

WELCOME

Welcome to the 42nd edition of “Between Alarms”.

Our newsletter will bring you up to date on our activities, some changes in how we are operating and details on our Bazaar in July.

13th ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The response to our 13th Annual Fund Drive titled “Every Gift Matters, Every Year” has been overwhelming. Through April 30th we received \$38,365.00 from 600 donors. The total received is more than \$17,000.00 greater than we received in our 2011 Fund Drive through April 30, 2011.

Our mailing included a special request for an additional donation in 2012 that would be applied to the purchase of our new vehicles. Approximately 2/3 of our contributors added anywhere from \$5,000 to \$5,000.00 as an additional contribution. We received two \$5,000.00 donations. Anneliese Moghul, who has been a generous donor, made one contribution. The second contribution was made anonymously.

With the success we are enjoying in the campaign, there is a very good possibility that we will be able to complete the purchase of the new vehicles without needing to borrow any money.

On May 8th we mailed our follow up request to those who have not contributed. The additional donations that we receive from this second mailing are crucial to us raising the additional funds we need to avoid financing. We ask that those who have not contributed, please do so. Your contribution really does “matter” and will make a difference.

Thanks you to all who have contributed. We value our support in this most important campaign.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

For many years three Mountaintop organizations faithfully return to assist us with the staffing of the Bazaar.

The Kiwanis Club has staffed our kitchens on Saturday nights for at least 30 years. Many of the same people return every year to help, cheerfully working in the stand whether is 75 or 95 degrees outside. For over 20 years the members of the Rotary Club have staffed the kitchen with the same pleasant demeanor and enthusiasm.

For 10 years the members of the Mountaintop Family Center have provided staffing in our game stands for all three nights of the Bazaar. Their help is invaluable - we don't have enough members to cover these stands. The Church really comes to the rescue for us by helping all three nights in these stands.

All of the people who work, particularly those who return every year, are extended members of our organization. The care about what we do and want us to be successful in our Annual Bazaar. Many share the disappointment we do when we have a rainy night which results in a low turnout.

We are especially grateful to all of these organizations for helping with the Bazaar every year.

39th ANNUAL BAZAAR

We are busily preparing for our 39^h Annual Bazaar to be held July 20th, 21st and 22nd.

Mountaintop DJs will provide music nightly. Friday night Tom Emanski will entertain, followed by John Reilly on Saturday and Sunday.

Our Firefighter's Parade will be held on Saturday at 5:00 PM and will tour many Fairview Township subdivisions. We will include the parade route in our June Bazaar mailing.

Pat Ward, popular Magician, will perform his magic show Saturday at 7:00 PM. Prior to, and after, his show Pat will be on the grounds to share his magic and balloons.

Our very popular New Merchandise Auction will be held on Sunday at 5:00 PM.

As always, we will offer a large assortment of food items and beverages, games and prizes. We will also have take out containers for all of our food items for those who cannot sit for dinner. Games will be featured from Fund Raising USA. Our Theme Basket Auction will once again feature many beautiful and unique baskets to win. The "Hose Company Store" will feature a variety of fun items to purchase, including our popular Bazaar theme T-shirts.

The Moon Walk Guy will return with their ever popular inflatable rides, including the giant bounce, giant slides and obstacle course.

Our "Big Ticket" will be mailed in June. It will contain 45+ prizes, all donated by local businesses. Five tickets will be sent in the mailing. The tickets are \$3.00 each. You can return your ticket stubs via mail prior to the Bazaar or drop them off at our Big Ticket stand during the

Bazaar. Your purchase of the Big Ticket represents all profit to the fire company, which gives us an excellent base for our total Bazaar profit.

There will be a change in the prizes on the ticket this year. Annually our ticket included 25+ US Savings Bonds as prizes. We are no longer able to arrange for the savings bonds, so either cash prizes or retail certificates will be substituted in place of the savings bonds.

The Bazaar opens at 5:30 PM on Friday, 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 4:00 PM on Sunday. Please mark your calendars to join us in July to enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends at this family oriented event.

BAZAAR CORPORATE SPONSORS

A large part of the success of our Bazaar is the funds we receive from business or individual sponsors which offset the fixed expenses we incur in conducting the Bazaar. We acknowledge our sponsors in all of our advertising prior to the Bazaar and post sign recognizing them on the Bazaar grounds during the Bazaar. We also recognize them in our fall newsletter.

The minimum requested level of a donation for sponsorship is \$250.00. Please contact Dave Hourigan @ 715-7750 if you would like to become a sponsor.

RABIES CLINIC

Our Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, June 2nd from 1:00 PM 3:00 PM. Karen Spiece, VMD, owner of the Mountaintop Animal Hospital will dispense the inoculations.

Protect your pet and save money by attending our clinic. Inoculations are valid for one year for animals under one year old and for 3 years for pets older than one year.

Dogs and cats are welcome at the clinic. The cost is _____ per inoculation. Plan to join us on the 2nd to both provide for your pet's safety and help us with this fundraiser.

BAZAAR AUCTION AND THEME BASKETS

Our New Merchandise Auction will be held on Sunday at 5:00 PM during the Bazaar. This year's dueling Auctioneers will be Jack Dean and _____, We also anticipate Representative Gerald Mullery will take the mike to auction off a few items. With two Auctioneers the auction moves quickly and is a lot of fund for everyone in attendance. Most importantly, it makes several thousand dollars in less than two hours for the Hose Company.

A list of the Auction items will be posted on our website, MTHC1.com, advertised in the Mountaintop newspapers, and posted on the Bazaar grounds. The Auction is at 5:00 PM. It will be held in the firehouse building with plenty of seating available.

Our Theme Basket Auction is enormously popular. Dozens of beautiful baskets are available, offering items of interest for all ages. Everything in the basket stand is donated. Bob and Mary Barley donate most of the baskets. Individuals or businesses of the Mountaintop area donate the contents. Several basket contents are also purchased through donations received from the industries in the Crestwood Industrial Park. The hard part in visiting our basket stand is deciding which basket you want to win. Don't miss the stand while you are at the Bazaar.

If you would like to donate to either the Auction or organize/donate a basket, please call Dave Hourigan at 715-7750 during the day or 474-9381 in the evening.

HELP WANTED

Running the Bazaar requires a lot of help. Fortunately we have many faithful volunteers who return year after year, however we always welcome additional helpers. Jobs are available in our food and game stands, and the shifts run for a few hours each day. Working at the Bazaar offers an ideal opportunity for students to obtain their community service requirements and we are pleased to have them help. Please contact Dave Hourigan at 715-7750 or 474-9381 if you would like to volunteer.

BIG TICKET OPPORTUNITY

Once again in 2012 we invite members of our business community to donate a prize for our Big Ticket. The Big Ticket contains approximately 50 prizes which are raffled off on the closing night of the Bazaar. Prizes can be an item, gift certificate or a cash prize.

The Big Ticket is mailed to over 1800 addresses in our township and is sold by our

members prior to and during the Bazaar. Participating as a sponsor is a great advertising opportunity. If you would like to contribute a prize, please call Dave Hourigan @ 715-7750 by May 31st.

F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC. GRANT RECEIVED

In 2012 we made a special request to the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. for a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be applied to the purchase of our new trucks. We are delighted to announce that the grant was approved and the funds have been received.

The F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. has generously contributed to the fire company since the mid 1980's. We protect both the Kirby Episcopal House in Glen Summit and the Marian Sutherland Kirby Library, which both have been funded by the Foundation over the years. The Kirby Family has made significant contributions to our community. We are honored that they recognize our services and contributions in a significant ways to our fire company.

FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

In November we had the parking lot of the firehouse re-paved. In the spring we striped the lot and posted the lower lot as being restricted to fire company personnel only. Wanting to preserve the pavement we are attempting to stop the large trucks that service the industrial park from standing or turning around in our lot. The new pave and striping dresses up the appearance of the firehouse. A fresh coat of paint will be applied shortly, completing our exterior improvements.

NEW TRUCK UPDATE

As we announced in our April Special Edition of "Between Alarms" we are in the process of selling two of our vehicles and purchasing two new vehicles.

Our 1993 and 1997 Pierce pumper trucks are being replaced with a 2012 Pierce pumper truck. The new truck will feature much new technology that the older trucks do not have, including a compressed air foam system which greatly enhances our fire fighting abilities. The order is signed and the blueprints approved for the truck. Production of the chassis will begin in June and the truck will be delivered in early September. The cost of the truck is \$438,855.00.

We have also ordered a utility vehicle that will be used for various purposes, including our non-emergency responses, our pick up at fire scenes and on occasion by our fire police. The truck will be build on a Ford 350 5 person 4x4 chassis with the utility body provided by Reading. The cost of this truck, fully equipped is \$60,603.00. This truck will also be delivered in September.

The two pampers being replaced are sold to a used fire truck dealer in Lancaster County and will be pick up just prior to the delivery of our new vehicles.

UPDATED DISPATCH PROCEDURES

The new enhanced equipment at the Luzerne County 911 Center is now capable of sending text messages to all of our firefighters when calls are dispatched. We are simultaneously dispatched on our tone activated pages and by text message. Future enhancements will greatly improve our radio communications and provide for extensive data to be available from the 911 Center on the laptops in our vehicles.

THE ALARMS

In the period of November 1st through April 30th we answered 68 calls for assistance. The calls were as follows: Motor Vehicle Accidents - 15; Automatic Alarms - 8; CO Alarms - 4; Brush Fires - 4; Assist EMS - 4; Electrical Fires - 3; Smoke Investigation - 3; Vehicle Fires - 3; Trees Down - 2; Chimney Fire - 1; Dryer Fire - 1; Roadway Hazard - 1; Wires Down - 1; and Gas Leak - 1. We also assisted other fire departments: Wright Township - 10; Rice Township - 3; Butler Township - 2; Dorrance Township - 1; and Conyngham Township - 1.

On Saturday, April 17th we responded to a brush fire which started off Route 437/Woodland Ave. approximately ½ mile north of Kirby Ave. It was a windy day, the fire initially fiercely burning toward the community of Glen Summit. In order to protect the homes in Glen Summit we called in help from the Mountaintop Mutual Aid fire companies, along with companies from the Butler Valley. Several fire companies set up to protect residents and others were staged to be available if needed. The PA Department of Forestry responded with their crews, three tanker airplanes and their Wildland Support Task Force consisting of off road vehicles operated by several fire departments throughout the County.

Fortunately with the number of responders assembled, the three airplanes and some favorable wind changes the fire was able to be contained with only a small flank of the fire burning toward the nearby homes which as easily contained. Approximately 250 acres burned in the fire. We are appreciative of all the fire companies and personnel that assisted us and also

want to recognize the American Red Cross for providing food and beverages to the fire crews.

Due to the mild winter, our number of motor vehicle accidents was down by 1/3 compared to the prior winter. However, as always, the majority of our calls were on the mountain and were mostly related to driving too fast for conditions.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we prepared for our Bazaar in July, two members will be working with me to take over some of the responsibilities that I perform in organizing and running the Bazaar. Tim McGinnis and Bill Aigeldinger have volunteered to assist, which will be an enormous help to me. Tim assumed the responsibility for the ordering for the food stands two years ago. In addition to ordering the food, Tim is at the Bazaar ground at daybreak to place the food to be sold that day in the warming cabinets and then orchestrates the preparation and facilitates the supplies as our workers arrive to help. Tim and Bill will help with some of the ordering of all of the other items needed and will help staff the stands and keep things running smoothly. I am delighted to have this additional help and look forward to working with Tim and Bill.

The past seven months have been a very busy time for us as we debated how to best equip ourselves to serve the public going forward. The reality of our having fewer firefighters, our aging vehicles and our financial resources all were important factors in our discussions. For years I think that we all had in the back of our minds that consolidating our vehicles would be an eventuality, so the discussion and decision process to do so went smoothly. We have made prudent decisions, wisely spending the money that you have donated to us over the years, and purchasing vehicles that will serve us well for many years to come.

The response to our Annual Fund Drive has been most rewarding to me. I am thrilled with the generosity that people are extending to us, \$38,000.00 received in the first thirty days vs. \$21,000.00 last year. Larger donations from many people, plus several kind notes that were included, is very pleasing to me.

Provided that we continue to experience the same generosity and we have a successful Bazaar, there is a possibility that we can complete the purchase of the new vehicles without needing financing. I would be thrilled if this would be the case.

If you have not donated, please do so. Your contribution this year really will “matter”. And for all who have already donated, I want to extend a sincere thank you on behalf of our

members and myself. Your contribution has made a difference, and it really “mattered”.

The fire company lost a dear friend and supporter in February. The sudden and unexpected death of Debbie Orloski shocked and saddened all of our community. Debbie, along with her husband Frank, quietly have helped the fire company in many ways. They have been an integral part of planning and financially supporting our Bazaar. Debbie did all of our art work, designed our letterhead and made our posters. She always volunteered to work at the Bazaar, and as their children grew up, whether they liked it or not, Debbie always volunteered them to work. Debbie was a dear friend to my wife Sharon and I, really a role model for many to emulate. There will definitely be a void at this year’s Bazaar without Debbie’s help and participation. We will miss her dearly.

In every spring newsletter I end with wishing everyone a pleasant spring and summer. Hopefully the coming seasons will be as kind to us as the winter was, and we will all have a great summer.

My best in all of your experiences and please plan to visit us in July at our Annual Bazaar.

Be Safe,

Dave Hourigan