



Mayor's Message
February 2016

Dear Residents,

Rumson is served by a professional police force and several all-volunteer public safety groups including the Fire Department, the First Aid Squad and the Office of Emergency Management, all of whom are first-rate and deeply dedicated to ensuring the safety of our community. Rumson's public safety teams consistently receive high marks for their responsiveness, accessibility and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in any situation.

The Rumson Police Department, led by Chief Scott Paterson, has 16 full-time officers and a dedicated staff of Class I and Class II Special Officers and Dispatchers. The Department is staffed 24/7, year round, in order to ensure the safety and rights of our residents. Two officers, Anthony Ciambone and Christopher Isherwood, were recently promoted to Sergeant and Detective Sergeant, respectively.

The Department invests in crime prevention measures and works closely with schools and the Municipal Alliance in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program, helping teach students to make good decisions in leading healthy, drug-free lives.



Rumson Police at the RPD Bike Rodeo

The Rumson PD seeks to engage with the public as often as possible. One example of this is the Bike Rodeo, held at Forrestdale School in May, where kids are taught bike safety at a hands-on, fun event. Also, the Rumson PD will again establish their bike unit this summer, patrolling neighborhoods on two wheels.

Chief Paterson encourages residents to stay informed by signing up for emergency notifications from **Code Red Alerts** and **Nixle Alerts** via the www.rumsonnj.gov home page. Also, the Rumson Police Department Facebook page keeps residents up to date with concerns large and small including police blotters, road closures, power outages, flood warnings, and helpful personal safety reminders.

Contributing to the community on their own time is a way of life for our public safety members. Many police officers serve on the all-volunteer Rumson First Aid Squad or the Rumson Fire Department. In addition, they volunteer as Rumson Recreation coaches, contribute generously to the DPW Toy Drive, and actively raise money for local charities. Recently, Chief Paterson participated in the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit NJ Special Olympics, raising over \$11,800 from more than 80 donors.

Rumson's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is led by Rumson resident and NJ National Guard First Sgt. James Duffney. OEM provides critical support in emergency preparedness planning and execution. During the winter storm in January, Sgt. Duffney assisted with planning and was ready to mobilize volunteers and resources to help in any way necessary.

Public Safety Volunteers, Fire & EMS
Seeking New Members – No Experience Necessary

Rumson's Fire Department and First Aid Squad are staffed entirely by volunteers - residents and non-residents who donate their time to assist those in need. They are service-oriented men and women who wish to contribute to our community by providing critical response in an emergency or providing essential support to other first responders.

The Rumson Fire Department comprises the Oceanic Hook & Ladder Company and the Rumson Fire Company. Led by Chief Ron Immesberger and Assistant Chief Mike Trivett, the all-volunteer Department responds to about 300 calls a year, 10-20 of which are significant fires. Chief Immesberger said other activities include checking carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, which are important safety contributions. On the lighter side, the Fire Department also organizes Breakfast with Santa at the Rumson Fire House and runs the Easter Egg Hunt in Victory Park. Both companies proudly participate in town parades and other community events.

The number one message Chief Immesberger has for the community is "Volunteers are needed! Our members are getting older and the number of active members is dwindling. We need men and women, all shapes and sizes – not everyone needs to be able to hold a hose or break down a door. Particularly those who are available during the day would be a great help. This is an all-volunteer department – members help out when they are available, there is no shift work." There are also modest financial benefits for service provided by the Borough and the State, including Length of Service Awards Program benefits. Men and women over the age of 18 are eligible for active membership. Training is provided by the Monmouth County Fire Academy and equipment is provided by the Borough. The remainder of the Department's operational costs is funded by resident donations, which are a vital source of support and are much appreciated.

The Rumson First Aid Squad echoes the urgent call for volunteers. Former EMS Captain Mary Nichols has been a volunteer for 40 years and her husband, Bob Nichols, RFAS President, is the longest-serving squad member, having joined in 1970. Mary was a paramedic for 28 years – although she is quick to point out that you don't have to be a paramedic to add value to the Squad – there are many roles to play that are very valuable to the organization, but do not necessarily require advanced first aid training.

Members are never alone when responding to calls, and volunteers are not put in situations they are not prepared to handle. Every member present can assist in an emergency, even if not directly caring for the victim.

Ms. Nichols estimates that out of about 400 calls a year, only 5% of calls are life-threatening and members are always working very closely with the Rumson Police Department, whom she termed "the best police officers around!" Response time is 10 minutes or less and no two calls are alike.

There are three levels of training: Basic CPR, First Responder Course, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Members come from a variety of backgrounds, often not directly related to the health care field.

Squad Captain Darren McConnell encourages those who are at least 16 years old to join the First Aid Cadet program as a great way to get involved and get exposure to the Squad. The Cadet program requires only a CPR card and parental permission. Cadets are never alone, but can be very helpful to the more senior members in an emergency.

The First Aid Squad is at every football game, parade, triathlon/race, swimming event, and even the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.



Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the EMS building behind the Charles S. Callman Courtroom at 80 East River Road. "We welcome everyone and anyone," 2nd Lt. Donna Gialanella explains. "The First Aid Squad is a tight bunch, and the building becomes a home away from home. You do it because you love it and it becomes habit-forming. The people make it worthwhile."

EMS members regularly volunteer in other ways around our community, such as helping to organize and staff the Kelleher Kids Triathlon to be held June 12, 2016. This event was established in memory of Former EMS Captain Bob Kelleher.

Volunteer Public Safety Groups Rely on Resident Donations

The Rumson Fire Department and the First Aid Squad depend on residents' support to meet the needs of their operating budgets, which they receive from direct appeal fund drives. The Borough provides support by purchasing, insuring and repairing the RFD and RFAS vehicles, as well as contributing annually to their operating budgets. The RFAS also receives funding from the proceeds of the Kelleher Kids Triathlon.

For more information on volunteering for the Fire Department or the First Aid Squad, or to make a tax-free donation, stop by Borough Hall or call the front desk at 732-842-3300.



Members of the Rumson First Aid Squad

On behalf of the Borough Council and all our residents, I would like to extend a sincere note of gratitude to our Police officers, and to our public safety Fire Department, First Aid Squad, and OEM volunteers.

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Keep in touch...

- Sign up for Code Red alerts, Nixle alerts and general email updates via www.rumsonnj.gov home page.
- "Like" Rumson Police Department and Rumson First Aid Squad Facebook pages
- Follow @Rumson_Borough on Twitter for Borough-wide updates

Upcoming Events...

- **Rumson Rec Summer Camps Open House** – March 7th, 6.30pm-7.45pm, RFHRHS Cafeteria
- **St. Patrick's Day Parade** – Sunday, March 13, 1:00pm. See www.rumsonstpatricksdaysparade.org

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