



Volume 5, Issue 1 August, 2003

FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 *Newsletter*

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT
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FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF
Marty Coy

FIRST AID CAPTAIN
Andy Schrank

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN
Tricia Brett

SCUBA TEAM CAPTAIN
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
Dale Connor

FIRST AID SQUAD PUTS NEW AMBULANCE IN SERVICE

The First Aid Squad recently took delivery of a state-of-the-art ambulance to replace one of its aging units. The new unit, known as Unit 1357, was placed in service early in July.

In addition to the usual complement of emergency services equipment, the custom-designed vehicle is equipped with many innovative technologies designed to make maintenance and upkeep simpler. For example, the warning lights use light-emitting-diodes (LEDs) instead of the usual incandescent bulbs, allowing much lower drainage from the vehicles electrical system.

Specifications for the new ambulance were developed by a committee headed by now-Captain Andy Schrank. The committee worked with P&L Custom Body works for almost a year to get the unit finalized. According to Schrank, "Our ambulances are our most heavily used emergency vehicles. Getting the specifications right, and working with the manufacturer to get the final product right, are activities that are well worth the extra effort."

Even though the Borough of Fair Haven is nominally responsible for purchase of the town's emergency vehicles, in this case the funds for purchasing the ambulance, amounting to \$134,000, were provided solely by the Fair Haven First Aid Squad, through its fund-raising activities.

(See page 3 for a photo of the new unit.)

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

*The Annual
Firemen's Fair Will
Take Place
August 22 -30*

*Volunteers are needed
to work at the Fair.
This is a great chance
to meet your neighbors
and contribute to a
worthy cause.*

**To Sign Up for a
Single Night or the
Entire Event,
Contact
Bill Acker
(732) 747-0241
Ext 224**

CHIEF'S REPORT —

RASH OF FIRES, EMERGENCIES PLAGUE 2003

It is customary in the mid-year report for the Chief to provide routine statistics for year-to-date emergencies and to highlight some of the activities of the Fire Department. Unfortunately, the year 2003 has brought an unusual number of serious and devastating fires and emergencies. Therefore, I am using this opportunity to update you on some of the more serious events and to seek your help in preventing further disaster.

The most devastating and heart-wrenching case was the loss of a life in a fire in the Rectory of the Church of the Nativity on March 8. This is the first loss of life fire in Fair Haven since 1976. The Fire Department and First Aid Squad were on the scene within minutes of the alarm, quickly extinguishing the small fire and providing emergency care. Unfortunately, the victim suffered severe burns to over 2/3 of her body and ultimately succumbed to the burns. Investigations have indicated that smoking in bed was the probable cause of the fire. I urge you to avoid this practice and to use extreme care if you smoke.

The year was already off to a bad start — another devastating fire had taken place in January at a house on

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RASH OF FIRES, EMERGENCIES (FROM P.1)



PHOTO CREDIT: Doug Haviland

A successful save: Quick action by FHFD limited the damage in this June 12 roof fire in a home on Oak Street.

Clay Street. Upon arrival at the scene, the Fire Department discovered a heavily-involved structure fire at a home in which dozens of pet kittens were kept. The owner of the building, who was not home at the time, adopted and cared for stray cats until a permanent home could be found for them. Although Fire and First Aid members were able to rescue and revive many of the felines, almost 30 of them hid in very difficult places in the burning building and died. Damage to the house was extensive, but the structure was saved.

Then, in February, as if we hadn't seen enough action, a spectacular fire took place in a frame house on River Road near the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. When Police first spotted the flames they were extending 40 or 50 feet into the air. Seeing the extreme amount of fire, I immediately summoned the Rumson Fire Department for mutual aid. Because of the total involvement of the structure and the rapid collapse of floors, we made a command decision to move to an exterior attack on the fire. This step is necessary when a fire is so substantial that the traditional interior attack would clearly risk the lives of our firefighters. The result is that all exposures were saved, but the dwelling itself was destroyed.

Following the serious fire problems of the winter and spring, our Scuba Team and Marine Unit 1359 were put to test in May, after a boater was reported missing from his boat berthed at the Fair Haven Yacht Works. After an initial rescue effort, Fair Haven divers joined in a two-day search and recovery operation for the victim before the activities were called off by New Jersey Marine Police. The body was ultimately discovered a few days later near the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. The death was apparently accidental.

In spite of these disastrous events, the Department has responded to and successfully dealt with numerous emergencies that did not result in serious loss of property or life (see picture above). Please do your part in prevention of fires and accidents! We'd like to have the rest of 2003 be much quieter!

**Marty Coy
Chief of Department**

MATER DEI GRADUATE ERIC JACOBSEN WINS THIRD FHFD VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

In 2001 the Fair Haven Fire Company instituted a one-thousand dollar scholarship for volunteerism for high school Seniors who are Fair Haven residents or family members of the Fair Haven Fire Company, whether Fair Haven residents or not.

Following in the tradition set by the 2001 winner Shannon Conner and last year's winner Steven DePonti, this year Fair Haven resident Eric Jacobsen won the award by scoring well in all of the criteria used to evaluate candidates:

- Academic accomplishments
- Fire Department involvement
- Community involvement
- School involvement.

Eric is entering Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA this fall, where he will major in Computer Science. His minor subjects will include Criminology and Psychology.

"The Fire Company has continued to support the scholarship program and feels it is a small token of appreciation for high school students who demonstrate community commitment and leadership," said Bob Minehardt, Scholarship Committee Chairman. "Even though the amount is a small token of the educational fees required these days, we feel the recognition is well deserved."

Eric's mother, Brenda, has been active in Fire Company activities, including serving as First Aid Squad Captain in 1999. Unfortunately for Fair Haven, the Jacobsen's have recently moved to the Pocono's. The family will be missed.

FOCUS ON THE FIRST AID SQUAD— A NEXT GENERATION RIG . . .



Plenty of room. The new Unit 1357 was designed to carry much more emergency equipment than its predecessor. As shown here, easy access is provided to the equipment from outside the rig.

. . . AND A THIRD GENERATION MEMBER OF FAIR HAVEN'S EMS



***Three Generations of Hartman's:
Debbie, Lou, Larry in the new rig***

When firefighter Jim Richards (who served on FHFD during the 1970s before moving on to Massachusetts) recruited his paperboy, Larry Hartman, to join the Fire Company in 1975, he probably had no idea how long-lasting an impact this action would have. Larry joined both the Fire Department and First Aid Squad and has served in a number of key roles, including being Fire Department Chief and First Aid Squad Captain.

Shortly thereafter, Larry's brother Wayne joined the Fire and First Aid. Wayne served as First Aid Captain and Deputy Chief during his tenure with the Fire Company. According to Larry's and Wayne's father Lou, "I couldn't sleep through all the noise of the Plectron (radio alerting system) going off, so I decided to join, too. "

Lou served as Captain and President of the First Aid Squad and is a Life Member.

Given the family tradition, it's probably no surprise that Larry's daughter Debbie recently joined the First Aid Squad and completed her State and National Emergency Medical Technician Registries. Debbie has had a long term interest in providing emergency help: she worked several years as a life guard and got her early EMS experience as a Cadet in the Little Silver First Aid Squad. Even though the Fire Company prides itself with several third generation firefighters, Debbie is the first third generation female First Aider.

Debbie will be entering college the Fall at Longwood University in Farmwood, Virginia, where she will study Criminal Justice. Not to forego her emergency medical love, however, she also plans on joining Longwood's First Aid Squad and to volunteer with the Prince Edwards County EMS. When she's back home in Fair Haven, Debbie plans on being very active with her home town squad.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 167
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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) 741-7157 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 a sincere interest in helping the Fire Company. Interested residents should contact James Butler, III. to discuss membership application procedures.

Fire Department—Honorary Member. Historically, this membership category was reserved for public dignitaries and others who have indirectly helped the Fire Company. Recently, however, the category has been expanded to admit potential First Aid Corps Members 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.

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 Honorary), 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 to discuss membership application procedures.

Visit our Website
www.fairhavenfiredept.com

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Please email any comments to contact@fairhavenfiredept.com