



SINCE 1948

FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD

Winter Newsletter 2020



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Greetings fellow Fanwood Residents!

Another year is coming to a close, and what a year it was. As we approach Thanksgiving, the beautiful fall colors have arrived, and the leaves are falling! Before we know it, the winter holidays will be here, and we will be welcoming the snowfall and family occasions to close out the year. Even with the latest burst of warm weather, we are thankful to have been spared the wrath of recent Hurricanes. A big thank you to the Fanwood DPW for their frequent leaf pickups to keep our streets clean.

During this time the Fanwood Rescue Squad has continued to grow and thrive with your help. We are seeing a stream of new members who are ready, willing, and able to help our fellow Fanwoodians in their time of need. Perhaps you have seen our recruitment signs throughout town. Should you wish to explore the possibility of joining us, please visit our website and fill out the "Contact Us" form. Your help, whether it be as simple as a wellness check or responding to an auto accident, could save the life of a fellow resident. What greater joy could there be!

Some highlights for 2020 include:

- We have answered over 285 calls for assistance through the end of October compared to 240 calls in the same period in 2019.
- Our older ambulance was retrofitted at substantial savings.
- Both of our ambulances' ventilation systems were evaluated for their ability to safely handle COVID-19 patients and those who follow. Enhanced sanitization procedures were instituted to further ensure safety.
- Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been distributed for all of our members and patients.
- A new Medical Director has joined the squad, providing further guidance to our members and enabling us to provide enhanced treatment.

With your continued help in the form of monetary donations and time, the Fanwood Rescue Squad will continue to grow and (continued on the reverse side)



WELCOME OUR NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Hello Fanwood Residents!

My name is Daniel Friedman, DO. I am an Attending Emergency Physician and Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at Weill-Cornell Medical Center in New York. Just shy of two years ago my wife, Jodie, and our ten-year-old daughter,

Adriana, and I packed up our dog, Strax, left our apartment in Jersey City and moved to Fanwood. I cannot thank you all enough for welcoming us so warmly and enveloping us into the community. We have truly fallen in love with our home and the Borough of Fanwood and it is because of this love and sense of community that I am humbled and excited to have accepted the position of Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services in the Borough of Fanwood.

I began my medical career as an EMS volunteer during my freshman year of undergrad at SUNY Albany. Ultimately, this volunteership gave way to becoming a paramedic and eventually enrolling at Nova South Eastern Medical School. Upon graduation I completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, Florida, after which I moved back north and completed a fellowship in Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Management at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

I have spent the past few months getting to know our current squad and trying to take as many calls as I can and I am truly impressed with the system that has been created and am excited to be a part of it. As EMS Medical Director my goal is to promote continuous quality improvement and advocating for patient-centered delivery of medical care by our EMS service. EMS is often viewed as a transportation and public safety entity, however it is also a practice of medicine and therefore, there is a need to ensure that our EMS provides the highest quality of medical care to our community. I value the recognition by the American Board of Medical Specialties that EMS is a bona fide practice of medicine and believe this recognition highlights the importance of patient safety as a responsibility of an EMS agency.

I look forward to many happy and healthy years as your Medical Director and neighbor.

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!



(continued)

serve our residents as we have for the past 72 years. Our plans for the future include adding half-face respirators to our PPE.

I hope 2021 finds the world pandemic free, enabling us to return to the many activities that make our town so special, including the Easter Egg Hunt, the Memorial Day Parade, the Halloween Trunk or Treat and the Fanny Wood Day celebration.

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. Check out our website, our Facebook page, or email me at captain@fanwoodrescue.com.



Get to know us and help us pay it forward to others.

Thank you for helping us however you can, as every little bit helps. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and enjoyable holiday season and end of year!

Ian J. Lewis
Captain



AMBULANCE 579 BACK IN SERVICE!

Our older ambulance suffered a serious mechanical failure earlier in the year. We chose to remount it, rather than

purchase an entirely new vehicle. We kept the ambulance box, which is in excellent condition, and replaced the old, worn out chassis with a new one, for a third the cost of a new ambulance. The remount was performed by SIV Ambulances in Langhorne, PA. The ambulance is identical to the familiar brown and tan ambulances you've seen around town for generations, except for the new reliable gasoline engine under the hood. Unit 579 is already answering calls. If you see it around town, please wave! We sincerely appreciate the help of countless local businesses and residents who generously donated their time and talent during this project, most notably Joe DiQuollo of Northeast Doors in Scotch Plains and Matt Russo of H's Towing in Westfield.

A sincere thank you to all of the local businesses who generously donated funds, meals, services, and supplies over the past several months:

Fabio's Bistro, Fanwood Bagel, Fanwood Chemical, Fanwood Dental Group, LLC, Fanwood Pharmacy, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Foundation, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, Fanwood-Westfield Cardiology, FLAG of SPF, Girl Scouts, Law Offices of Michael S. Doran, LLC, Lightbridge Academy, NAPA Auto Parts, Northeast Doors, Rosie's Wine Bar, Schembre & Gannon, LLC, Scotchwood Florist, Williams Surgical



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JOHN CRIFASI

I've always had an interest in first aid and the jobs that I've held over the years have given me plenty of first aid and CPR training. It did give me the chance to use first aid a couple of times over the years, usually with bad cuts and some painful injuries on the soccer field. Almost 6 years ago, my granddaughter was diagnosed with cancer. 18 months of in and out of the hospital and major major surgeries. I gained an enormous respect for the Nurses and Doctors that still come to work day in and day out, knowing that they were going to be dealing with kids with cancer and their families, yet still maintained a positive outlook helping families get through another day. My granddaughter passed away 1 month after her second birthday. Since then, even though it is very tough for me to talk about it, I've wanted to do something to maybe help people who really need help and thought about maybe volunteering at a children's hospital, but I wasn't sure that I could handle that. One day driving home, I saw the signs looking for volunteers for the Rescue Squad and I was like, what the heck, the worst that can happen is that they say you are too old to start. My 60th birthday was right around the corner and every time I see squad members they seem to be young enough to be my children. I was very wrong, I spoke to the Captain and other squad members and they were more than encouraging. I've been on like 10 ambulance runs already and even though I'm not an EMT yet, I start class in January, I feel like I am a tiny piece of the puzzle that helps to relieve the suffering of the person in our ambulance and maybe one day, I will be a bigger piece. I spent more than half my life living in NYC where you dial 911 and some stranger comes and may have no connection with the community. I never needed an ambulance while I was there but there is something very special about community members making sacrifices to help the people of the community. I hope it never goes away like what is happening in other NJ communities. It's not a job that you just do and then punch a clock and go home. You help people locally.

