

PHILOMONT VFD UPDATE FROM CO. 8



SPRING 2013

www.philomontvfd.org

It's time again for the annual Philomont VFD Horse Show!



Photos/Marsha Condliffe

The 56th annual Philomont Horse Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 (rain date: Sunday, April 28). Known as “the best little horse show in Loudoun County,” the show benefits the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department and is a fun day for everyone – riders, neighbors and friends of the PVFD! The show brings equestrian competitors from all over the region – some who have been showing here for many years, and some with parents and grandparents who competed at this same show when they were kids!

The show offers classes for both children and adults. Classes range from the beginner level, such as Leadline and Short-Stirrup, to experienced riders showing in the Working Hunter division. There are non-jumping hunter pleasure divisions for youth and adults as well. This year we look forward to a new and exciting division – the Hunter Derby! The Derby requires riders to jump over obstacles in and out of the ring – simulating cross-country riding in the field. The day is rounded out with the “Pairs” class.

The Philomont Horse Show is truly unique, and we strive for everyone to have a wonderful day in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are several

awards to be won, including The Fred Legrys Memorial Perpetual Trophy, which is a tribute to Legrys, who was a longtime member of the PVFD and a longstanding organizer of the horse show; The Lynn Adams Memorial Challenge Trophy II; The June Adams Memorial Sportsmanship award, which honors Adams’ many years as the show’s secretary; and The Rick Eckhardt High Point Trainer Award. Again, this year the prize for this award is a riding lesson with Olympic Gold Medalist Joe Fargis, who competed at the show as a youth himself.

The PVFD Horse Show is a VHSA Associate and DCHSA-qualifying show.

At the cook shack, the PVFD Auxiliary will provide home-cooked goodies – breakfast specials, lunch and baked treats. The show is run entirely by community and PVFD volunteers. Come on out – whether you want to “show” or just watch – you’re in for a fun day. The show starts at 8 a.m. – we hope to see you there!

Information and online registration is available on our web site at <http://philomontvfd.org/events/hs>.

-Christy McMann, PVFD Horse Show Chair



Coming up from PVFD and the Auxiliary:

On May 11, the **Philomont VFD BBQ Fundraiser** will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the PVFD Fire Station. Other events are planned as well - call 540-338-6506 or visit <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/recent-events/> for more information.

Food, fun and friends at PVFD



Photos/Top and left, Kathi Watts; Bottom, Eric Shank
On Feb. 21, the PVFD Auxiliary held a lasagna dinner and seed lecture, as part of their ongoing Lasagna-Lecture series. Karen Olgren, the speaker for the seed lecture, is a master gardener and an Auxiliary member.



Photos/Hollis Avakian

On Feb. 10, the PVFD Auxiliary held their annual Valentine's Brunch. Couples, kids and community members came out on a crisp Sunday morning to warm up with a "heart"-y meal, good coffee and good company.



Please give us 90 minutes

Co. 8 is holding a meeting on Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. for community members interested in knowing more about the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system and volunteerism at the PVFD.

Join us for a brief overview of the structure of the LCFR system and the benefits available to volunteers. We'll talk about volunteer needs and opportunities right here in Philomont. Our present needs include not only firefighting and EMS, but administrative duties as well.

If you have an interest in volunteering at any level, please come find out more. The meeting will be at the station, upstairs in Lickey Hall. See you there!

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

Correction:

In the Winter 2012 issue, a piece on the front page wrongly indicated that the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department's inception was in 1955. The PVFD's inception was in 1956.

From the President:

Greetings Philomont! As winter leaves us and spring flowers emerge, we are gearing up for some of our largest events of the year. The 56th annual Horse Show is next month. We, along with members of the community, have been hard at work with all the arrangements needed to pull off an event of this magnitude. It's a Philomont tradition that goes back to our roots as a fire department.



No sooner do we get the jumps taken down from the Horse Show, we move onto our annual BBQ. Last year we added chicken to our traditional beef BBQ and it was such a popular item that we're having it again. Please come by and say hello to your neighbors - both in and out of uniform - and enjoy a truly fun and delicious meal.

We recently received and delivered rewards for four members for achieving certain thresholds of performance within their classification as either administrative or operational members. (Members can be one or the other or both; most of our members are both.)

And, 11 members received commendations from the Office of the President of the United States! Such distinguished service deserves its own article, so I will direct your attention to it later in this edition of the newsletter. This recognition was a surprise to the recipients, who do not volunteer for recognition, but for you and for the community in which they live. Still, we want to thank them for their support to the community.

We have also had five new members join since the first of the year: Angie Snell, Roger Bennett, Kathy O'Neil, Jean Rofo and Kevin Rinek. We have several more potential members in the onboarding process.

Operating our station requires both career and volunteer efforts. It's a big job. Whatever your skill set is, we can use your energy and willingness to sacrifice a little of your time to serve your community.

I thank everyone in the community for supporting our volunteer efforts and events and invite you to come join us. We need more of you to join us. It's a big job and you can help. Thanks!

-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 <http://philomontvfd.org/pvfd/recent-events/>

From the Chief:

Over the past three months, there were four incidents where drivers attempted to cross deep floodwaters. Their vehicles stalled and the occupants were stranded in highly dangerous swift water.



In one of those incidents, the occupant nearly drowned.

It only takes about a foot of water to float many cars off the roadway. When you look at a flooded low spot in the road ahead of you, do you really know how deep it is?

Once a vehicle enters water that is at or above the floor pan of the car, the vehicle can float. At that point, the driver no longer has any control over the car. It will move with the current, fast or slow, until it comes to rest on higher ground or sinks. Usually it sinks.

What happens next is, the vehicle's occupants are forced to exit the vehicle into the moving water. Now, separated from the vehicle, the occupants are more difficult to locate and are exposed to the effects of the swift water. And, as happened in recent cases, the occupants suffer physical and mental trauma from the very cold, fast-moving water.

In one recent case the vehicle sunk in 15' of water, with the driver's door wedged against a steep underwater bank. Only when the current flipped the vehicle over was the driver able to open his door and escape, with virtually no air left in his lungs. He was within seconds of drowning. All because he tried to drive through a flooded road!

Now, besides the danger to the driver, rescuers in more than 16 fire and rescue vehicles responded to the scene to figure out a way to save the driver in the rushing water. Do we use a helicopter? No, trees are in the way. Do we put swimmers in the water with ropes? No, way too dangerous. Finally, we got rescue boats in the water and started searching for the driver, not knowing whether he was still in the vehicle (which we couldn't see) or somewhere else. After about 10 minutes the driver was found clinging to the platform of a water metering station, completely surrounded by rushing water. He was pulled into a rescue boat and taken to a waiting ambulance for evaluation.

The alternative to this rescue? The driver could have taken an alternate route which would have cost him maybe 15 minutes more to get home. Is saving 15 minutes worth this danger to the driver and the rescuers? Clearly not!

So, when you come upon water covering the road in front of you, ask yourself... do I really know how deep the water is? And, if I guess wrong, is it worth risking my life just to save 15 minutes?

For more information about driving through flood waters, go to Turn Around, Don't Drown at www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/tadd-intro.shtml. Drive safe.

-Pete West, Co. 8 Fire Chief

To burn? Or not to burn?

Burning IS allowed in the county, but only at certain times of the year, in certain areas and under certain restrictions.

Until April 30, 2013, open burning is allowed in approved areas between 4 p.m. and 12 a.m. ONLY.

Starting May 1, 2013, no open burning is allowed, with the exception of campfires and outdoor fireplaces.

Portable fire pits and chimineas are allowed and not considered open burning. Fires



must be attended at all times by someone 18 years old or older. No matter when or what you burn, ALL burning must be called in ahead of time. And, you must call again when the fire is out.

Call the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at 703-777-0333.

More information and specific rules and restrictions can be found at www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=1249 and/or at www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal

Source: LCFR General Order 2013-002

From the President of the United States:

The average volunteer in Virginia contributes 37.6 hours of service annually. In the DC Metro area, that number is lower, at 32.7 hours. But across the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system, a number of individuals qualified to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award recognizes volunteers who contribute 100 or more hours of annual service.

The program, described in detail at www.presidentalserviceawards.gov, makes awards in three tiers. Each recipient

receives a lapel pin, a personalized certificate and a letter from President Barack Obama.

Philomont is proud to recognize Bronze Award winners Nick Croce, Jim Eagen, John Erickson and Laura Zimmerman; Silver Award winners Hollis Avakian, Ed Carmichael and Sue Mandel-Giblin; and Gold Award winners Bob Fallin, Joe Hughes, Rodney Krone and Rick Pearsall.

Congratulations from the LCFR Recruiting and Retention Committee and your peers at PVFD!



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