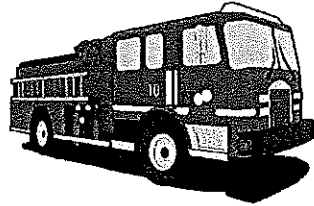


Port Republic Volunteer Fire House News

October, 2019



Dear Community Members,

October is Fire Safety month. This is a reminder to **check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors** to make sure they are working properly. Replace your batteries as needed. Smoke detectors are available to residents free of charge. Please contact City Hall at (609) 652-1501 if you need a smoke detector.

Discuss fire safety with your children. Create a family fire safety plan. We look forward to visiting with your youngsters at the Port Republic School as part of Fire Prevention Month.

The Fire Company **Roast Beef Dinner** was Saturday, October 19th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Thank you for coming out in support of your Fire Company. We would also like to thank the community members who donated their time (and some fabulous baked goods) in support of the dinner.

We are a Volunteer Fire Company and **new members are always welcome.** Training will be provided. We value all skills and talents our members are able to provide including carpentry, plumbing, electrical, accounting, technology, clerical.... Junior members, age 16 and older, are encouraged to join. Our meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month. Please contact Joe Butler at (609) 652-4081 for information on volunteering your time.

You may have noticed that we have a **new storage facility** behind our building. Funds were provided through a memorial donation. In addition, members of the Fire Company and the community volunteered many hours finishing the building. We appreciate and thank all involved. A memorial plaque will be placed on the building acknowledging and thanking our donor.

The Fire Company recently **wrote and received an \$8000 FEMA grant**. Grant funds will be used to purchase updated gear for our members in an effort to stay current with State equipment mandates.

There will be a **Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP)** question on the ballot this year asking residents if they wish to raise the annuity contribution from a maximum of \$575 to \$950 per year. At this time, our city has the second lowest contribution in the county. Approval of this question will place the city's contribution into the mid-range county wide. Currently volunteer members must make a rigorous participation quota (fire and accident calls, work details, training drills, community events...) to receive the LOSAP contribution. Given the rigorous standards, not all members are able to qualify for this benefit. Our members volunteer many hours of their time within the community in addition to participating in hours of state training. Please vote in support of this initiative!

The Firehouse meeting room is available to **rent for your special events**. We have held wedding and baby showers, birthday and anniversary parties. Please contact Mark Evans at (609) 385-6649 for information regarding the use of the Firehouse.

Do not forget to attend the **City Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm**. Santa will be arriving on the fire truck!



Santa will once again be visiting our town on the Fire Truck in December (date to be determined). He will have candy canes to hand out to all our future junior members!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the company. **Be safe and thank you for your support!!!!**

Sincerely,

Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company Members