



May 2010

Number 38

WELCOME

Welcome to the 38th edition of “Between Alarms”.

This newsletter will bring you up to date on our activities, some new exciting developments and the details of our Bazaar in July.

SECOND DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT AWARDED

In April we were notified that our request for a grant to complete the replacement of our air packs was awarded by the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Program. The amount approved is \$45,508.00. We need to use 5% of our own funds in the process, so the amount that we will receive is \$43,233.00.

The money will purchase six new self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) which completes the replacement of our old units, six pass alarms to monitor firefighters who are not wearing SCBA and a Pack Tracker that can locate a down or disoriented firefighter. The addition of this equipment provides us with the newest and safest technology available in the fire service. It also allows us to retain our savings for other major purchases we will be facing in the future.

The Assistance to Fire Fighters Program is continued in 2010. We will be applying for funds for the replacement of our turn-out jackets and pants, “our bunker gear”. Much of our gear is aging. New enhancements make the gear more protective. We are working on the specs for the year and will be applying for a grant this month.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

2010 marks an extraordinary anniversary for our treasurer, Jim Cornelius. Jim has continuously served as treasurer since 1960. Fifty years of meticulously maintaining our records, deposited our funds and paid our bills.

Over the years the task has grown from managing a few thousand dollars in revenue a year to our one hundred thousand dollars a year. He has been an integral part of thirty seven bazaars, four major fund drives, and 11 annual fund drives. The amount of money he had handled is well into the millions. All of his work has been with the highest integrity and great diligence. Lessons have been learned from Jim's example; he has the utmost respect of all of our members.

We have acknowledged Jim for his efforts in prior newsletters and in May 1997 we held a dinner in his home where we dedicated a new fire truck in his name.

We will treat Jim to an evening out at Cavanaugh's after our monthly meeting in July.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Jim for all of his time and devotion to our fire company.

11th ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The response to our 11th Annual Fund Drive titled "*Protect the Future*" has been very good. Through April 30th we received \$21,155.00 from 643 donors.

In comparison to our 2009 Fund Drive, the amount received through April 30th is \$1,190.00 less and the number of donors is exactly the same. The numbers reflect a decrease in larger gifts, mostly in a range of \$100.00 to \$250.00. We do expect some larger gift donations this month, and will likely catch up with the prior year's receipts in the weeks ahead.

Our reminder mailing to those who have not contributed was mailed May 4th. If you have not contributed, please use this reminder to send in your contribution.

Donations are always accepted and appreciated. Thanks to all who have responded to date.

HELP WANTED

Running the Bazaar requires a lot of help. Fortunately we have many faithful volunteers who return year after year, however we always welcome additional helpers. Jobs are available in our food and game stands, and the shifts run for a few hours each day. Working at the Bazaar offers an ideal opportunity for students to obtain their community service requirements and we are pleased to have them help. Please contact Dave Hourigan at 715-7750 or 474-9381 if you would like to volunteer.

RABIES CLINIC



Our Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, June 5^h from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Karen Spiece, VMD, owner of the Mountaintop Animal Hospital will dispense the inoculations.

Protect your pet and save money by attending our clinic. Inoculations are valid for one year for animals under one year old and for 3 years for pets older than one year.

Dogs and cats are welcome at the clinic. The cost is \$8.00 per inoculation. Plan to join us on the 5th to both provide for your pet's safety and help us with this fundraiser.

37th ANNUAL BAZAAR

We are busily preparing for our 37th Annual Bazaar to be held July 16th, 17th and 18th.

Mountaintop DJs will provide music nightly. Friday night and Saturday night John Reilly will entertain, followed by Tom Emanski on Sunday.

Our Firefighter's Parade will be held on Saturday at 5:00 PM and will tour many Fairview Township subdivisions. We will include the parade route in our June Bazaar mailing.

Pat Ward, popular Magician, will perform his magic show Saturday at 7:00 PM. Prior to, and after, his show Pat will be on the grounds to share his magic and balloons.

Our very popular New Merchandise Auction will be held on Sunday at 5:00 PM.

As always, we will offer a large assortment of food items and beverages, games and prizes. We will also have take out containers for all of our food items for those who cannot sit for dinner. Games will be featured from Fund Raising USA. Our Theme Basket Auction will once again feature many beautiful and unique baskets to win. The "Hose Company Store" will feature a variety of fun items to purchase, including our popular Bazaar theme T-shirts.

The Moon Walk Guy will return with their ever popular inflatable rides, including the giant bounce, giant slides and obstacle course. The mechanical bull ride from Bad Boys Bull will return for young and old to test their skills.

Our "Big Ticket" will be mailed in June. It will contain 45+ prizes, all donated by local businesses. Five tickets will be sent in the mailing. The tickets are \$3.00 each. You can return your ticket stubs via mail prior to the Bazaar or drop them off at our Big Ticket stand during the Bazaar. Your purchase of the Big Ticket represents all profit to the fire company, which gives us an excellent base for our total Bazaar profit.

The Bazaar opens at 5:30 PM on Friday, 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 4:00 PM on Sunday. Please mark your calendars to join us in July to enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends at this family oriented event.

BAZAAR AUCTION AND THEME BASKETS

Our popular New Merchandise Auction will be held Sunday at 5:00 PM during the Bazaar. Our skilled auctioneer, Frank Orloski, Jr., will conduct the spirited bidding. Brand new merchandise, including appliances, lawn and garage equipment and automotive accessories will be auctioned. Also, there will be collectibles, merchandise and restaurant certificates, event tickets and loads of other items.



A list of the Auction items will be posted on our website, MTHC1.com, advertised in the Mountaintop newspapers, and posted on the Bazaar grounds.

The Auction is at 5:00 PM. It will be held in the firehouse building with plenty of seating available.

Our Theme Basket Auction is enormously popular. Dozens of beautiful baskets are available, offering items of interest for all ages. Everything in the basket stand is donated. Bob and Mary Barley donate most of the baskets. Individuals or businesses of the Mountaintop area donate the contents. Several basket contents are also purchased through donations received from the industries in the Crestwood Industrial Park. The hard part in visiting our basket stand is deciding which basket you want to win. Don't miss the stand while you are at the Bazaar.

If you would like to donate to either the Auction or organize/donate a basket, please call Dave Hourigan at 715-7750 during the day or 474-9381 in the evening.

BIG TICKET OPPORTUNITY

In 2009 we announced that we were looking for prize sponsors for our "Big Ticket" as some of our long time sponsors went out of business. We were also looking for donors of larger prizes to refresh the "Big Ticket". A few new businesses contacted us to be part of the "Big Ticket", and several of the long time businesses on the "Big Ticket" increased their prize/donation.

Once again in 2010 we are looking for a few new sponsors. Unfortunately a few more of our long time sponsors are out of business. Prizes can be a particular item, a gift certificate or a monetary donation to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond for the winner.

The tickets are mailed to over 1800 addresses in our township and are sold by our members before and during the Bazaar. Therefore, there is good advertising for all the donors. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Dave Hourigan @ 715-7750 by May 31st.

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY GRANT

The Pennsylvania American Water Company has awarded us \$500.00 for the purchase of permanent fire hydrant markers for our township. For years we have installed metal rods provided to us by Mideast Aluminum/Indalex, in the industrial park for the winter. Permanent markers will be an enhancement as not only will they provide for winter visibility; they will also be reflective for night time visibility.

There are 128 fire hydrants in the township. We are awaiting the funding of our Annual Pennsylvania State Grant to order the markers as the grant money will cover the balance of the cost of the markers. As soon as the funds are received, we will purchase and install the markers.

F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC. GRANT RECEIVED

We are delighted to announce that the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. has once again recognized our efforts with a grant of \$6,000.00, which we received in March. The funds will be used to purchase new boots for all of our active firefighters. The new boots will be leather, replacing our 10-12 year old rubber boots. Leather boots are lighter weight and move flexible to work in. Twenty five pairs of boots will be purchased at a cost of \$6,875.00

We are grateful to the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. and the Kirby family for the contribution and their ongoing support of the fire company.

THE ALARMS

From the period of November 1st through April 30th we answered 64 calls for assistance. The calls were as follows: Motor Vehicle Accidents – 24; Structure Fires – 7; Brush Fires – 6; Assist EMS – 4; Vehicle Fires – 3; Automatic Alarms – 3; Burning Complaint – 3; Gas Leak – 3; Tree Down in Roadway – 2; Flooded Basement – 2; Cooking Incident – 1; Pedestrian Struck by Vehicle – 1; Child Locked in Car – 1; Chimney Fire – 1; CO Alarm – 1; Smoke Investigation – 1; and Traffic Control – 1. Included in the calls were our assists to other fire departments as follows: Wright Township – 15; Dennison Township – 2; and Hanover Township – 1.



As in prior years, many of the motor vehicle accidents we responded to were on the mountain where people were simply driving too fast for the weather conditions. Fortunately there were no critical injuries in these accidents. It remains our strong advice to slow down on the mountain, particularly in snow or rain conditions.

FIRE POLICE FULLY ACTIVE

Our Fire Police members completed the necessary training at Luzerne Country Community College that was required and are now fully engaged in assisting us and the Fairview Township Police Department.

The Fire Police respond with us on all our calls and are also dispatched to assist the police department with traffic control when extra help is needed. Joe Intelicato, Police Chief, stated that the reinstatement of the Fire Police was something that was needed for a long time. Having the Fire Police available for traffic control frees up the police officers to attend to other details at an incident or answer other calls.

During some winter storms and during an April brush fire the Fire Police were invaluable in being able to close the roads while the emergency personnel operated at the scene.

Fire Police members are Dave Smith, Chief, Ray Loucks, Henry Nork and Dan Titus.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

We perform all of the routine maintenance on our vehicles. We change the oil and filters; maintain the pumps, replacing gauges or gaskets as necessary. Other than taking the trucks for annual inspection, nearly all work is done in the firehouse.

In the past six months we experienced the need to have two vehicles professionally repaired as indicator lights showed the need for service. Our Rescue required a rebuild of the manifold assembly on the motor which cost nearly \$4,000.00. A computer module on Engine 2 needed replacement with a cost of \$2,250.00. Except for when the vehicles were in the shop for repair, neither vehicle had to be taken out of service.

The expense of properly maintaining our vehicles brings to reality the need for all of our fundraisers to be successful.

FURNISHINGS NEEDED / LAWN TRACTOR NEEDED

In our November newsletter we stated we were in need of some furniture for the TV area in the firehouse. In response, we were given one set of furniture in very good condition. We could use another couch or a chair or two.

In addition, we also could use a new lawn tractor to cut the grass at the firehouse. The tractor we have now is older and has to be nursed along from year to year to continue to operate.

If you can help with either of these requests for donated items, please call Dave Hourigan @ 715-7750.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have written before that it has been my pleasure to have worked with Jim Cornelius as Treasurer in my tenure as President of the fire company. Jim has done a remarkable job for us over the years. He is always responsive and pleasant in all that he does. He has helped me many

times with last minute requests/needs, as he has helped anyone that asked.

It's hard to imagine anyone holding the same volunteer position for fifty years, particularly these days when volunteers are fewer in number. Jim has sent an example for everyone in the fire company and our community. I, and all of our members, appreciate Jim's time and devotion to the fire company. Thank you Jim for being a good friend to each of us, to the fire company and to the community.

Fortunately we have been awarded two requests to firefighter's grants from the Department of Homeland Security in the past two years. The total received is \$118,470.00. These grants have enabled us to completely replace our self-contained breathing apparatus. The new equipment is loaded with new technology to provide for our firefighter's safety. Without the grants, we would have had to significantly reduce our savings to make this necessary purchase.

The replacement of our turn-out gear will likely cost \$50,000.00 when it is complete. We hope to be successful in obtaining a grant for this purchase of this equipment.

In April we spent over \$6,200.00 on vehicle repairs.

The replacement of one of our fire trucks in a few years will easily exceed half a million dollars for a comparably equipped vehicle to what we operate now. Ongoing government safety and emissions regulations have pushed the cost of a vehicle to these levels.

We have been fortunate in successfully obtaining grants from the government and private foundations. Reality is that the tools of our trade are so expensive that we could not provide for our safety and prove the level of service that we do without grants.

To some extent I have heard that because of these successes that perhaps we don't need as much community support. This just is not the case. Now, as always, we need the community to respond to us in a most generous way. The cost increases for our tools can almost be described as absurd, but they are reality. Thank you to everyone who contributes, attends or helps at our Bazaars and our other fundraisers. Your support is invaluable. Together, we will continue to maintain a modern, well equipped fire company, finding solutions to whatever needs we have in the future.

As spring unfolds and we all look forward to a great summer, my best wishes for a most enjoyable season. As always, it is my request that you save a night for us to attend our Annual Bazaar in July.

Be safe!

Dave Hourigan