

DROWNING VICTIM SAVED

On Saturday August 14th Sinclair Street, in Farmingdale, became a street of “local heroes”. Because of the quick action of neighbors, police and fire department members, a thirty-one year old man will get a second chance at life.

It was about 11AM when neighbors heard a splash and a cry for help. Charles Doyle was house sitting for friends. He has a history of sleepwalking, and ended up sleepwalking into the in ground pool in the back yard. Charles had walked into the deep end, and could not swim. Neighbors looked over the fence and saw Charles in a panic. A call was made to 911 while a 13 year old boy jumped into the pool to get Charles out. By this time Charles was in cardiac arrest.

Nassau County Police units were first on scene, and applied an AED. They defibrillated Charles and started CPR. Farmingdale F.D. Assistant Chief Patrick Tortoso was next arriving. He put a rush on the ambulance and assisted the police with CPR. Farmingdale Fire Department members, EMT-P Chris Pieloch and EMT John Cella, who both live just around the corner, were next to arrive, and initiated Advance Life Support efforts. Charles was intubated, placing a tube into his lungs to breathe for him, and IV lines were inserted, to administer life saving cardiac medications. In the process, he was defibrillated multiple times, in efforts to convert his otherwise fatal heart arrhythmia.

Within minutes, more and more help arrived at the scene. NCPD and the Farmingdale FD each responded with two ambulances. Charles was then moved to Farmingdale FD’s ambulance 9299 for transport. The ambulance crew now consisted of EMT-P Chris Pieloch, EMT-P Will Merrins, EMT-CC Phil LoNigro, FF Matt Oppedisano, FF Matt Hammond and FF Hank Pieloch. Throughout transport, they provided Charles with the best care possible, never giving up hope. Charles was transported to St. Joseph’s Hospital, in Bethpage, where Dr. Joseph Bruni and his Emergency Department team now took over care.

After only a few minutes in the emergency room, Charles was given more medication, and defibrillated again, this time converting his heart into a normal cardiac rhythm. Charles regained a pulse, and was now making some effort at breathing on his own. He was placed on a ventilator, in order to assist his breathing. After being in cardiac arrest for almost 30 minutes, the ER staff was not optimistic regarding a positive outcome in this case.

Dr. Bruni ordered the use of the “Arctic Sun Temperature Management System”, a new technology that is used to lower the normal body temperature to 92 degrees. Charles was then moved into the ICU Unit. After about 22 hours, Charles Doyle opened his eyes. Further testing revealed no signs of any neurological impairment, which is often common in cardiac arrest patient’s with prolonged resuscitation times.

In stark contrast to the many other stories of backyard drownings on Long Island this year, this event in Farmingdale had a happy ending. From the initial actions of the next door neighbors calling 911 immediately and removing him from the pool, to the prompt response by Nassau County Police Officers and Ambulance Technicians, and the volunteer members of the Farmingdale FD – all the essential pieces of the chain of survival fell into place for Charles Doyle that day. This truly was a miracle. Thanks to all the HEROES who responded to Sinclair Street on that day and selflessly acted to save the life of another man.