

PHILOMONT VFD UPDATE FROM CO. 8



WINTER 2013

www.philomontvfd.org

Harvest Brunch offers a tasteful start to the 2013 holiday season

On Sunday, Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. until noon, the PVFD Auxiliary held their annual Harvest Brunch.

In addition to everyone's standing favorite of sausage gravy and biscuits, the menu included eggs, ham, home fries and a large selection of desserts.

The mid-month, pre-Thanksgiving event was well-attended, as usual, and the festive fall atmosphere helped kick off the 2013 holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Have a great new year!



Photos/Bob Fallin and Pete West



Looking for something to entertain and educate the kids?

The Philomont Volunteer Fire Department web site offers links to lots of fun activities and great information for kids of all ages. Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook! Visit <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/kids-corner-fire-safety/>

It's not too late to donate to PVFD!

This year's fund drive has trailed behind previous years. Between fiscal years 2008 and 2012, the gross income from our fund drive has been between a high of \$78,561 in FY08 to a low of \$44,250 in FY11.

A possible new low in 2013

As it stands now, 2013 may end up being the lowest total yet. We understand that there are a number of contributing factors, and that the economy still creates concern for many. Unfortunately, this could not come at a worse time. Certain funds we usually receive from the state to aid in operations were significantly reduced this year.

There is still time to make a tax-deductible donation. Our average donation has historically been \$135 to \$140, but every dollar helps.

Your donation makes a difference

If you have not already donated this year, please do so. Perhaps you have already given, but find that you can send a little more. Know that your contributions stay in Philomont to serve our community.

We would also like to solicit your help in another way. We would like to hear your ideas about new ways to raise funds to support the company and maintain the invaluable services we provide. Our hands are quite full, so if you would consider lending a hand, we would gratefully welcome the assistance.

Please consider mailing a donation and your ideas for raising funds to Philomont VFD, Attn: Fund Drive, P.O. Box B, Philomont, VA 20131.

Thank you for all of your support, and have a safe, happy and healthy new year!

-Ed Carmichael, Co. 8 President
and Marsha Condliffe, Fund Drive Chair

Philomont Volunteer Fire Department Company 8 Newsletter

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Photos courtesy of:

Bob Fallin, Meredith Weller, Pete West

For inquiries on content, volunteering, meetings, events or the web site, send e-mail to: update@philomontvfd.org

PVFD says goodbye to John Charles Weller

Former PVFD member and past President John Charles Weller, age 67, of Hamilton, Va., passed away on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013, at INOVA Loudoun Medical Campus in Leesburg, Va.

Weller was born Nov. 3, 1946. He was a graduate of Carlisle Senior High School and Penn State University. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1972.

Weller was active at PVFD for around a decade, and served as PVFD President for a number of years.

Weller is survived by his three daughters, Meghann Galer (Weller) Redmer; Malorie Elizabeth Weller; and Meredith Ann Weller.

- Obituary information courtesy of
<http://www.hallfh.com/obituaries.aspx>



Photo courtesy of Meredith Ann Weller

John Weller, left, with his youngest daughter, Meredith.

WANTED!

Positions open now. Great benefits!

-Emergency Medical Technicians-

-Drivers-

-Firefighters-

-Administrative Support-

Inquire today! 540-338-3654

From the President:

PVFD had an interesting and challenging 2013. We put four people through EMT school - the greatest number in any year I can recall. Some might wonder why that is significant for a fire company, but the fact is the majority of our calls are EMS calls.

Call volume is low in Philomont, and our career staff ensures that our engine gets out the door on all calls. But sometimes extra trained hands are critical, and in the event that we have two calls at once, our volunteers are closer to you than anyone else by 10 minutes or more.

Another example of how volunteers in Philomont make a difference can be seen in what was, as far as I can determine, a first in the county - one station providing three tankers on a single call. During a recent house fire, our career staff took our engine to the fire, and volunteers took our two tankers. Because of the amount of water our engine can carry, it was diverted to shuttle water to the fire with our tankers, making for three in all. Without volunteers, additional tankers from further away would have been needed, reducing the amount of water available during the early stages of fighting the fire.

What we do is most apparent when trucks roll down the road, patients are treated and fires extinguished. But much takes place behind the scenes as well. One example is the paving of the back driveway.

In addition to making the exit onto Snickersville Turnpike safer, we believe it will help traffic flow around the firehouse, the recycling area and the community center. Going forward, please treat the driveway as a one-way passage, with the exit onto Snickersville Turnpike. We will be adding signage as a reminder of this, and to remind drivers to control speed.

Another item involves converting PVFD from a 501c(4) to a 501c(3). For the vast majority, this will make no difference as your contributions have been and will continue to be tax deductible. A few foundations, however, are prohibited from making contributions to 501c(4) corporations. So upon completion of this action in 2014, we can begin receiving donations from those foundations that could not contribute in the past. This change also allows us to pursue and receive certain federal funds.

We remain fiscally strong, with good financial controls. In 2014, the county will perform an external audit of all 16 volunteer companies. We have no reason for concern as our practices are sound.

That said, we have some large expenses on the horizon and cannot let up on our efforts to raise funds and balance current spending. We continue to need to bring in new members, retain existing ones and provide training and equipment for those larger purchases that will arrive in the next few years.

We need more volunteers in every role. There are more things we want to do to encourage new and existing members to reach further, and right now we are in a cycle where we need more people to get more people. Please consider not only financial contributions to PVFD, but a contribution of yourself and your time. Whatever you can bring makes a difference!

-Ed Carmichael, Co. 8 President



From the Chief:

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the 2014 PVFD Fire Chief. When I think about those who have held this post before me, I am truly humbled.

Most recently, it was Pete West, a fixture at PVFD with more than 40 years as a volunteer in Loudoun and Fairfax. I am pleased that he will remain active. Edward Zimmerman, who also remains a very active member, lives a few doors away from me (out here that means about a half a mile). You can bet that I will knock on his door often for advice and perspective. Bill Swartz, who passed away a few years ago, was a great mentor and was just flat out one of the best people that I ever knew.

Then there is "The Chief," Stanley Lickey. Stanley was chief for more than 30 years and I always tell people that Chief Lickey was fighting fire before fire was hot. Chief Lickey helped mold PVFD and was a major contributor to the entire Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system. We all continue to benefit from the Chief. He is a Norman Rockwell painting come to life. You can find Stanley bright and early every morning when he visits the fire house to check up on everybody and see what he can do to help. It was Chief Lickey who had the vision and saw the need for getting PVFD into the Emergency Medical Services end of fire and rescue. We now have a paramedic and several EMTs and certified first responders trained and available to respond when you need help.

I was asked recently how many people are involved with PVFD. It took a while to calculate the answer. Let's see. There are about 1,300 homes in the area served by our fire house. I guess about an average of 3.8 people per house. I then put the number of people involved at just about 5,000. That's right, 5,000, because our fire house is everybody's fire house. Sure there are a bunch of us who look after it each day, but it is your community resource.

If you are interested in becoming active, shoot me an e-mail at ncroce@mindspring.com. I promise that we will find a way to get you active. Or if you do not want to e-mail and you hear our siren go off, come on up to the station. Even if you do not go out on the call, there is much to do back at the station. It's a great way to learn what we do and get involved. I have to warn you. You might really like it and want to do it more and more! You might enjoy that feeling that you just helped a neighbor through a pretty tough ordeal. There is a lot of personal fulfillment and enrichment to go around but to get it you got to come around.

I will leave you with best wishes for a happy holiday season. Keep the shiny side up and I will see you at the big one. (Not sure what that means? Stop by and I will explain.)

Be safe.

-Nick Croce, Co. 8 Chief



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/>

Stay Safe and Warm in Any Storm

Loudoun County tends to have mild winters, but every so often we get hit hard. (Remember “Snowpocalypse”?) A little knowledge goes a long way when it comes to staying warm in a storm. Before you buy milk and bread, read this:

Generator safety:

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and guidelines when using generators.
- Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.
- Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or ‘backfeed’ can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.



Alternative heating:

- Space heaters need space. Keep anything that can catch fire at least three feet away. And, make sure your heater has a ‘tip switch.’ These are designed to automatically turn off the heater if it tips over.
- Use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel heaters outdoors.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, and are at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire. Ensure they have the proper floor support and ventilation.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting carpets, furniture and other items.
- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.

- Information courtesy of the U.S. Fire Administration
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter_storms.shtm



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