

# Pleasant Unity VFD

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Emergency Dial 911—station 724-423-6179  
Website: [www.puvfd.org](http://www.puvfd.org) E-Mail: [puvfd@wpa.net](mailto:puvfd@wpa.net)

Summer 2013

# Newsletter



PUVFD firefighters practice survival techniques at several different training classes



## FIREFIGHTERS SPEND A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME TRAINING FOR ALL TYPES OF SITUATIONS IN ADDITION TO FUNDRAISING AND RUNNING THE BUSINESS OF A FIRST CLASS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pleasant Unity Volunteer Fire Department members spend several days each month training for different emergency situations they might encounter. Your firefighters must be proficient in vehicle rescue and extrication, rope rescue, hazardous materials, aircraft firefighting, incident command, medical assists and wildfire calls in addition to structural firefighting. Structural firefighting training includes air mask use, firefighting tactics and fire attack, building construction and being able to identify lightweight construction, as well as firefighter survival, self-extrication and rescue techniques. Additional training is required for things such as the proper use of ladders, drivers training, pump operations, aerial ladder use and even proper traffic control procedures.

In addition to the training which must be done on a regular basis, firefighters also spend a great amount of time planning and executing successful fund

raising events just for the ability to continue to operate as a totally 100 percent volunteer firefighting organization. Your department receives some funding from our municipality through the 1 mill dedicated fire tax and local services tax that equals roughly 20 percent of annual operating costs. Four major fundraising events are held each year along with several smaller ticket sales to make up the remainder of the budget. The biggest fundraiser each year is the annual fund drive letter campaign followed by the Spring and Fall Gun Bashes and the Bonanza Ticket Drawing. Raffles for a number of items such as garden tractors, ATV's, snowblowers and cash have been conducted over the years as well to supplement this budget.

After the training and fundraising also comes the business side of the fire department which takes even more man hours. Monthly meetings must be held to conduct business, pay bills, decide on repairs and upgrades needed to the building, trucks and equipment as well as create budgets and audit all funds received and used. Fire personnel also must keep up with a number of regulations and requirements such as annual truck pump testing, hose testing, truck maintenance and inspections, computer data entry of fire reports and equipment inspections. Firefighters also maintain the station and all fire equipment which includes running all power tools, cleaning and checking equipment, washing trucks and cleaning the building on a regular schedule as well as making building repairs.

You should be proud of your local fire department but they need your help. Participating in the fund drive campaign and other fundraisers is critical to their existence. Your firefighters are dedicated and willing—but you need to do your part too.

## INFORMATION VIA WEBSITE

The updated PUVFD website is a user friendly media that contains loads of new information, current news items, recent calls and upcoming events in addition to an apparatus gallery, pictures, guestbook and much more. The website has seen approximately 300 to 500 different users logging on and viewing between 2000 to 2500 pages on the website each and every month. We are happy to see so many people are using this source for happenings at your department and community. If you haven't yet, 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](http://WWW.PUVFD.ORG)



(above) Home page of the PUVFD website.

(right) PUVFD Firefighters patrol local streets during Trick or Treat night in Unity Township



## PUVFD PUBLIC SERVICE DETAILS FOR THE COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN

PUVFD firefighters have patrolled the streets of our home fire district for many years on trick or treat night in the township helping to keep our children safe. Firefighters also drive Santa Claus around these same streets on the back of a fire truck just prior to Christmas passing out treats to our local children. Watch our website for information on dates and times this happens each year.

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## 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.

# Newsletter



William P. "Bill" Henschel

**LONGTIME  
PUVFD FIRE  
CHIEF BILL  
HENSCHEL DIES  
MAY 28, 2013  
AFTER BATTLE  
WITH CANCER**

Bill Henschel joined PUVFD on August 30, 1972 at the age of eighteen. A little over six years later he was elected as a fairly young Chief of the department. Bill was re-elected by his fellow firefighters an additional 32 times serving a total of 33 consecutive years being the longest Fire Chief at PUVFD before hanging up his Chief's hat at the end of 2011. In his younger years, Bill and his fellow PUVFD firefighters were responsible for bringing many training classes and new firefighting equipment to Pleasant Unity and Unity Township. Bill served as Fire Chief during the construction of the current fire station which opened in 1985 and was instrumental in the purchase of five firefighting vehicles bought by PUVFD. He was also a vital part for the purchase of three Unity Township Ladder trucks which have always been operated by PUVFD. Bill made certain over the years that PUVFD had the best fire and rescue equipment available to protect our residents. Unity Township and the Pleasant Unity community lost a dedicated community servant with knowledge and experience that can never be replaced. Rest in peace our brother.

## NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

Please remember that sometimes during a severe weather event the 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.

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.



Neighboring Latrobe VFD Pipe & Drum Band leads the hearse and funeral procession into the cemetery to honor longtime Fire Chief Bill Henschel.

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### Spring Tractor/Lawn Equipment Ticket:

Tickets were sold for a chance to win a brand new 2013 Cub Cadet garden tractor, push mower, garden card and lawn sweeper along with a chainsaw, weed wacker and leaf blower, a 6X10 trailer to haul the equipment and a \$50 gas card. The winner was Matt Keslar of Trauger who happens to be one of our firefighters. Congrats Matt!

### Bonanza XXVIII Elimination Dinner & Drawing Ticket:

The longest 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 9, 2013. 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 PUVFD firefighter or chairman Mark at [bonanza@puvfd.org](mailto:bonanza@puvfd.org) or 724-771-5321.

### Fall Gun Bash:

PUVFD holds a Spring and Fall gun bash each year as fundraising events. The Spring gun bash was held Saturday, March 3rd and again was a successful event. This year's Fall gun bash being held Saturday, September 14th was expanded to 1000 tickets. All guns on this special ticket are made by Browning and a 2013 Polaris Camo ATV will also be given away from the ticket. Tickets for the fall fun bash event are already sold out.

### Social Hall Rental:

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

## ADDRESS MARKERS FOR SALE

PUVFD continues to sell the green address signs with reflective numbers for \$15 each. The address signs can be made horizontally or vertically and make a HUGE difference for emergency responders to help locate your home when responding to emergency calls. You need these signs along the road in front of your house or at the end of your driveway—they really help a lot. Additional information on the website or contact Mark at [addressmarkers@puvfd.org](mailto:addressmarkers@puvfd.org) or 724-771-5321.