



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 *Newsletter*

Volume 6, Issue 2 August, 2004

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT  
Jack Mulvihill

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
Robert Frank

FIRST AID CAPTAIN  
Richard Brister, Jr.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN  
Tricia Brett

SCUBA TEAM CAPTAIN  
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Trudy Felsmann

## ***FIRST WINNER OF REVISED FHFD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD HONORED***

Fair Haven student Benjamin Smith won the Fire Company's annual Volunteerism Scholarship. The newly constituted scholarship was presented at the annual Rumson-Fair Haven High School Awards Ceremony June 7 by Bernard (Bud) Dupree, the newly appointed Chairman of the Fire Company's Scholarship Committee.

The award, which was instituted in 2001 to recognize volunteerism of Fair Haven students and non-resident students whose parents are members of the Fire Company, was originally structured to provide a \$1000 one-time stipend to students just entering college. The selection criteria include community involvement and volunteerism, as well as scholastic accomplishments.

"After a couple of years of experience, the Scholarship Committee recognized that a better approach would be to provide for a 4-year stipend, aimed primarily at helping offset the cost of books and other incidentals," says Vinny Feeny, interim Chairman of the Committee. "The reality is — higher education costs

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## **YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!**

### AUGUST

Volunteers Needed  
for Annual Firemen's Fair

See Signup Form on Back of  
this Newsletter

### NOVEMBER

Your Vote is Needed  
to Support LOSAP

Please Learn About this  
Important Benefit to Your  
Local Volunteers and Cast  
Your Supporting Vote

### DECEMBER

Support the Christmas Tree  
and Wreath Sales

Based Upon Enthusiastic  
Response, We Will Be Selling  
Trees at the Firehouse During  
the Holiday Season

## **100th Anniversary Celebration is Huge Success**

**O**n June 12, 2004 thousands of Fair Haven residents and friends of the Fair Haven Fire Company came together to honor the many volunteers and heroes that have served the Community over the last 100 years.

Blessed by perfect weather conditions, the celebration began shortly after 12:30 with a spectacular parade, led by the 276<sup>th</sup> Army Band from Philadelphia. The first contingent to make their way up River Road included dignitaries from state and local government, veterans of foreign

**See Pictures—Pages 4 & 5**

wars, many antique cars, and a long line of Fair Haven Firefighters clad in their traditional white marching uniforms and followed by Fair Haven Fire Department's white trucks. Following FHFD was a lineup of over 30 visiting Fire Companies and First Aid Squads.

"How proud it made us feel as floats, pipe and drum bands, clowns, little leaguers, and a seemingly endless line of fire trucks and fireman from all over the State came to our small town to help us celebrate this momentous occasion," notes Joe Perrotto, the 100th Anniversary Chairman.

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*Scholarship Award - Continued from p. 1*

are so high that the best thing we can do is provide a cushion that can be relied upon every semester.”

Based upon this assessment, the Committee recommended to the Fire Company that the scholarship be changed to \$500 per semester and renewable each semester for up to four years, based upon continued college enrollment and acceptable scholastic performance of the winner. After discussing the matter, the Fire Company voted to adopt the new plan, beginning with the 2004 winner. As a result of its decision, the Fire Company will ultimately be providing \$4000 per year to the four students on the scholarships.

Under the new program guidelines, four non-Fire Company local educators evaluate application forms submitted by the contestants. Information regarding the individual’s identity is removed from the form so that the judgment is based solely upon the match of the candidate to the criteria specified by the Committee.

“I am really pleased to receive this award,” Ben Smith stated. “In addition to helping offset my college costs at Bucknell University, the award is a recognition by the Fire Company that is a real honor.”

After helping the Fire Company “unofficially” for several years, this past Spring Ben applied for membership as an Affiliate Member of the Fire Company — part of the new process for joining the First Aid Corps. After being accepted into the First Aid Corps and participating in the Squad for a few months, he decided that he also wanted to become an Active Firefighter. He was accepted into active Fire Department membership this April.

According to Scholarship Chairman Bud 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.”

## **Brookdale Community College & FHFD Partner to Produce 100-year History Video**

As noted elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*, Fair Haven Fire Company No. 1 recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary. To help commemorate the milestone, in 2002 the Fire Company approached the Brookdale Community College Television unit about the possibility of developing a videotape that captures the key events in the Company’s history.

Brookdale’s Executive Producer of Television, Roger Conant, was intrigued with the concept and agreed to establish a project that would be mutually beneficial to the Fire Company and to Brookdale.

In the two years since the initial discussions, the Brookdale video team has become very much at home with the Fire Company, filming events in Fair Haven and as far away as New York City, during the annual Christmas Party that FHFDD sponsors for children of their adopted FDNY fire house.

The finished product, a 30-minute videotape produced and edited by the Brookdale unit and narrated by Fire Company member Tom Dorrick, is expected to be available for Fire Company members this August. Rumson resident and Fire Company supporter Bruce Springsteen graciously provided parts of the musical sound track for the tape.

Tentative plans are to make copies of the tape available to the broader Fair Haven audience for a modest purchase price. Interested parties can purchase copies of the tape at a special booth that will be set up at the annual Firemen’s Fair.

### **All in a days’ work— Brookdale journalism rises to new heights**



(Left): Brookdale TV Executive Producer Roger Conant and Cameraman Sergey Kornienko run to get into Red Bank’s Tower Ladder 90 to film part of Fair Haven’s unveiling of a memorial statue March 28.

(Right): This is fun! Roger and Sergey get to see what it’s like from a firefighter’s view of the world. The Brookdale crew had experiences ranging from the fun of the Firemen’s Fair to the fear of being in a simulated burning building.





## IT'S FAIR TIME AGAIN!

*The Annual Firemen's Fair runs from Friday, August 27 through Saturday, September 4 (the Fair is closed on Sunday, August 29). The event is the largest event of its kind in New Jersey and is popular with kids of all ages. Rides, games, great Jersey Shore food and fun for all are the featured attractions.*

*The Fair is the Fire Company's primary source of fund raising, and the financial support of local and distant visitors continues to be exceptional. However, the event places a significant burden on the Fair Haven Volunteer Fire Company members, who staff the Fair activities while continuing to carry out other Fire Company duties, as well as their normal "day time" jobs.*

*As a result, the Fire Company has increasingly sought out and received help from residents and non-residents who enjoy lending a hand and making new friends. We urge you to consider volunteering to staff a position at the Fair this year — whether for a single night or for the entire event. Please see the form on p. 6 of the Newsletter and let us know of your interest. We guarantee you that you will have a fun time and feel rewarded for helping!*

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## FHFD's Frank Scalzo Takes Volunteering to Kuwait

By Brian O'Reilly

Just around 9 o'clock local time on a recent July morning, when most of us were knocking off our last cup of coffee and settling down to work, Frank Scalzo, a long time member of the Fair Haven Fire Company, had already endured a sandstorm, several hours of 110-degree heat, and was about halfway through a typical 84 hour workweek. Frank, you see, *really* likes to volunteer for a worthwhile cause. ("I can't say no," he admits.) And the last time somebody was looking for volunteers, they needed people to go to Kuwait. Frank put up his hand.

Frank, 54, is a civilian employee at Fort Monmouth, and has worked there for nearly 30 years. His exact duties are, frankly, pretty difficult to comprehend, despite his best efforts to explain them in a long cell-phone conversation from Kuwait. It seems he coordinates computer programs that sample supplies of certain kinds of communications equipment to make sure there are enough to go round in a crisis. Before that, he led a crisis management center at the Fort.

But some time in late 2002, the Fort needed civilians to go to the Iraq theatre to help support the impending war effort. "They asked me if I wanted to go. I said "No, I don't *want* to go. But I will." It wasn't out of a sense of "obligation" he says, adding that he doesn't even like the word. "My goal, what I do, is support soldiers. So I went." He arrived in January, 2003. When his tour of duty ended, he signed up to do it again. And when that one ended, he signed up for a third tour. Aside from some vacation time, he's been there for almost two years.

What does Frank Scalzo do when he's not enduring a sandstorm or dreaming of ice water? He's based at Camp Arifjan, a logistics point in Kuwait, where supplies enter and leave the region. As troops and military units complete their assignments, they relinquish a lot of their gear, including communications equipment. Because Ft. Monmouth is responsible for much of the military's communications, it sent people to the war zone to make sure its valuable equipment is collected, cleaned, tagged, and reassigned properly. All day long, troops and trucks file slowly past barrels in the sand, depositing their stuff. Frank

helps run the program that identifies some 200 particularly valuable items, or gear that is desperately needed elsewhere, and makes sure it gets sent off quickly. "Sometimes it's a \$10 part, sometimes it's a half-million dollar part. And if it's needed badly enough, we might even FedEx it back to Fort Monmouth."

Like everybody who has spent time in a war zone, Frank has endured months of tedium and moments of alarm. He works 12 hours a day, seven days a week. When his shift is done, "there isn't much to do." The main diversion is watching DVDs of movies on a television in a big meeting room. Even popcorn is frowned upon, because the same room might be hosting a busload of congressmen and senators the next day, and must remain spotless.

At the height of the Iraq war, though, Frank and his colleagues had several close calls. An Iraqi silkworm missile got past air defenses and landed about 100 yards from the base. At another base, Frank watched Patriot missiles shoot down incoming missiles. "Those weren't practice dummies coming at us. They were the real thing." Did his experience in the Fair Haven Fire Company ever come in handy? "For a while, we thought we'd be sent up into where the fighting was in Iraq. I'd spent several years on the First Aid Squad, and was glad I'd had the training that might help someone who got injured." Fortunately, he didn't have to go.

By the time of the Fair Haven Firemen's Fair in late August, Frank will be back in Fair Haven. His third tour of duty ended in July, and he was due to leave for Ft. Bliss, Texas, "at 11:55 PM on July 30th" (not that he's watching the calendar, of course) and he insists he won't sign up again. When he gets back to Fair Haven, he plans to climb in his camper and spend a few weeks in Watkins Glen, NY, as he does every year. He will resume work at Fort Monmouth. His spare time will not be spent watching movies on DVD. After years as a fireman, and a member of the First Aid Squad, he is still an active member of the Fair Haven Fire Police. And when the fire alarm sounds, he will report for duty. Frank Scalzo likes to volunteer.

*100th Anniversary—Continued from page 1*

And from an enthusiastic resident watching the procession: “I’ve never seen anything like this! This is the best parade I’ve ever seen anywhere, and the celebration they are putting on at the Fire House is unbelievable!”

The festivities at the Fire House grounds were attended by thousands of adults and children as the community came together and had an “old fashioned” good time. The lines at the children’s air rides and the face painting and balloon sculpting tables were as long as those at the refreshment booths. The large tent erected on the Fire House grounds was packed with people enjoying the day, the food, and the entertainment. The dance floor was packed with young and old, small and tall, and most importantly, smiling faces.

Planning for the 100th Anniversary Celebration began in 1980, when the Fire Company began funding the event with a Certificate of Deposit in a local bank. Detailed planning began in 2002, under the direction of 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman Perrotto. A committee of 45 Fire Company members met regularly for two years to plan and orchestrate every detail of the day.

“Our goal from the onset was to create an event for the people of Fair Haven and other friends of the Fire Company — not just our members — to enjoy,” says Chairman Perrotto. “That goal led us to involving local merchants, civic organization and other interested parties, and the turnout was amazing. It also led us to hire outside vendors to serve food and drinks so that Fire Company volunteers could spend the day with their families and loved ones without having to work at the event. A special thanks to my Co-Chairmen Jim Butler, Jr. and Jim Kirman, my Secretary Trudy Felsmann and all the committee members who made this day a success.”

Fire Company President Jack Mulvihill states, “The best decision we ever made was to appoint Joe Perrotto to head up the special committee that planned and implemented the Celebration. Joe worked day and night on the event and involved each of his committee members in making this a great success. We are very thankful for his enthusiasm and energy.”

So, how does the Fair Haven Fire Company top off this event? At the recent monthly business meeting, the Fire Company agreed to begin planning for the next Celebration— in the year 2029. Mark you calendars (and your children’s) now!



**THE BIG DAY!**

*Above: Linda Feeny gets Chief Frank’s bow tie ready for duty.*

*Below, left: Fair Haven’s Finest step it off in their famous “Coney Island whites.”*

*Below: Paula Mulvihill demonstrates the Auxiliary’s marching prowess.*



# 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT A GLANCE

Number of visiting Fire Companies and First Aid Squads:

**Over 30**

Fire Company traveling the longest distance to participate in the Celebration:

**Fair Haven, New York  
Fire Department**

Fire Company awarded the most trophies:

**Freehold Fire Company,  
"Best Appearing"**

Amount of food served:

**2500 Chicken Dinners**

**500 Hot Dogs, Hamburgers**

**Unknown amount of beer,  
wine, soda**



**Fair Haven's White Apparatus Leads the Parade**



**One of the Many Bands of Drums, Bagpipes, Fifes and Brass**



**Amazing Apparatus from the Past**



**Fair Haven, New York's RED Apparatus**

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

✂ ..... Please Cut and Complete the Form ..... ✂

## WORKERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL FIREMEN'S FAIR AUG 27—SEPT 4

Once again Fair Haven Fire Company No. 1 is looking for your assistance in helping us staff the Annual Firemen's Fair, which begins August 27 (see article on p. 3). Listed below are the dates for which we need your help. A wide range of fun assignments are available. After reviewing your calendar, please fill out the form below and let Bill Acker know your selections. You may mail the form or drop it off at Bill's office at Borough Hall—748 River Road; or give Bill a call at one of the following numbers: home: (732) 219-9754; work: (732) 747-0241, extension 224.

Thanks in advance for volunteering for this fun and worthwhile event. There's no other Fair like it in the state, and the funds that are raised help keep our department an all-volunteer organization for your benefit.

The dates of the Fair Haven Firemen's Fair are: August 27- 28; August 30-31; September 1-4. There is no fair on Sunday, August 29.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Fri. Aug 27      \_\_\_ Sat. Aug 28      \_\_\_ Mon. Aug 30      \_\_\_ Tue Aug 31  
\_\_\_ Wed. Sept 1      \_\_\_ Thu. Sept 2      \_\_\_ Fri. Sept 3      \_\_\_ Sat. Sept 4



Visit our Website  
[www.fairhavenfiredept.com](http://www.fairhavenfiredept.com)

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