walsh and former firefighter John Matthews Nassau County's lifesaving award. They rescued a woman out of the window of a home on Sewanee Avenue, during a house fire. "When you see a fire, your heart starts pumping. What I like most about being a volunteer firefighter is that I actually save lives. Not many people get the chance to do that."

Captain Conti, who has attended every Engine 1 Christmas party since the age of one, says there's nothing else like growing up in a firehouse.

"It's amazing just how many family members have joined Engine 1 through the years; the Lehrer's, Nocella's and my family, to name a few," says Captain Conti. "In fact, out of the 30 members on the 1958 company roster, 11 of them were a Lehrer, Conti or Nocella. But, whether you're a blood relative or not, we're all family here at Elmont."

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT L. CONTI



Former Chief & Former Commissioner Robert L. Conti, a 64-year member of Belmont Engine Co. 1, devoted his life to the Fire Department and the Elmont community. His two sons Robert and Russell followed in his footsteps, as volunteer firefighters in the Department.

The Elmont Fire Department and Fire District dedicate this newsletter to Robert's memory.

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

IT'S BEEN A MEMORABLE AND EXCITING RUN



**Michael P. Capozziello
Former Elmont Chief of Department**

I write this final message as "Chief of Department" with mixed emotions. It has been a true honor to serve this community and the members of the Elmont Fire Department as a Chief Officer for the past four years.

During my term, one of the lasting memories that I will take with me is when I witnessed the tireless work and efforts put forth by our members during the challenges of Hurricane Irene last summer. Members stayed overnight in the various firehouses, responding to more than 50 alarms. Most of these men and women were away from their families and loved ones for a long period of time, and

remained on duty to serve their community.

Another achievement that I am very proud to be a part of was the implementation of our Department's involvement with two specialized countywide teams, a Hazmat Operations and Decon Team and a Technical Rescue, High Angle, Confined Space Rescue Team. Both consist of

specialty-trained members from our ranks.

In addition, over the last few years, we have been conducting an aggressive recruitment campaign, which netted new members, thanks in part to these newsletters that help get the word out. Our membership has risen from 161 members in 2008 (the year I first became an Assistant Chief) to 197 members as of last month. That's an increase of 36 members! We are as diverse as the community we serve. No matter the age, race, gender, political affiliation or religion, we all come together as one, and serve the community when the alarm sounds.

My term as the 78th Chief of Department in EFD's history came to an end on May 1. Now, as "Former Chief," I will resume my duties as a frontline firefighter, based out of the fire company I've been a proud member of for the past 28 years -- Hook and Ladder Company 2. Moving ahead, I would like to share the knowledge and experience that I have gained through the years with the younger firefighters rising through the ranks. That's when my experience as a volunteer firefighter will come full circle.

To my successor, Angelo Chillelli, and Assistant Chiefs Domenic Francavilla, Brian Schriefer and Rob Schriefer, I wish them well and I'm confident they are ready to handle any situation that may arise.

A NEW CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT TAKES THE HELM



**Angelo Chillelli
New Elmont Chief of Department**

Last month, I had the true honor of becoming Elmont's new Chief of Department. For those who don't know me, I've lived in the Elmont Fire District my entire life, and I'm a 23 year member of the Fire Department, serving with Engine Company 3 on Meacham Avenue. I first joined the Elmont FD as a Fire Explorer, and later served as 1st and 2nd Lieutenant and Captain of Engine Company 3, prior to my election as Assistant Chief three years ago.

In my new role, I ensure that the daily tasks of running the Fire Department are executed; supervise officers and firefighters at fire and emergency scenes; work with my assistant chiefs on recruitment and training programs; among other duties.

During my one-year term as fire chief, my top priority will be the safety of the residents of this district and our fire department members. Also, I plan to work with the department's officers to enhance training, and continue

with recruitment efforts put forth by my predecessor, former Chief of Department Michael Capozziello.

We're always looking at ways to update and enhance our fire gear and apparatus to better protect our residents and firefighters. This year, my hope is to work to provide all members with a quick-deploy bailout system. During a fire or other emergency, if a firefighter needs to escape through a window, but doesn't have access to a ladder, this new piece of equipment will unravel a harness allowing for a safer exit under severe conditions.

In addition, I hope to help inspire members to become Incident Safety Officers, who are responsible for ensuring that firefighters follow safety protocol on scene, while the Chief of Department remains first in command. Nearly 30 members attained this certification. With new members joining the pool, I'd like to help heighten the success of the EFD's Incident Safety Officer system.

I am extremely excited to work with all of the chief officers, fire commissioners, and members on these and other projects. I will keep the lines of communication open, and would love to hear new ideas and other feedback. Ultimately, I will do my best to be a chief that this Department can be proud of, like so many of those chiefs who have come before me.

DID YOU KNOW? The town name of Elmont was originally called "Fosters Meadow" up until 1882, at which time the first Elmont post office opened.

Fire Fact: Prior to the formation of the unified Elmont FD in 1928, each fire company had a member who held the rank of "Foreman" - today's equivalent of a Chief.

NEW ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INSTALLED AT RECENT CEREMONY

On April 28, Chiefs, Commissioners and members of the Elmont Fire Department gathered for the 84th Annual Installation Ceremony, where the new Department Officers were installed and inspected. Angelo Chilelli was sworn in as the new Chief of Department, along with his assistants, First Assistant Chief Domenic Francavilla, Second Assistant Chief Brian Schriever, and Third Assistant Chief Robert Schriever.

The Department's Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Explorers were among those

recognized at the event. The evening also featured awards and service presentations.

Many of the speeches delivered during the ceremony touched on the dedication and spirit of the officers and members, as well as their ongoing volunteer service to the community.

This special photo montage captures some of the highlights and proud moments for the Department.



(l-r) Newly installed Chief of Department Angelo Chilelli, First Assistant Chief Domenic Francavilla, Second Assistant Chief Brian Schriever, and Third Assistant Chief Robert Schriever gather for photo.



(l) Chief Chilelli becomes the 79th Chief of Department, replacing Ex-Chief Michael Capozello.



Fire Commissioner Joseph Balletta pins Domenic Francavilla with First Assistant Chief badge.



Brian Schriever sworn in as Second Assistant Chief.



Third Assistant Chief Robert Schriever about to be sworn in as (l) brother Ex-Chief Richard Schriever III and (r) father Richard Schriever II look on.



(l-r) Fire Explorers President and Ladies Auxiliary Officers are sworn in.



40 years of service plaques awarded to (2nd from l) Ex-Chief James Snadecky of Engine 3 and Ex-Captain Raymond Ross of Engine 2, alongside (l) First Assistant Chief Domenic Francavilla, (c) Chief of Department Angelo Chilelli and Second Assistant Chief Brian Schriever.



Angelo Chilelli sworn in as new Chief of the Elmont Fire Department.



Ex-Chief Michael Capozello receives special Chief of Department plaque on behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners.



Fire Commissioner Joseph Balletta pins Brian Schriever with Second Assistant Chief badge.



Current members of Engine Co. 1, the third company to be established in Elmont FD's history, gather for photo. (See Engine Co. 1 profile p. 1-2.)

**Photos by Rose Petal Photography*



Fire Fact: *The term of a Fire Chief in Elmont lasts one year, always beginning on May 1.*



El fuego en cifras: *la jefatura de un Jefe de Bomberos en Elmont dura un año, y siempre comienza el 1 de mayo.*

LOCAL STUDENT HELPS SPREAD THE DIVERSITY MESSAGE IN ELMONT & SYOSSET

Elementary school student Max is getting recognition in both the Elmont and Syosset communities for a meaningful photo that he took at a Syosset Fire Department event last year. Max, of Syosset, entered the picture in a contest as part of PTA Reflections, a voluntary program that encourages students across the country and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. This year's theme in the competition was "Diversity Means..." Participation in the Reflections Program is open to any student through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing.

Because of Max's interest in photography, you can find the 8-year-old boy snapping photos from time to time. On October 9, 2011, Max and his family attended the Syosset Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Day, where Max took some pictures. One photo stood out from the bunch; so much so that he thought that it would be the perfect image to enter into the Photography category of the PTA Reflections contest. (See contest photo on right.)

The photo, which Max entitled "Different People," features firefighters from the Elmont Fire Department, Max's sister Rhiane, as well as second grader Elia. As part of the entry process in the contest, Max was asked to explain in an artist statement how his work related to the theme. He submitted this statement: "Diversity means different size, skin color, hair color, boy or girl, big or small. This picture has humans with different hair, different size (small or big), men and children, different age and different clothes." - Max

Max's mother Rena Damon said, "My son's photo made it into the Syosset District level, up one level from our elementary school. We are extremely



proud of Max and all of the students who volunteered their time to participate in this contest."

"At such a young age, for Max to perceive diversity in this way is remarkable," said EFD's Michael Capozziello, who was Chief of Department at the time. "When this photo was taken, some of our members were on standby in Syosset in case of a fire or an emergency, while the Syosset firefighters were conducting their Fire Prevention Day activities. It is a common practice among Long Island fire departments to help each other with potential emergencies when manpower is involved in special events."

Earlier this year, Max along with other student recipients in the Syosset School District were recognized for their "Diversity Means..." projects and photos at a special ceremony, where they received awards certificates.

HOW TO PLAN A SAFE SUMMER SEASON



As we near the official start of summer, it's important for residents to know some lifesaving tips when firing up the grill, swimming in the pool, and celebrating the July 4th holiday.

"While summer is synonymous with good times, safety must come first," said Elmont Fire District Commissioner Joseph Balletta. "Placing combustibles too close to heat is the leading cause for charcoal grill home fires. Barbecuing can be dangerous, even deadly, if not done carefully."

"Fireworks are dangerous and illegal to own or use in New York State. They should only be used by licensed professionals," said Elmont Chief of Department Angelo Chilelli. "Join the members of your community and experience the fun of fireworks safely. Check the community listings in your local newspaper or online for shows in the area this summer."

The Elmont Fire Department offers these summer safety tips:

Barbecue Safety

- Don't wear loose clothing, particularly hanging sleeves, which might catch fire.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools and flame-resistant mitts.
- Never use any flammable liquid other than a barbecue starter fluid to start or reactivate a fire.
- Never pour or squirt starter fluid onto an open flame. The flame can easily flashback along the fluid's path to the container in your hands.
- Keep alcoholic beverages away from the grill; they are flammable.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Never attempt to extinguish a grease fire with water. It will only cause the flames to flare up. Use an approved portable fire extinguisher.
- If there is any type of fire that threatens your personal safety or endangers property, call the Elmont Fire Department at 516-742-3300.

July 4th Holiday Safety

- Obey and respect any and all public safety barriers set up around the site of a professional fireworks show.
- Resist the temptation to get close to the firing site. Often, the best view of a professional display is from a quarter of a mile or more away.
- Leave your pets at home - the loud noise can scare animals and damage their hearing.
- Do not possess or shoot off fireworks on your own. Besides risking injury to yourself and the crowd watching the demonstration, you will be breaking the law.
- Do not pick up or attempt to re-light used fireworks; they may still be active and cause serious burns or injury.

Pool Safety

- Never leave children unattended at the pool.
- Install a fence around a pool when there are children in the household.
- Avoid pool drain entrapments.
- Do not swim while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Carefully read caution signs around pool or beach shores.
- Install a pool door alarm in areas that lead to a pool to prevent toddlers from wandering into a pool area

*The Elmont Fire District and Department thank Firefighter Robinson Reyes for helping with the Spanish translations in this newsletter.

CÓMO PLANEAR UN VERANO SEGURO

Según se aproxima la llegada del verano, es importante que los residentes de Elmont conozcan algunos consejos esenciales a la hora de usar la parrilla, nadar en la piscina y celebrar la fiesta del 4 de julio.

"El verano es sinónimo de diversión, pero la seguridad es lo primero," dijo el Comisionado del Distrito de Bomberos de Elmont, Joseph Balletta. "La principal causa de incendios en barbacoas de carbón es la proximidad del combustible a la fuente de calor. Una parrilla puede ser peligrosa, o incluso mortal, si no se tiene cuidado."

"Los fuegos artificiales son peligrosos y su uso y posesión son ilegales en el estado de Nueva York. Sólo deben usarlos los profesionales habilitados para hacerlo," dijo Angelo Chilelli, Jefe del Cuerpo de Elmont. "Participar en los eventos de la comunidad es la manera más segura de disfrutar de los fuegos artificiales. En los tabloneros de anuncios en los periódicos locales o sus páginas web encontrarán los espectáculos pirotécnicos de este verano."

El Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont ofrece los siguientes consejos para este verano:

Seguridad en la barbacoa

- No use ropa holgada, especialmente con mangas anchas, que pueden prenderse fácilmente con el fuego.
- Emplee utensilios de barbacoa largos y guantes resistentes al fuego.
- Nunca empiece un fuego ni lo avive con líquido inflamable que no sea líquido específico para encender carbón.
- Nunca vierta el líquido para encender carbón en una llama viva. La llama puede prender el líquido y llegar hasta el contenedor en sus manos.
- Mantenga las bebidas alcohólicas lejos de la parrilla ya que son inflamables.
- Nunca deje la parrilla sin supervisión.
- Nunca trate de apagar con agua un fuego que tiene grasa, ya que hará que las llamas crezcan. Use un extintor en regla.
- Si ve que algún tipo de fuego pone en peligro su seguridad o su propiedad, llame al Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont al 516-742-3300.

Seguridad en la fiesta del 4 de julio

- Respete todas las barreras que se hayan establecido alrededor de los profesionales a cargo de los fuegos artificiales.
- Resista la tentación de acercarse al lugar desde donde lanzan los fuegos artificiales. A menudo, la mejor vista se tiene desde al menos un cuarto de milla de distancia.
- Deje a sus mascotas en casa - el ruido puede asustarlas y dañar su audición.
- No posea ni lance fuegos artificiales. Además de correr el riesgo de hacerse daño y de herir a otras personas, estará quebrantando la ley.
- No toque ni trate de prender fuegos artificiales usados, ya que pueden seguir activos y causar quemaduras graves o heridas.

Seguridad en la piscina

- Nunca deje a los niños sin vigilancia en la piscina.
- Instale una verja alrededor de la piscina si hay niños en la casa.
- Evite los desagües de la piscina.
- No entre en la piscina bajo los efectos del alcohol o las drogas.
- Lea con atención las señales cerca de piscinas o playas.
- Instale alarmas en las puertas de las zonas de acceso a la piscina para evitar que los niños pequeños salgan inadvertidos.

*El Distrito y el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont agradecen al bombero Robinson Reyes su ayuda con la traducción al español de este boletín.

ESTUDIANTES LOCALES AYUDAN A DIFUNDIR EL MENSAJE DE DIVERSIDAD EN ELMONT Y SYOSSET



Max es un alumno de primaria que va recibir el reconocimiento de las comunidades de Elmont y Syosset gracias a una fotografía que tomó en un evento del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Syosset el año pasado. Max, nativo de Syosset, participó con esta fotografía en un concurso como parte de las Reflexiones del PTA, un programa voluntario que anima a los estudiantes de todo el país y alumnos de colegios Americanos en el extranjero a explorar su talento artístico. El tema del concurso de este año era "La diversidad significa..." Cualquier estudiante puede participar en los programas de reflexiones a través de una oficina local del PTA/PTSA.

A sus ocho años, Max tiene interés en la fotografía; no es raro encontrarlo tomando fotos de vez en cuando. El 9 de octubre de 2011, Max y su familia asistieron al Día de Prevención de Incendios del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Syosset, y allí tomó algunas fotos. Una de ellas sobresalía por encima de las demás; tanto que pensó que sería la imagen perfecta para participar en la categoría de Fotografía del concurso PTS Reflections. (Ver la foto enviada al concurso en la esquina derecha.)

En la foto, a la que Max dió el nombre de "Gente Diferente", aparecen unos miembros del Cuerpo de bomberos de Elmont, Rhiane una hermana de Max y Elia una alumna de segundo grado. Como parte de los procesos para participar en el concurso, Max tenía que explicar con una breve nota como se relacionaba su obra con el tema de diversidad. Envío el siguiente texto: "La diversidad significa diferente tamaño, color de piel, color de cabello, niño o niña, grande o pequeño. Esta imagen tiene personas con cabellos diferentes, distintos tamaños (pequeño o grande), hombres y niños, edades distintas y ropa diferente." - Max.

La madre de Max, Rena Damon, dijo, "La foto de mi hijo entró en el nivel del Distrito de Syosset, un nivel por encima de nuestra escuela primaria. Estamos extremadamente orgullosos de Max y de todos los otros estudiantes que han dedicado su tiempo para participar en este concurso."

"La capacidad de Max para percibir la diversidad a tan corta edad es notable," dijo Michael Capozziello, Jefe del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Elmont en aquella época. "Cuando se tomó esta foto, algunos de nuestros miembros estaban de guardia en Syosset en caso de que hubiera una llamada por incendio u otra emergencia, ya que los miembros del cuerpo de bomberos de Syosset estaban llevando a cabo las actividades correspondiente al día de prevención de incendio. Es una práctica común entre los cuerpos de bomberos de Long Island ayudarse en situaciones de emergencia cuando el personal está involucrado en eventos especiales."

A principio de este año, Max y otros alumnos del Distrito Escolar de Syosset fueron homenajeados por sus proyectos y fotografías sobre "La diversidad significa..." con una ceremonia especial, en la que recibieron un certificado de reconocimiento.



DID YOU KNOW?: Susan Lund was the first female firefighter in Elmont and on Long Island, joining Heavy Rescue Co. 1 in 1976.

¿SABÍAS QUE?... Susan Lund fue la primera mujer miembro del departamento de cuerpo de bomberos de Elmont, se unió a la compañía de Rescate en 1976.



FIRE FACT: According to the National Fire Protection Association, 17,700 patients went to hospital emergency rooms because of injuries involving outdoor grills in 2009.

EL FUEGO EN CIFRAS: Según la Asociación Nacional de Protección contra Incendios (National Fire Protection Association), 17.700 pacientes tuvieron que acudir a la sala de urgencias de hospitales en 2009 debido a lesiones causada por fuegos en parrillas al aire libre.



Elmont Fire District
100 School Road
Elmont, NY 11003-1734
www.elmontfd.com

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ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel get the chance to...

- Offer a helping hand to neighbors in need
- Make a difference in your life and the lives of others
- Build friendships with fellow firefighters and EMTs
- Obtain income or real estate property tax credits, college tuition reimbursement, and a deferred defined monthly benefit starting at age 55

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE ELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CALL THE CHIEF'S OFFICE AT 516-354-4560.**