



Ringwood Borough Volunteer Fire Company #1

169 Stonetown Road, Ringwood, New Jersey 07456
973-248-6334 www.rvfc1.org

TO: THE STONETOWN COMMUNITY

That time of year is again upon us and our annual fund drive has begun. We are again taking this opportunity to share with you some facts, and misconceptions, about your local fire department. We believe that direct correspondence is the best way to share with you this critical information.

Here are some facts that you should know:

Unlike many other towns, Ringwood does not have a 100% tax supported fire company and as long as possible, we would like to keep it this way. **We own, and are responsible for maintaining, our headquarters and all of the costs to run and maintain the building.** These expenses include utility bills, building maintenance, insurance and purchasing of our command vehicles and an extended injury policy for our members. We continue to see these costs escalate annually which makes it more and more difficult to maintain the fire company.

REPLACEMENT AND PURCHASE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT:

The cost to equip one firefighter with the required NFPA and OSHA approved protective turn out gear, PASS alarm, and pager is over \$2,500.00. Often this equipment must be upgraded, as mandated safety guidelines are enhanced, to protect fire fighters in the performance of their duties. We purchase what we need and take excellent care of our equipment to ensure its maximum life span.

VEHICLE APPARATUS:

As you know, no fire hydrants exist in our area. To protect our area, the company has an attack pumper that carries 1,000 gallons of water, a tanker/pumper that carries 2,500 gallons, and a third tanker that also carries 2,500 gallons. In addition to our on-board supply, all of our vehicles are capable of drafting water from local fire suction points, and if need be from swimming pools. To its credit the town council bonds and pays for the cost of these vehicles, including their insurance, maintenance, repairs, and fuel costs. In Ringwood a vehicle is expected to last 20 years.

ANSWERING THE CALL:

During the last fiscal year, we answered 212 alarms! We have suppressed fires, assisted in extricating people from motor vehicle crashes, searched for lost persons, established landing zones for medivac helicopters, delivered electrical generators for life supporting devices during power failures, pumped water from flooded basements, and removed fallen trees from across our area roads. We participate in the annual Ringwood Fire Expo, and provide fire prevention education to the local schools and day care centers, all during the month of October. We hold our annual Christmas party for the community, which is a tradition that started over 35 years ago, the cost of which is paid for by our members and is enjoyed each year by a growing number of attendees.

WHAT THE COMPANY GETS:

The town council contributes slightly above \$40,000.00 a year for which we submit an annual detailed listing of all expenditures.

WHAT THE MEMBERS GET:

The town council offers every qualifying member a \$425.00 annual clothing allowance and an annual contribution of approximately \$800.00 to a fire service retirement account. These contributions are earned by attending a set percentage of alarms in addition to the approximate 70 monthly meetings, drills, and work details.

WHAT THE MEMBERS DO NOT GET:

Some fire companies have abused the public trust and the newspapers have carried their stories. Unfortunately, these sensational news accounts created pockets of public suspicion about the fire service in some communities.

Rest assured at your fire company there is no free anything! No free food or beverages of any kind! Members pay for everything, even the bottled water and coffee consumed during a protracted alarm.

WHY DO WE DO IT:

We do it because it has to be done! We are volunteers! We do not complain about a false alarm at 2:00 AM as the next one could be real. We enjoy giving back to the community we love and take satisfaction in being able to help someone in a dire hour of need.

WE CAN NOT CONTINUE TO DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

The difference in cost from what the town gives us in support, and the money it takes to maintain the current levels of fire protection in the Stonetown area, is approximately \$22,000.00. This shortfall is why we need the annual fund drive and why you also see us once a year seeking donations in the street. We need each and every resident to contribute to our annual fund drive. We need each and every resident, to help preserve the volunteer tradition, for it is a far less expensive way to provide vital services to our community.

It is easy to think that you will never need us. But the fact remains that last year 212 people did need our services which included another structure fire in our own Stonetown community! Maintaining the current levels of fire protection in the Stonetown area benefits each and every homeowner, through the cost of their homeowner's insurance policy, to the safety and well being of your loved ones and property.

Since we have a limited donation base we would appreciate your \$50.00 annual contribution, but any amount is appreciated, each according to his or her means and beliefs. This year we have made donating even easier. You can either send in your donation in our enclosed return envelope, or visit our web site at **WWW.RVFC1.ORG**. There you can click on the "DONATE" tab which will take you to our 100% secure donation page hosted by Pay Pal. You do not need to be a Pay Pal member and can donate through your credit card. This contribution is less than what each homeowner could be facing, in increased taxes, should the ability to maintain our volunteer service cease to exist.

This year we are also going to compile an email list that we will utilize to keep residents informed of events that will be happening both at our firehouse and within the community. It will be used to disseminate information on emergency conditions that could arise in the community, product warning notifications, and information on smoke and CO2 detectors. If you would like to receive this information please enter your email address, when returning the receipt below with your donation, or you can email the request to be added to info@rvfc1.org.

Thank you.

The Members of the Ringwood Borough Volunteer Fire Co. #1 – Stonetown

DONATE ON LINE AT WWW.RVFC1.ORG

DETACH ALONG LINE AND INCLUDE WITH YOUR DONATION

RINGWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY #1 2009 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE DONATION

Amount: _____ \$50.00 _____ \$60.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ OTHER AMOUNT (ENTER)

PLEASE CORRECT NAME

EMAIL: _____

RETURN THIS PORTION IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

Thank You For Your Donation!