FIRST AID SQUAD PUTS NEW AMBULANCE IN SERVICE

The First Aid Squad recently took delivery of a state-of-the-art ambulance to replace one of its aging units. The new unit, known as Unit 1357, was placed in service early in July.

In addition to the usual complement of emergency services equipment, the custom-designed vehicle is equipped with many innovative technologies designed to make maintenance and upkeep simpler. For example, the warning lights use light-emitting-diodes (LEDs) instead of the usual incandescent bulbs, allowing much lower drainage from the vehicles electrical system.

Specifications for the new ambulance were developed by a committee headed by now-Captain Andy Schrank. The committee worked with P&L Custom Body works for almost a year to get the unit finalized. According to Schrank, “Our ambulances are our most heavily used emergency vehicles. Getting the specifications right, and working with the manufacturer to get the final product right, are activities that are well worth the extra effort.”

Even though the Borough of Fair Haven is nominally responsible for purchase of the town’s emergency vehicles, in this case the funds for purchasing the ambulance, amounting to $134,000, were provided solely by the Fair Haven First Aid Squad, through its fund-raising activities.

(See page 3 for a photo of the new unit.)
A successful save: Quick action by FHFD limited the damage in this June 12 roof fire in a home on Oak Street.

Clay Street. Upon arrival at the scene, the Fire Department discovered a heavily-involved structure fire at a home in which dozens of pet kittens were kept. The owner of the building, who was not home at the time, adopted and cared for stray cats until a permanent home could be found for them. Although Fire and First Aid members were able to rescue and revive many of the felines, almost 30 of them hid in very difficult places in the burning building and died. Damage to the house was extensive, but the structure was saved.

Then, in February, as if we hadn’t seen enough action, a spectacular fire took place in a frame house on River Road near the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. When Police first spotted the flames they were extending 40 or 50 feet into the air. Seeing the extreme amount of fire, I immediately summoned the Rumson Fire Department for mutual aid. Because of the total involvement of the structure and the rapid collapse of floors, we made a command decision to move to an exterior attack on the fire. This step is necessary when a fire is so substantial that the traditional interior attack would clearly risk the lives of our firefighters. The result is that all exposures were saved, but the dwelling itself was destroyed.

Following the serious fire problems of the winter and spring, our Scuba Team and Marine Unit 1359 were put to test in May, after a boater was reported missing from his boat berthed at the Fair Haven Yacht Works. After an initial rescue effort, Fair Haven divers joined in a two-day search and recovery operation for the victim before the activities were called off by New Jersey Marine Police. The body was ultimately discovered a few days later near the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. The death was apparently accidental.

In spite of these disastrous events, the Department has responded to and successfully dealt with numerous emergencies that did not result in serious loss of property or life (see picture above). Please do your part in prevention of fires and accidents! We’d like to have the rest of 2003 be much quieter!

Marty Coy
Chief of Department

MATER DEI GRADUATE ERIC JACOBSEN WINS THIRD FHFD VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

In 2001 the Fair Haven Fire Company instituted a one-thousand dollar scholarship for volunteerism for high school Seniors who are Fair Haven residents or family members of the Fair Haven Fire Company, whether Fair Haven residents or not.

Following in the tradition set by the 2001 winner Shannon Conner and last year’s winner Steven DePonti, this year Fair Haven resident Eric Jacobsen won the award by scoring well in all of the criteria used to evaluate candidates:

- Academic accomplishments
- Fire Department involvement
- Community involvement
- School involvement.

Eric is entering Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA this fall, where he will major in Computer Science. His minor subjects will include Criminology and Psychology.

“The Fire Company has continued to support the scholarship program and feels it is a small token of appreciation for high school students who demonstrate community commitment and leadership,” said Bob Minehardt, Scholarship Committee Chairman. “Even though the amount is a small token of the educational fees required these days, we feel the recognition is well deserved.”

Eric’s mother, Brenda, has been active in Fire Company activities, including serving as First Aid Squad Captain in 1999. Unfortunately for Fair Haven, the Jacobsen’s have recently moved to the Pocono’s. The family will be missed.
Lou served as Captain and President of the First Aid Squad and is a Life Member.

Given the family tradition, it’s probably no surprise that Larry’s daughter Debbie recently joined the First Aid Squad and completed her State and National Emergency Medical Technician Registries. Debbie has had a long term interest in providing emergency help: she worked several years as a life guard and got her early EMS experience as a Cadet in the Little Silver First Aid Squad. Even though the Fire Company prides itself with several third generation firefighters, Debbie is the first third generation female First Aider.

Debbie will be entering college the Fall at Longwood University in Farmwood, Virginia, where she will study Criminal Justice. Not to forego her emergency medical love, however, she also plans on joining Longwood’s First Aid Squad and to volunteer with the Prince Edwards County EMS. When she’s back home in Fair Haven, Debbie plans on being very active with her hometown squad.
FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID ORGANIZATONS 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) 741-7157 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 a sincere interest in helping the Fire Company. Interested residents should contact James Butler, III to discuss membership application procedures.

Fire Department—Honorary Member. Historically, this membership category was reserved for public dignitaries and others who have indirectly helped the Fire Company. Recently, however, the category has been expanded to admit potential First Aid Corps Members 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.

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 Honorary), 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.

Visit our Website
www.fairhavenfiredept.com

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