

Mountaintop Hose Co. No. 1



Between Alarms



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MAY 2015

NUMBER 48

WELCOME

Welcome to the 48th edition of “*Between Alarms*”.

Our newsletter will update you on all of our activities and our upcoming 42nd Annual Bazaar.

RABIES CLINIC

Our Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, June 6th 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 \$10.00 per inoculation. Plan to join us on the 7th to both provide for your pet’s safety and help us with this fundraiser.

16th ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The response to our 16th Annual Fund Drive has been very good. Through May 11th we have received just over \$27,000.00 in donations.

The initial request was sent on April 1st and a follow up request was sent on May 5th. We expect to receive several thousand dollars more in the weeks/months ahead and are confident that our total will be in the mid thirty thousand dollar range.

The proceeds of the Annual Fund Drive are being applied to the renovations of the firehouse building. The proceeds of the Annual Bazaar will be held in reserve for our monthly vehicle payments. Overall, we are pleased to report that we are in sound financial standing.



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Mountaintop, Pennsylvania 18707



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Herron has been an active member of the fire company for over 25 years. Initially joining as a junior firefighter, Mike has served in many capacities and is currently a Trustee.

Mike is a skilled tradesman with vast experience in construction. Within the fire company, he has evolved into our fix it person, making the various repairs needed to maintain our facilities in top condition. Mike also serves as the EMA coordinator for Fairview Township.

We value Mike's membership and appreciate everything he does to help throughout the year.

FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

In 2014 we undertook extensive improvements to the exterior of the firehouse building. Many have complimented us on the new look of the firehouse.

This year we sought to freshen the inside of the building. Initially painting the interior of the building and the replacement of the lighting in our meeting room with energy efficient LED lighting was planned. When the work was complete we started to discuss the condition of the concrete floor in the bays. The floor was in fair condition. In forty two years of winters, dripping salt from the trucks had damaged areas of the floor. Additionally, there were cracks in the floor and some of the joints had widened with age. We interviewed a few floor restoration companies and hired Engine Bay Floors of Macungie, PA for the job. The work included mechanically cleaning the existing floor; removing any imperfections with grinders; coating the floor with bonding epoxy, including the joints, and adding two coats of floor resurfacing materials with the second coat being a pigmented, aliphatic polyurethane solid color finish. We chose to maximum thickness of ¼" coating available to guarantee the best wear and tear for the surface. We also added a 6" cove base around the perimeter, which will make hosing and cleaning the floor a breeze.

In order to do the floor, our old wooded turnout gear lockers had to be removed. Removing the lockers gave us the opportunity to make various repairs to the walls behind them. The lockers were replaced with Groves Red Rock all wire storage lockers which we assembled and installed. The new lockers are larger than the old ones, providing more storage but more importantly allowing for our turnout gear to be hung for drying purposes after use. The new lockers are about 12" above the floor surface which allows for convenient cleaning of the area.

Shortly we will replace the floor in the meeting room with a commercial grade product. To date, we have spent approximately \$33,000.00 on the work. The funds received in our 2015 Annual Fund Drive are being used for this project.

Depending on how our fundraising goes in the months ahead, we hope to replace all of the lighting in our engine bays with LED lighting in the fall. Not only is the LED lighting very energy efficient, it is brighter.

Overall, the work has transformed the appearance of the interior of the building. We are all very pleased with the look.

BAZAAR CORPORATE SPONSORS

A large part of the success of our Bazaar is the funds we receive from businesses 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 signs 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 @ 570-715-7750 by June 1st if you would like to become a sponsor.

42nd ANNUAL BAZAAR

We are busily preparing for our 42nd Annual Bazaar to be held July 17th, 18th and 19th.

New this year, popular Mountaintop resident, Carl Alber and his band Sundance, will play Sunday from 4:00-7:00 PM during the Bazaar.

Mountaintop DJs will provide music nightly at 7:00 PM. Friday night Tom Emanski will entertain, followed by Mike 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 in the firehouse building.

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.

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.

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 570-715-7750 or 570-474-9381 if you would like to volunteer.

BAZAAR AUCTION AND THEME BASKETS

Our New Merchandise Auction will be held on Sunday at 5:00 PM during the Bazaar. Once again we will have dueling Auctioneers. Long-time Auctioneer Frank Orloski, Jr. is able to serve this year and will be joined by Paul Eyerman, Jr. on the platform. Two Auctioneers make the Auction fun while raising a lot of money for the fire 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. Many remark that our basket prizes are among the best that they see at the Bazaars they attend. We have various electronic devices with many prizes valued at several hundred dollars. Last year we

had an enormously popular Green Egg Grill which we hope to have again this year. We will also have a beautiful handmade quilt from resident Mary McGinnis.

Blasi Printing will once again provide the purchaser friendly tickets for the Basket Auction. The purchaser only has to fill out their contact information once for multiple plays. This format has significantly increased our ticket sales. Our thanks to Blasi Printing for donating the tickets.

If you would like to donate to either the Auction or organize/donate a basket, please call Dave Hourigan at 570-715-7750 during the day or 570-474-9381 in the evening.

WORK ON THE MOUNTAIN

The work has resumed in the northbound lane of Route 309 which necessitated the closure of one lane to access the embankment. During construction last year a soil seam was discovered in the rock embankment which must be permanently sealed to prevent erosion which could result in a collapsing or shifting of the rock embankment. The work involves drilling bolts into the rock that will then be used to secure permanent materials to close the opening. The work starts about 70' up the embankment and will work its way down the roadway. The dirt embankment added in March will be gradually lowered as the work progresses. This process will take approximately three months.

Once the embankment is secure, drainage work will be completed on both sides of the roadway to cure the water that flows across the road. This work is projected to take additional two months.

The good news is that the northbound lanes will be resurfaced from the top of the Mountain to Pine Run Road when everything is completed.

During construction there were very few accidents on the Mountain. Simply, people being forced to drive slower accomplished this fact. However, upon reopening of the Mountain there were numerous accidents in the northbound lanes, many occurring in a particular spot just above Pine Run Road. Fairview and Hanover officials are working with PennDot and the contractor to assure steps are taken to prevent accidents in the area. Clearly, speed has been a factor in the accidents, but it is felt that additional safeguards are needed because of the frequency of the crashes.

THE ALARMS

In the period of November 1st to April 30th we answered 92 calls for assistance. The calls within our township were as follows: Motor Vehicle Accidents – 15; Automatic Fire Alarms – 6; CO Alarms – 5; Wires Down – 4; Smoke Investigations – 3; EMS Assists – 3;

Gas Leaks – 3; Traffic Control – 2; Brush Fires – 2; Structure Fire – 1; Stove Fire – 1; Chimney Fire – 1; Burning Complaint – 1 and Search Woodlands. We assisted other townships as follows: Wright Township – 26; Rice Township – 12; Hanover Township – 2; Dorrance Township – 1; Nuangola – 1; Duryea – 1 and Freeland – 1.

Our call volume has increased significantly year to date compared to prior years. We are responding to more assists to Wright Township, which is a factor. Wright Township responds to many of our calls. The dual response assures a sufficient number of firefighters to manage the calls.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compared to all of our activities and events in 2014, so far 2015 has been a relatively quiet year at the firehouse. Our winter project of freshening the paint in the firehouse turned into a much larger project. However, unlike most of our projects, the redo of the floor required the assistance of professionals so there was not days of work involved for us to complete the project. We removed and discarded the old lockers, raised any fixtures off the floor and then watched the professionals give a handsome and practically new look to the engine bays. Installed the new lockers only took a few hours and we were back in business. I believe you will be delighted with the work completed when you visit the firehouse.

Mountaintop is a caring and special community where people care about the community and one another. As we planned the floor renovation we knew that the vehicles would need to be parked outside for several nights. We thought later April would be fine, however on night two of homeless fire trucks, the weather decided not to cooperate. We needed to find a garage for two pumper trucks so the freeze would not harm them. I called John Reilly from Reilly's Garage on North Main Street. He immediately responded that he would make room for the trucks in his busy place of business and we could bring the trucks down. For two nights all of our equipment was stored at Reilly's Garage, our members were notified of the equipment's location and everything worked out. John's help was immeasurable and selfless. He placed helping the community above his business needs. A true story of people caring and helping one another in our community.

Several years ago I wrote about what a delight it was for me to watch my 3 years old daughter Meghan attend her first Bazaar, being shown around by her big brother Kevin, who was six. The Bazaar loomed large for them at that age, they had a blast together. Unfortunately our children grow up but much to my delight as young adults Kevin and Meghan continue to enjoy the Bazaar. Now they invite friends from college who love visiting Mountaintop and attending the Bazaar. Their friends, from metropolitan areas, tell

me that growing up they never experienced a community event like the Bazaar and felt the sense of community that they do in their visit. Two years ago when the Small Games of Chance enforcement began, we learned the Bazaars are unique to Northeastern Pennsylvania as we expressed our concerns to our legislators about the changes.

Sometimes we don't realize things we take for granted are really unique. Perhaps this is the case with how we look at Bazaars in the area.

Although the number of Bazaars is dwindling due to the lack of volunteers, our Bazaar remains strong and profitable due to the commitment of our members to host and the tremendous response of our community to support it. Thank you to all who make this possible. It truly is a special event plus a hugely important fundraiser for the Mountaintop Hose Company No. 1.

If you have not attended the Bazaar, plan to do so this summer. Come and experience the positive energy of our community, enjoy our delicious food and perhaps win a valuable prize.

As I complete this edition of "*Between Alarms*" we have gone from winter to summer. Somehow we missed spring. Enjoy the months ahead as we certainly earned the right to do so after enduring the winter we experienced.

Dave Hourigan