

SCHRECK

FROM PAGE 1

Schreck for that position in 1999 and combined it with fire-chief duties.

Schreck, whose title was building and fire safety official, said the Building Department required about 60% of his time and the Fire Department 40%. In the Building Department he did inspections and issued permits.

"I made sure plumbing, mechanical, electrical codes all were followed and made sure everything was installed properly in new construction," he said. "It was a good mix, and the two jobs really related well, ensuring safety of buildings, and that's what the fire service is all about, too."

As fire chief, he made sure the trucks and equipment all were in working order, bills were paid on time and firefighters were up to date on training requirements.

The Carroll Fire Department usually responds to approximately 80 to 100 calls a year, including fires, vehicle crashes, gas-line breaks, downed power lines and more. On fire calls, the chief is the incident commander.

"He's basically in charge of the scene, giving directions on how to attack the fire, truck positioning," Schreck said. "You come up with a strategic plan on how you're going to attack, based on the situation. The chief or officer in charge at the scene has a very big burden of responsibility on his shoulders on whether to send a team into a building to attack a fire or whether you decide it's not safe to enter that building."

That responsibility hit dramatically not long after Schreck became chief, when a middle-of-the-night fire in 1988 destroyed the Western Bowl bowling alley on Highway 30 on the west end of town.

Schreck described how events unfolded: "I remember looking in the front door, although there was haze of smoke, you could still see the pin area (at the end of the lanes). We still had that visibility. We felt we had the fire knocked down, so we sent in a three-person team, and they weren't in there five minutes and all of a sudden the smoke came pouring out, and I was very, very concerned for their safety. And that's something that helped in my decisions later on about sending people in. But they (the firefighters) followed their procedures and followed their lifeline, which was the hose line, and were able to come back out of that building. But I was never so glad to see three firefighters come out of a building in my life."

"That sticks in your mind and helps you make decisions based on knowing how quickly things can change. It was just a matter of seconds when that building went from something we felt we had under control to totally erupting in fire. The bowling alley had a lot of suspended ceiling, and we think there was a lot of fire in there that we couldn't see."

In 1998 two Carroll firefighters — Mike Bock and Bob Shields — received a Governor's Award of Valor for saving a man from a house fire on the southwest corner of First and Clark streets across from Kuemper Catholic High School. A substantial fire started in the kitchen of the home and spread to the living room.

"Police heard someone hollering inside, then it was quiet and we had no idea where he was," Schreck said. "We were able to get a team of firefighters in there, locate him and bring him out. He wasn't breathing, but the Ambulance Service was there and performed CPR and saved his life."

Schreck called that rescue a team effort by firefighters, police and ambulance.

Schreck's service as fire chief got off to a dramatic start in 1987, with a pair of



LARRY DEVINE | TIMES HERALD

Greg Schreck (left), Carroll Fire Department chief the last 37 years, recently was succeeded by Dan Hannasch, who most recently was assistant chief and has 30 years service with the department.

major industrial fires, first at Trausch Refrigeration Co. (now Leer) on west Highway 30 and shortly later at Carroll Manufacturing (now home of New Way) on east Highway 30.

In addition to fire calls, the department responds to vehicle crashes and with power extraction tools is ready to try to make rescues.

"Vehicle accidents are always tough to go to, especially when there's a fatality involved. I still remember some like they happened yesterday," Schreck said.

Schreck said both firefighting equipment and training have come a long way.

For safety, cabs were added to trucks after insurance companies prohibited firefighters from riding on tailboards.

"We started going with a custom chassis where there was room for up to five firefighters and seat belts available for all of them," Schreck said. "That saves a lot of time. We have the self-contained breathing apparatuses built into the seats, so as firefighters are going to the scene, they can be putting those on. When they get off the truck, they're ready to go in. In the old days we'd have to get the air packs out of cases that were in compartments on the back of the truck, which took time. ... So that's an advantage, and it's certainly a lot safer having everyone in the cab in seat belts."

Thermal-imaging cameras for locating the hot spots in fires is one of the greatest pieces of new technology, according to Schreck.

"You can take that into a smoke-filled, dark room, and it takes a picture thermally, with temperature variations, and you can quickly see your way around through thick smoke," he said.

"You think fires are bright like in movies and on TV shows, but fire's black, and so many times there's so much smoke you can't see where the fire actually is. A thermal imager will give you a great view."

The department also now has portable, battery-powered, hydraulic-extraction equipment, improving rescue capability.

"You're not tethered to the trucks with the hydraulic lines," Schreck said, noting the equipment purchase was made primarily with donations to the department. "They're much faster and do a lot better job for us as far as extricating in vehicle collisions."

Firefighter training requirements have been stepped up, and new volunteers have two years to achieve firefighter I status through the Fire Service Training Bureau. That requires 150 or more hours of classroom work plus training on hazardous-materials response.

"It just takes a lot of time for volunteers to become certified. That I think is being reflected a little in the problem we're having now recruiting volunteers," Schreck said. "Until the last couple of

years we had a pretty lengthy waiting list, but recently that list has dwindled."

The Carroll department currently is near returning to full capacity of 35 firefighters.

The current 14,500-square-foot fire station at 801 N. Bella Vista Drive on the east side of Carroll opened in 2006. The former station was part of the fire-police-city hall-library complex in the Farner Government Building. The department has eight active vehicles — a tower truck, two main pumpers, two tankers for rural fires, a reserve pumper and two grass-fire rigs — plus the classic restored 1960 Seagrave truck driven in parades.

At one time, Schreck said, firefighters responded to calls basically wearing street clothes and jumping onto a truck's tailboard.

Now full gear — bunker coat and pants, long boots and helmet — is required.

"When I started," Schreck said, "firefighters were able to ride on the tailboards of trucks, respond to the scene that way, hanging on to the back of the truck. Then insurance companies frowned on that and didn't allow it anymore. We had to get inside a (truck) cab. There was no more riding on the back."

"I always kind of enjoyed it myself, but some nights in the winter you'd get on the back, and it would be a little cool."

The middle child in Elmer and Marie Schreck's family of seven children, Greg grew up in Templeton and graduated from Kuemper Catholic High School in 1972. His dad had a career in banking and then became telephone office manager, and his mom was a homemaker.

Greg and his wife, Judy (Drees, 1979 Kuemper grad), have been married 39 years. They moved from Templeton to Carroll in 1982. Judy is Carroll County Assessor Office manager. Greg and Judy have three children: Lisa, of Carroll, who's married to Nick Bowdish, and they have four children, Mallory, Brynlee, Hazel and Maverick; John, of Humboldt, who's a firefighter paramedic in Fort Dodge, and he and his wife, Abby (Wenck), have a new son, Bennett; and Brian, of Alta, a Buena Vista County deputy sheriff, who's married to Megan (Wiederin).

Schreck said his retirement will give him and Judy more time to enjoy their ebicycles.

"We're really enjoying those," he said of their rides at Swan Lake State Park and on the Sauk Rail Trail.

"That trail system is very nice to have," he said.

Schreck said he also loves the opportunity to help more with his grandchildren.

As the Carroll Fire Department is celebrating its 100th Firemen's Dance fundraiser this year, Schreck said, "I'm amazed every year how generous people are and how much support we have in the community, and that's something I'll never forget."

That support underscores the importance of shopping locally, he said.

"We see firsthand a lot of our donations come from local businesses. We really appreciate that," he said.

In turn, Schreck said, the department has given tens of thousands of dollars back to the City of Carroll to help purchase equipment, saving taxpayer dollars. For instance, the department helped purchase the tower truck and new bunker gear.

Schreck said he's loved the camaraderie with the firefighters. Department members meet three times a month — one business meeting and two training sessions, with the chief and training officer deciding on the drills.

"We respond as professionally as we can," Schreck said. "That was always my goal as chief, to make sure we were as well trained as we could be."

He added, "I've worked with so many good, dedicated firefighters and made some lifelong friendships. That's something I'll take with me the rest of my life, all those bonds."

At City Hall, too, he said, "I've worked side by side with great individuals who are very dedicated to serving the citizens of Carroll. We've had a very good team. They all do the best job they can to provide top-notch service to our community."

Mike Pogge-Weaver, who's served as city manager the last six years, said of Schreck, "Greg is just an individual who's a calm, steady ship out there. He was one I could just sit down and talk with, and his advice was invaluable. He was a wealth knowl-

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hannasch bring 30 years' experience to chief's position

Times Herald staff

Greg Schreck, who retired this summer after serving 35 years as Carroll Fire Department chief, gives his successor, Dan Hannasch a full vote of confidence.

Hannasch has stepped into Schreck's positions as chief City of Carroll building and fire safety official.

"Dan's been on the department for a long time, served in leadership roles as an officer for a good number of years, and knows operation of the Fire Department very well. He's a good level-headed thinker," Schreck said.

Hannasch joined the department 30 years ago and worked his way up from firefighter to lieutenant to captain. He had been assistant chief six months before being named chief.

Hannasch previously worked 37 years as a transportation safety manager at Farner-Bocken, handling rules and regulations and keeping drivers in compliance with Department of Transportation rules and regulations.

A Carroll native, he's a son of Ron and Diane Hannasch. His dad was a lead foreman much of his more-than-40-year career with

Badding Construction and now works part time for Sharp Funeral Home. His mom worked in the Carroll County Treasurer's Office and retired as manager of the Carroll County State Bank (now Availa Bank) Arcadia branch.

His wife, Deb, worked at Pella Corp. 23 years, and she and her sister Bev Finley now have a residential cleaning business.

Dan and Deb (Kramer) are both 1983 Kuemper Catholic High School graduates.

They have three sons: — Brett, of Carroll, is a Carroll County Secondary Roads operator, and he and his wife, Nikole, CT technician in radiology at McFarland Clinic, have two children, Caleb, 2, and Wyatt, 1.

— Colby, of Le Mars, is a right-of-way agent for Mid-American Energy, and his wife, Lauren, is a marketing specialist for American Bank in Le Mars. Colby is a volunteer in the Le Mars Fire-Rescue Department.

— Jacob, of Carroll, a Carroll County Sheriff's deputy, and his wife, Maggie, a teacher at East Sac County School, have two children, daughter Waverly, 4, and son Walker, 15 months.

edge. And how he deals with people, he's such a people person. He understood the challenges that volunteer firefighters face, and how he got them to just wanting to be there and really contributing to the city is just amazing to me. I think it's why Carroll has such a strong volunteer fire department to this day. ... He's one I looked up to because of his demeanor and how he deals with people."

Schreck's successor as chief, Dan Hannasch, has served 30 years on the department and advanced through the ranks from firefighter to lieutenant to captain and to assistant chief.

Hannasch said of Schreck, "Greg has always had that calm, collective demeanor, never got super excited. You don't fly off the handle. You just deal with the situation. Everybody's calm, and you just handle it the way it should be handled. That's

very important because you have a lot of young firefighters. When things get pretty heated, they can get excited. Everyone just needs to stay calm and assess the situation and go at it correctly."

Hannasch said he looks to continue Schreck's leadership style.

"You try to keep a cool head when you're on a scene because situations can get heated or things get demanding, and you just have to step back and say, 'OK, this is what we're doing.' I think that's something Greg instilled in people. As a leader, as chief all these years, that's been true all the way through."

"I don't know of anybody who had any kind of an incident with something he said or something he did where there was an argument, I just don't recall any of that. He was always a good leader. He had a great personality for that."

BOOKS

FROM PAGE 1

now solidified, the formal process will begin this week and plans will be made for an initial meeting. The committee meetings will be subject to open meeting laws.

Reconsideration committee members:

— School administrator designated by the superintendent: Assistant High School Principal Amy Col-lison.

— Three community members appointed by the school board: Dave Hagen, Jean Guy and Thetia Polking.

— Two high school students selected by the high school principal: Seniors Ashlee Danner and Joe Kimball.

— One media specialist or librarian designated by the superintendent: Berlau said while the school district does not currently have a librarian, he is working with Heartland Area Education Agency, which will provide a media specialist to participate in the committee.

Also in Monday night's meeting, revisions to policies impacting the selection, inspection and objections to library materials came up for a first read-

ing. A committee to review board policies reviews each policy every five years, and it just so happens the committee is now reviewing policies that are relevant to the objection of library books.

Revisions proposed to the policies largely keep the spirit of each policy intact with changes made for clarification purposes. Most of the policy updates were proposed by the Iowa Association of School Boards in response to outcomes of the most recent Iowa Legislative session.

One notable addition is to school board policy 630, which relates to the objection of instruction materials, and allows for parents to request that their student not be able to check out certain library materials they choose.

The policy revisions will come up for a second reading at the school board's next meeting in November before the board makes a final decision.

While the potential policy updates include a way for parents to opt their student out of any library materials, school board member Duane Horsley has proposed a policy revision that gives school media specialists and administrators the discretion to require parental permission

for certain library books to be checked out. He says the implementation of written parental permission slips for library materials flagged by administrators or media specialists will provide an extra layer of protection along with allowing parents to opt their child out of any library books.

"This is to protect all students because parents don't have the time, they don't have the knowledge. ... How are they going to know what books are in the library that could be deemed potentially offensive?" Horsley said. "This is just a way of putting a protection there so that parents feel they have some protection and guidance on books that could fall into that category."

Horsley's proposed addition is to board policy states: "Administrative staff and media center staff will have the discretion to require written parental permission for materials and books that contain obscene, libelous, indecent, vulgar, profane, lewd or sexually explicit description or materials that present a clear and present likelihood to be considered or deemed offensive. Required materials or books would not be distributed to students prior to receiving written parental permission."