



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 Newsletter

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

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## **WHITNEY BRECKENRIDGE WINS 2006 FHFD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Fair Haven student Whitney Breckenridge has won the Fire Company's 2006 Volunteerism Scholarship. In a presentation made at the annual Awards Assembly at Rumson-Fair Haven High School in June, Scholarship Committee Chairman John "Vin" Feeny stated, "This award is all about demonstrating outstanding acts of volunteerism — at school and in the community. Whitney has followed in the footsteps of our other winners by excelling in these areas."

Whitney, who happens to be the daughter of Chief of Police Darryl Breckenridge, enrolled in Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, where she is pursuing secondary education with a specialty in Spanish. "Whitney's Mom and I are very proud of her, and we really appreciate the honor bestowed by this award," says Chief Breckenridge.

Although the original Fire Company Scholarship Award was instituted in 2001, it was changed in 2004 from a one-time honor to a four-year stipend of \$4000, based upon the continued college enrollment and acceptable scholastic performance of the winner, who must be either a Fair Haven resident or the child of a member of the Fire Company. Four non-Fire Company local educators evaluate the

*(Continued on page 5, Column 1)*

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK REMINDERS**

The week of October 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week. In addition to reminding you to replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, we have some additional "food for thought"—

1. **In this country, more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home.**
2. **On average, 290 deaths and 4380 injuries are caused by cooking-related fires annually.**
3. **Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.**

The reminder is: "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What you Heat!"

## **FALL AUTO SHOW**

The Annual Fall Auto Show will take place at the Fire House Saturday, October 14 (rain date October 15). This is a great way to enjoy the warm days of Fall. Check out the details at [www.fhfd.org](http://www.fhfd.org).

## **FIRST AID FUND DRIVE**

Please keep an eye out for the annual fund-raising mailing from the First Aid Squad. This is the only First Aid solicitation, and we need your donations this year more than ever, given the impact of the weather on the Firemen's Fair. A stamped self-addressed envelope will be included with the mailing.

## **WEATHER AT ANNUAL FIREMEN'S FAIR? — NOT SO FAIR**

For the first time in anyone's memory, the annual Fair Haven Firemen's Fair was rained out for three nights this year. Spawned by the remnants of tropical storm "Ernesto," cool, damp and blustery weather plagued much of the week, even when the rain was not falling.

"Our Fair has been a tradition for many of the 100-plus years of the Fire Company's history, and we depend upon it for the vast majority of our funding," says Andy Schrank, Fair Committee Co-Chairman. "A number of years ago we added an eighth night to the Fair — starting it on Friday instead of Saturday of the week before Labor Day — with the idea of providing some 'insurance' against a rainout night. But I don't think we ever anticipated the loss of three nights!"

In spite of the gloomy weather, residents of Fair Haven and surrounding communities turned out in great numbers the nights when the weather was acceptable. "Everyone looks forward to the annual event, and it seems that they made an extra effort to be there on the nights when it wasn't raining," stated Dave Binaco, the other Fair Co-Chairman. "We really

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# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: WELL-TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

At a time when many communities are facing a serious shortage of volunteer fire fighters, Fair Haven has been extraordinarily successful in attracting new members. While shrinking numbers and aging membership continues to be a concern in Fair Haven, as well as other communities throughout the nation, the Fire Company has found a formula that seems to be working, at least for now. One part of that formula is a new “Affiliate” membership category that allows people who are interested in Emergency Medical Services to join the Fire Company without becoming a member of the Fire Department—a departure from prior policy. Interestingly, many people who enter through this venue seem to develop an interest in firefighting — even though it’s not mandated. All four of the newly trained firefighters on this page entered as Affiliate members and later changed their status to Active Firefighter, as well as maintaining their First Aid

## Middletown Fire Department Fire Academy Graduates — June, 2006



Joe Truex (left) and Derek DeBree (right) both joined the Fire Company through Affiliate membership status in 2002. They both took active roles in the First Aid Squad: Joe became Squad Captain in 2005 and Derek became 1st Lieutenant this year.

However, they both grew more and more interested in the Fire Department operations as well, and both changed their membership status to that of Active Firefighter this year.

Part of their training included the 160-hour “Firefighter 1” training provided by the Middletown Fire Department’s Fire Academy. Joe and Derek graduated in June and moved right into the roles of Fair Haven Firefighters.



Time for a break! Derek DeBree takes a breather after fighting a hot fire in the “smoke house.”

No kinks! Joe Truex demonstrates the least desirable aspect of firefighting—taking up all the hose after a fire.

## Monmouth County Fire Academy Graduates — August, 2006



Debbie Hartman and Don Lynch are congratulated at their graduation ceremony by Debbie’s father Larry (left) and FHFDC Chief Paul Lenskold (right).

Also graduating from grueling training—in this case at the Monmouth County Fire Academy — were Debbie Hartman (second from left) and Don Lynch (second from right). Debbie joined as an Affiliate member in 2003 and Don joined as Affiliate in 2005. Both have been very active in EMS activities. This year, they both decided to change their status to that of Active Firefighter.

Debbie is the FIRST female Active Firefighter in the Fire Department’s history and she has moved into that role very smoothly. She is currently finishing her college work at Longwood University in Farmwood, VA, and she intends to jump right into her new firefighting role when she returns.

Don continues to be extremely active in the First Aid Corps, as well as in his new Fire Department role.

Corps status. Another part of the “formula” is the fact that two career firefighters who moved to Fair Haven decided to join the Fire Department as Active members. Their extensive “day-job” experience adds to the spirit of professionalism that already exists in the volunteer department. Finally, training and studying together is a key component in building the teamwork and trust needed among all members of the Fire Department. Each of the four new members has undergone extensive training at either the Monmouth County Fire Academy or the Middletown Fire Academy, as outlined on p.2, and the entire Department conducts training exercises involving all active firefighters — volunteer and career — at least once a month. “We are hopeful that this ‘formula’ will continue to allow us to bring the best possible fire protection to the residents and merchants of Fair Haven,” stated Paul Lenskold, Fair Haven Fire Chief.

## Fair Haven’s Career Fighters Get Plenty of Serious On-the-Job Training



Photo Credit: Reena Rose Sibayan  
www.reenerose.com

Jersey City Firefighter (and Fair Haven Volunteer) John Cariero (left) and fellow firefighter Steve Rosone perform a dramatic rescue of a stranded firefighter at the scene of a 3-alarm fire in Jersey City.

Why would any career firefighter, who spends his or her time away from home on numerous duty shifts each week, come home, turn on the Fair Haven Fire Department alerting pager, and respond to more of the same kind of stuff? The answer to that question is best reflected by two of Fair Haven’s residents who are career firefighters.

John Cariero, a Captain in the Jersey City Fire Department puts it simply: “It would be wrong not to use the expertise I gain in my paid job to help a Fair Haven neighbor who is in trouble.” John joined the Fair Haven Fire Department in January, 2002 and has been very active in many of the Fire Company’s activities, as well as fire-fighting.

Jason Kane, a firefighter and EMT in the Ft. Monmouth Fire Department has similar feelings: “I’ve lived in Fair Haven three years, and I feel volunteering for the Fire Department is one way I can give back to this great community.” Jason joined the Fair Haven Fire Department in January, 2005. What many local residents don’t know is that the Ft. Monmouth Fire Department has a much broader mission than simply providing fire protection for the Ft. Monmouth properties; in fact the mission is to “provide a safe working and living environment for the Fort Monmouth Community, to establish a fire prevention and safety education program and to respond to any emergency rapidly to preserve life and property.” That mission often takes Ft. Monmouth firefighters on emergency responses to communities surrounding the Fort, including Little Silver, Oceanport, Eatontown and Asbury Park and others. It is these responses that provides much of the hands-on training Jason and his colleagues receive.



Ft. Monmouth Firefighter (and Fair Haven Volunteer) Jason Kane (left) and fellow firefighter Matt Shell work on “overhaul” operations at a structure fire in Asbury Park, where the Ft. Monmouth Fire Dept. responded on mutual aid.

## **FRIENDS OF SARAH FRANK FUN NIGHT BRINGS OUT THE COMMUNITY "SICK COMMITTEE"**

*For as long as anybody can remember, each of the Fair Haven Fire Company organizations has operated what is known as a "Sick Committee." When a member of the organization is in the hospital or under the weather at home, members of the Committee and others show up with flowers, run errands, bring a fruit basket, and help out any way they can. It is one of the many things that creates such a strong bond between all the members of the Fire Company.*

*But several months ago, people in the Fire Company began to sense that Bob Frank, a former Fair Haven Fire Chief, needed the kind of help that even the Fire Department's Sick Committee couldn't provide. And suddenly, with a speed and vigor that startled everyone who witnessed it, a few members of the Company managed to turn the entire town of Fair Haven into a "community sick committee for the Frank family" that was far more successful than anybody ever anticipated.*

*As has been widely publicized, Bob Frank, a member of the Fair Haven Fire Department for 19 years and Fire Chief in 2004, has a daughter, Sarah, who has a serious ailment affecting her circulatory system. Sarah was hospitalized more than a dozen times in the last few years, and doctors have been unable to diagnose or solve her condition.*

*As doctors at one hospital after another flung up their hands in frustration, Bob, his wife Karyn, and Sarah, 13, would head off to another hospital, often in another city, to find a solution. Insurance covered some of their medical expenses, but the bills kept mounting anyway: travel, hotels, out-of-network costs. Though the Franks were never heard to complain, friends and colleagues began to sense their strain after years of worry, effort, and expense.*

*And then, somebody got an idea: Kim Ambrose, a member of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad and Captain of the first aid squad in Little Silver, where Bob Frank is a police officer, proposed a fundraiser to help the Franks. "It wasn't just money they needed", she said, "but a show of encouragement." Jack Mulvihill, president of the Fair Haven Fire Company, endorsed the idea and asked Kim and another squad member, Katy Frissora, to pull together a committee to get things going. In short order, the committee decided what to do: hold a "Friends of Sarah Frank Fun Night" upstairs at the firehouse, complete with raffles, auctions, and a chance for anyone in Fair Haven and surrounding communities to donate. Movies and crafts for kids would be downstairs in the First Aid bays.*

*Behind the scenes, dozens of volunteers swung into action. Monica Felsmann and her friend Leslie Crawford helped design flyers announcing the event that were plastered all over town and the rest of the Two Rivers peninsula. John Felsmann, Jr. rounded up donations of food and gifts. Paula Mulvihill prepared dozens of gift baskets to be sold at the "Friends of Sarah" event. More than 150 merchants from Fair Haven, Little Silver, Red Bank and Rumson donated items for auction, including a 23-foot sailboat from the Fair Haven Yacht Works whose owner, Jim Cerruti, is a member of the Fire Department. In addition, many individual Fire Company members donated money and services, ranging from innumerable cash gifts to two of the major auction prizes: a week at a Myrtle Beach condominium from Kim and Joe Ambrose (including air tickets to get to there from Fair Haven Fire Department Chief Paul Lenskold), and tickets for premium seats at Yankee, Mets games from Fran and Gene Stefanelli.*

*And on July 29<sup>th</sup>, Sarah Frank Fun Night, it seemed that the rest of Fair Haven turned out to help. The firehouse was jammed with people who couldn't do enough. The raffles were sold out. Gift baskets got snapped up at any price. Thousands of dollars were raised for the Frank Family. Kim Ambrose, who got it all going, says "the high spot was just looking up at the sheer number of people who came. That alone said a lot. This is a great town." The Frank family agreed. Said a very grateful Karyn Frank, "We wouldn't want to live anywhere else."*

*The funds raised for the Frank Family have already been put to good use, helping pay for Sarah's recent trip to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.*



**Friends of Sarah:** From left rear - Sarah's grandfather Donny Frank and father Bob Frank. Middle row - Bob's sister Diane Rittman, Bob's mom Peg, Sarah, Sarah's mom Karyn. Front row - Sarah's cousin Anna and sister Molly.

(Scholarship—Continued from page 1)

application forms submitted by the contestants and make their selection based upon criteria that include community involvement and volunteerism, as well as scholastic accomplishments.

The winners of the previous four-year awards are:

- Erin Puck—2005; attending Villanova University
- Ben Smith—2004; attending Bucknell University

“We recognize that \$4000 puts only a small dent in the fees and expenses associated with a college education, but we’re very pleased to have helped in some small matter and very proud of these students,” Vin Fenny concluded.

(Fair Weather—Continued from page 1)

appreciate all of the support and look forward to a better year next year.”

In spite of the weather, the popular raffles that usually climax the last night of the Fair were carried out on schedule. The Super 50-50 event was won by John Meechan of Wall Township, and the First Aid Squad’s Laptop Computer was won by Robert Davis, of Rumson.

“We are obviously disappointed with the impact the weather had on our major fund-raising event, and our operations will be affected by the lower revenues,” says Jack Mulvihill, Fire Company President. “However, we know the Fair Haven residents and merchants always come through for us, and we hope they will put extra emphasis on our other, relatively smaller fund-raising events such as the Christmas Tree and Holiday Wreath sales and the First Aid Squad’s annual mail campaign.”

Remarkably, one of the local newspapers—the *Two Rivers Times* - suggested that residents put the money they would have spent at the Fair in an envelope and mail it to the Fire Company. While the Fire Company really doesn’t expect that, the thought is indicative of the high level of support the Fire Company has come to enjoy from Fair Haven and surrounding communities.

**THANKS TO FAIR WORKERS**

Rain or shine, local residents turned out to volunteer their help at the Firemen’s Fair every night. Human Resources chairman Hal Trenton extends his gratitude on behalf of the entire Fire Company.

**RIVERVIEW CO-WORKERS MEMORIALIZE DECEASED FIRST AIDER JEFF LANG WITH AED**



Photo Credit: Scott Longfield

Presenting the gift at a regular meeting of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad were (from left): Charlene Golden, Debra Bevacqua, Dept. Director Floyd Farano, Carolyn Mahoney, Michelle O’Quend and Susan Schatzle.

As reported sadly in the February *Newsletter*, Jeff Lang, past Captain of the First Aid Squad, died an untimely death this past December. Jeff touched the lives of many people through his caring manner, including those of his co-workers in the Pharmacy Department at Riverview Medical Center.

In recognition of his contributions, his co-workers organized a campaign to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device—an expensive piece of equipment that is used to restore a heartbeat in patients who are having a heart attack. After a successful campaign, a group of Jeff’s co-workers made a special presentation of the new equipment during one of the First Aid Squad’s regular meetings.



It is interesting and informative to note that the Squad decided to mount the device on the second floor of the Firehouse, in the meeting room where a large number of Fire Company meetings occur. Even though each of the First Aid Squad’s ambulances carries an AED, it was felt that having one in the immediate vicinity of Fire Company members just might save the vital minute or two that would otherwise be required to fetch an AED from the ambulance. In the case of a heart attack, every second counts!

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 one of the Monmouth County approved Fire Academies. 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 Bob Krueger at (732) 842-0818. Residents interested in joining the Fire Police should call Lewis Davison at (732) 741-1662. 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 Bob Krueger (listed above) to discuss membership application procedures.

Published by the Fair Haven Fire Company Newsletter Committee <b>You Can Start the Membership Application Process at Our Website at <a href="http://www.fhfd.org">www.fhfd.org</a></b> Please email any comments to <a href="mailto:newsletter@fhfd.org">newsletter@fhfd.org</a>
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