

Pleasant Unity VFD

135 John George Street
P.O. Box 197
Pleasant Unity, PA 15676-0197
Emergency Dial 911—station 724-423-6179
Website: www.puvfd.org E-Mail: puvfd@wpa.net

Summer 2012

Newsletter



(above L to R) Unity Township Supervisors John Mylant and Mike O'Barto, Henschel, PUVFD President James Rosebosky



William P. "Bill" Henschel

FIRE CHIEF RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS!

Pleasant Unity Volunteer Fire Chief William P. "Bill" Henschel has decided to hang up his Chief's helmet after 33 years, serving the longest in that capacity as any other Pleasant Unity VFD Chief. Bill became fire chief for the department in 1979 succeeding former Chief John M. "Jack" Kolling to become just the seventh Fire Chief in the department's 95 year history.

John M. Bash was the first Fire Chief when the department organized in 1917 then was followed by Joseph J. Hutter who served until 1938. Patsy J. Costable served as Chief beginning in 1939 for the next 22 years followed by Richard J. Kolling who served for 12 years. Robert S. Gettemy, Jr. served just one year as Chief in 1973 before Jack Kolling's 5 year stint as Chief ending in 1978. Bill joined Pleasant Unity Volunteer Fire Department on August 30, 1972 when he was 18 years old.

During his tenure as head of the department he helped facilitate the purchase of five Pleasant Unity VFD fire trucks, three Unity Township ladder trucks and was also Chief during the construction of the current fire station that opened in 1985. He also made certain over the years that Pleasant Unity VFD had the best fire and rescue equipment available to protect our residents.

Bill was honored for his years of service as Fire Chief by his family, fellow Pleasant Unity firefighters as well as current and former local Fire Chiefs with a gathering held at the fire department social hall in January. He was presented a proclamation from the Unity Township Board of Supervisors and a plaque from the members of Pleasant Unity VFD to commemorate his years of service as Fire Chief at the gathering on Saturday.

Even though Bill has stepped down as the head of the department, Bill plans to remain as an active firefighter for many years to come. His dedication and commitment to the residents of Unity Township and surrounding communities is proven without further explanation due to the length of time he has served as the head of the department. John Bacha, an assistant chief under Henschel for the last 16 years has taken over the job as Fire Chief. Longtime assistant chief Bernie Cutlip remains as assistant chief along with first time assistant chiefs, W. Jake Henschel (Bill's son) and Mark Ferrenberg.

BRAND NEW WEBSITE

PUVFD has taken another leap in the world of technology with a new website for the department. Our original website was created by a local website designer at no cost to PUVFD but updates to information were difficult. The new user friendly website contains loads of new information, current news stories, recent calls and upcoming events in addition to an apparatus gallery, pictures, guestbook and much more. The updated website allows us the ability to add information at any time with little effort. Please take a few minutes to check out all the sections of the website and don't forget to enter your email address in the "Newsletter" section down the left margin so you will receive news updates directly to your email. The only emails you will receive are updates and announcements from PUVFD—we will NOT provide email addresses to any third party.

WWW.PUVFD.ORG



(above) Home page of new PUVFD website.

(right) PUVFD Firefighters at Truckapaloosa with the Tower Ladder truck.



PUVFD DISPLAYS THE UNITY TOWNSHIP TOWER LADDER AT TRUCKAPALOOSA

PUVFD firefighters showed youngsters all the functions of the tower ladder truck. The event held at the Unity Township Municipal Building is geared toward youngsters who can view, take photos and climb on big trucks and work vehicles. Face painting, games and refreshments were also available for this event sponsored by the Latrobe Chapter of Women's Business Network.

Pleasant Unity VFD

Summer 2012

SMOKE DETECTORS

It is imperative that you check your smoke detectors operation regularly. If you can't remember the last time you changed the battery it is likely time for a change. We have had many incidents where smoke detectors made a difference between life and death.

NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

Sometimes during a severe weather event our county 911 system can get somewhat overwhelmed due to the high volume of calls they receive for assistance. When this happens the 911 center automatically begins to prioritize emergency calls countywide. A lower priority call in our area can be held by the dispatch center while they take care of higher priority incidents in other portions of the county. We have had this happen on a few occasions when storms went through the county causing some low priority damage in our area and higher priority situations in other parts of the county. As example, a recent winter storm caused some wires down across the roadway which was held for some time. When we finally received the call we were on scene in minutes to handle the situation. The homeowner couldn't understand why it took an hour for us to respond until we explained that we just received the call due to the priority of the situation in relation to other incidents across the county.

If you find yourself in need for the fire department for a storm situation please first call 911 to report your emergency then you may try calling the station at 724-423-6179 as we may have personnel in the station available to respond. Please remember to call 911 first then you may try the station next.



Pleasant Unity VFD firefighters sharpen their skills working on roofs and forcible entry at this state certified class.

TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS CLASS

Six Pleasant Unity VFD firefighters completed a State Certified Truck Company Operations class over several weeks in March and April. The class consisted of both classroom and practical sessions at an acquired house in Unity Township. Congratulations to the firefighters who completed this advanced training.

ADDRESS MARKERS FOR SALE

Pleasant Unity VFD continues to sell the green address signs with reflective numbers for \$15 each. See our website for additional information or call Mark at 724-771-5321.



Pleasant Unity VFD hosts a Spring and Fall Gun Bash each year as a fundraiser for the department. There are raffles for a variety of guns, cash prizes and other sportsmens items all night long.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Spring Tractor/Lawn Equipment Ticket:

Tickets were sold for a chance to win a brand new 2012 Cub Cadet garden tractor, push mower and rototiller along with a Stihl chainsaw, weed wacker and leaf blower, a 6X10 trailer to haul the equipment and a \$50 gas card. The winner was Christine Dreistadt of Pleasant Unity who purchased a ticket at Naser Foods from one of our members.

Summer Benefit Concert

Pleasant Unity VFD will again be hosting an outdoor Summer Concert in conjunction with *Cancer Free Kids* in the ballfield behind the fire station on Saturday, September 1, 2012. A well known local band "Saddle Up" will be providing the entertainment for the second year in a row. Last year's successful event benefited both worthy organizations. Watch for details over the summer.

Bonanza XXVIII Elimination Dinner & Drawing Ticket:

The longest continuous running fundraiser event held by our department is the Bonanza Elimination Dinner & Drawing which will be celebrating its 28th anniversary this fall with the dinner scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2012. For a \$100.00 donation per ticket you get a chance to win \$9,050.00 in cash prizes, receive dinner for the ticketholder and a guest, an open bar and all the fun you can handle. We only sell 175 tickets for this event and after a fine dinner we begin drawing numbers and giving away cash prizes to every 10th number drawn. When we are down to the last 5 people remaining they are invited to our "champagne table" to decide whether to split the grand prize of \$6,500.00 or continue on until one person wins it all. It is an exciting event with many people of the residential and business community who attend. Please consider trying out this event—you won't be sorry. For more information please contact any Pleasant Unity VFD firefighter or call Jake at 724-289-3704.

Fall Gun Bash:

Pleasant Unity VFD holds a Spring and Fall gun bash each year as fundraising events. The Spring gun bash was held Saturday, March 31st and again was a successful event. The Fall gun bash is being held Saturday, September 29th from 5 to 9 PM. Tickets will be available in late July from any Pleasant Unity VFD firefighter, at the Country Café in Pleasant Unity or you can call Scott at 724-640-2315.

Social Hall Rental:

The Pleasant Unity VFD social hall is available for rent for almost any type event. Call Bernie at 724-454-6849 for information and scheduling.

Newsletter