

# PHILOMONT VFD

## UPDATE FROM CO. 8



SPRING 2014

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

# PVFD awards banquet and installation of officers held

On Saturday, March 8, PVFD held its annual banquet and installation of officers for 2014.

Loudoun County Fire Chief Keith Brower installed the officers: Steve Watts, Board of Directors; Nick Croce, Chief; Ed Carmichael, President; Bob Fallin, Vice-President (VP) and Board of Directors (BoD); Mary Marks, Secretary; Nancy Ebaugh, Auxiliary Treasurer; Marjorie Baker, Auxiliary VP; Priscilla Godfrey, Auxiliary Secretary; Madeline Skinner, Auxiliary President; Doug Frost, BoD Chair; Pete West, BoD. Not present were: Eric Shank, Treasurer and BoD; Karen Aronhalt, BoD; and Rodney Krone Sr., BoD.

Amid other awards, the President's Volunteer Service Awards were distributed. These awards are presented to volunteers who give 100 hours or more per year of volunteer service. This year's awardees were: Bronze (100-174 hours) - Angela Snell, Christine McMann, Eric Shank, John Erickson, Karen Aronhalt, Kathleen Watts, Kevin Rinek, Mitchell Gelman and Roger Bennett; Silver (175-249 hours) - Nicholas Croce and Pamela Smith; and Gold (250+ hours) - Edward Carmichael, Edward Zimmerman, Hollis Avakian, Peter West, Richard Pearsall, Robert Fallin, Rodney Krone Sr. and Susan Mandel-Giblin.



Photos/Hollis Avakian and John Erickson



## Planning an event and want to rent Lickey Hall?

Availability for Lickey Hall can be found on the calendar on our web site under Events. You will also find the rate chart and rental agreement there. Please get confirmation before you solidify your plans, as the calendar is not updated every day. Requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to deny requests.

See <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/recent-events/> for more information.

# Philomont Horse Show slated for April 26

## The best little show in Loudoun County

The Philomont Horse Show - the best little Show in Loudoun County - is a fun day for everyone, and it benefits the PVFD! This year is the 57th year of the Show, scheduled for Saturday, April 26 (rain date Sunday, April 27). The Show draws competitors from riding schools and private horse owners from all over the region – some whose parents and grandparents competed at this same Show, in the same location, when they were kids!

## VHSA and DCHSA recognized

The show is recognized as a Virginia Horse Show Association Associate and by the D.C. Area Horse Show Association. Classes range from beginner to intermediate to advanced rider levels. Typical classes include Pony Hunter, Green Pony, Pleasure Pony, Schooling Hunter, Children's/Adult/Pony Equitation, Hunter Pleasure, Green Hunter, Working Hunter, the Hunter Derby, Lead Line, Short Stirrup, Beginner Non-Jumper, as well as others, and includes the fun classes of Pairs Walk Trot and Pairs Over-Fences.



## Many awards, both old and new

There are several long-standing awards and some new to the Show. The Fred Legrys Memorial Perpetual Trophy is awarded to the high-point horse and rider combination in tribute to Legrys, who was a longtime member of the

PVFD as well as one of the longtime organizers of the Show. The Lynn Adams Memorial Challenge Trophy II goes to the high-point pony and rider combination. The June Adams Memorial Sportsmanship award honors Adams' many years as the Show's secretary and is awarded to a volunteer or exhibitor who exemplifies sportsmanship and volunteerism on Show day. There are also the Ketterman's Jewelers Always Elegant/Best Turned Out Award, and The Rick Eckhardt High Point Trainer Award, given to the trainer whose riders accumulate the most points on the day of the Show.



## Food and fun - for a good cause!

The PVFD Auxiliary will again provide delicious homemade goodies – breakfast specials, lunch and baked treats! The show is run entirely by volunteers in the community and members of the PVFD. Area businesses as well as private individuals donate funds and prizes to sponsor the show – all proceeds go to the PVFD.

## Where to find us

So, come on out and join us for a wonderful day in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Whether you compete or just watch – you're in for a fun day. The Show starts at 8:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

The Show grounds are located at 37180 Snickersville Turnpike (Route 734) in Philomont, Va.

Information and online registration are available on our website at <http://philomontvfd.org/events/hs>.

-Christy McMann, Horse Show Chair

## Philomont Volunteer Fire Department Company 8 Newsletter

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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)

# WANTED!

**Positions open now. Great benefits!**

**-Emergency Medical Technicians-**

**-Drivers-**

**-Firefighters-**

**-Administrative Support-**

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



## From the President:

The old year is behind us and a new year is already well underway, with bitter cold and days with no school. Many roads in our area are a muddy mess. Cold weather, snow, ice, slick muddy roads, frozen ponds... all of these things bring the potential for more 911 calls dispatching the Philomont VFD for assistance.



In order to respond to these calls, we must ensure that our staff, both career and volunteer, have the equipment needed to get to you and help you. Allow me to talk a moment about our need for resources in the hope that you will consider how you can help support our mission. After all, if your day comes, you will want us to be ready, won't you?

First, we need people. Equipment doesn't matter if we don't have people. Presently, we have 12 career staff members who work in groups of three, each covering a 24-hour shift once every four days. These folks are county-paid employees that are responsible for answering the first call that goes out, taking one engine. We also have a number of operational members that can respond in other vehicles. It is not unheard of for us to get two calls at the same time, meaning that without our volunteers, the second call has to wait for help to come from another company. We need more operational volunteers now. I'd like to see four new firefighters and six to eight new EMTs join our ranks. All training and equipment is provided by us. The cost to you is time and dedication. The benefits are both tangible and intangible.

We also need administrative people. Admin people not only help do the behind-the-scenes work of running the company, but they lighten the load on operational people who are then freed up to train, practice and answer calls. Admin people handle paying bills, purchasing supplies, raising funds and numerous other tasks. Right now, we need people with web site and other IT-related skills, project management skills, communication skills, and writing skills - particularly those familiar with writing grants. We also need people willing to help set up and tear down for events, meetings and dinners; to help keep the station clean and in good repair; to take photos; to help with grounds keeping and building maintenance; and so on. Every year there is work we wish to complete that goes undone because there aren't enough hands. I would like to add eight to 10 new admin people this year.

We also need equipment, and equipment costs money. Just a few years ago, we bought a new engine for \$456,000. Now our second engine will soon need to be replaced, and we have two other vehicles that are old enough to be replaced in the next few years. A new engine today will likely cost more than \$700,000. While we evaluate funding for these purchases, we continue to depend on your contributions. The 2013 fund drive has not met expectations. For whatever reasons, PVFD received less last year. My counterparts throughout the county are also for the most part seeing declines. Only a few seem to be better off.

With your continued support financially, or with your time, or both, Philomont will remain at the peak of readiness to respond to you in your time of need. Please consider how you can get involved, lend your support, and make an investment in something we hope you never need... emergency services.

-Ed Carmichael, PVFD President

## From the Chief:

Did you know that there are more than 450,000 billboards in the United States? There are none in our community and it helps keep our countryside beautiful. There are more than 48,000 miles of interstate highways, but not a single foot of interstate in our community. I guess we move a little slower but it lets us enjoy the countryside. On March 14, 2013, the six millionth fire hydrant was installed in the U.S. In Loudoun County there are hydrants, but out here there are no hydrants! This begs the question, where does PVFD get water to put out fires?



The answer is tanker trucks. You're familiar with tanker trucks. You see them on the road carrying heating oil, diesel or gasoline. PVFD has tankers that carry water to fires. Our engines carry some water, but it's limited - just enough to put out a one-room fire or to get things started on a larger fire. That water is used quickly and the tanker truck is right there to provide more.

In Philomont we are fortunate to be equipped with two tankers. In the fire service we have the nickname, "Turnpike Tanker Service." Our tankers provide protection to our community as well as to neighboring communities. Large fires require that all stations with tankers work in concert to form a tanker task force. The first tanker arrives at the fire scene and dumps water into a temporary pool to supply the fire trucks fighting the fire. The tanker then goes to a fill site to get more water. The next tanker pulls up, dumps its water and heads off for more. This provides a continuous supply of water.

Where is that water coming from? It comes from streams and area ponds. Sometimes it comes from a pond where the property owner has worked with us to install equipment to make pulling water from their pond faster. If you have an interest in seeing if your pond can be adapted to tanker operations, give the station a call and ask for Capt. Rick Pearsall. Rick will follow up with you to determine if your property is a suitable fill site.

Rick is a volunteer who heads up PVFD's tanker operations. Rick - along with volunteers Pete West, Edward Zimmerman and Rodney Krone - works with our career staff to assure that when there's a fire, there will be water for it. We all owe a debt of gratitude to this intrepid group of volunteers. In addition to driving and operating the tankers, they are always looking for fill sites.

Our tankers protect us and our property, and because of their effectiveness, our fire insurance ratings have changed. You may be eligible for a lower rate - check with your insurance company! In the meantime, keep enjoying that beautiful countryside and if you want to be more involved in helping, give the station a call and ask for me. I promise to get right back you. Be safe!!

-Nick Croce, PVFD Chief

### PVFD Meeting and Training Calendar

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

7:30-9:30 p.m. at the firehouse - every fourth 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 fourth Monday

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

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

## Did you know?

### PVFD has two new EMTs!



Congratulations to Kevin Rinek and Angie Snell, PVFD's two newest EMTs!, Rinek and Snell graduated with their class Jan. 23, 2014, in a ceremony at Loudoun Valley High School.

Photos courtesy of Cyndie Rinek



## Improved ratings may lead to reduced insurance rates

Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) completed the first countywide survey of Loudoun County's fire suppression services and assigned new classifications, effective Nov. 1, 2013, which could reduce residential and commercial property insurance rates.

Based on ISO's new classifications, you may be eligible for a reduction in your property insurance rates. For residents of Philomont living within five miles of the station (that's road distance, not "as the crow flies"), this can mean a significant reduction.

A big reason for this is because the County has made a significant investment into staffing and training for rural water operations, such as with tankers, which improves fire stations' overall ability to fight structural fires.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact their insurance carriers to discuss these new classifications and the possible impact on their property insurance rates.

See <http://www.loudoun.gov/documentcenter/view/100106> for more information.

-Information courtesy of Loudoun County Government

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