



FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 Newsletter

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www.fhfd.org

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FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF
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ERIN PUCK WINS 2005 FHFD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Fair Haven student Erin Puck has won the Fire Company's 2005 Volunteerism Scholarship. "Erin is an incredible role model for the youth of this area," stated Bernard (Bud) Dupree, Scholarship Chairman of the Fire Company.

Erin was diagnosed with a highly malignant brain tumor at the age of 12, when she was in the 6th grade. While recovering from urgent surgery at the New York Presbyterian Hospital — and later while undergoing chemotherapy at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, Erin discovered that children in hospitals were often comforted by toys, but which were often in short supply. Out of these experiences, Erin started bringing toys to hospitals to give to children who were upset, and she ultimately formed a non-profit organization called Toys.Calm (www.toyscalm.org), which donates toys, books, laptop computers and games to local area hospitals. To date, Erin has collected almost \$100,000 in donations and distributed more than 50,000 toys and 30 laptops.

Erin, who has devoted many hours every week to the charity she formed, entered Villanova this fall. She is currently majoring in liberal arts and thinks she might progress to a graduate program in Law. Her mother Laura

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK REMINDERS

The week of October 9-15 is Fire Prevention week. Please review the following reminders, which are important every week — not just Fire Prevention Week:

1. Display your street address prominently, using reflective numbers.
2. If you call us for an emergency in the evening, please turn on your porch light and as many other lights as possible.
3. When you call 911 for a medical emergency, stay on line if at all possible. The 911 operator is trained in talking you through emergency procedures.
4. Replace batteries in any of your smoke or carbon monoxide detectors.

FALL AUTO SHOW

The Annual Fall Auto Show will take place at the fire house Saturday, October 15, rain or shine. This is a great way to enjoy the warm days of Fall.

Check out the details at the Fair Haven Fire Department website: www.fhfd.org.

FIRST AID FUND DRIVE

Please keep your eye out for a mailing from the First Aid Squad. This is the only First Aid solicitation, and your donations will be put to good use. A stamped self-addressed envelop will be included with the mailing.

Banner Year for Fire Company's "Other Activities"

This has been a banner year for the Fire Company's "other activities" that are not publicized widely.

One such activity—participation in parade competitions sponsored by other fire departments in the local area — has long been one of the areas where Fair Haven shines. For these events, the Fire Company usually dresses up in the distinctive "Coney Island White" uniforms — so named when Fair Haven won top honors with these uniforms at the Coney Island parade in 1923. Accompanied by a marching band and all the white apparatus of the Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Fire Police, Fair Haven always makes a great impression on spectators and judges at these events.

But this year's June 11th parade at Middlesex Borough's 100th Anniversary celebration brought extraordinary results. Of nine categories judged, Fair Haven won eight top awards, including:

1st Place Awards

- Best appearing Rescue Truck
- Best appearing Ambulance
- Best appearing Color Guard
- Best appearing Marching Unit
- Best appearing Band

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states, "We are so happy to receive the support of the Fair Haven Fire Company. We miss Erin now that she's away at college, and we're looking forward to a family reunion during the upcoming Holidays."

Not that being away from Fair Haven has kept her from ongoing volunteerism: a friend of hers from Fair Haven, Jennifer Burns, has been diagnosed with a very serious condition similar to Erin's. Erin is organizing a support campaign to help keep Jennifer in good spirits as she goes through her treatment in Boston (see sidebar).

"We are all very proud to have Erin as this year's winner," states Chairman Dupree. "This scholarship is just a small way for us to recognize the valuable contributions made by young people in our community. We want to encourage people to help the community and receive the educational opportunities they deserve. The Volunteerism award is a 'win-win' on both counts."

Instituted in 2001, the Volunteerism award provides a 4-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 application forms submitted by the contestants and make their selection based upon criteria that include community involvement and volunteerism, as well as scholastic accomplishments.

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2nd Place Awards

- Best appearing Pumper in service over 20 years
- Best appearing Antique Apparatus

Overall: Most Outstanding Fire Company

Not to "rest on its laurels" after winning these top honors, the Fire Company's Softball Team set out to score its own records. The team competes in a league that includes Belford, Eatontown, Hazlet, Keyport, Little Silver, Monmouth Beach, Neptune, North Centerville, Oceanport and Rumson fire departments. The games are usually played on Sundays, and they provide an opportunity for the players and their families and friends to have a good time together when not responding to emergency events.

The results of the Team's practice paid off: by the end of the season, Fair Haven had racked up an impressive score of 13 wins and 6 losses, and played in the league finals (losing, unfortunately, to Monmouth Beach). "This has been one of our best records in recent history," states Softball Team Captain Bob Townshend. We are very proud of our results, and we really appreciate the support we receive every weekend during the games."

Finally, another Fire Company activity on Sunday, October 2 led to impressive results. Fair Haven's Field Day Team, coached by Deputy Chief Paul Lenskold, placed well against six other local fire departments competing in the Sea Bright event. Fair Haven finished second overall in the day's competition.

**HELP ERIN PUCK'S FRIEND
JENNIFER BURNS**

Jennifer Burns is a 2003 Rumson-Fair Haven High School graduate who is a patient at a Boston hospital and is in a gallant struggle with cancer. While in the hospital, Jennifer's laptop computer was stolen, and Erin managed to have a replacement unit donated. However, Jennifer is still in need of moral support, and Erin is urging local residents to send cards and letters to her at the following address:

*Jennifer Burns
Children's Hospital of Boston
Room 917 (North Nursing Station)
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115*

Fair Haven Fire Company Benefits from Memorial Donations

As an all-volunteer organization, the Fire Company relies upon contributions from our residents to help sustain our cost of operations. Our two main fund-raising events are the annual Firemen's Fair and the annual solicitation mailing of the First Aid Squad. Fair Haven residents have been gracious in their response to these fund-raising events, and we are grateful for that response.

Recently, however, we have also received significant benefits from the families and friends of deceased loved ones. In many cases, these gifts came at the request of the ill or injured person, who requested that donations be given to the Fire Department or First Aid Squad in lieu of memorial flowers or other tokens of respect.

We are very appreciative of such gifts, and we want our residents and supporters to know that we will use such gifts, which are tax-deductible, in honor of the departed family member or friend.

If you have any questions regarding how to make such contributions or receive proper documentation of the gifts, please contact Fire Company President Jack Mulvihill.

A Message to Fair Haven Fire Department and First Aid Squad from Percival, Iowa

Editors Note: In the summer of 1993, the tiny town of Percival, Iowa experienced the disastrous impact of the flooding Missouri River. In helping out their neighbors in Nebraska, just across the river, Percival's only ambulance was severely damaged while they were evacuating people and attempting to shore up the levy with sand bags. At about the same time, the Fair Haven First Aid Squad was acquiring a new ambulance and wondering how they should dispose of their older rig. At a First Aid Squad meeting, someone said, "I wonder if our old rig could help anyone involved in the Missouri River flooding disaster?" As a result of that discussion, First Aid Squad member John Davis, who worked at Bell Labs, contacted the Telephone Pioneers — a volunteer agency of telephone company employees — and discovered that the Percival Fire and Rescue squad had lost its ambulance. As a result, the Telephone Pioneers arranged to fly Percival squad members to Fair Haven, and the First Aid Squad presented Percival with a very functional ambulance. Last year, as a part of our 100th Anniversary celebration, we tried to contact Percival, to see what happened to our donation. The following letter is the result of that inquiry.

Dear Fair Haven Fire Department and First Aid Squad:

First, apologies for the late date of our reply. Sometimes things get set aside or take a while to get to the right hands. Where to begin?

Percival is a very small, unincorporated town. Our population is approximately 75. There is a church/community center, a gas station/seed store, a post office, and a building company, besides the fire station.

When the squad [editor's note: Percival calls their ambulance a "squad"] you donated was brought home, it was a very big deal! The local people were all very excited. This was a new direction for Percival. In the past there was only a fire department. Now, to think, our fair town and township had medical service! We felt very big for our 'britches!'

We stocked our new squad, as money allowed. All of the paper work with the state was tedious, but necessary. Lo and behold, we were a part of the EMS system for Fremont county.

Our area of coverage includes an interstate [highway], a major highway, residences, farmsteads, and we border along the Missouri River.

There really aren't any fantastic stories to tell. Sorry to disappoint. Over the years we have seen the usual medical and trauma calls. EMS itself has seen many changes over recent years which have been exciting, increasing the skills we can perform.

Fortunately, your squad has served us well. As with Midwest weather, we see a number of vehicle accidents during the winter and we also have seen floods due to high rainfall and the Missouri river. That keeps rescue operations interesting!

You may be pleased (or amazed) to know that we just re-

tired your squad a year ago. It was finally becoming difficult to maintain and expensive. We had a chance to purchase a newer squad from a nearby town, and we did. But it's not dead yet! We put it up for sale with sealed bids and the buyer is going to make it into a camper. He's a shade tree mechanic and can keep it running, and will hopefully enjoy many fishing trips with it.

There's really not much else to tell. We are currently an ALS [advanced life support] transporting service at the "I" level, and hope to move up soon to the Paramedic level.

We really cannot say thank you enough. Your generosity enabled us to enter a new era for our fair town. This wonderful beginning brought us to where we are today, and you all made it possible.

Thank you,

Percival Fire and Rescue

2005 Firemen's Fair is Huge Success

Once again, Fair Haven's annual Firemen's Fair brought a great close to the summer season. In spite of threatening weather, good crowds showed up every night. In addition to all the usual fun, food and frolic, the winners of the big prizes went home happy. Robert Davis, Sr., a Rumson resident, won the Super 50-50 drawing and took home a very sub-



stantial cash prize. David Griffiths of Little Silver won the First Aid Squad's raffle of an LCD television and computer monitor.

"In addition to the hard work of our Fire Company members, we had wonderful participation from volunteers who worked at the Fair, even though they are not members of the Fire Company," says Hal Trenton, co-manager of personnel assignments at the Fair. "We couldn't have pulled this off without them, and our heartfelt thanks go to all these wonderful helpers."

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 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 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 or Fire Police 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 Doug MacFarland at (732) 842-6541.

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.

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Check Out Our Website at www.fhfd.org
Please email any comments to newsletter@fhfd.org