

# PHILOMONT VFD UPDATE FROM CO. 8



AUTUMN 2013

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

## Fun at the PVFD Open House & Auxiliary Ice Cream Social

We couldn't have asked for better weather on Aug. 24! It was a perfect day for our PVFD Open House and Auxiliary Ice Cream Social.

Many from the community and beyond stopped by the fire house for ice cream sundaes, milkshakes and our own homemade ice cream tasting contest.

Children enjoyed fire truck rides, hands-on firefighting and EMS-related demonstrations, a "Fire Dog" bounce house, and other activities. Everyone enjoyed listening to alternative folk musician Annie Stokes and gathered 'round to witness the landing of the AirCare 1 helicopter.

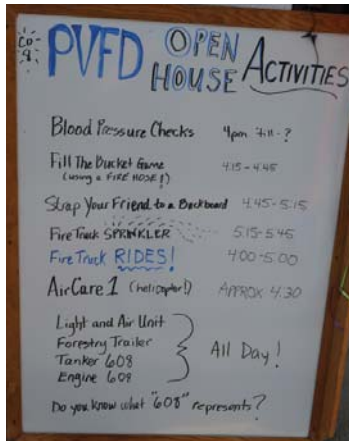


The AirCare 1 team graciously answered questions about EMS air care support and gave everyone an opportunity to take turns sitting inside the helicopter.

A fun – and sweet! – time was had by all!

Thank you to everyone who participated in making our open house a great success.

-Kathi Watts, PVFD and Auxiliary Member



Photos/Hollis Avakian (top left)



Photos/Marsha Condliffe (top right, bottom). More photos page 2

### Ice Cream 'Fire Sale'

For a couple of hours on Sept. 15, the Auxiliary set up in front of the station to make ice cream sundaes with leftover inventory from our Ice Cream Social. Nothing fancy... just some free ice cream to cool down neighbors and visitors. Thank you to everyone who stopped by for ice cream and to say hello!

# It's time for our 2013 Fund Drive!

PVFD's 2013 Fund Drive is in full swing. You may have noticed that the fundraising letter we've sent out for many years has been revamped for 2013 into a full-color brochure with informative statistics about Company 8.

Also in the brochure are a call for volunteers and a request for the continued generosity of our community. Your help is needed for the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department to achieve its goals for the station and the community in the upcoming year and beyond.

Included with the new, informative brochure is a return envelope pre-stamped with donation levels and a space to fill out if you're interested in volunteering. The envelope is another new feature and it's one we thought you might especially find useful.



Photo/Hollis Avakian

We hope our new, informative brochure and envelope spark new and continued communication between PVFD and the community we serve. Our existence relies on you!

If you want more information on volunteering or to make a donation, please call 540-338-6506 or visit <http://philomontvfd.org>.

Copies of the brochure and envelope are available upon request.

-Marsha Condliffe  
Fund Drive Chair

## Philomont Volunteer Fire Department Company 8 Newsletter

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Photos courtesy of:

**Hollis Avakian, Marsha Condliffe,  
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For inquiries on content, volunteering, meetings, events or the web site, send e-mail to: [update@philomontvfd.org](mailto:update@philomontvfd.org)

## Happy 5th, Bob!

Congratulations to Bob Fallin, Co. 8 Vice-President, for earning his Five-Year Service Award!

Photo/  
John Erickson



## 2013 Open House



Photos/Angie Snell



## WANTED!

Positions open now. Great benefits!

-Emergency Medical Technicians-

-Drivers-

-Firefighters-

-Administrative Support-

**Inquire today! 540-338-3654**



## From the President:

It was so good to see so many of you come out and spend time with us at our Ice Cream Social and Open House in August.

Many of you may recall that we have not had an Open House for a couple of years, so it was with a sense of accomplishment that our members were able to assemble this effort for you to come and enjoy. A special thanks to everyone that pitched in and made the event a successful one.

It was a nice way to end the summer before school got back into swing. We thought it would be a pleasant change from the traditional Open House date in early October (coinciding with Fire Prevention Month). Hopefully you agree. There will be Open Houses aplenty in October at other stations, so Philomont gave you something a little different.

The Auxiliary is planning more events in the fall for you to come and enjoy. We hope that you will. Involvement from the community is necessary for our continued preservation of the more traditional approach we enjoy in Philomont.

Times are changing, and this year has not been without its challenges so far, with changes in leadership and, happily, growing pains as we work to bring new people up to speed. Your encouragement of PVFD's volunteers is always appreciated.

There are other changes pending in the fire and rescue system that the community should be aware of. I encourage you to visit the Loudoun County web site – <http://www.loudoun.gov/> – and keep abreast of changes in how the fire and rescue system is operated.

Some of these changes will affect the amount of money that comes to Philomont for the provision of services. Philomont is in good fiscal shape today, but it is difficult to know what impact these changes may bring in the future. Your continued support – both financially and with your time – are needed as much as ever, if not more so.

With a small station and low call volumes, it is harder to bring in new people and train them without sharing them with other areas of the county for them to gain experience. That said, we have many more “openings” for people willing to train as Emergency Medical Technicians, Tanker and other drivers, and Firefighters, as well as administrative people to support the day-to-day operations of the station.

Your community needs you. Please consider volunteering your time in addition to providing your continued financial support.

-Ed Carmichael Co. 8 President



## From the Chief:

The Philomont Volunteer Fire Department hopes that you and your family had a safe summer.

As the season transitions into fall, there are a couple of safety tips and other events you should be aware of:

(1) Don't forget to change your smoke and carbon monoxide batteries and test these detectors when change your clocks back one-hour on Nov. 3. Every year in the United States, about 2,500 people die in home fires. Most of these deaths occurred in homes that didn't have a working smoke alarm. For \$7, the cost of a battery, you can save your life, the life of your family and save your home – see <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smokealarms/> for more information.

(2) The burn ban law changes Oct. 1. From Oct. 1 to Feb. 14, the burn ban permits you to burn tree debris (no construction materials or trash) – see <http://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=820> for more information.

(3) Now is the time of year to check and clean your chimney. Chimney fires can burn explosively – noisy and dramatic with rumbling that sounds like a freight train or a low-flying airplane. Flames or dense smoke may also shoot from the top of the chimney. If you think you have a chimney fire, call 911.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions regarding these items or other topics regarding fire safety.

-Pete West, Co. 8 Chief



## Coming up at Company 8:

On **Sept. 28**, from 5 to 7 p.m., join us at the station for a **Spaghetti Dinner** with guest chef Nick Croce.

And on **Nov. 17**, from 8 to 11 a.m., we will be holding our annual **Harvest Brunch**.

Call 540-338-6506 or visit <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/recent-events/> for more information.

### PVFD Meeting and Training Calendar

#### **Administrative Business Meetings:**

7:30-9:30 p.m. at the firehouse - every second Monday of the month

#### **PVFD Auxiliary Meetings:**

7:30-9:30 p.m. at the firehouse - every first Wednesday of the month

#### **Weekly Training:**

7:30-9 p.m. at the firehouse - every Monday night except the second Monday

**Event and meeting dates are subject to change.**

Please call 540-338-6506 or visit <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/recent-events/>

# Safety Never Takes a Holiday

Chillier weather and the upcoming holidays pose a number of challenges safety-wise, and PVFD would like to offer a few reminders to help you safely enjoy the coming months.

## Heating Your Home:

With colder temperatures, many people spend more time indoors and use fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters and other heating methods such as cooking stoves to keep warm.

To ensure a fire-safe winter season, make sure furnaces and chimneys are professionally cleaned and smoke alarms are properly maintained.

## Cooking:

- Unattended cooking equipment is the leading factor contributing to the ignition of larger spreading cooking fires.

- The highest incidences of cooking fires in residential buildings take place on Thanksgiving Day, followed by Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

## Decorating:

- Inspect holiday lights and other electric decorations each year for frayed wires, bare spots and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles. If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders, and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.

-Information courtesy of  
the U.S. Fire Administration  
[www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus)



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