

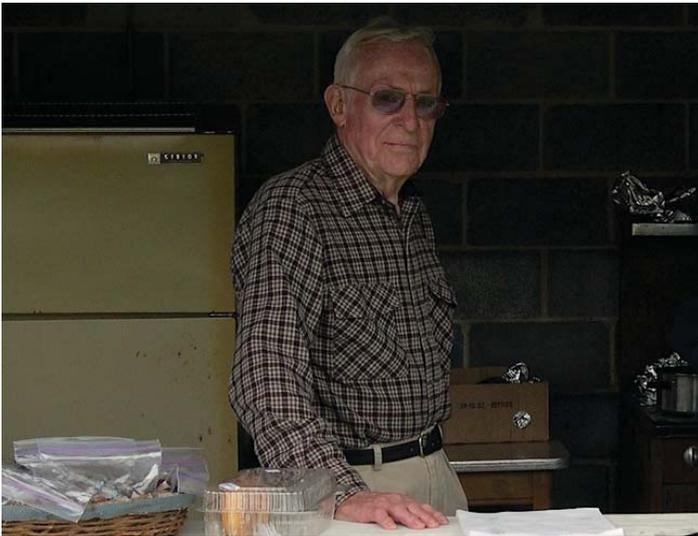
PHILOMONT VFD UPDATE FROM CO. 8



WINTER 2012

www.philomontvfd.org

Philomont and Company 8 mourn the passing of Truman Hawes Jr.



Photo/Pete West

Truman Acey Hawes, age 86, of Philomont, Va., died Nov. 27, 2012, at his residence, surrounded by his family. Born Sept. 1, 1926, in Philomont, he was the son of the late Truman and Lula Hawes.

He was a member of the Roszell Chapel United Methodist Church, an honorary member of Ebenezer Cemetery and a charter member of the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department since its inception in 1955. Mr. Hawes served his country in the U.S. Army, touring in Korea 1946-47 and France 1953-54.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Russell and David, along with his parents. He is survived by his wife, Rosa (Peggy) Hawes, of Philomont; two daughters, Wanda Vancampen of Manassas, Va., and Betty Jean "BJ" Bour Lecrone of Ashburn, Va.; four grandchildren, Charles Vancampen, Amy Vancampen, Daniel Bour and Samantha Bour; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held at Hall Funeral Home Dec. 1, 2012, with interment at Ebenezer Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Roszell Chapel United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 380, Philomont, Va., 20131; the Philomont VFD, 36560 Jeb Stuart Road, Philomont, Va., 20131; or to Capital Caring, 209 Gibson Street NW, Suite 202, Leesburg, Va., 20176.

-Obituary information from Hall Funeral Home

As befitted Truman Hawes Jr., Dec. 1 was a rare day. It was mild, calm and brilliant, with none of the gray-hued skies that often go with the date. It allowed a community to give a full measure of solemnity to Truman's passing.

At Hall Funeral Home in Purcellville, renditions of Truman's favorite hymns played amid the mourners' grief. Facing the bier, the family sat on the right and Truman's friends, many from the fire company he helped found in Philomont, sat on the left. From that group, Richard Gardner rose to give the first testimonial to an exemplary life. His words were followed by those of neighbors, family members and a child, all of whom spoke of Truman's selflessness and abundant, unwavering love.

Those close to Truman were bereft; those who came to know him through stories felt the loss of opportunity to be touched by a man of virtue and strength. Living up to his standards seemed impossible, but worth striving for.

Afterward, police officers directed the procession onto Main Street, en route to Ebenezer Cemetery. On a straightaway along Airmont Road, behind the hearse, a firetruck with black bunting and family and official vehicles, an endless ribbon of cortege headlights followed.

At the gravesite, a U.S. Army honor guard gave three volleys for a 21-gun salute. A Soldier played Taps with riveting sureness that seemed to bring three horses in a field across Airmont to the top of a nearby hill. As two officiants folded the flag for Truman's widow, Peggy, a gray horse on the hill glowed with gold on its chest from the setting sun.

After the ceremony, Gardner again noted that he'd been to services where the odes to the departed seemed at odds with reality. But with Truman, no word about kindness or courage or steadfastness could overstate the truth of the man. He and another Philomont veteran described their first call to a fire, at a Middleburg ice cream parlor. Apparently, Truman had salvaged some of the stock.

-Mary Marks, PVFD Co. 8 Member

The Philomont Volunteer Fire Department will be honoring Truman Hawes Jr. at its upcoming awards banquet. Check our website for details.

Practicing the fundamentals



On Oct. 1, 2012, both new and experienced PVFD members came to the station for backboard training. Proper backboard use is a fundamental skill for both firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Attendees practiced different scenarios where a backboard would be used, including a scenario where a patient needed to be extracted from a vehicle.

Photos/John Erickson



Attendees included Rick Pearsall, Edward Zimmerman, Laura Zimmerman, Bob Fallin, Pam Smith, Pete West, Ed Carmichael and Hollis Avakian.



Curious about what firefighters and EMTs do? Training is held virtually every Monday night at the firehouse or nearby Horse Show grounds. All are welcome.



Philomont Volunteer Fire Department Company 8 Newsletter

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Photos courtesy of:

**John Erickson,
Bob Fallin, Pete West**

For inquiries on content, volunteering or newsletter sponsorship, send e-mail to: update@philomontvfd.org

News from the Auxiliary

The Auxiliary fed about 100 people at the Harvest Brunch on Nov. 11, 2012. In honor of Veteran's Day, almost \$75 was donated along with gift items to be sent to our troops overseas. The brunch consisted of Chef's Special scrambled eggs, ham soaked in maple syrup from the Godfreys' trees, Marjorie's famous sausage gravy and biscuits and more. Upcoming Auxiliary events include a Valentine's Day event on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, and a St. Patrick's Day event on Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Did you know...?

Our annual fund drive is in full swing. If you haven't already, please consider sending a donation. The fund drive is a primary source of critically needed funds for our firehouse. Financial support is solicited on a yearly basis from homeowners, property owners and renters in our first due area.

From the President:

As 2012 winds down to a close, I want to thank the community for providing nearly a dozen great new members to the fire department. I want you to know that your fire department is filled with passionate people who contribute their time and energy to come together and support you, our friends and neighbors. In this time of holiday spirit, I encourage you to thank a volunteer for giving of themselves.



This year, we faced a variety of challenges. In the summer it was dry and we had the derecho that took our power for prolonged periods of time, damaged crops and threatened livestock. More recently, we battened down the hatches as we braced for and then fought Hurricane Sandy. Even though we were spared the worst of it, we still had flooding in homes, numerous trees down, at least one home suffering major structural damage from the force of the winds, and a water rescue was performed at Hibbs Bridge. In that last event, the combined efforts of volunteers and career firefighters from not only Philomont but several neighboring stations were needed to rescue a worker who was out in the storm trying to restore power. Thankfully, with some effort and various tactics tried until one could safely be completed, this individual was saved and brought to safety. During that call there were other calls that were answered by volunteers. Our citizens did a great job of staying safe and off the roads, and we thank you for that.

In my last letter to you, I made a statement about the lack of a Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Loudoun County. Well, I was surprised to learn that there is in fact a CERT in Loudoun County under the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), though it is limited. Still, I believe our citizens have a willingness to keep an eye on their neighbors in times of need and we do need a way to communicate with each other outside of the 911 system during times of heightened threats such as droughts, storms and floods. We will continue to look at how we can work with OEM and determine how and if we can improve the exchange of information during emergencies.

Have safe and happy holidays!

-Bob Fallin, Co. 8 President

PVFD Event and Meeting Calendar

Administrative Business Meetings

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

PVFD Auxiliary Meetings

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

PVFD Junior Auxiliary Meetings

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

Board of Directors Meetings

7:30-9:30 p.m. at the PVFD firehouse - fourth Wednesday of the month

Event and meeting dates are subject to change.

Please call 540-338-6506 or visit www.philomontvfd.org/events/events.html

From the Chief:

While it's true we still have a few weeks left in the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to review some of our accomplishments in 2012.

First and foremost is the addition of many new members, thanks largely to the efforts of President Bob Fallin and Recruitment & Retention Chair Ed Carmichael. The value of this human capital cannot be overstated. Among operational members, George Kingsley, Tom Finnen and myself completed training in large animal rescue; Hollis Avakian completed EMS First Responder; Pamela Smith completed Emergency Vehicle Operator, and by the time this goes to press, my wife, Laura, will have completed Emergency Medical Technician. Tom, Pamela and Marsha and David Condliffe are in the process of qualifying as tanker drivers.

In addition, we've improved our inprocessing procedures for new members and acted as lead authors on a proposed countywide rule defining the requirements for tanker drivers. Rick Pearsall made great strides in rationalizing the methodology for collecting data with our new Electronic Patient Care Reporting system, and of course, we've continued with skills training for all our operational members.

On the apparatus side of things, we took delivery of our new brush truck, and are in the process of integrating its capabilities into our fleet. We've also put into service a new water drafting system designed to deal with shallow ponds and other sources.

Operationally, we've had a few house fires, several water rescues from the Hibbs Bridge area (this, folks, is what you'd call a hint), and of course, July's derecho and October's Hurricane Sandy. In the aftermath of both storms, the station was able to maintain operational viability and served as a water source and cooling center for many residents during extended power outages.

Nick Croce continued his service as an Advanced Life Support Regional Provider, and serves on the Fire & Rescue Commission. As of this writing, Company 8 responded to 405 calls in 2012, with roughly 120 for Nick as a regional ALS provider.

From my view, it's been a very productive year for Company 8. We've added personnel and capabilities in key areas, and laid the groundwork for this trend to continue. I'll be passing the Chief's hat to Pete West in January. Pete has more than 30 years in fire service, and has served in the post before me with great success. I'm sure with your continued support we will continue this positive direction and have yet another great year.

-Edward Zimmerman, Co. 8 Chief



All I want for Christmas...

... is two new members a month! PVFD has been around since 1956, and for the first 50 years it was an all volunteer. In 2006, we began to add paid staff to first the day shift and then the night shift when volunteer coverage, particularly during the day, began to get a little thin. But this does not mean that volunteers do not participate in every facet, including firefighting and emergency medical services. In fact, while the career staff does a great job handling a large number of calls, overall volunteer efforts continue to outweigh theirs. Volunteers are necessary to augment the services our career staff provides, and they are also the people who staff our committees, raise funds, maintain the facility and keep the lights on and the doors open.

This year, we saw an average of less than one new member a month, but those who joined made noticeable contributions. This includes two new medical providers, a certified emergency vehicle operator and several more in training. A number of new members stepped up administratively, assisting with the Horse Show and grounds, the barbecue, this newsletter, our sign marquee, the station's A/V capabilities and our newly redesigned website. Of course, our longtime members came together to help our new folks plug in, but the contributions made by new members in 2012 was significant! Still, more must be done.

We need more members willing to join. Operational roles include drivers, firefighters and EMTs. All require training, which we provide in conjunction with the county at no cost to the volunteer. We need more administrative members as well. There are projects in the firehouse that linger because we need more hands. Areas of attention include records management, graphics design, web content management, grounds maintenance, project management, small engine maintenance and repair, fundraising, outreach and public relations, and others.

We encourage you to contact us if you have interest in any of these areas.



On Oct. 7, Ed Carmichael, the PVFD Recruitment and Retention Chair, set up camp during Purcellville Fire and Rescue's Open House to recruit for new members on behalf of all of western Loudoun County. Consider volunteering - your community needs you!

Photo/Bob Fallin

-Ed Carmichael, R&R Chair

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