

FRS HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION



Original Fire Dept/Rescue Squad HQ

For the first 30 years of its life, the Fanwood Rescue Squad operated out of the Fanwood Fire Company's headquarters on Watson Road where the pocket park is now located. In those days, the ambulances were Cadillacs-- essentially, station wagons converted to hold a stretcher and equipment. But ambulances were changing. The box-type van was becoming the state of the art in emergency vehicles. And over the decades, the Rescue Squad had come into its own as a

busy and vital part of Fanwood's emergency response system. And so, after much debate and considerable resistance from some forces in the borough, the Rescue Squad undertook to build its own headquarters building in a new location across the street.



Groundbreaking by Bob Rau, Jim Russell and Bill Crosby

Ground was broken in March, 1977. The construction was totally supervised by members of the Building Committee, chaired by member Jim Russell. Squad members, local Boy Scouts and other members of the community helped with everything from clearing land to painting.

The building was dedicated on September 25, 1977. The dedication ceremony was attended by members of the Rescue Squad, Fire Company and town officials, plus members of the public. The entire project cost only \$30,000 because of the many hours put in by volunteers who worked for no pay. The dedication party inside the squad building included a buffet in the ambulance bay and a brass band.

Today's building stands exactly as it did in September, 1977, with the exception of some cosmetic changes, replacement doors and windows and a couple of paint jobs.

The furnace/central air unit and water heater have been replaced. A backup generator was installed following a tornado in 1999 that took out power to parts of the borough for days. A computer network was installed by volunteer members in 2006. A new flagpole was installed in 2008.

Today, we recall the words of Robert Rau, Construction Committee member:

"I dedicate this building for the use and well being of all who may use the services of the Fanwood Rescue Squad in the years to come. May it serve them well, lessen their hurt and comfort all who need the services of their fellow man".

(Scroll down for pictures)

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



THE CEREMONIAL MOVE OF CAR "W" FROM THE OLD BUILDING TO THE NEW



The last of the squad's Cadillacs, Car W, moved from the old building to the new on September 25, 1977, and was joined by the brand new 1977 Dodge Mini-Mod ambulance. It was during this time the ambulances were named Car 78 and 79 by police chief Anthony Parenti.

**DEDICATION OF THE NEW FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 25, 1977**



Building Committee Chairman Jim Russell



Squad President Bob Scala



The first of many parties in the ambulance bay



The old and new ambulances, ready to go



1977 group photo