

# County of Columbia

## Proclamation

### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUYVESANT FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, after witnessing the loss of property, residences, and farms, concerned members of Stuyvesant Falls held a meeting at Dickinson Hall (Glencadia Hotel) on April 13, 1925, to organize a fire district and company. This effort led to the formation of the **Stuyvesant Falls Volunteer Fire District #2**, and within two weeks, 61 men had joined as members; and

WHEREAS, at the time of its founding, membership dues were set at **25 cents**, and absenteeism was fined **10 cents**; and

WHEREAS, on **July 1, 1925**, the company held its first **carnival and clambake**; and

WHEREAS, on **April 4, 1926**, the company responded to its first major fire at **James E. Van Alstyne's barn in Sunnyside**. To support this effort, members contributed **\$1.00 each** to compensate Kinderhook and Valatie Fire Departments for their assistance—an early example of mutual aid; and

WHEREAS, on **February 27, 1927**, the department purchased a **new Sanford fire truck**, and in **June 1928**, held its first meeting in the newly constructed firehouse, followed by the purchase of a **fire siren in July 1928**; and

WHEREAS, in **July 1932**, despite the hardships of the Great Depression, the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company successfully hosted its **first Columbia County Convention**, a tradition that has continued through **July 2021**; and

WHEREAS, in **1943**, the firehouse was destroyed by fire, but within two years, it was **rebuilt with improvements**; and

WHEREAS, in **1962**, the **Ladies Auxiliary** was formed, playing a vital role in fundraising efforts to purchase fire vehicles, radios, and other necessary equipment—an effort that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company has organized various **fundraisers, dances, minstrel shows, steak dinners, paper drives, and chicken BBQs** to update equipment. They have also refurbished vehicles and successfully applied for grants to enhance the firehouse, keeping costs and taxes low for residents; and

WHEREAS, despite the challenges of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the fire company continued to serve the community, participating in **drive-by parades** to bring joy to children who were unable to celebrate their birthdays with friends and family; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Columbia County Board of Supervisors** proudly recognizes and celebrates the **100th anniversary of the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Department**. Founded a century ago by a dedicated group of citizens, this organization remains committed to its community, continuously improving its skills and equipment, and selflessly answering the call—**24 hours a day, 7 days a week**.



*Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Columbia  
at the Supervisor's Chambers in Hudson, New York this 9<sup>th</sup> day of  
April, 2025.*

*Matt B. Murell, Chairman  
Columbia Board of Supervisors*

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