



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 *Newsletter*

Volume 4, Issue 1      March, 2002

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT  
Bernard Dupree

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
John Feeny

FIRST AID CAPTAIN  
Bill Acker

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN  
Lew Davidson

SCUBA TEAM CAPTAIN  
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Dale Connor

## **MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS YIELD NEW MEMBERS**

Last year the Fire Department established new membership procedures to encourage residents to join the First Aid Squad, even if they are not interested in becoming a firefighter. In addition, the Fire Company has undertaken an active campaign to enlist new active firefighters and social members. Both of these activities have yielded positive and important results.

The First Aid Squad has benefited from the addition of four new members in the last year. The additions have provided well-needed relief for the current members, who respond to an average of more than one emergency call every day of the year.

The Fire Company has also benefited from six new members, including a member who is an active fireman in Jersey City. "This infusion of talent and energy is helping all of us face the challenges of a more difficult world," said Chief John Feeny. "We welcome all new prospective members."

*(See p. 2 for Membership Contact Information.)*

## ***TIDBITS FROM THE FIRE COMPANY***

### Lights on!

*Have you ever tried to find an unfamiliar house address at night? Imagine how difficult this would be if you were responding to an emergency.*

*The Fire Department urges Fair Haven residents to post reflective street address numbers on their homes and, importantly — if you call us for an emergency, please turn on all the lights you can in your house to help us locate you. Overhead lights and porch lights especially. Every minute can be precious!*

### The Stork is Coming to FHFD!

*We're not saying what the stork is bringing yet, but be aware that the Fire Company expects a new arrival this July. And, the Borough of Fair Haven contributed a very welcome \$199K to this blessed event. More to follow!*

### Blood Drive May 4

*The Fire Department is sponsoring a Blood Drive from 9 am until 1 pm on Saturday, May 4. We need your participation for this very important event. You may stop by at any time, or call for an appointment. To pick a particular time, please call Rachel Falotico at (732) 741-2050.*

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

As I think most of the citizens of Fair Haven realize, the fire protection and emergency medical services that are provided to our Borough come from volunteers of the Fair Haven Fire Department, who give an amazing amount of their time to these activities.

It is interesting to note that many of the volunteers who provide these services grew up in town and first learned about service to the Borough from their parents. In my case, I learned from my father, who has served as Chief, President, and Life-Member of the Fire Department.

But a significant change has taken place as we have updated our membership rules to encourage newer members of our community to join this active and important group. We have achieved a significant increase in our membership in the past year from residents who responded favorably to these new membership practices (see article on this page). We hope our readers will be similarly inclined.

All of us feel a special pride in serving our community, and the events on 9/11 last year have increased this feeling. We hope that your own sense of commitment to the community will motivate you to consider joining our organization.

It is customary in this column to give

*(Continued on page 2)*

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the statistics of last year's emergencies and to introduce the lineup of officers for this year. So, let me start by summarizing the responses your Fire Department made last year. We had:

- 144 Fire Calls and Emergencies, and Drills
- 354 Emergency Medical Calls
- 34 Mutual Aid Calls to Other Towns.

The total volunteer time spent in response to these situations, including Fire, First Aid and Fire Police was 10,631 man-hours!

Fortunately, we were able to prevent major property damage by using our training and aggressive fire fighting tactics to the fullest extent possible. And we continued to provide first-rate emergency medical care at no cost to the patients.

As for our new Fire Company officers for the year 2002, here they are in their full glory! From left to right in this photo are: John Feeny, —Chief of Department; Marty Coy—Deputy Assistant Chief, Robert Frank— First Assistant Chief, and Mike Reddy, Second Assistant Chief.



This team is extremely committed to bringing the best possible service to Fair Haven. Please give us your support this year as we work to make the community safer and better protected than ever before.

John Feeny,  
Chief

### **HOW TO APPLY**

#### **Considering Joining the Fire Company or First Aid Corps?**

Contact James Butler, Sr. at (732) 741-3539 to discuss qualifications for becoming an active firefighter or a social member of the Department.

The Fair Haven First Aid Corps also welcomes applicants for membership. To apply, contact Membership Chairman, William Acker as follows:

email: [wammy51@aol.com](mailto:wammy51@aol.com)

or

Police Headquarters: (732) 747-0991

For additional information on the First Aid Corps, check out our web site at

<http://home.infinet.mindspring.com/~fhems>

### **FACTS ABOUT THE FIREHOUSE**

As mentioned on p. 4 of this issue of the Newsletter, a major improvement to the Firehouse grounds will begin in April. Some of the local media recently reported on the costly project, which was authorized by the Borough and will ultimately be paid for out of Borough funds.

What most residents of Fair Haven don't realize, however, is that the Fire Department actually owns the grounds and all of the buildings on the property. This is a fairly unique arrangement: in most communities the local government actually owns the property that houses their firefighting and EMS equipment.

In the case of Fair Haven, the Borough and Fire Department have had a long-standing agreement by which the Borough pays for maintenance, such as the project mentioned on p. 4. Over the years, this arrangement has benefited Fair Haven residents, who do not have to pay the carrying costs of owning the buildings. The Fire Department, in turn, benefits by being able to focus its energies on its mission, rather than on major maintenance projects (even though many volunteer hours do go into daily upkeep of the facilities).

## **TOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCOUT LEADERS**

*If you are the leader of a group of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or Cub Scouts, you may be interested in arranging a tour of our First Aid building and equipment for your group. We are happy to accommodate such requests and can usually work the timing to be convenient to one of your regular meetings.*

*As an example, on January 28 First Aider Rob Wallman conducted a tour of our building for a Cub Scout group, showing them the ambulances and demonstrating emergency equipment. And during the period from February 4 through February 8, members William Acker, Lou Hartmann, Brenda Jacobsen and Hal Trenton took one of the ambulances to assist in a Health Class being conducted by Eileen Kubitas. Students got to see all of the equipment first hand.*

*If you are interested in arranging such a tour for your group, please contact First Aid Captain Bill Acker at (732) 747-0991.*

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### **FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPLORER POST INAUGURATED**

The Fair Haven Fire Department has organized an Explorer Scout Post focused on Future Firefighters. The Post will provide training and Explorer activities intended to provide young men and women participants the background and achievements necessary to enable them to become volunteer or career firefighters as they enter adulthood.

A “first-nighter” program will take place at 7:00 pm, March 28 at the Firehouse. Any Fair Haven resident or any child of a Fair Haven Firefighter who is between 16 and 18 years old is invited to attend. The Explorer program will be explained and an opportunity will be provided to sign up for participation in the program. It is not necessary for the applicant to be a Scout or to have any other Scouting experience.

Fire Department members Bill Acker, Richard Brister, Bud Dupree, Robert Frank, Brenda Jacobsen and Bud Warren have organized the Post and will serve as its steering committee. Any questions can be directed to Bill Acker at Police Headquarters—(732) 747-0991.

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### **Of Interest to EMTs and First Responders**

*First Aid Captain Bill Acker advises that Rumson EMS will be sponsoring a Core EMT Refresher class March 15, 16 and 17 at their headquarters. Anyone interesting in attending should notify Bill.*

*Rumson EMS is also organizing a course that will allow First Responders to bridge to state-certified EMT status. More information on this class will be posted on the Fair Haven First Aid Squad website as it becomes available.*

*(see p. 2 for First Aid web site address)*

## **FHFD SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS CONTINUED**

Last year the Fair Haven Fire Department established a one-thousand dollar scholarship for volunteerism for high school Seniors who are Fair Haven residents or family members of the Fair Haven Fire Department.

Based upon the success of last year’s scholarship (won by Shannon Connor of Fair Haven), the Department voted to continue the practice this year.

The criteria used to select the winner include the following:

- Academic accomplishments
- Fire Company involvement
- Community involvement
- School involvement

Application forms can be obtained from Mrs. Deborah Connolly at Rumson-Fair Haven High School or by contacting Gary Verwilt at (732) 530-3577. Deadline for completing the application is May 15, 2002.

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### **First Aid Squad Grateful for Contributions**

The First Aid Squad depends heavily upon an annual fund-raising event to provide equipment and supplies for the Emergency Medical Services it supplies to the Borough.

Hal Trenton, Chairman of the Contribution Committee, reports a very successful Annual Fund Drive for 2001. “We recognize the sacrifices our senior citizens, families and businesses make, and we are proud and thankful for all the financial support our community has shown once again,” said Trenton during his recent report.

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

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## **MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO BEGIN AT FIREHOUSE**

Beginning early April, construction crews will undertake a major project on the concrete “aprons” that lead from the firehouse to the roadway entrances surrounding the structure. In addition to providing long-needed improvement to the existing aprons, additional access lanes will be installed to accommodate new equipment that will arrive in July. This undertaking was initiated after significant planning and interaction with the Borough Council, which provides maintenance of the firehouse.

The two-month project will necessitate several changes that Fair Haven residents will witness, including the placement of all firefighting and rescue apparatus outside of the firehouse building. Because of the 30-day curing period required of the new concrete lanes, the equipment will not be able to re-occupy the firehouse for over a month. To provide essential protection and security for the equipment, a 60’X60’ tent will be temporarily erected on the firehouse grounds.

As a result of these changes, Borough residents are urged to be aware of new traffic patterns from both fire department apparatus and from the personal vehicles of volunteers responding to the firehouse during emergencies. Some minor inconvenience will also be felt by volunteer groups who occasionally obtain permission to use the firehouse parking spaces for their events.