



# Happy New Year!

## Duanesburg Ambulance Newsletter

2025 ISSUE I

January 2025

Dear Duanesburg  
Community/  
Supporters /  
Members and Staff,

### 2024 - A Year in Review: A Message from the Chairman

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together at Duanesburg Ambulance. It has been a year of growth, challenges, and triumphs, and I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible efforts of everyone who contributed to our mission of saving lives and serving our community.

In 2024, Duanesburg Ambulance responded to over 600 emergency calls—a testament to the dedication of our volunteers,

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career EMTs, EVO's and support staff. From routine transports to critical emergencies, our team has worked tirelessly to provide timely, compassionate care to those in need.

2024 allowed us to prioritize community outreach and education. Through programs like Yellow Dott, CPR training, and Stop the Bleed, we equipped individuals with life-saving skills. Our participation in local events such as the Memorial Day Parade, our open house and many other activities has allowed us to connect with residents and share vital health and safety information.

The year was not without its challenges. From navigating staffing shortages, increased call volumes, evolving healthcare protocols to adapting to unexpected hurdles, our team demonstrated resilience and innovation. The commitment to our mission never wavered, and for that, I am extremely proud of everyone's efforts.

As we step into the new year, our focus remains



on enhancing our services, expanding our training programs, and strengthening our partnerships within the community. We are excited to open our new Wellness Center for the Duanesburg residents, and we continue to explore new technologies, partnerships, and operational improvements to better serve you in the years to come. Be on the lookout for our new rental policy for our community center and our indoor/outdoor barn which will be able to be rented for your family parties, birthdays, and special events. We are currently working out the details with our legal advisors to protect everyone involved.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers, staff, board members, and communi-

ty. To our donors and supporters, *your generosity enables us to continue our life-saving work.* To our team, *your dedication and professionalism inspire me every day.*

Thank you for standing by us and for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference, one life at a time.

Wishing you and your families a safe and healthy new year.



Bob Cuttita, Chairman, Duanesburg Ambulance

# Understanding How Duanesburg Ambulance Corps Operates: Insurance Billing Explained

At Duanesburg Ambulance, our primary goal is to provide timely and efficient emergency medical services to our community. To ensure that we can continue offering these vital services, we operate by charging the insurance of our patients. Here's a detailed explanation of how this process works and why it's essential for our operations.

## Why We Charge Insurance

Ambulance services are critical in emergencies, providing life-saving care and rapid transport to medical facilities. However, these services come with significant costs, including medical equipment, trained personnel, and vehicle maintenance. By billing patients' insurance, we can cover these expenses and maintain the high standard of care our community expects.

Duanesburg Ambulance operation budget for 2025 is expected to be \$825,391.00. This number is for keeping the building operational, training our staff, medical supplies, vehicle maintenance and keeping our equipment up to today's standards. This number also includes staffing the building with 24-hour, 7 days a week with EMT's and EVO's. The costs for just staffing the building in 2025 is estimated to be \$638,197.00. This number includes salaries, payroll tax, workers comp, disability tax, and payroll insurance. Duanesburg Ambulance has asked the town to provide us through taxes of \$547,397.00.

The difference of \$277,994.00 is made up through medical insurance

billings, fish fries, donation campaigns, and other fundraising activities. Without charging the insurance of the patients we deliver life-saving medical responses to, Duanesburg Ambulance could not continue to provide the services needed for our residents. In 2024, we had responded to over 600 calls. Unfortunately, 2024 was a year that has surpassed all years in the past.

## How Insurance Billing Works

**1. Initial Assessment:** When we arrive at a scene, we collect necessary information, including your insurance details. This allows us to process the billing efficiently.

*"Your health and well-being are our top priorities, and we strive to make our services as seamless and supportive as possible."*

**2. Insurance Claim Submission:** After providing the necessary medical care and transport, we submit a claim to your insurance company. This claim includes details of the services provided, which are categorized based on the level of care required (e.g., basic life support, advanced life support).

**3. Insurance Coverage:** Most insurance plans cover medically necessary ambulance services, but the extent of coverage can vary. Typically, insurance will cover a

significant portion of the cost, but there may be out-of-pocket expenses such as copayments, deductibles, or coinsurance.

**4. Patient Responsibility:** If there are any remaining balances after the insurance payment, patients may receive a bill for the difference. We understand that medical expenses can be challenging, and we offer flexible payment options to assist our patients. If you have any questions, you can call our office and speak to our financial coordinator. This is a volunteer position as is with many other supporting personnel to keep the agency going. So please keep this in mind when you call.

## Benefits of Insurance Billing

- **Sustainability:** Charging insurance helps us sustain our operations and continue providing high-quality emergency services. Through insurance billing we are estimating to offset the taxable request from the town over \$200,000.00

- **Accessibility:** By billing insurance, we can keep our services accessible to everyone in the community, ensuring that no one is denied care due to financial constraints.

- **Efficiency:** The insurance billing process allows us to streamline our operations and focus on what we do best—saving lives.

## Your Role as a patient or a care provider

To help us serve you better, please ensure that your insurance information is up-to-date and readily

available. In case of any changes in your insurance coverage, notify us promptly to avoid any billing issues.

At Duanesburg Ambulance, we are committed to transparency and are here to answer any questions you may have about

our billing process. Your health and well-being are our top priorities, and we strive to make our services as seamless and supportive as possible.

Thank you for your support and understanding of our billing process.

Bob Cuttita  
Chair



**THANK YOU, DUANE LIONS, FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY AND FOR YOUR MOST GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE WELLNESS CENTER!**



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## Duane Lions Club becomes Wellness Center Diamond Sponsor

The Duane Lions Club, founded in 1955 as part of Lions Clubs International, is a non-profit, community service organization serving Duaneburg, NY as well as surrounding communities. The primary mission of the Lions Clubs is to assist those with vision and hearing impairment. We were pleased to donate \$1000 as a Diamond Sponsor for the DVAC Wellness Center fundraiser. This center will be a great asset to our community.

Our club is currently in the planning stages of a vision screening program for young children. Duaneburg Schools uses a Welch Allen Spot vision screener the club purchased to screen incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten children and throughout elementary and high school. We want to expand this screening to pre-school children to give us the opportunity to screen and refer children for diagnosis for eye disorders, like amblyopia, that may not otherwise be caught in such young children. The new DVAC Wellness Center will offer us the opportunity to conduct these screenings in an ideal screening environment.

The Duane Lions is involved in many community projects as well as disaster and relief efforts. We volunteer and contribute to local food pantries, Freedom Guide Dogs, and Camp Abilities Saratoga. These efforts are supported by our annual fundraisers including White Cane Days, raffles, and, our major event, Duaneburg Rocks Blindness Chicken BBQ, held in June. The Duane Lions Club and the Duaneburg High School Leos Club look forward to supporting the work of the DVAC and the Wellness Center as they move forward with this project. If you're interested in learning more about our work or becoming a member, please contact us at [duaneburglions@gmail.com](mailto:duaneburglions@gmail.com).



# GoodRx

Did you have an occasion when your physician prescribed a medication

and you did not have the money at the time for the copayment and waited to have your prescription filled? ...or you did not have prescription coverage and upon finding

out the cost, you did not have it filled? **You may have seen the commercial on TV? —**



—when a woman is unable to pay for her son's costly medication at the pharmacy, she is relieved to hear about GoodRx, an app that helps users find coupons to save an average of 60 percent on retail prescription prices.

Take a few minutes to research what your prescription may cost using GoodRx, prior to purchasing your prescriptions? Even if you have a prescription plan with your current insurance, the copay maybe higher than what is would cost you

for the entire medication using GoodRx.

I would like share my experience during my 40 years of working in physician's practices; I have witnessed the benefits at no **cost** ex-

cept for a **few minutes** of your time. As the Finance Chairman for Duanesburg Ambulance, I want to assure you that I am not advertising for nor do I have anything to do with GoodRx.

Take a few minutes to Google **GoodRx** and compare what you are currently paying; compare it to what you would pay using GoodRx. **GoodRx is not an insurance company.** You can use this with the local pharmacies such as Price Chopper, CVS, Walmart, Walgreens, and Hannaford.

Eric Unser, Finance Chairman



## 2024 ~ What Have We Done ~

The Emergency Medical Services industry is in crisis in many areas of New York and across the country ~ but not in Duanesburg, New York! The collaboration between the Town of Duanesburg and the Corps has secured a rapid, local response for the residents, visitors and travelers through the Town at times of crisis and need. This collaboration has improved response times (time of dispatch to time of arrival at an incident), brought local EMS leaders to scenes to best manage for optimal outcomes and scene management, enhanced the system itself to best serve the patient with strong collaborative partners and contributed to the mutual aid requests from Schenectady, Montgomery and Schoharie counties when available.

With all that in mind, let's explain a little bit of the mutual aid component:

- Schenectady County ~ the medical team has answered dispatches to the City of Schenectady, Town of Rotterdam, Town of Glenville, Village of Scotia, Town of Niskayuna and the Town of Princetown in 2024. These dispatches (primarily to the City of Schenectady and the Town of Rotterdam) have routinely resulted in our ambulance being cancelled prior to arrival at the scene; however, on those dispatches where a call was completed, medical leadership from the Corps was very attentive to coverage within the Town of Duanesburg and not a single dispatch for the Town of Duanesburg was missed and not a single patient waited for a crew already responding to another community.
- Montgomery County ~ medical leadership is in regular communication with the EMS leadership in Montgomery County to keep any of our responses to Montgomery County to the

eastern end of the County (City of Amsterdam, Town of Amsterdam, Town of Florida, Town of Charleston, Town of Glen, Town of Mohawk) so our turnaround times and time from dispatch to arrival on the scene are more efficient. As with Schenectady County, many of these dispatches are also cancelled before we leave the Town of Duanesburg.

- Schoharie County ~ we have primarily responded into the Town of Esperance occasionally when Esperance Ambulance is not available, the number of times we have been dispatched to Schoharie County is quite small and has not resulted in a single declined dispatch as we are pleased to have collaborated with our mutual aid partner in Esperance Ambulance consistently.

The 2025 second quarter newsletter will contain the full data for the calendar year of 2024, and we look forward to highlighting our successes and determination to continue to serve the Town of Duanesburg as our primary focus and intent.

On an overall perspective, the Town of Duanesburg has been well-served by the agreement with the Duanesburg Ambulance in providing a quick response to dispatches. The Corps has also continued a strong bidirectional partnership with Duanesburg Central Schools for meetings, trainings, and event engagements. The entire town emergency response has benefited from the collaborative deployment of comparable automated external defibrillators (AEDs) so that this crucial equipment supports a smooth transition at multiple layers of response to sudden cardiac arrests.

In 2023, the Corps was dispatched 475 times (including 8 standby services for special events) to 391 emergency responses in the Town of Duanesburg, 62 dispatches to mutual aid and 14 missed dispatches. In 2024 (to date), the Corps has been

dispatched 589 times (including 7 standby services for special events) to 384 emergency responses in the Town of Duanesburg, 198 dispatches to mutual aid (with a high percentage of cancelled mutual aid requests) and 1 missed dispatch in the Town of Duanesburg (Duanesburg Ambulance was on another in-town dispatch). The

“The medical leadership team and the medical operation remain committed to exceeding the expectations of the population we serve ~ you, the residents of the Town of Duanesburg.”

Corps will provide a full statistical breakdown of 2024 in the next newsletter staying with our commitment to transparency and data-driven decision making.

The medical leadership team and the medical operation remain committed to exceeding the expectations of the population we serve ~ you, the residents of the Town of Duanesburg. Please allow me to thank some of the finest EMS providers and responders in the region for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our mission and your expectations.

Chief  
Peter  
Brodie





## 2024 Employee of the Year | 2024 Volunteer of the Year Recognition

What an honor it was to recognize two individuals for their passion, dedication and determination to be the best providers possible at the annual appreciation dinner. The Corps is blessed with many excellent providers who answer the dispatches and requests from within and without the Town of Duanesburg; however, these two individuals were easily selected from this group of providers to be recognized for outstanding service.

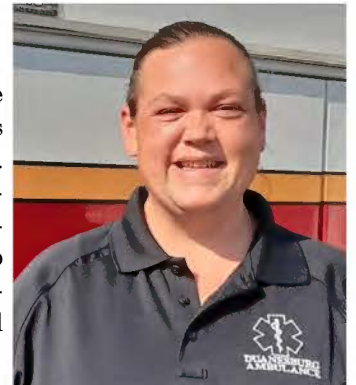


### 2024 Volunteer of the Year ~ Richard Meyer

Having joined several years ago, Rick has been a mainstay on Friday evenings and Saturday night shifts for many years. Once regarded as that old man that only those riding weekends know, Rick has become a favorite of responders who answer dispatches with him. An easy-going and calm responder, he has always brought a predictable demeanor to even the most challenging of responses and even the most routine responses. Patients and family members have found him to be comforting and supportive in times of crisis.

### 2024 Employee of the Year ~ Jessica Gathen

Despite several nicknames about the number and variety of dispatches received while she is on duty at Duanesburg, Jessica handles that all with a grain of salt and moves together using every dispatch as a learning opportunity coupled with a blessing to serve. Jessica is a consistently dependable provider who always arrives early, completes all daily tasks as a priority, collaborates with leadership on exceeding expectations when preparing for events and visitors to the building and looks for tasks within her scope to help the Corps remain prepared for whatever happens in town. Jessica has grown as a provider since starting at Duanesburg on her birthday in 2024 and exceeded her own and the Corps' expectations in care and leading by example.



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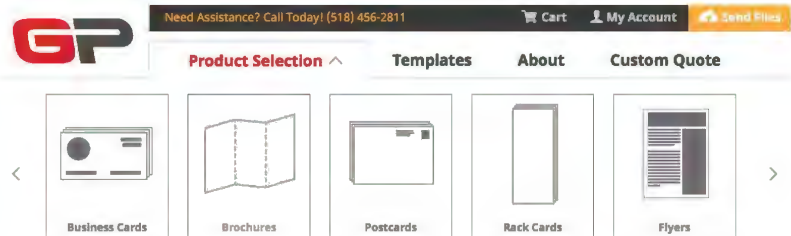
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# DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Shirley Martin – *Vice-President*

Marsha Brown – *Secretary*

Carol Plue, Cindy McKeon, Pat Van Buren, Carl Wiedemann, and David Vincent

The Duanesburg Historical Society was formed in 1944 for the purpose of discovery, collection, preservation, and dissemination of our local history. Always keeping our goals in sight, a succession of dedicated volunteer community members were essential to the evolution and growth of the Historical Society of 2025.



- We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from April to December at Bishop Scully Hall in Delanson at 7 PM. Each month, there

*“For a small rural town – we have an interesting story to tell. And that story is never done.”*

is a high-interest presentation on local history presented by knowledgeable local researchers. All are welcome, and we encourage you to check our list of programs for

2025, which will be posted on our website in mid-March.

*(Duanesburghistorical.com)*  
Delicious refreshments are always served, and you will find yourself among people who love to both share their knowledge of local history and to continue learning more about our town.

- In 2009, we published our first of four volumes of *Remembering the Town of Duanesburg* containing a collection

of researched history and anecdotal stories by residents to acknowledge the history of childhoods, families, people, businesses, events and changing lifestyles throughout the history of our community. We are now working on Volume 5 due out in 2026. Copies are available at our monthly meetings, online, and at the Town Hall.

- In 2018, after a very successful grassroots fund raising campaign, we



opened our Research and Archive Center at 450 Quaker Lane in the hamlet of Quaker Street. The Greek Revival Farmhouse mirrors the architectural style found within our town and was built by local builders Marty Hebert and his son Michael.

- Our Center preserves collections of photos, anecdotal history, genealo-



gies, clothing and textiles, and memorabilia pertinent to our town's history. Our essential team of volunteers catalog, organize and safely preserve our collection in appropriate archival boxes. We are open by appointment for research and for touring the lower level of the building containing meaningfully curated displays.

- This last June was our



*Carole deForest and DES 4th grade field trip to the Research and Archive Center*

first time having Duanesburg Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade students welcomed to our building for a student tailored event on local history.

- Each September, we hold a community themed event. On Saturday, September 16, 2025, we will be celebrating the presence of the D and H Railroad within our town and the 1892 naming of Delanson will be commemorated. Check out our

website and our Facebook page during the season for details.

For a small rural town – we have an interesting story to tell. And that story is never done. We are always discovering more little-known facts about our town. It is important to remember that yesterday is today's history – record it, value it and preserve it.





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Thank You!! -morgan

Thank you - Gabby

Thx: Sean

Thank you! Ewan

Thank you - Jack

Thank you!! - Everett

Thank you!! - Gionna

Thank you!! - Christina

Thank you! - Declan

Thank you - Range

Thank you for all you do! -Logan

Thank you! -Nate

Thank you! -Jen

Thank you -Sara

Thanks a lot -Asa

Andrew

Thanks  
 Duanesburg  
 Volunteer  
 Ambulance  
 Corp!

Thank you  
 Duanesburg's  
 Juniors for  
 sharing  
 donuts with  
 our Corps!

Thank you for  
 keeping our  
 community safe  
 and helping us in  
 times of need.

Duanesburg's Juniors  
 (Class of 2026)



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The support for the Wellness Center is an ongoing campaign, so please continue to support our Center. Please feel free to contact the office for details.

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## Dedicated

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# MEAT PACKS

## PACK #1

- 1 lb. Ground Chuck
- 1 lb. Italian Sausage
- 3 lb. Chicken
- 1 lb. Meatball Mix
- 1 lb. Sandwich Steak
- 1 lb. Bacon

**\$39.99**

## PACK #2

- 2 pc. Cordon Bleu
- 2 pc. Stuffed Pork Chops
- 2 lb. Sirloin Steak
- 2 pc. B/L Chicken
- 1 lb. Ground Chuck

**\$69.99**

## PACK #3

- 3 lbs. Chuck Roast
- 3 lbs. Pork Loin Roast
- 2 lbs. Stew Beef
- 1 lb. Meatball Mix
- 3 lb. Chicken
- 1 lb. Ground Chuck
- 1.5 lbs. Italian Sausage

**\$79.99**

## PACK #4

- 3 lbs. Meatball Mix
- 3 lbs. Italian Sausage
- 2.5 lbs. Country Style Ribs
- 2 lbs. Sandwich Steak
- 3 lbs. Ground Chuck
- 2 lbs. Bacon
- 2 lbs. Chicken Breast

**\$109.99**

## PACK #5

- 3 lbs. NY Strip Steak
- 3 lbs. Pork Chops
- 2 lbs. Sandwich Steak
- 2.5 lbs. Baby Back Ribs
- 2 lbs. Haddock
- 3 lbs. Beef Roast
- 2 lbs. Grd Round
- 3 lbs. B/L Chicken Breast

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# Social Committee NEWS

## Community, Camaraderie, and Fun in Quarter One 2025

The Duanesburg Ambulance Social Committee is thrilled to announce an exciting lineup of events for the first quarter of 2025! As we kick off the new year, our goal is to create opportunities for our dedicated members to connect, recharge, and strengthen the bonds that make our team so extraordinary. We want to take this opportunity to invite all residents of Duanesburg to are upcoming events so...

## SAVE THE DATES

Also, please keep an eye on our website:

[www.duanesburgambulance.org](http://www.duanesburgambulance.org)

for other events and information.

We plan to add more events so keep an eye out for updates.

Here's what we have planned for  
through April 2025:



## Spaghetti, Meatballs, Italian Bread and Salad

Date: February 8, 2025, 4PM – 7 PM

Location: 130 Cole Road, Sit in and  
eat or take out dinners

Shake off the winter blues with a  
friendly sit-down dinner with fellow  
community members or take your  
meal home to enjoy with your family.  
\$12.00 per meal



## Line Dancing



Date: March 9, 16, 23 and 30th 2PM – 4PM

Location: 130 Cole Road Community Room

Pre-registration \$50.00 for all four week or \$15 per week pay at the door. Limited to the first 25 people.



Put on Your Dancing Boots!



Get ready to kick up your heels at our Line Dancing Nights!

Whether you're a seasoned pro or trying it for the first time, this is your chance to have a blast learning fun dance steps with your fellow members.

No experience required—just bring your energy and enthusiasm!



## Duanesburg Ambulance's Famous Fish Dinners Are Back!

Dates: April 11 & April 18

Location: 130 Cole Road – DRIVE THRU ONLY

*See details on following page 22*

## Duanesburg Ambulance's Famous Fish Dinners!

Dates: April 11 & April 18

Location: 130 Cole Road – DRIVE THRU ONLY

Get ready for a delicious tradition you don't want to miss! Duanesburg Ambulance is proud to bring back our Famous Fish Dinners this season. Join us for a mouthwatering meal that supports a great cause—helping us continue to serve our community with life-saving services.

Our menu features perfectly cooked fish, tasty sides, and desserts that will leave you wanting more. Come for the food and help support our vital mission. See you there!

If you have ideas for future events or would like to join the Social Committee, don't hesitate to reach out to Janice Vunk at 518-631-5584. Here's to a fantastic start to 2025 filled with laughter, connection, and teamwork!



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After months of discussion by the Town and the Park Commission, the goal of creating an ice-skating rink for the Town of Duanesburg has come to fruition. The rink is located at the Little League field, a location that has been facilitated through the efforts of Chris Parslow, President of the Duanesburg Little League.



**Note: this is not an actual picture of the rink.**

The rink is 100' by 100' and so will provide lots of space for skaters of all abilities.



At this time, there are several matters that still need to be finalized:

- Hours of operation;
- Availability of skates at the rink; and
- The feasibility of a concession stand or monthly food truck.

As the final touches are worked out, announcement of the opening of the rink may be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.duanesburg.net>.

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# 2024 Duaneburg Ambulance Appreciation Dinner



*Recognizing, **Employee of the Year,**  
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*Recognizing Volunteer of the Year,  
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**DUANESBURG AMBULANCE**

**130 Cole Road**

**Delanson NY 12053**

**Phone: (518) 895-2200**

**Fax: (518) 895-2800**

**Email: [treasurer@duanesburgambulance.org](mailto:treasurer@duanesburgambulance.org)**

**[www.duanesburgambulance.org](http://www.duanesburgambulance.org)**

**Questions, suggestions, free  
email subscriptions,  
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office at (518) 631-5584**

**Happy New Year!!!**

