



FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 *Newsletter*

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FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT
Jack Mulvihill

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF
Robert Frank

FIRST AID CAPTAIN
Ritchie Brister

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN
Tricia Brett

SCUBA TEAM CAPTAIN
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
Trudy Felsmann

MEMORIAL STATUE TO BE ERECTED AT FIREHOUSE

On March 20 or slightly thereafter, if all goes according to plan, a new Memorial Statue will be prominently displayed on the Fair Haven firehouse property.

During the year 2002, following the disastrous events of 9/11/2001, the Fair Haven Fire Company took several steps to honor fellow firefighters. As has been reported previously in the *Newsletter*, one of those steps was to "adopt" a firehouse in New York City that lost 15 of its members at the World Trade Center.

Another step, reported here for the first time, is the construction of a Memorial Statue on the grounds of the Fair Haven Fire Company. The Memorial will honor all deceased members of the Fair Haven Fire Company, including members of the Fire Department, First Aid Corps, Fire Police and Auxiliary.

A committee was formed in March, 2002 to look into the possibilities and recommend a course of action to the Fire Company. Larry Hartman was appointed chairman of the committee. After much investigation, the committee presented the Fire Company with a proposal for a 7-foot bronze statue to be created by sculptor Brian Hanlon of Toms River. The work was commissioned in March, 2003.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SATURDAY JUNE 12

**Fair Haven Fire Company's
100th Anniversary**

**Gala Parade and Celebration
Starts at 12:30pm**

River and Battin Roads

**Open to Everyone for Fun,
Food, Entertainment!**

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

**River Road Will Be Shut Down
Between Woodland Drive and
Hance Road
During the Parade**

**Please Join Us in Honoring Fair
Haven's Firefighters for the
Past 100 Years**

**We Invite You to Participate by
Flying the American Flag or
Displaying Bunting or a Sign
During the Parade**

SATURDAY MAY 15

**The Auxiliary is Sponsoring a
Blood Drive at the Fire House
9:00am - 1:00pm
Please Turn Out!!**

CHIEF'S REPORT...

This is my first report as Chief, and I want to use the opportunity to introduce to Fair Haven residents the 2004 officer line up for the Fire Department. They are:

Robert Frank - Chief
Mike Reddy -Deputy Chief
Paul Lenskold—1st Assistant Chief
Robert Townshend—2nd Ast. Chief.

I am very proud to be leading this great team. As some of you may know, each of these officers serves for one year and is then promoted to the next highest position. The four-year commitment that we make is taken very seriously by us and our families. I thank you in advance for your support as we work to protect lives and property in Fair Haven.

My predecessor, ex-Chief Marty Coy, served during a year in which several serious fires occurred, as reported in the December, 2003 issue of the *Newsletter*. The total number of runs that Fire Company members responded to last year was

- 162 Fires, Emergencies and Drills
- 402 Emergency Medical Runs
- 141 Fire Police Responses.

The total volunteer time spent in response to these situations, including Fire, First Aid and Fire Police was 10,396 man-hours!

One of my main goals for my year as Chief is to protect the safety of our

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Chief's Report -Continued from

firefighters and other emergency personnel. Please help me in this regard by yielding right-of-way to emergency vehicles and using extreme care if you are driving near the scene of an emergency.

You can help us help in several other ways, as well. Probably the simplest way is for you to make sure that your residence or business has highly visible reflective numbers to assist us in locating you, in the event of an emergency. Also, if you're able, please turn on outside lights and porch lights to help us find you after you've called for help. These simple actions may save us precious minutes in responding to your need.

Another thing that you can do is provide an opportunity for us to train by donating a vehicle that is beyond repair (for us to use in practicing extrication of pinned victims in a motor vehicle accident) or, in case you're one of the families that plans to raze your dwelling, letting us use your building for training before you excavate it (see related article on p.3 of the *Newsletter*).

The year 2004 is a special year for Fair Haven Fire Company — our 100th Anniversary. I'm proud to be your Chief during this special time, and I hope this year will be safe and healthy for each of you.

Bob Frank

Chief of Department, 2004

Memorial Statue -Continued from p.1

The Memorial will depict a Fair Haven firefighter, in full turnout gear, looking upward toward the American flag that is located near the River Road frontage of the firehouse. While one of Fair Haven's ex-Chiefs posed for the sculpture, the Memorial is intended to represent all deceased men and women of the Fire Company. The sculpture will be mounted on a base that is constructed from black granite. It will be an octagon in shape, with emblems of each Fire Company organization sandblasted into each face of the structure.

No formal ceremonies are planned, but the Memorial is expected to be unveiled the afternoon of Sunday, March 28. Interested Fair Haven residents are invited to stop by to see the statue any time after the unveiling.

Christmas Tree Sales is a Successful Venture

As reported in the December, 2003 *Newsletter*, the Fire Company reinstated, on a trial basis, the sales of Christmas trees and wreaths at the firehouse, formerly carried out by the local Lion's Club. The public responded favorably, with the purchase of over 330 trees and 130 wreaths.

Lisa Sherman of Rumson, won the complimentary raffle for tree buyers — a dinner for two donated by Bayshore Charlies Seafood Center in Fair Haven.

While no decision has made as to the continuation of the event, Chairman Larry Hartman is enthusiastic about the prospects for Christmas, 2004.



Fair Haven's Chiefs. From left: Bob Frank, Mike Reddy, Paul Lenskold, Bob Townshend

THE 4TH GENERATION

Chief Robert Frank is the fourth generation of firefighters in his family. His great grandfather, Frank Mulvihill, was Fair Haven's first Chief, serving 1904-1907. His grandfather Joseph Frank was Chief in 1947. His father, Donald Frank was a firefighter, very active member of the First Aid Squad, and one of the founders of the FHFD Scuba team. "Donny" was a well known Fair Haven Police Department officer until his retirement a few years ago.

Chief Frank was First Aid Squad Captain in 1993 and is a Police Officer for Little Silver.

Real—Life Drill at Dwelling Scheduled for Demolition

Thanks to the permission granted by a Fair Haven resident, the Fire Department and First Aid Squad conducted a very realistic drill at a house in the Borough that was scheduled for demolition.

On Saturday, January 10, the Department's radio pagers announced the simulated house fire on River Road. All of the Fire Department apparatus responded to the address. Using special smoke generators designed for training purposes, the Fair Haven Chiefs directed several evolutions of fire fighting procedures inside the heavily smoke-filled structure. Chief Robert Frank stated, "Although there was no actual fire, the dense smoke in the dark rooms provided realistic practice that cannot be delivered in the more sterile situation of the Fire Academy "burn building."

In addition to practice on hose evolutions, firefighters used the Department's thermal imaging camera to locate and rescue a "downed" firefighter in the building. Following these exercises, members practiced ventilating the building in the two methods often used — breaking windows for cross ventilation and cutting a hole in the roof above the site of the fire to allow the evacuation of hot gases before they reach an explosive temperature.



Listen up guys—FHFD Deputy Chief Reddy explains the mission to two firefighters about to enter the "fog of fire"



Waiting for water—FHFD firefighter prepares to enter smoke-filled house

"With more and more local houses being razed to provide space for new structures, we're hopeful that we will get more opportunities like this one," Chief Frank states. "Please contact me or any of the Fire Department officers if you are planning a demolition and would be willing to have us schedule a drill at the site. We would work with your contractor to schedule a drill shortly before the planned razing. And of course, we would provide documents that relieve you of any liabilities for injuries that our members might sustain while on your property."

LOSAP for Fair Haven Volunteers Expected to be Put on November Ballot

Plans are being formulated for the public authorization of a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for all active members of the Fair Haven Fire Company's emergency services. LOSAP is an incentive program for volunteer emergency services that was first authorized by the New Jersey Legislature in 1997.

"It's like a pension plan for our members," said John T. Feeny, FHFD LOSAP Chairman. "It is an incentive program to get community members to join the Fire Company, and for the retention of members we already have. LOSAP has already been established in Red Bank, Little Silver, Middletown, Shrewsbury and other neighboring towns."

If approved by Fair Haven voters, the program would estab-

lish a tax-deferred pension plan to be funded for each individual member. A formula that depends upon length of service and level of participation will be used to determine the amount available to members upon retirement. Current New Jersey law limits the maximum payout to \$1,255 per year. This amount can be adjusted according to consumer price indices.

"We are in the process of establishing the detailed point system that will be proposed to Fair Haven voters," stated Chairman Feeny. "Once we have finalized these plans we will begin the process of educating the voters and seeking their support."

Feeny states that the Fire Company is in serious need for new members and hopes that LOSAP will help address that need.

FOCUS ON THE FIRST AID SQUAD — CHANGING TIMES AND

There used to be a significant barrier facing anybody who wanted to join Fair Haven's First Aid Squad: according to the Squad's original Bylaws, you had to become a Fair Haven fireman first. For guys who liked flashing lights and sirens in any form, that was fine. It made sense, too. The First Aid Squad grew out of the Fire Department in 1930, so naturally, the firemen would man the ambulances.

But there was a drawback. The rule meant that dozens of people who didn't like fighting flames and climbing ladders couldn't volunteer to come to the aid of sick or injured neighbors. And if you were a woman, forget it. No woman ever chose to become an active firefighter in Fair Haven, and so for much of the squad's 74 year history, there was nothing but men responding to traumas or medical emergencies.

But as the profiles of three new volunteers on the First Aid Squad reveal in this article, the old rules have changed, and so has the makeup of the First Aid membership. Women now make up 20 percent of the Squad's active members. And retirees who were too old to have become firemen have joined the First Aid Squad in recent years, too. The result is a welcome and much-needed jump in the number of members helping to preserve Fair Haven's reputation as having one of the best-equipped and fastest-responding emergency squads in the region.

Why change the rules? Bill Acker, President of the First Aid Squad and a member for almost 30 years, says that by the late 1990s, it was tough to get enough members to show up for a call. Many families found that both parents had to go to work to make ends meet, and their jobs were getting more demanding all the time. Nobody, it seemed, had the energy or the time to volunteer. The training required to become a fireman, and then become a First Responder or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), was just too much for most people. (A rules change in 1980 allowed members of the Fire Police and the Auxiliary to join, but only three women joined the First Aid Squad as a result.) With too few new members, the same dwindling handful of old-timers on the First Aid Squad was answering the majority of the calls. With an average that has grown to over 400 calls a year, they were getting weary. "Finally," says Acker, "in 1999 we went to the Fire Department and asked them to change the rules." They did. The Fire Department agreed four years ago to create a new class of member, now called "Affiliate," who could join the First Aid Squad without having to go through training as a firefighter or be as deeply involved in Fire Department activities as other classes of membership.

Here are the stories of some of those new Affiliate members of the Fire Department and full members of the Squad.

Joe Truex learned that the eligibility rules for the First Aid Squad had changed back in 2000, when Bill Acker showed up on his doorstep with the news. Truex's interest in joining the Squad had been growing steadily for years. As a volunteer auxiliary police officer in Middletown, he had gotten First Responder training. "I found myself at the scene of car accidents, waiting for the ambulance to come, and wishing I could do more to help." But the prospect of having to train to become a fireman and then spend months to complete training as an Emergency Medical Technician was too much. One day several years ago, when he was helping out at the Fair Haven Fireman's Fair, there was a serious multi-car accident. Joe helped stabilize one of the victims. Another First Aider on the scene was impressed with his skills, and told him he should join the Squad. "I said, 'you have to become a fireman first, and I don't want to. Call me when you change the rules.'" Truex was one of the first people Bill Acker contacted after the Fire Department and First Aid Squad adopted the new Bylaws. He is now one of the most active members on the Squad—he went on more than 200 calls last year. "I love it. It's very satisfying. Ironically, now I'm thinking of joining the Fire Department."



Kim Ambrose was so eager to be on a first aid squad, but so unwilling to become a firefighter first, that she joined Little Silver First Aid Squad nearly ten years ago. (Most squads allow residents of neighboring towns to volunteer with them.) "I asked about joining in Fair Haven, and they said I could go through the Ladies Auxiliary (now reconstituted as "the Auxiliary") or the Fire Company as a Social Member. But I "going through a phase" back then, and didn't want to be told what I could or couldn't do as a woman. Little Silver said 'Just join,' so I did." She put herself through EMT training. And when the rules in Fair Haven changed, she signed up immediately. She is still a member of the squads in both towns. "I like helping people, especially young children. I seem to be able to develop a rapport with them quickly." As much as she enjoys first aid, she knew years ago that she would never make nursing a career. "I can handle almost anything that comes on a first aid call. But I just don't like needles. Whenever the paramedics (the paid Advanced Life Support personnel who are affiliated with Monmouth and Ocean County hospitals) have to give someone an IV or injection, I have to look away."

CHANGING “RULES” FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP OTHERS

Katy Frissora was fascinated by emergency medicine and how ambulance teams work. “I used to watch that show with William Shatner called ‘Rescue 911’ whenever I could.” But she had two young children and was working full time as a human factors psychologist, and never felt she had the time to volunteer. “The events of September eleventh changed all that. I just felt that I needed to get going on this.” Soon after, she contacted Bill Acker, who urged her to take EMT training at Monmouth Medical Center. “It has been the single most important thing I’ve done to expand my world beyond where I live on Lexington Avenue,” she says. “I’ve connected with people from all walks of life and from all parts of Fair Haven. And my kids get to see the importance of volunteering.” The squad itself is a great model of community, she adds. “The membership is a really close knit family. We take care of each other—not only during emergency runs but even if there’s a problem in our personal life.” How does she juggle motherhood, career, and volunteering? “I’m a night person. It doesn’t bother me to get up in the middle of the night. And if you can’t make it to a call, you don’t have to. But I’d rather do this than watch TV.” Well, except for William Shatner, maybe.



EDITOR’S NOTE: This article was contributed by Brian O’Reilly—one of the newest members of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad under the new Bylaws. Brian developed an interest in health care as a magazine writer covering medicine and the pharmaceutical industry. He retired last year and promptly joined the Fair Haven First Aid Squad. Please see p.6 if you are interested in joining.

FHFD HONORS CHARLES MOELLER, JR— ITS OLDEST LIVING EX-CHIEF

On February 9 Fair Haven Fire Company members paid a visit to Ex-Chief Charles Moeller at his residence in the Navesink House in Red Bank. The purpose of the visit was to present Chief Moeller with a special plaque commemorating his many years of service. The Fire Company felt that this recognition was particularly appropriate this year—the 100th anniversary of the organization.

Charlie Moeller served as Chief of Department in 1952 and has been a member of the Fire Company for 60 years. In 1985 he was elected Life Member — the highest honor that a member of the Fire Company can receive.

“What we will always remember Charlie for is the key role he played in getting our current firehouse planned and implemented,” says Bud Dupree, ex-President of the Fire Company and himself a Life Member. “Without his dedication, we wouldn’t be where we are now.” FHFD occupied its new firehouse fire the first time in 1954, shortly after Charlie had completed his term as chief.



Fire Company President Jack Mulvihill presents Ex-Chief Moeller a Memorial Plaque. To the left is Chief Moeller’s wife, and to the right (seated) is his son Tom.

During the recognition event, Fire Company President Jack Mulvihill and several members of the Fire Company joined in with family members and Navesink House personnel to make the event a gala occasion to be remembered by all, including cake, soda, and “bubbly.”

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
Red Bank, NJ

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 a sincere interest in helping the Fire Company. Interested residents should contact James Butler, III 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 but who are not interested in joining the Fire Department as an Active or Social Fire Department 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 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 to discuss membership application procedures.

Visit our Website
www.fairhavenfiredept.com