



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 Newsletter

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

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT  
Jim Butler III

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
Robert Townshend

FIRST AID CAPTAIN  
Derek DeBree

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN  
Lew Davison

WATER RESCUE CAPTAIN  
John P. Felsmann

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Raquel Falotico

## SMOKE ALARMS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Because so many smoke alarms are triggered needlessly by a roast in the oven or a cloud of dust, it's easy for residents to believe that alarms systems are more trouble than they're worth. That is NOT the opinion of the family on Riverlawn Drive whose house was saved by a smoke alarm one Sunday night in mid-January.

The family was on vacation when the alarm went off. The Fair Haven Fire Department was summoned and responded quickly, but figured it could be a false alarm. Nevertheless, firefighters forcibly entered the empty house, and began a methodical sweep of every room. They quickly encountered smoke. Recent fire academy graduates Deborah Hartman and Don Lynch, at the head of a team manning a fire hose in the building, found a door upstairs that was hot to the touch. They entered carefully, and discovered an electrical extension strip had caught fire and ignited surrounding materials. Members of the fire company swiftly put out the fire, and then used a thermal imaging camera to make sure that no hidden hot spots still existed.

More than 30 members of the fire department responded to the scene. Fire police worked to direct

*(See "Smoke Detectors" on page 3, Column 1)*

## A Busy February

### Sea Bright Fire

In the pre-dawn hours of February 5th, over 30 Fair Haven Firefighters, First Aiders and Fire Police went to the aid of the Sea Bright Fire Department at a fire consuming part of The Fountains condominium complex. Not only was FHFD equipment, such as the Air/Rescue Unit 1385, instrumental to helping contain the fire, but FHFD firefighters went in, room by room, to help put out the wind-swept flames. Winds above 20 MPH and temperatures around 10 degrees created an extraordinary challenge for all the fire fighters. As one FHFD member put it, "I hope I never see another fire like this again."

### Ice Storm



Locally, the Valentine's Day ice storm brought out the best in our Fire Department.

Downed wires, broken tree limbs and two structure fires required our FHFD personnel to don their equipment and respond to emergencies over 28 times in a two day period. We thank residents who were careful not to drive or venture out on the icy streets during this challenging time for our community.

## CHIEF'S REPORT...

I would like to begin by stating what a great honor is for me to serve the community of Fair Haven and the Fair Haven Volunteer Fire Company as the Chief for the year 2007. It is a position that I take great pride in achieving and I am looking forward to an exciting, yet hopefully quiet, year. It is truly a privilege for me to follow in the footsteps of the former Chiefs before me who have helped make this Company what it is today.

I would also like to commend and thank 2006 Chief Paul Lenskold. Paul did a fantastic job as Chief and set an example for the Chiefs behind him to follow. In working with Paul over the last three years, I learned a great deal about the position and had a great time along the way. Congratulations on a job well done. Additionally, I'd like to recognize the leaders of the other organizations within the Fire Company for their contributions in 2006:

- Bob Krueger, Captain, First Aid
- Frank Scalzo, Captain, Fire Police
- John Felsmann, Captain, Water Rescue
- Raquel Falotico, President, Auxiliary

The Fair Haven Fire Company is unique in its composition in that we are basically all encompassed as one department with several organizations. It could not run as

*(Continued on page 2, column 2)*

# MEET THE FAIR HAVEN VOLUNTEER



**Fair Haven Fire Department Chiefs for 2007**

Chief Robert Townshend      1st Asst. Shaun Foley  
 Deputy Chief Larry Hartman      2nd Asst. Jim Cerruti



**Fair Haven First Aid Squad Line Officers for 2007**

2nd Lt. Brian O'Reilly      1st Lt. Pat Corbett      Captain Derek DeBree



**Fair Haven Fire Police Line Officers for 2007**

2nd Lt. Gene Stefanelli      1st Lt. Tricia Brett      Captain Lew Davison

*From "Chief's Report" - p. 1 column 3*

smoothly as it does without the cooperation of all organizations and officers involved. This is a true testament to the members of this Company.

Some final statistics for the year 2006: The Fair Haven Fire Department responded to the following: 36 fires, 4 car fires, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 2 rescues, 9 mutual aid calls, 45 alarms, 34 silent alarms, 17 drills. The total amount of fire department responses for 2006 was: 150, with more than 2530 man-hours. In addition, our First Aid Squad responded to 276 medical emergencies and transports. Total Fire Company responses (including Fire, Fire Police and First Aid) are listed below.

While we are an all-volunteer organization, these numbers clearly indicate the dedication, commitment, and proficiency required to operate at the expected level of competence. Many people may not realize that the initial training to become a firefighter includes more than 150 hours of training involving classroom and live-fire evolutions. Additionally, the fire company conducts drills and training exercises on a monthly basis aimed at continuing our education and maintaining our skills. This diligence to training is essential to having a qualified and experienced company ready to perform its expected duties.

In addition to our regular training, we are also meticulous in the up-keep and maintenance of our apparatus and equipment. Presently, our first engine to roll on a call is 25 years old, yet is more than capable of performing the functions required of it. Our most senior truck, the 1954 American LaFrance "Quad", is among the oldest and most recognized fire trucks still in service in the State of New Jersey and has quite obviously accomplished all that has been asked of it over 52 years. Our third engine is

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Fair Haven Fire Company Total Responses for 2005 and 2006

TYPE OF INCIDENT	2005	2006
<b>Fires and Silent Alarms</b>	56	71
<b>False Alarms</b>	54	45
<b>Rescues</b>	6	2
<b>Motor Vehicle Accidents</b>	18	26
<b>Medical Emergencies/ Transports</b>	290	276
<b>Drills</b>	64	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>472</b>

Includes Fire, Fire Police and First Aid Responses

# FIRE COMPANY LINE OFFICERS FOR 2007



**Fair Haven Water Rescue Unit Line Officers for 2007**

Stewart Watson

Dive Captain John Felsmann

Boat Captain Lou Hartman



**Fair Haven Auxiliary President for 2007**

Raquel Falotico

*(Chief's Report, Continued from page 2)*

more than 30 years old and is just as reliable now as it ever was. The durability and resilience of our apparatus over the years can clearly be attributed to our engineers, drivers, and Borough mechanic for their dedication and expertise. This is not something that should be overlooked.

Overall, this is an exciting time to be a part of the Fair Haven Fire Company. We recognize the demands placed upon our personnel are great; however, the rewards of volunteering and being a part of the organization are

greater. While we are always looking for those willing to become active firefighters, please keep in mind that there are many jobs and responsibilities aside from firefighting that are required and we are always looking for members who are able to assist in any way possible.

Again, it is with great pride that I serve the Borough as Fire Chief for 2007. Should you have any questions, if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me through Borough Hall.

*Robert Townshend*

*Chief, Fair Haven Fire Department*

## *From "Smoke Detectors" - p. 1*

traffic safely through the congested scene, and first aiders and an ambulance were there in case residents or firefighters needed medical care. Firefighters, first called at 8:43 PM, cleared the scene more than two hours later.

Fire Chief Robert Townshend praised how the fire was handled. "The fire damage was minimized thanks to the presence of an alarm system in proper working order, and by how quickly firefighters entered the scene and found the fire. And they used proper care and diligence to minimize water damage to the home. While the end result appeared to be a 'minor' one room fire, it could have been a lot worse. This could not have been accomplished without the professionalism and skill displayed by our firefighters."



## **Brrrrrrrr**

**February 12 :** Firefighter Tim Morrissey practices an ice rescue during a fire company drill at McCarter Pond. He is wearing an essential tool of all ice rescues: The Gumbo Suit.

## **FIRST AID SQUAD GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT OF ANNUAL FUND DRIVE**

**T**he Fair Haven First Aid Squad wants to recognize the sacrifices our senior citizens, families and businesses make. We are thankful for the tremendous financial support our community has shown us once again during the 2006 Annual Fund Drive.

*Harold D. Trenton*

*Chairperson, Contributions Committee*

*Fair Haven First Aid Squad*

## IN MEMORY

*Editor's Note: Any organization with the long history and range of ages of its members that the Fair Haven Fire Company enjoys expects to experience the death of some of its members during the year. Last year was no exception — seven of our members passed away: Kenneth Marass, Tom Kirman, Eileen Butler, Percy Hodgekiss, Jeannette Albert, John Davis and Bernard Dupree. Bernard "Bud" and John were very active in the Fire Company up until their untimely deaths and so we share some recollections here.*

Let's not mince words. When John Davis joined the Fair Haven Fire Company 35 years ago, he stuck out like a sore thumb. He had a PhD in electrical engineering, and was destined to become one of the standout scientist at Bell Labs. Not every member of the fire company back then, or now, was prepared to debate the frontiers of radio wave propagation theory with John over a beer at the firehouse.

Pretty soon, though, it didn't matter much. He became a respected and admired member of the fire company because he was willing to drag a hose through the mud to a raging fire, and that's what matters most. Jackie Mulvihill, a fourth-generation member of the fire company, remembers Davis well. "No matter how dirty it was, if we'd have a bad fire, you'd look up and there you'd see the word "DAVIS" from the back of his turnout gear. He was a great member." John Davis died last November, after a brief illness. He was 67.

What puzzled and delighted John's colleagues at the firehouse was that being a firefighter and a first aider remained important to him despite his growing accomplishments as a scientist and manager. And his accomplishments were impressive. Back in the 1970's John was the chief architect and developer of the Number 5 digital phone switch for AT&T, the parent company of Bell Labs. That was a huge deal for the phone company. It allowed AT&T to use computer technology to route phone calls for the first time, and became the basis for all the sophisticated phone services available today. It is as significant as IBM shifting from punch cards to electronic computers.

A decade later, John was put in charge of another obscure but promising technology, called "cell phones." John "Smokey" Felsman, a member of the Fair Haven Fire Company who became a close friend of Davis, recalls going on car rides with him in the early 1980's, when cellular technology was in its infancy. "He'd call me up and say 'You gotta see this. We're gonna take a ride.' We'd be in the car and he'd call my house. He was very excited."

It turns out John never really separated his life as a scientist from his life as a fireman. "As soon as he finished his PhD (at the University of Pennsylvania) he joined the fire department here," remembers his wife Beverly. (They first dated in sixth grade when he took her to a Boy Scout dinner back in their hometown of Paducah, Ken-

tucky.) Beverly remembers his technical skills were never far removed from firefighting. "He hooked up the fire radio to the garage door opener, so the door would open automatically as soon as there was a call. That was fine. But when he was away on a trip, I'd have to go downstairs in the middle of the night to close the garage." John's daughter Christine, recalls that he invented a voice-activated recording system for fire companies that is the basis for technology used by emergency services today.

He was a talented and energetic first aider, too. In 1974, when John's job required him to move from Fair Haven to Ohio, they settled in the Columbus suburb of Granville, because "they had a volunteer EMS squad that he could join," says Beverly. Later they lived in Glen Ellyn, outside Chicago, where he was a volunteer firefighter and EMT. When the Davises moved back to Fair Haven in 1981, John immediately rejoined the first aid squad, and successfully lobbied the Fire Department to change its age rules so he could become an active fireman again. Even in far away places, John used his EMT skills to save lives: at vehicle accidents in Arizona and New Zealand, and with heart attack victims on an airplane and in the Bahamas.

What made John such an enthusiastic member of the fire company? His wife recalls that John's father was part of a fire auxiliary in Paducah, and used to bring his young son on calls. "John was always fascinated with fire fighting," says Beverly. He found kindred spirits in town, too. "Smokey Felsmann was Chief when he joined, and they became very close, in part because they both shared a fascination with the tactics and strategy of putting out a complicated fire." Firefighting and first aid provided other satisfactions, too, she says. "He said once that as an engineer, the projects went on for years. But if you save a house or save a life, you got the immediate satisfaction of having helped someone."

John's passing was particularly poignant for those of us who worked with him on this fire company newsletter. He created the newsletter many years ago, and ran it until the very end. He spent the last weekend before he went to the hospital by assigning stories, reading copy, and reminding the rest of us about a thousand things that had to be done. For all his accomplishments, almost nothing seemed as important to him as being a member of the Fire Department. He will be sorely missed.

### John Davis: 30 Year Member and Editor Emeritus



## Bernard “Bud” Dupree: 44 Years of Service



As is the case with many of our Fire Company volunteers, Bud Dupree wore more than one hat during his 44 years of service to the Fire Company and the Borough. This service was fueled by one thing: a generous and passionate love for the Fire Company and helping others; indeed, Bud embraced each position he held with absolute tenacity and unwavering dedication. While the list is certainly impressive — Fire Chief, Treasurer, Fire Company President, Fire Police Captain, Life Member— it is his professionalism and enthusiasm which one could not miss — brighter perhaps than even the familiar florescent jacket he wore during his later duties as a Fire

police member.

Speaking of Fire Police, it is a fair bet that someone reading this newsletter directly benefited from Bud’s role as a member of this hard working group of volunteers. The Fire Police are the first to arrive, and the last to leave accidents, fires and emergencies. Bud was no exception; in a typical year where the Fire Police respond to over 150 calls, Bud was certain to be at the majority of those calls. As his wife Ann, also a Fire Police member, said, “Bud was so determined to not miss a call, he kept an extra pager under his pillow.” When Ann was asked, “What job did Bud like best?”, she replied, looking amused at the question, “He loved everything; he loved each and every aspect of the fire company.”

An organization steeped in traditions and discipline, such as the Fire Company, requires steady and calm leadership, and Bud gave that to the Company. Any new volunteer, walking up the steps

to his or her first fire company business meeting, could not help but be impressed by the efficient way Bud ran the meeting. One volunteer commented, “After 12 years of working in a large corporation, I have never seen a meeting run as well as a fire company meeting.” It is this legacy of leadership (some might say—stickler for details), that Bud leaves us.

Whether working night after night in the Super 50-50 booth at the Fireman’s Fair or being the first to drive the Fire Police truck to an emergency, Bud was there for all of us. And, he did all this while also serving on Fair Haven’s Board of Education for 27 years and coaching Pop Warner Football.

Someone once said, “Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time. They must have the heart”. Bud Dupree’s love for Fair Haven and for service to the town is a legacy felt by all of us; we are very grateful he gave both his time and heart to the Fire Company. We will miss him.

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## Fair Haven First Aid and MONOC: Working Together

Ever wonder why you’ll sometimes see a green and white Fair Haven First Aid ambulance rushing to a neighbor’s house, only to notice a second ambulance, this one orange and white, arrive a few minutes later?

That’s because there’s actually a two-tiered ambulance system at work in Fair Haven and most towns in New Jersey. One part is made up of local volunteers, Fair Haven First Aid, who are based in town and can get to the scene in about five minutes. We locals have a significant amount of training, and can handle the vast majority of emergency calls, for free.

But sometimes, the dispatchers who handle 911 calls sense that a patient may have a serious, life-threatening problem, like chest pains, difficulty breathing, unconsciousness, or severe injuries. When that happens, they also summon the paramedics: professional ambulance crews from a regional service called MONOC, with the skills and equipment to provide care that rivals what you’d get at a hospital emergency room. MONOC paramedics were called to Fair

Haven nearly 100 times last year.

MONOC is a surprisingly large organization. It got its start in the 1970s operating in Monmouth and Ocean Counties (hence its name), but has expanded in recent years, and now serves parts of Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union. It now has over 800 employees, including 650 paramedics, EMTs, nurses, and other clinical workers. It’s a non-profit organization, owned by a confederation of local hospitals.

Even though it’s a non-profit, MONOC bills patients for its services. When asked what a call typically costs a patient, a MONOC official declined to be specific, saying it varies depending on the type of treatment, and what kind of insurance is available. However, Fair Haven residents report that the tab can often run more than \$1000. Older patients on Medicare generally pay about 20% of the charges. In many cases, an officer on the First Aid Squad examines the patient, determines that he or she is stable, and sends word to MONOC to cancel the call. In those cases, MONOC does not charge a fee.

For those of us who have worked

alongside MONOC paramedics, they are impressive. They can apply a 12-lead EKG device in seconds, to monitor a heart attack, deftly insert an IV needle in a patient’s arm while bouncing down the road in a moving ambulance, or swiftly select the medicine that will slow a racing heartbeat. That’s not really surprising, though, since they all have at least 6 months of classroom training, and often much more, and on average a MONOC paramedic treats about 90 patients a month.

Derek DeBree, Captain of the Fair Haven First Aid Squad, says they’re a valuable component of the Borough’s emergency services. “The all-volunteer Fair Haven First Aid Squad is one of New Jersey’s finest. Although our members are highly trained and share many years of experience, it is always comforting to have access to a higher level of care in life-threatening situations. In those cases, we enjoy working as a team with MONOC and its paramedics.”

*(Editor’s Note: For recent Asbury Park Press articles about financial challenges facing MONOC, go to [www.app.com](http://www.app.com).)*

## 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 (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 Lew 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

**You Can Start the Membership Application Process at Our Website at [www.fhfd.org](http://www.fhfd.org)**

Please email any comments to [newsletter@fhfd.org](mailto:newsletter@fhfd.org)

### INTERESTED IN CONVENIENT EMT TRAINING?

**If an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) course was offered in the Red Bank area would you be interested? Please give Bob Krueger a call at (732) 842-0818.**



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