



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1 February, 2006

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

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT  
Jack Mulvihill

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
Paul Lenskold

FIRST AID CAPTAIN  
Bob Krueger

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN  
Frank Scalzo

WATER RESCUE CAPTAIN  
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Raquel Falotico

## **FHFD'S PATRICK TRENTON TO SERVE IN IRAQ**

Recent national newscasts and media releases have focused on the latest attempt to bring order to the chaotic cities and villages in Iraq by deploying



Patrick Trenton at his Graduation from MP training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

large numbers of US Army Military Police alongside the newly formed Iraqi police forces, with the mission of training them to handle the situation increasingly on their own. One of the Fair Haven Fire Company's young members—Patrick Trenton — recently left his initial military assignment in Germany to join the contingent of MPs headed toward Iraq, possibly to participate in this effort. Patrick's company—the 615th Military Police Combat Support Unit - had been in Kuwait awaiting its orders for

(See "Pat Trenton" on page 4, Column 1)

## **FIRE COMPANY TIDBITS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER FEBRUARY 25**

*Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Salad, Bread, Dessert, Soda  
Adults \$7.00  
Children \$5.00  
(BYOB—we will serve it)*

*5:00-8:00pm*

*Snow Emergency Date—Feb. 26*

## **FIRST AID SQUAD GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT OF FUND DRIVE**

*The Fair Haven First Aid Squad wants to recognize the sacrifices our senior citizens, families and businesses make. We are thankful for the tremendous financial support our community has shown us once again during the 2005 Annual Fund Drive.*

*Harold D. Trenton  
Chairperson  
Contributions Committee  
Fair Haven First Aid Squad*

## **CHIEF'S REPORT...**

This is my first report as Chief of the Fire Department, and I want to start by once again expressing my appreciation to all of the residents and merchants of Fair Haven for your wonderful support of our organization. The last couple of years have been monumental for us in terms of their historical significance — the Fire Company celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2004 and the First Aid Squad celebrated its 75th Anniversary last year. While I enjoyed participating in those events, I'm looking forward to focusing on "back-to-basics" as I serve as your Chief this year — i.e., where you and I will focus our efforts on making our community a safer place to live.

As part of that goal, I want to devote my Report to two topics: (1) introducing you to the people who are "on the front line" of our emergency responses — the folks we call our Line Officers and (2) reviewing the types of emergency incidents that Fair Haven has experienced over the past few years.

The first topic deserves a little explanation. As you may or may not know, even though we are all volunteers, the Fire Department is a municipal entity of the Borough of

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

# MEET THE FAIR HAVEN VOLUNTEER

*From "Chief's Report" - p. 1 column 3*

Fair Haven, created by public ordinance. The four Fire Department Chiefs are sworn in by the Mayor and Borough Council at a ceremony each January 1. From a purely administrative perspective, these four chiefs, shown to the left, are the line officers held accountable by the Borough.

On the other hand, the Fire Company has grown from just a "Fire Department" to five separate organizations, all encompassed under a single organizational structure and each with a very different mission. Each of these five organizations — the Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Fire Police, Water Rescue Unit and Auxiliary — has its own officers. But we are all part of a single Fire Company. This is fairly unique for volunteer fire departments, and we believe the arrangement serves us well.

Our line officers have made a significant commitment to serve you around the clock, 365 days a year. And each of their families is involved in that commitment. The pictures on these two pages are intended to introduce you to all of the line officers for 2006. We hope you don't meet them on account of an emergency incident, but if you do, we want you to know who they are.

Which leads to the second topic I want to discuss. It is customary in the first issue of the *Newsletter* each year to provide a summary of the previous year's responses by the Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Fire Police. This year, I'd like to encourage Borough residents to review the trends we have experienced over the past several years. The figure to the right provides such a summary. As you will see, the general trends are relatively flat for emergency incidents, with the notable exception of emergency medical and transportation calls, which were up significantly for 2005.

Here are a few more observations about the incidents. While the number of False Alarms may seem high, many of these relate to fire and carbon monoxide alarm activations that prove to be unfounded. We are more than happy to respond to such alarms! (*Ed. Note: please see a separate article about Carbon Monoxide on p. 4*). "Silent Alarms" are incidents the Chiefs respond to at the request of the Police Department where there is clearly no fire involved, for example—an unusual odor in a building. "Rescue" incidents include such emergencies as contractors trapped at a construction site or a sailor stranded on a capsized boat. Obviously, Motor Ve-



**Fair Haven Fire Department Chiefs for 2006**  
Chief Paul Lenskold                      1st Asst. Chief Mick Wiehl  
Deputy Chief Robert Townshend                      2nd Asst. Shaun Foley



**Fair Haven First Aid Squad Line Officers for 2006**  
2nd Lt. Pat Corbett      Captain Bob Krueger      1st Lt. Derek DeBree



**Fair Haven Fire Police Line Officers for 2006**  
2nd Lt. Bud Dupree                      Captain Frank Scalzo                      1st Lt. Lew Davison

# FIRE COMPANY LINE OFFICERS FOR 2006



**Fair Haven Water Rescue Unit Line Officers for 2006**  
 Dive Captain Stewart Watson  
 Logistics Coordinator John Felsmann      Boat Captain Lou Hartman

**Fair Haven Auxiliary Officers for 2006**  
 President Raquel Falotico  
 Vice President—Diane Kilzen

hicle Accidents involve a vehicle — but these calls may include a collision of two vehicles, a “car vs. pole” incident, or a “car vs. pedestrian” incident.

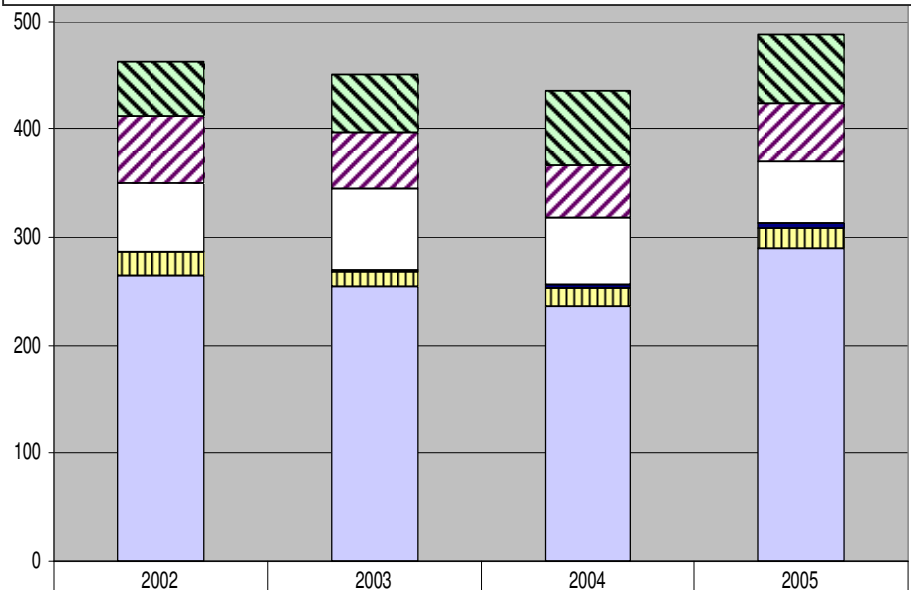
Many of these incidents require a response by several units of the Fire Company. For example, a fire alarm requires a response by the Fire Department, First Aid and Fire Police units, and—in case of a serious incident, the Auxiliary. On the other hand, an EMS or transport call requires only the First Aid Squad.

Finally, each of our units has a significant number of training exercises—called “Drills.” Even though these are not emergency responses, the hours devoted to these activities prepare us for “the real thing.” Please note that we are training more then ever to prepare for

the increasing challenges that we face.

In total, the Fire Company volunteered almost 6500 man-hours of service and drills during 2005. We are proud of

## Fair Haven Fire Company Incident Responses 2002-2005



	2002	2003	2004	2005
■ Drills	50	53	68	64
■ False alarms	61	52	48	54
□ Fires and silent alarms	65	76	63	56
■ Rescues	0	2	3	6
■ Motor Vehicle Accidents	21	14	16	18
□ EMS and transport	265	254	237	290

our ability to provide this service, at no cost to the community. However, we also need your help. Even though the number of incidents is relatively flat, I think we can do much better. Every response we make—no matter how trivial—entails some risk to our members. Your efforts at preventing these incidents can have a big payoff for all of us. Please make every possible effort in that regard. When you do need us though, you can be sure we’ll be there!

**Paul Lenskold**  
 Chief, Fair Haven Fire Department

From "Pat Trenton" - p. 1 column 1

deployment to Iraq, which were received just as this article was in preparation.

Pat joined the Fire Department upon graduation from Rumson Fair Haven High School in 2001. He completed the state-mandated Firefighter 1 and 2 training, and became very active at FHFD. Not satisfied with volunteering only for Fair Haven, Pat also joined Red Bank's Independent Engine Company 93, where he was also very active. His firefighting volunteerism falls in the footsteps of his father, Hal Trenton, who has been an extremely active member of the Fire Company for many years, serving as Captain of the First Aid Squad three times and filling numerous other officer positions over the years.

"As parents, Karen and I are naturally concerned about Patrick's assignment in Iraq, and we will be happy when it's over," says Hal. "However, Pat signed up for service to his country enthusiastically, and he certainly understood there would be risks. We're very proud of him."

Pat's assignment to MP service is not an accident. He served as a dispatcher for the Fair Haven Police Department before joining the service, and he hopes to continue in the law enforcement field after completing his military service.

Patrick is on leave of absence from both Fair Haven and Red Bank fire companies while he is in the Army. Both companies will be happy to see him return.

## FIRE COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FEATURED IN NATIONAL PUBLICATION

Erin Puck is getting national recognition for her ongoing efforts to distribute toys and other helpful items to kids who are hospitalized.

As reported in the October, 2005 *Newsletter*, the Fair Haven resident won the Fire Company's annual scholarship award for 2005. She is attending Villanova, majoring in liberal arts, and she is continuing to run her philanthropic business, Toys.Calm, while obtaining her education.

Erin was one of four young people featured in the February, 2006 issue of *Family Circle* magazine. Under the heading, "Teens Who Change the World," Erin's accomplishment in raising over \$130,000 to purchase and distribute 80,000 toys to hospitals in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania was highlighted. She has also distributed 65 laptop computers to hospitals to loan to children, so they can stay in touch while hospitalized.

Erin's mother Laura reports that Erin is now getting ready to supply Movie DVD's for the Valerie Fund at Monmouth Medical Center, so that children undergoing chemotherapy can watch movies. "Erin will be buying two of each DVD so there will be no conflicts while kids are undergoing treatment," Laura says. "In addition, she's also ordering 10 more laptops for kids."

Readers can learn more about Erin's activities by visiting her web site at [www.toyscalm.org](http://www.toyscalm.org).

### Contact Pat Trenton

Anyone wanting to send a letter or note to Pat can mail it to the following address:

PFC Patrick Trenton  
615th MP Company/3rd Plt.  
APO AE 09344

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE POSIONING AND ITS PREVENTION

The recent coal mine tragedies in West Virginia are a reminder of the deadly threat of the colorless, odorless gas called carbon monoxide—or CO. It is important to realize that CO poisoning happens in much less dramatic situations than these highly publicized events, and that it may cause damage long after the initial incident.

According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, carbon monoxide poisoning is the most common kind of accidental poisoning in the United States, sending some 40,000 patients to emergency rooms each year. Fair Haven has had its share of CO incidents in the past few years, including a number that required hospital treatment.

However, the new news about CO poison-

ing is that, while it is unlikely that patients will die in the hospital - especially with the advent of CO detectors in many homes - the impact of the poisoning may not end after discharge from the hospital.

A study conducted by the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation has concluded that carbon monoxide victims who suffer damage to their heart muscles, a common occurrence, are at a much higher risk for heart attacks in later years.

The Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad take CO incidents very seriously. We are equipped with devices that can measure the level of CO in a structure, and we never enter a building where the gas may be present without full protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatus.

We want you to take this threat equally seriously. So, what can you do to help your family avoid this problem? First, make sure your furnace and gas appliances are checked regularly by a qualified technician. Then, get in the habit of making sure your garage is well ventilated before you close garage doors. Finally, if you haven't already done so, install a battery-operated CO detector and check its batteries frequently.

If you or members of your family show any symptoms — drowsiness, unusual headaches, etc., or if your CO alarm activates, GET OUT OF THE HOUSE. Call 911 to report the incident, and don't go back into the building until we have fully investigated the cause. These steps may save your life or prevent later damage to your health.

## IN MEMORY—TWO WHO SUPPORTED THE FIRE COMPANY TIRELESSLY

*Editor's Note: Any organization with the long history and range of ages of its members that the Fair Haven Fire Company enjoys expects to experience the death of some of its members during the year. Last year was no exception — three of our members passed away. But the untimely death of one of those members, coupled with the recent loss of a close friend of the Fire Company who was not a member, took more than the usual emotional toll on the Company at the end of 2005. This is the story of those two losses.*

### JEFF LANG — A SMILING FACE FOR EVERYONE HE MET

The Fire Company is mourning the untimely death Jeffrey S. Lang, Past Captain and very active and vibrant member of the First Aid Squad. Ironically, Jeff was the first person who usually looked after members of the Fire Company and other residents of Fair Haven who were hospitalized at Riverview Medical Center. Jeff worked in the



Jeff (foreground) and fellow First Aider Wade Davis during the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Middlesex Fire Department in 2005

Pharmacy Department at Riverview, where his passion was not just the work: what he really enjoyed was looking after the welfare of our members and other people from Fair Haven who were “under the weather.” He died this past December. He was 46.

Jeff joined the Fire Company in 1977 and soon became very active in the First Aid Squad. “Jeff was part of a family that has given tirelessly to our community,” says Jack Mulvihill, Fire Company President. Jeff’s father, Bill, served as First Aid Squad Captain and twice as Fire Department Chief. He was elected a Life Member in 1995, and he served for many years as the Fire Inspector for Fair Haven. Jeff’s Mom, Barbara—Bobby—Lang was an active member of the Auxiliary and, along with Jeff’s brother Doug, spent endless hours supporting the annual Firemen’s Fair. Barbara served as secretary for Fair Haven’s Building Inspector for 18 years. Bill and Barbara retired to Florida recently but still maintain their home in Fair Haven and visit frequently.

Jeff’s loss brought forth an outpouring of sympathy and donations in his memory. Many residents and even strangers to the First Aid Squad sent donations — usually saying how supportive he had been to them while performing his First Aid duties or simply stopping by their rooms at Riverview to give them a friendly word of encouragement. And his co-workers at Riverview Medical Center raised funds for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which was donated to the First Aid Squad in Jeff’s memory at a presentation February 3.

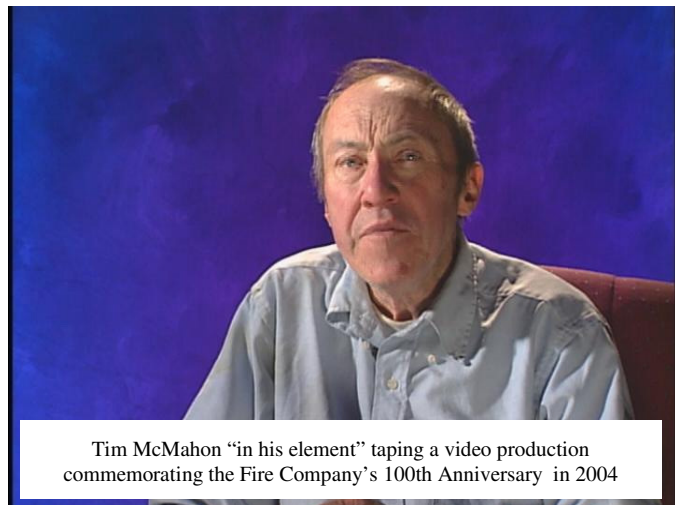
“It saddens us not to have Jeff’s smiling face around here,” says Dave Binaco, President of the First Aid Squad. “But he showed us how one person can make a difference, and we’re moving on to fill the vacuum his loss has created, just as we know he’d want us to do.”

### TIM McMAHON— THE MAN WHO REMEMBERED IT ALL

Anyone who ever encountered Timothy J. McMahon, Jr. realized that they had just met a phenomenal example of encyclopedic memory. And they also realized that they had met a man who cared more about preserving the memory and dignity of his community than just about anyone they had met. Sadly, Tim died this past November. He was 64.

In an extraordinary show of respect and appreciation for his service to the Fire Company, a special recognition was held at the Company’s December business meeting. “Tim was well known for being Fair Haven’s Historian, but not many people know how much he contributed to this Fire Company for many, many years,” Fire Company President Jack Mulvihill stated during the recognition.

And indeed, over the years Tim jumped in at a moment’s notice to help the Fire Company, just as he contributed to many of Fair Haven’s historical undertakings. Most recently, Tim devoted dozens of hours to narrating the early background of the Fire Company as part of a video production celebrating the Company’s 100th Anniversary produced by the Television Department at Brookdale Community College. “The stories Tim told, and his absolute recall of events



Tim McMahon “in his element” taping a video production commemorating the Fire Company’s 100th Anniversary in 2004

decades ago — down to the exact cause of a fire and the makeup of the Company’s members is unlike anything I’ve ever seen,” says Roger Conant, Executive Director at Brookdale TV. Tim also played a key role in helping pull together the 100th Anniversary memorial book provided for all members. (*Ed. Note: If you would like to view a copy of the memorable and moving video, you may sign out a copy at the FH Library.*)

What amazed people most about Tim—and what we will remember him for — is his unending wit, which allowed him to see things in an engaging and insightful perspective that was timeless.

Fair Haven Fire Company  
Fair Haven First Aid Squad  
River Road & Battin Road  
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID ORGANIZATIONS SEEK NEW MEMBERS

Fair Haven Fire Company No. 1 is an all-volunteer organization, and we continue to seek members who can help in a number of capacities. Please consider volunteering your time to this worthwhile effort. Here is the information you need, if you are interested:

**Fire Department—Active Firefighter.** Members in this category respond to fires and emergencies in Fair Haven and surrounding communities in cases of “mutual aid.” Although prior experience is helpful, none is required for admission to this category. Rigorous training is provided by both the Fire Department and by the Monmouth County Fire Academy. Applicants must pass a physical exam and a routine background check. Interested residents should contact James Butler, III at (732) 671-8082 to discuss the membership application procedures.

**Fire Department—Social Member.** Members in this category participate in non-firematic aspects of operating the Fire Company, including fund raising events such as the annual Firemen’s Fair. The only requirement for membership is that you have reached the age of 46 and have a sincere interest in helping the Fire Company. Interested residents should contact James Butler, III (listed above) to discuss membership application procedures.

**Fire Department—Affiliate Member.** This is a new category of membership that has been established to encourage area residents who are interested in joining the First Aid Corps, Fire Police or Auxiliary, but who are not interested in joining the Fire Department as an Active or Social member. Membership to this category requires a sponsor in the Fire Department. Residents interested in joining the First Aid Corps through this venue should contact William Acker at (732) 747-0241, Ext. 224. Residents interested in joining the Fire Police should call Frank Scalzo at (732) 842-0638. Residents interested in joining the Auxiliary should contact Raquel Falotico at (732) 741-2050.

**First Aid Corps Member.** Members in this category respond to emergency trauma and medical situations and provide basic life support services. The First Aid Squad also responds to all fires and other emergencies in which injuries are likely. Members must be a member of the Fire Department (Active, Social or Affiliate), before they can join the First Aid Corps. No prior experience is required, although new members must pass an approved First Responder or Emergency Medical Technician course during their first few months in the organization. Applicants must pass a physical exam and a routine background check unless they are Active Firefighters. Interested residents should contact William Acker (listed above) to discuss membership application procedures.

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**You Can Start the Membership Application Process at Our Website at [www.fhfd.org](http://www.fhfd.org)**  
Please email any comments to [newsletter@fhfd.org](mailto:newsletter@fhfd.org)