

town government

Fire and Rescue Department News by Peter Wrenn

We can't help you if we can't find you!

In this issue of the *Views*, the volunteer fire and rescue department would like to remind everyone of the importance of having a well-marked street number identifying your house.

Have you ever tried to follow a set of driving directions and despite your best efforts, still not been able to easily reach your destination? We've all had that experience at some point and we all know how frustrating it can be. Imagine how it might feel if, instead of trying to get to friend's house for a party you were trying to locate a neighbor who needed your help. Imagine if you were able to find their road but you couldn't find their home. This situation occurs many times throughout the year for our rescue squad.

We work to respond as quickly as we can when there is an emergency at your home, but if we have difficulty finding your location it can take more time for us to get to you and provide assistance. For many people who have lived in our small town for a number of years, it might be hard to imagine that finding anyone's home in Dummerston would be difficult. But there are times when circumstances hamper our ability to provide help.

Here's a recent example:

The Dummerston Rescue Squad received an alert that there was an emergency at a home located on a secondary road off one of our main roads. Whenever our rescue squad is dispatched, the ambulance and EMTs from Rescue, Inc. are also called upon to provide ad-

ditional medical care and transportation to the hospital. All of the emergency responders were given the same information about the call: the type of emergency that was occurring as well as the 911 address of the patient's home. All of the responders had road maps of Dummerston and were able to get to the intersection of the main and secondary road. From that point, our ability to find the specific house on the secondary road became more difficult.

As is true in many locations in our town, the homes on the smaller road did not have mailboxes at the end of each driveway. Instead, all of the mailboxes were clustered at the end of the road. Some had the correct 911 addresses on them; some still had the older rural route numbers on them. When we drove up the secondary road to find the location of the emergency we saw that some homes had street numbers at the end of the driveway and some had family names at the end of their driveway. In some instances there was no identification at all. Knowing that the lower street numbers start at the beginning of the road helped us narrow down our search to two driveways that fit our possible destination. Neither had 911 numbers posted. Both of the driveways were long and went to houses that were set back from the road out of view. Because it was three o'clock in the morning we knew that there was a strong likelihood that the home we were trying to find would have lights on inside. We sent a team up each

driveway and were quickly alerted by two-way radio when the correct house was located. The patient was soon transported to the hospital in the ambulance. Had this incident occurred during the daytime and had the person been alone at home without another family member to alert us, our ability to give emergency care as quickly as possible would have been greatly hindered.

As an all-volunteer fire and rescue department, providing a timely response to emergencies in a rural town can present many challenges. We utilize all of our resources to do the best job that we can. We make sure that all of our equipment is in proper condition and we take classes in fire fighting and emergency care to keep our skills up to date. Yet, if we are unable to find the location of an emergency quickly, our job is made even more difficult.

We urge everyone to be sure that the correct 911 street number for your home is clearly visible from the road. In light of privacy concerns we are aware that some homes might choose to not post their family names as well. As emergency responders we rely upon the 911 numbering system to help us find you. If you are unsure of your correct 911 street address, please contact Doug Hamilton at the Dummerston Town Office. If you need help posting your number the fire department would be glad to assist you. Contact our fire prevention and safety officer, Larry Lynch at 254-2517.

Road Foreman's Report by Lee Chamberlin

As the new road foreman for the town of Dummerston I would like to introduce myself and give you the highlights of the work we have already performed, as well as upcoming projects. I have served the town of Dummerston as part of the road crew for the past ten years, and hope to use my experience to provide quality and efficient road service.

Over the past few months, our road crew has been grading and raking every road in town and making gravel in the new gravel pit near Clark Road. Furthermore, Derrig Excavating, Inc. has been clearing stumps, brush and roots from the gravel pit in order to access more gravel and sand. Our crew has been applying stone dust (surepack) on some of the hills because of its known ability to pack well without washboarding as quickly as regular gravel. Additionally, we have begun preparing

our winter sand to get ready for the upcoming season. Due to the surplus stockpile we have at the town garage, this should be a quicker process than last year.

This summer we will be spot scraping, making winter sand and year-round gravel, installing culverts, and cutting and splitting wood for the town clerk's office. The most difficult culvert to replace will be the one on School House Road, as we believe the school's water line runs over it. We should have at least 700 yards of gravel and 200 yards of crushed stone stockpiled at the town garage for spring. Larger projects include paving Upper Dummerston Road, the Dummerston Community Center, and the Park and Ride.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 254-2411 if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached between 6 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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