



Recognition of Local Fire Fighters page 11







SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J. VOL. 28 NO. 46 WEEKLY IN PRINT AND DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK NOVEMBER 19, 2019





Lookout

Top Left - Green and White hoses were seperated by the Fire Co., Pen Argyl Borough council and dignateries insted of ribbon cutting. Top right - Fire Chief Parsons gives Rep. Marcia Hahn and Senator Mario Scavello each their own fire helmet with their names on them for helping to secure funds for the new facility.

Lookout Fire Co #1 Dedication BY Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - Pen Borough and the Lookout Fire Co. #1 celebrated the grand opening of their new fire station facility on Saturday in a unique ceremony of 'breaking of fire hoses' instead of cutting of a ribbon. Two long hoses (one green one white) with over 60 firemen, Pen Argyl Council members and dignitaries holding them while Lookout Fire Chief Dean Parsons and Pen Argyl Mayor Michael Nasatka unscrewed them apart.

"The new \$3.9M Slate Belt fire station is a state-of-the-art facility" said Fire Chief Parsons. *Continued on page 2*

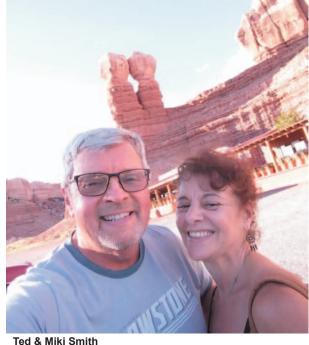
ECHO IN THE CANYON By Ted & Miki Smith

BANGOR - In observance of our recent retirement and my 15th rebirthday of my stem cell transplant, my husband Ted and I traveled to the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Covering over 1200 miles in and around AZ, UT, CO and NEV we hiked in 4 national parks, 2 state parks and numerous national monuments. While the Grand Canyon's magnetic pull will always be the strongest for me, we also became immersed in the beauty of Arches, Canyonlands and Mesa Verde but it was climbing to the top of Mesa Verde that was most challenging. The top of the mesa stretched far beyond my comfort level. Dizzying drops on either side found me praying over our rental car, that our brakes were intact. It took about an hour from the visitor's center to reach the top where the line between mountains and clouds disappear, between fear and exhilaration, and realizing I had met my "safety limit". Though there is much to explore on Chapin and Wetherill mesas it was the treks to the cliff dwellings that was most memorable. To reach the cliff dwellings one must hike down steep inclines, scale numerous ladders (the highest being 32 feet!) and crawl through tunnels. My extreme fear of heights screamed for me to turn back but I have to come to believe I need to face my fears to keep my edge and not let my fears get in my own way. With ragged breath I managed to reach my goal by neither looking up or down and praying!

We explored many cliff dwellings and became obsessed with the Anasazis. Ancestors of these nomadic tribes crossed the Bering Strait thousands of years before

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"The days of cramped quarters, a leaking roof and a lack of parking will be things of the past for this fire co."

The location of the new 15,800-square-foot building is on a 7-acre lot at 123 S. Main St. across the street from Weona Park. MC for the event was Kevin Hower President of Lookout Fire Co., prayer of dedication was done by Pastor Tim Fisher.

The Pen Argyl borough contributed \$2.4 million to the project, which was overseen by Nu Cor Management. Rep. Marcia Hahn and State Senator Mario Scavello were instrumental in getting an additional \$1.5 million in grants through Redevelopment Assistance Program and Monroe County LSA.

Scavello and Hahn presented Chief Parsons with a plaque in recognition of their new building said in part, "The well-being of the citizens of Northampton County is safeguarded by the brave firefighters and first responders who act selflessly to preserve and protect our health, safety and welfare" and was signed by Hahn, Scavello and Emrick.

County Executive LaMont McClure also presented the Borough and Fire Co. a citation from the county, "It's important for Firefighters to have a building to accommodate their needs. At a moments notice firefighters are quick to respond to

and economic being of our community" said McClure.

Pen Argyl Mayor Michael Nasatka congratulated all the people who over the years have worked together to make this day happen. Fire Chief Parsons noted "this project started over 26 years ago, but two years ago when I got a call from Senator Scavello and he said "we got you a \$1 million dollars" I knew we could do it."

Kevin Hower wished to thank, Pen Argyl Borough Council, Rep. Hahn, Senator Scavello, Steve Elton Architects, Nu-Cor Construction Mgmt., Waste Management, Sherwin Williams Paints, Craig Harding, Steve Kauffman and the Officers and Members of Lookout Fire Co.#1. Over 200 people attended the event.

"All the paint for the building was donated by Sherwin Williams Paints and painted with labor of love by members of the Fire Co. " said Fire Chief Parsons, and the large meeting table in the 'Day Room' was build by Andrew Nechetysky one of our firefighters."

The all-volunteer department was founded in 1890, has about 47 active members, two fire engines, a rescue truck and a support vehicle.

The new station has four bay doors and is big enough to hold six trucks. It also has a training room, a lobby, offices, a firefighter equipment room and a social hall with a kitchen.