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The Bulldog Bulletin ®

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company (GTVFC)

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Views of a New Member

By S. Anzulewicz—Fire Fighter

Joining the company is a mix of nervousness and excitement. You start out by going to the fire hall on Tuesday nights, typically after many weeks (or months...or years) of thought. The first two weeks is spent learning the rules of the department and meeting the officers. You get a tour of the Engine and a sponsor to help you with your probation period. Every week you attend the meeting you're nervous because you don't know what to say. Finally a break comes and someone invites you to help them and a conversation begins. Relief comes because you're involved in activity...washing vehicles, running power tools, and helping inspect air packs. Initially you're afraid to call someone by the wrong name so you focus on remembering everyone. For a while you continue with mixed thoughts about your "fit" with the company however little by little your comfort, knowledge, and commitment grow.

You'll get your own gear and a pager and immediately think "How do I put this on?" and "How will I know where to go?" You're first call (since you have a pager) is an experience as you quickly learn the speed of the veteran members. Most likely you'll arrive and the engine will have already left. Luckily you'll have an idea of where to go and your efforts are noted. As a new member you'll have a mix of feelings about wanting to take action at calls and not knowing exactly what action you should take. The department officers and other members will offer you guidance and support. You're overwhelmed and amazed at the amount of activity on scene and the structure of the department working as a team. While you may get anxious to jump right in, be assured that you will be given training and support before taking action. You learn the success of the company and are amazed at the dedication of the volunteers of Station 24.

Gradually you start putting the pieces together and gain your bearings at the department. You begin taking courses and learning the basics...rolling hose, climbing ladders, and most importantly how to use and wear an airpark. You'll attend Hazmat training which is more risky, however helps protect you and possibly reduce the impact to the environment or the surrounding areas through defensive actions. You'll take a burn class and have the opportunity to put your newly learned skills to work (as well as learn where you need some more training). Throughout everything fellow volunteers give you direction and support and a premium is placed on your safety.

After one year as a volunteer of the fire department I have seen a lot of things... some good...some bad. I under-

stand why the volunteers from station 24 do what they do and what the business is about. Heroes don't save lives or put out fires a TEAM puts out fires and save lives. Throughout the past year I have learned of the commitment of the volunteers of Station 24 and understand how vital of a role they play in our community. Despite my initial anxiety, my decision to join Station 24 has been a very positive experience. I have gained a wealth of knowledge, met some terrific people, and most importantly have found a way to give back to my community.

I encourage anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or even "just wondering" to come to the fire hall on Tuesday nights at 7pm.

NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SERVICE

Available for township residents (e.g. hospital to home and hospital to hospital), on 24 hours notice. After 4:00 PM if on a weekday. This allows for emergency calls during work days when crews are at a minimum.

- **Call — 570-282-4981 or 570-680-0024; E-mail— [Greenfield fire@echoes.net](mailto:Greenfieldfire@echoes.net); or write to GTVFC.**

HEALTH TIP

People on daily medications should keep a list of their medications, strengths and times taken per day (include supplements) with them at all times. This list can be kept on a post-card size piece of paper and carried in your wallet or purse. Ambulance and emergency room personnel need this information in an emergency. Update the list with every change.

Do your physicians a favor as well. Provide the same list to each and every doctor you visit. Physicians keep records of what they prescribe for patients, usually in their notes. A complete list of medications in your file will save them a lot of time. The list, given to a doctor on your first time visit, will be welcome and could avoid prescribing conflicting medications.

Fire Hall Breakfasts

The last Sunday of every month from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, except Easter and Xmas. for which dates are established annually. Everyone is welcome. Start a tradition! Bring the whole family!

Fire Fighters Night Before Christmas

By Mark S. Warnick

GTVFC has received the author's permission to reprint the following poem written in December 2001. Mr. Warnick is Founder and Chief of Operations of the non-profit organization Helping Our Own, Firefighter helping Firefighter.

‘Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, all the firefighters were asleep, even the one called ‘The Louse’,

The bunk room was filled, with fa-ts and snores, with visions of no fires, nor calls to pry open doors,

And the Captain had just laid down, his big fat head, hopping and praying the night would be dead.

When he heard a noise, out in the bay, If it were a burglar again, what would he say,

As he snuck around the corner, and stepped on to the bay floor, he saw such a sight, one never saw before,

It was Claus standing there, looking at the truck with awe, the old man was crying, and quivering his jaw,

The Captain filled with compassion, put a hand on his shoulder, comforting as he'd done, helping others many times over,

He said ‘It's ok pops’. as Santa shivered and cried, Claus replied ‘I'm so sorry, I'm thinking of your brothers, that have died’,

‘I stood here looking, at the soot covered gear, and thought of them all, who advanced with no fear’,

‘I thought of the victims, they'd cut out of cars, and the drunk that they'd helped, who had just left the bars’,

‘I though of your brothers, who ran out of air in a fire, and the ones who have helped, a child with bike, put air in the tire’,

‘I thought of their families, who wonder and worry, when they leave for work, in a mighty big hurry’,

‘How fireman give selflessly, in a wreck, disaster or fire, how they get the job done, and never, ever, seem to tire’,

‘I bowed my head in silence, and much to my surprise, a

tear welled up, then more, till they filled up my eyes,

‘How do you do it Cap?’, he asked in sadness, ‘It's in our hearts (the Captain) replied, and we do it with gladness.’

At that time the tones went off, ‘Gotta go’ said the captain with a sigh, ‘Someone's in trouble, so I must say goodbye.’

As the crew loaded up, old Claus he stood back, knowing these firefighters had just left the sack,

As they pulled out of the station, wiping sleep from their eyes, a firefighter said ‘Hey Cap’, ‘Was that Saint Nick?’ with surprise,

Claus smiled and replied, ‘Thanks David and Michael, Jim and Louse, thanks all you firefighters, who save peoples houses,’

‘Thanks Art and Steve, Harvey, Sherrie and Ryan, I don't know how you do it, but somehow you keep from cryin’’,

‘May God keep you safe, and in the palm of His hands, keep you and guide you, while you serve and protect these great lands’.

Season's Greetings from GTVFC

May Love and Laughter fill your life this

Holiday Season

And throughout the New Year

2005 Fund Drive Final

Of the 1338 fund drive requests sent out to both residential and commercial township residents in three separate requests, we had 506 donations. Please note we make every effort not to send out duplicate requests. Once a donation has been received with a returned request form, the donor receives our newsletter only. We thank the 38% of the township residents for their support in these times of rising costs for everyone.

HAVE A SAFE WINTER DRIVING SEASON!

HANG UP AND DRIVE OR PULL OVER AND TALK!

Firefighter's Journal

By L. Bales—Firefighter / EMT

Reflections

Just a few days before I had a conversation with him, not small talk, a real conversation. I asked what hours he's really open and his response touched my heart and made me smile. “5 to 8,” he said, “unless the grandkids call, when you hear those little voices say ‘Poppy’ you have to go.” 55 hours later I was standing in front of that same business at quarter to three in the morning. Why such the unique time, well because of a tragedy. A long standing community business went up in smoke.

The first hour went quick then the bad news spread through the firefighters, “He was in there.” My heart sank and my mind kept replaying that brief conversation 56 hours ago, then again every time I saw the faces of the fireman as they came out of the building. The ‘what if’s’ spread through the crowd quickly and just as quick we all came to peace with the facts.

Life is short, make of it what you can while you have the time. Enjoy your family and make someone smile.

Xmas Surprise

Growing up I was amazed by firefighters. I knew my daddy, grand father and my god father were firefighters but when I found out this one person was a firefighter everything changed. Every year the fire company would have a huge holiday party with a very important guest. With the station decorated, the food ready and the children playing and singing, we would wait for the siren and the horns. When that special sound was heard all the children would run to the window and watch for the fire engine come around the corner. Everyone knew the important guest was there when the children screamed with delight and then sat quietly around the big red chair. Silence was the only sound while the special guest stepped off the fire engine, took off his firefighting gear, and climbed the stairs carrying his big red bag towards the anxiously waiting crowd. When he sat in the big red chair and let out a boisterous Ho Ho Ho, everyone knew Santa had come to town **and he was a firefighter!**

GOOD HOLIDAY CHEER DOESN'T MEAN GETTING SMASHED! ENJOY BUT STAY SOBER!

Compassion & Donation

By A. F. Karolyi—Administrative Member

I don't know about you folks, but the holiday season seems to fill my mailbox with many requests for charitable donations. Some religious, some not, some commercial. It's amazing how many organizations exist requiring donations to continue their work. It's equally amazing how you don't hear of some of them except around the holidays. Of course there are the national organizations such as the Heart Association, Lung Association, Cancer Research, etc; who don't believe in soliciting donations only once a year but repetitively send requests during the year. Now don't misunderstand, these are all worthy organizations and by no means is this article saying you shouldn't support them with your donations if you are so inclined. Support the organizations of your choice.

However if you are on a limited income and I don't mean just retirees (try raising a family of kids now days), there has to be some way of expressing your compassion for people less fortunate or in extenuating circumstances other than donating money! You can make a difference in someone's life by **doing and giving of your time and effort** instead of just donating money. If you think about it, you, your friends or neighbors can surely think of someone who is frail, elderly, sick, have disabilities, recently lost a loved one, or lost their job.

There are many ways to show compassion by **doing** and not necessarily donating money.

- Visiting with someone who is living alone and/or recently lost a loved one. Loneliness can be debilitating. Better yet, invite them to dinner with your family.
- Help someone with difficult chores who cannot do for themselves. Things like shoveling snow or as simple as walking their dog if they are temporarily incapacitated.
- Give someone a ride to the market and if you can afford it, a bag of groceries for anyone down on their luck would be most welcome.

These are a few compassionate actions. I'm sure you can think of more. ***You know, this activity can be a year round thing, not just during the holiday season! Think about it!***

DO NOT GO AND DRINK AND DRIVE! WE WANT YOU TO STAY ALIVE!