

NEWS

# New Paramedic starts at EFPD

By Tristan McGough  
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton Fire Protection District (EFPD) just hired Thomas Colloton to fill an open Paramedic position on its EMS force. Colloton told commissioners at their regular board meeting at the fire station on March 12, 2020, “My wife and me thought it was time to get back to the area we grew up in, and I’m happy to be back.” Deputy Chief of Operations Jason Russ introduced the newcomer to the board, saying, “We’re very fortunate to have Tom, as he has a background that was ready-made for this position. Not only had he served in Orfordville, but in Tomah he was the single Paramedic provider, and that gave him an incredible amount of responsibility and opportunity to serve and grow.

“Besides that,” Russ continued, “working at Janesville, he’s affiliated with Mercy Hospital, which is a big plus for us, because he’s already certified and can hit the ground running.” As if to prove his point, Russ vouchsafed, “In fact, since Tom started the week of March 2, he’s been working on all three shifts!” Colloton moves into a position that had been vacant. Russ and staff had been conducting a set of interviews designed to fill that position plus create a list and ranking system that could be kept in the event they needed to hire another qualified candidate in the near future. It turns out they were farseeing, because this list is immediately useful, especially considering the fact that another career paramedic, Josh Finn, had just last week

resigned. Russ explained, “As you know, we’ve been looking at candidates, and Tom was at the top of our list, especially with his sole service as paramedic up in Tomah, his other EMS background and, as I’ve said, his current affiliation with Mercy. Chief Pickering then after brought to the board’s attention its previous authorization to have him look into an out-of-cycle pay increase for Career Paramedics. “Though we understand,” Pickering disclosed, “that we won’t be able compete with larger metro services and their pay structure, we want to stay current and offer more incentive to retain our talent.” Board members recalled past discussions on revising the pay structure for, particularly, Career Paramedics, deciding to approve a memorandum of



Paramedic Tom Colloton began the week of March 2 as the fire district’s newest employee.  
Photo by Tristan McGough

understanding with the union that would implement the new pay structure next pay period. Pickering told the board that they’d use the list of ranked candidates to call the second

person on that list and offer the position to them. Candy Davis, Secretary-Treasurer, made the motion to move ahead to fill that position, with Evan Sayre supporting it. Unanimously, the board approved the “go-ahead.” Pickering told the commission that the number of emergency calls were “reasonably un-normal” for the last month of February, clocking in at 76, yielding a year-to-date total of 144. Comparatively, that figure is up 6.9 percent over 2019. Lastly and on a cautionary note, the chief briefly discussed his attendance at the MABAS Wisconsin Winter In-Service gathering, which featured both the National Weather Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The two federal agencies were there to forewarn first-responders on the likelihood of future flooding throughout Wisconsin. “There are three drivers

to this scenario,” Pickering informed. “The first is the ground moisture content: the ground is just very saturated, so the water table is high. Second, they warned that Lake Michigan, as well as other Wisconsin lakes and the Mississippi River, are all at record levels. Not record levels from the past ten years; but, record levels since records were first started. “And the third factor is the expected rain itself. Since any rain won’t be able to seep into the ground, and the rivers and lakes are already high, the water won’t have any place to go and will back up real fast.” Having dealt with flooding issues on what seems a regular basis over the last few years, this was something municipal representatives on the EFPD commission didn’t want to hear. Regardless, forewarned is forearmed, and commissioners thanked Pickering for his update as the bearer of potentially bad news, bracing themselves for the inevitable.

NEWS

# Highwood Hoots

By Carol Stai  
Special to the Reporter

The coronavirus has really changed where we can go, and what we can do which is stay at home and spend time with your family and get some of the “to do” lists completed and when doing so, it gives one a

good feeling something was completed. It is a good thing to go through the toy box with your children and set aside for a garage sale in the spring. Outgrown clothes is another thing to get done plus clean your own closets out making room for clothes that do fit,

not keeping the ones you will “fit back into again” as that sometimes just doesn’t happen. Besides, fashion styles change and it is a good time to check out the new styles. Remember, the kids still have homework to do and that should be the first thing each day to get completed. Weather permitting, spend time outside so everyone can get some exercise and enjoy looking at the tulips or other fresh flowers sprouting.

Everyone must remember to wash hands a lot and use sanitary wipes on all doorknobs, cabinet knobs, sink faucets, refrigerator doors, car doors and when purchasing groceries. Wipe each item off before putting away. I have been doing this for many years and do carry handwipes in the car to even clean hands when going into any business. Getting everyone in your family to keep their hands clean and keep the hands away from the face to cut

down the problem of catching any disease. Birthdays this week are my “Other Boss” Diane Everson on March 27; Eric Clapton on March 29; Becky Farrington March 30 and Bill Skau, Scott Nelson and granddaughter, Shannon Derrick all on March 31. Getting into April, niece, Jenny Schaber of Bolingbrook, Ill. and Josh Eastman on April Fool’s Day, friend and classmate, Sharon Goodell

of Stoughton, Linda Hrycyk of Chicago and Al Geske of Highwood all on April 3. Wishing everyone a great celebration. Take a stroll on Tuesday, March 31, National Walking Day. Listen to some music, as listening to songs with 120 beats per minute has greater benefits to your walking. Q: What time do ducks wake up? A: At the quack of dawn!



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# “We’d love to join your family”



**Valentina**

Valentina is a sweet senior who still has some pep in her step. This gorgeous lady has the most adorable face, expressive eyes, a beautiful coat. She has a nice medium energy level and doesn’t ask for much, content to enjoy the simple things in life like napping and hanging out with her person, but she also enjoys going for walks and would be up for some nice hikes if you are. She has an adventurous and curious spirit and likes to sniff all the things when out and about, regularly checking in with her person with her big doggy smile to show how happy she is. Looking to add a senior Husky to your family? She is ready to join you and yours.



**Tanner**

Tanner is a happy guy and a great cuddler! When you come home after a long day, he’ll greet you with that amazing smiling face and so much affection. This loyal guy has so much love to give his people and he isn’t shy about showing it. Tanner alternates between being independent and luxuriating in the joys of a dog bed and wanting to lay his big body on top of yours, so he’s really the best of both worlds. Tanner doesn’t ask for much, just consistency and a loyal companion to match his devotion to his human, and he’ll repay your kindness with endless love. He is a sweetheart.



**Casey**

An outgoing guy who gets along with every person he meets! Casey was an owner surrender from a previous shelter due to no fault of his own! Now he has traveled all the way from Alabama in search of his new forever home! He is a young pup with loads of energy and is looking for a family that is adventurous and loves to be outdoors! He enjoys getting out and about and stretching his legs. He’d make a great running partner. Could he be the dog for you? Casey is great, you will want him to be a part of your family.



**Gonzo**

Meet Gonzo! A wonderful family dog who's just missing a family! This handsome hunk is almost 72 pounds of pure affection and love. He enjoys a long walk and plenty of time with his human companions. He is sure to love you. This exuberant pup just has so much love for life and he can't wait to become part of yours. While Gonzo is very friendly with known faces, he can be slightly shy when meeting new people. Some humans he takes to right away, but once he can trust you, you'll never be in doubt how much he loves you. When he looks at you with those giant saucer eyes, it's hard not to melt. Meet amazing Gonzo as soon as you can.



**Pickles**

Hi! My name is Pickles, and I am looking for my forever home. Originally, I traveled all the way from the great state of Texas way back in March of 2019. I was adopted for a little short of a year and unfortunately returned due to no fault of my own! The shelter workers tell me the second time’s the charm. Let me tell you how awesome I’d be in your home. I am crate trained, potty trained AND even sit for treats! I love to shake (with both paws) and love to snuggle. I sometimes get really excited and jump up, but that’s just because I’m so excited to see you. I love all kinds of people and would love to meet you.



**Tangerine**

This big guy is Tangerine. He’s very sweet and loves affection. Tangerine can be pretty shy, but he just needs the right family to give him time to warm up and we’re sure he’ll make a great buddy. This poor guy was found all alone in Beloit but thankfully someone was able to bring him to us here at the Humane Society. Now he’s waiting for his forever home to come and pick him up! He’s waiting for you. You will love him.



**Pen Pal**

Tired of people not responding to your messages. You need a new Pen Pal! Pen Pal is sure to talk your ear off and steal your heart. He is a fun and spirited young cat, so exuberant when he plays that he will stand on his hind legs to swat at and catch the cat dancer toy and all the wand toys. He will stalk a wand toy, chase it, jump for it, grab it, and carry it off in his mouth - this clearly is great training to land him the job of Flying Bug Catcher in your house! This guy is all play and doesn't seem to mind being on his own. Pen Pal is inquisitive and alert and would love a window perch or two in his home, too. Does he sound like the cat for you? Visit him, he is ready to play with you.



**Keke**

Meet Keke! This handsome boy can be a little shy at first, but once he can trust you, he will talk your ears off! After he gets to know you a little bit better, he loves to cuddle. Keke loves to have full conversations with his people and loves to be talked to. Keke would absolutely thrive in a quiet and comfy home with a patient family. Keke is young at 3 years of age, so he has his whole life ahead of him. Keke has Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). This means his immune system is a little weak. Because of this he may need a little extra vet care, but that doesn't mean he can't live a long and happy life in an indoor only home. Keke is a sweetie-pie. Come and meet him, he won't be here long.



**Turtle**

Say hey to Turtle! This big handsome boy is looking for his new human family. He loves to be around people and purrs extra loud when he is happy. He is a pretty easy going guy, in search for a family willing to give him the simple things. Give this boy a warm meal and a nice comfy place to sleep, and he's set for life. Whenever you are having a bad day, Turtle will always make you smile. As soon as you walk through the door, he will be right at your feet, ready to greet you with soft rubs against your legs and comforting purrs. Does Turtle sound like your kind of guy? He sure is ready to meet you.



**Blaze**

Meet Blaze! This handsome boy is looking for a patient adopter who will give him some times to settle into his new home. Although he's still unsure of himself at the shelter, he will open right up with some one-on-one time. Once he's in a home, his personality will blossom and he'll show you what a loving companion he can be. Blaze's ideal day consists of laying about on the couch and receiving attention on his own terms. Could you be a good fit for Blaze? Visit him, he is excited to meet you. We think you will take him home.




**Rhea**


Meet Rhea! This beautiful Calico is ready to have you falling in love! Reha was roaming the streets until a very nice police officer scooped her up and brought her here for a chance at finding her forever home. She can be shy around unfamiliar people, but once she gets to know you better, she's eager to call you one of her best friends. Reha won't ask too much of you. All she wants is a safe and comfortable home where she can be loved. Are you already falling in love with Reha? Come and check her out, she won't be here long.

**Adopted from last ad:**  
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
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
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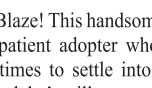
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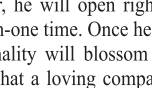
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