



FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD

Winter Newsletter 2019



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Greetings fellow Fanwoodians! As I am writing this, the warmer summer weather has become a fond memory while cooler temperatures have triggered the emerging fall foliage crescendo. Before too long, we will be celebrating the autumn holidays and then the winter holiday season will be upon us.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a burgeoning crisis among volunteer agencies, but especially among emergency medical services corps. Post 9/11, 2003 saw America peak in its overall volunteerism with approximately 28.8% of the population offering their time in some sort of volunteer capacity. In suburban areas such as Fanwood, the nationwide average was even higher, at 30.1%. Those percentages held steady for about three years and then began to decline. In 2015, which is the latest year for which data is available, the overall national share of our citizens that volunteers has dropped to 24.9% which is the lowest rate that the US has experienced in over 20 years. Some areas fared better, some worse.

In NJ, there was at the peak of the volunteerism culture, over 600 volunteer ambulance squads in the 1960s and 1970s. Today there are less than half that. Since 2015, we have seen squads in Bogota, East Brunswick, Maywood, Roselle Park, and West Orange close their doors for good. Countless other communities have been forced to contract with paid agencies to cover the gaps that they began to experience because they were not able to attract and/or retain the personnel necessary to address the local need. And there are no signs of improvement on the horizon.

The reality that peers us in the face is that many veteran members are reaching retirement age and are unable to continue with the rigor of renewing their EMT certification cycle after cycle. Many younger members are more focused in other areas as society dictates to them as compared to their veteran counterparts and often merely utilize a volunteer stint as a means to an end; they volunteer to enhance their college application, and once accepted at their desired institution of higher learning, often we never see them again. We have some very dedicated younger members who are committed to our mission, but we need more! And not just younger members, we would love to speak to you, Stay-At-Home-Parent or Retiree who has a few hours during the day to help your fellow residents. Have you recently moved into Fanwood and would like to get to know the ropes of living here? There's no better way than volunteering with the Fanwood

Rescue Squad and getting to know your neighbors while learning a valuable skill that will pay dividends throughout your life.

The bottom line is this: without dedicated volunteers, our squad will not be able to continue to provide the emergency medical services to the community that you have come to expect and depend upon. We are appealing to you to explore volunteering opportunities with us and help us in our mission to continue to provide quality, reliable, and free emergency medical services to the residents of Fanwood. We provide for

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OFFICERS-ELECT FOR 2020

President: Jamie Pedinoff	Captain: Christian Roman
Vice President: Dave Zawodniak	1st Lieutenant: Marcus Valdez, III
Treasurer: Nam-June Joe	2nd Lieutenant: Chrissy O'Connor
Recording Secretary: Patty Buckridee	Sergeant: Shreya Kachroo
Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Walker	

PLEASE SUPPORT US – DONATE TODAY!

The Fanwood Rescue Squad is a 100% volunteer organization, and not a municipal entity. Your generous donations are used to maintain our emergency vehicles, and to purchase life-saving equipment and supplies.

We are an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Many companies match employee donations. Does yours? Double your impact!



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all your training and there are attractive incentives to keep you involved. Check out our website at fanwoodrescue.com, our Facebook page, or email me at captain@fanwoodrescue.com and let's begin a dialogue about how we can help each other. And if you absolutely are unable to give of your time, we still graciously accept your generous donations.

Thank you for considering partnering with us in whichever manner you are able. I wish you all a peaceful upcoming holiday season, and please stay safe.

Patty Buckridee

2019 Captain

captain@fanwoodrescue.com

WINTER EMERGENCIES

As we are beginning to feel in the night time and early mornings, winter is right around the corner! It's important to remember to stay warm and dress well for the weather, as well as to be aware of what emergencies can happen when the temperature drops.

Some people hate wearing hats, and some don't. But did you know that 40-45% of your body heat is lost through your head? It's true! Wearing a hat in the winter might seem like a small thing, but it makes a world of difference!

It is also important to recognize when to stay off the roads. When it gets cold, any amount of moisture on the roads can make it slippery and unsafe to drive on. Driving through snow and rain can be dangerous, so sometimes it is best to just stay home.

Please remember to change the batteries on your CO and fire alarms and make sure to contact emergency services if any of the alarms sound! Carbon monoxide is odorless and can kill you if not recognized, so early recognition is the best kind of recognition.

To conclude, dressing appropriately for the weather, knowing when it is safe to drive, and keeping your respective alarms properly functioning are keys to enjoying a safe and warm winter!



#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazon smile

Support Fanwood Rescue Squad, Inc. when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6047101



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

My name is Ewelina Golec, and I am one of the members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. Currently, I am also a sophomore at Rutgers majoring in nursing. My hometown is in Linden, but I decided to volunteer here because of all the great things I've heard about Fanwood and its community. I've been a member of the Fanwood Rescue Squad beginning around July of this year. Additionally, I have already obtained my EMT license during my senior year in high school through a course offered by my school, the Academy for Allied Health Sciences.

Though I haven't been on the squad for long, I've been able to experience and learn a lot from the calls I've had the opportunity to work in. It has been an honor and delight to not only help serve Fanwood's community, but to also work with the other members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. I'm excited and looking forward to see what more the future brings through working at the FRS.



Do you have any small stuffed animals you would like to donate?

We will gladly accept them and use them to help comfort our pediatric patients in emergency situations. These donations should be clean and washed, in good condition, not scary, and free of any tears, smells, or stains.

Please write to treasurer@fanwoodrescue.com if you are interested in donating. Thank you!



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