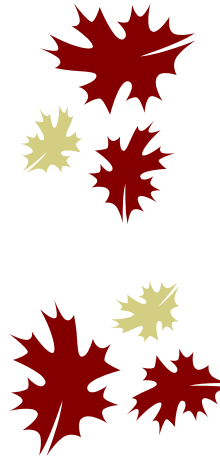


Village Ambulance Service

Fall 2011 Newsletter



Fall is here!

Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of the Village Ambulance Service EMS & Community Awareness Newsletter. This publication is aimed at keeping you updated on the progress of Emergency Medical Services in Berkshire County.

Employee Spotlight



John Harris, EMT-B Opens Uniform Store!

When Village Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technician John Harris decided to start a business to supply Berkshire County police officers, firefighters and EMTs, he didn't want to sell just uniforms.

He saw the business as more of a convenience store that would supply all kinds of equipment for emergency services personnel. United Uniforms, which opened on June 24, is based on that idea.

"I know how hard it is to get the gear you're looking for if you're police, fire or EMS," Harris said at his shop, which is located on Route 8. "Not only that, but I know a lot about the safety and the protection measures that the equipment brings. I got the idea to have a little convenience store for all the emergency services -- even nurses. There's nowhere like that in our area that has all of that. We're even working on uniforms for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts."

The shop is located at 1617 South State Road. Business has been steady, Harris said.

Besides uniforms, the shop features



additional protective and safety gear such as hats, jackets, shirts, pants, vests, boots and firefighter turnout gear. United Uniform is a registered dealer for 25 different emergency services equipment companies. It also provides accessories like utility knives, outdoor gear and stethoscopes. Harris has invested some \$70,000 in capital into the business, and plans to invest more.

United Uniforms is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. It is closed on Sundays. For more information on United Uniforms call (413) 743-0020.

Start a Fundraiser for Hurricane Irene Recovery Today!

Natural disasters, like Hurricane Irene cost \$109 billion a year, globally. While some costs are covered by insurance, often, homeowners are left with thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses. If they are like most people in this country, they haven't prepared for that kind of financial burden. As a friend or family member, you may be wondering what you can do to help.

GiveForward makes it easy.

By creating a GiveForward page for someone recovering from Hurricane Irene, you enable loved ones all over the world to provide emotional and financial support.

How can GiveForward help?

• **Empowerment:** GiveForward empowers friends and family by giving them an answer to the question "What can I do to help?"

• **Hope:** More than just a way to contribute to loved ones in need, GiveForward pages also offer an easy way to show emotional support by leaving words of encouragement and virtual hugs.

• **Easy to Use:** GiveForward pages are the easiest way for friends and family to come together around a loved one in need. GiveForward makes it extremely simple for patients to get the financial help they need so they can focus on getting well.

Don't wait any longer. Start your GiveForward page today!

www.giveforward.com

“First Aid-for-First Aid”

As you may already know from recent local press coverage, every home in the Spruces Mobile Home Park, Williamstown, MA, has been ruled uninhabitable by the building inspector, and nearly 300 elderly residents have been seeking alternative housing.

According to Town Officials, wet electrical systems, flooded homes and spilled petroleum products caused by the overflowing Hoosic River during Tropical Storm Irene threaten the park's safety. All of the 226 homes are conditionally uninhabitable; therefore, nearly 300 people who live at the park will be staying with family or friends. However, there are at least 10 people that town officials know have nowhere else to go.

The common mission of the Village Ambulance Service and United Uniforms fundraising venture, “First Aid-for-First Aid” was simple - raise as much money as possible to aid in the Spruces Mobile Home Park rebuilding process. We included in our mission assisting those residents who not only need to rebuild their homes, but the community they once relied on as their sole social and networking outlet.

Because of this, Village Ambulance Service and United Uniforms, Cheshire, held a “First Aid-for-First Aid” fundraising event at the Berkshire Mall on September 3 & 4. Members from each organization collected from mall-goers from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. using empty first aid bags. The project raised just under \$5000.00 which will directly go to the Spruces Hurricane Relief Fund.

Thank you to all who participated and/or donated to this important cause.

Village Ambulance Service The Williamstown Council on Aging COAT DRIVE

November 1, 2011
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Harper Center
118 Church Street
Williamstown, MA 01267



ONE WARM COAT®

www.onewarmcoat.org

Thank you for your continued support!

Village Ambulance Service “9-1-1 FOOD DRIVE” Collecting all year round!

The Mission of our food drive, through a partnership with the Williamstown Food Pantry, is to mobilize resources to fight hunger in our community.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to:
Village Ambulance Service Headquarters
30 Water St.
Williamstown, MA 01267

Or call (413)-458-4889 or (413)-884-5729 for donation pick up.

www.villageambulance.com

Thank you for your continued support!

Safety Tips for Fall Driving

With the fall season comes shorter days making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking and riding bicycles. It is also harder to see motorcycles and other cars.

- Children love to play in piles of leaves. Use extra caution where leaves are piled at curbside.
- Always drive carefully making sure to be aware of poor visibility.
- Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. Wet roads make it more difficult to stop.
- Use your dimmed headlights in bad weather with decreased visibility.

TRAINING

2011 Continuing Education Programs

All classes held at the Spruces Recreational Center,
Rte. 2, Williamstown, unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday, September 24

8am to 5pm

Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)

Instructor: Shawn Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C

8 credits pending (B/I/P)

Classroom at the Spruces Recreational Center/Practical at Steiner Film

Wednesday, October 5

6pm to 9pm

Assisted Albuterol Program

Instructor: Shawn P. Godfrey, EMT-P, I/C

3 credits pending (B/I only)

Wednesday, October 19

6pm to 9pm

End Tidal CO2 Review

Instructor: Christine Isca, NREMT-P, I/C

3 credits pending (P only)

Tuesday, November 15

6pm to 9pm

Operations/Disinfecting the Ambulance

Instructor: Rick Richer, NREMT-P

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Tuesday, November 29

6pm to 9pm

Behavioral Emergencies/Handling the Violent Patient

Instructor: John Candiloro, Former NARH Staff

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Wednesday, December 14

6pm to 9pm

Orthopaedic Injuries

Instructor: TBA

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

Wednesday, December 28

6pm to 9pm

Cardiovascular Emergencies

Instructor: TBA

3 credits pending (B/I/P)

For more information on these classes or to inquire about other programs, please contact our office at 413-458-4889



56th Annual Northern Berkshire Fall Foliage Festival Parade

Sunday, October 2, 2011 ~ 1:00 PM ~ Downtown North Adams



As participants in the 2011 Josh Billings Runaround Triathlon maneuvered through the course Sunday morning, an army of volunteers provided physical and emotional support. And while those crossing the line were recognized as champions, the volunteers earned their own accolades.

Once again, the VAS Explorer Post offered a helping hand by volunteering at the event.

Seven Explorers and three Adult Advisors manned two water and medical aid stations.

"We received a lot of compliments and thanks as the runners passed by," Adult Advisor Michelle Sawicky said.

Be sure to look for Village Ambulance Service and Village Ambulance Service EMS Explorer Post 911 members in this year's Northern Berkshire Fall Foliage Festival Parade.

This year's theme, "Take PAWS in Northern Berkshire", is meant to celebrate the great community and host of this annual event, while also adding a fun twist.

The parade will step off this year on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 1:00 PM from the Wal-Mart parking lot and continue down Curran Highway before winding through downtown North Adams. Thousands of Berkshire residents and visitors enjoy the annual parade, which commemorates the magnificent autumn season.

2011 EXPLORERS' HORRORS HAUNTED ATTRACTION



The Post is ready to embark on its second annual Explorers' Horrors Haunted Attraction at the Berkshire Mall. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 21 & 28 from 6pm to 8pm, Saturday, October 22 & 29 from 2pm to 8pm, Sunday 23 & 30 from 12pm to 6pm. The cost is \$3 dollars for adults and \$2 for children.

More than 630 guests went through last year's attraction, which was outfitted to include four rooms. A scary Operating Room, Haunted Saloon, Execution Chamber and Horror Movie theme were used to successfully frighten the mall-goers. A Post Advisor parent was in charge of each room while the students did most of the decorating.

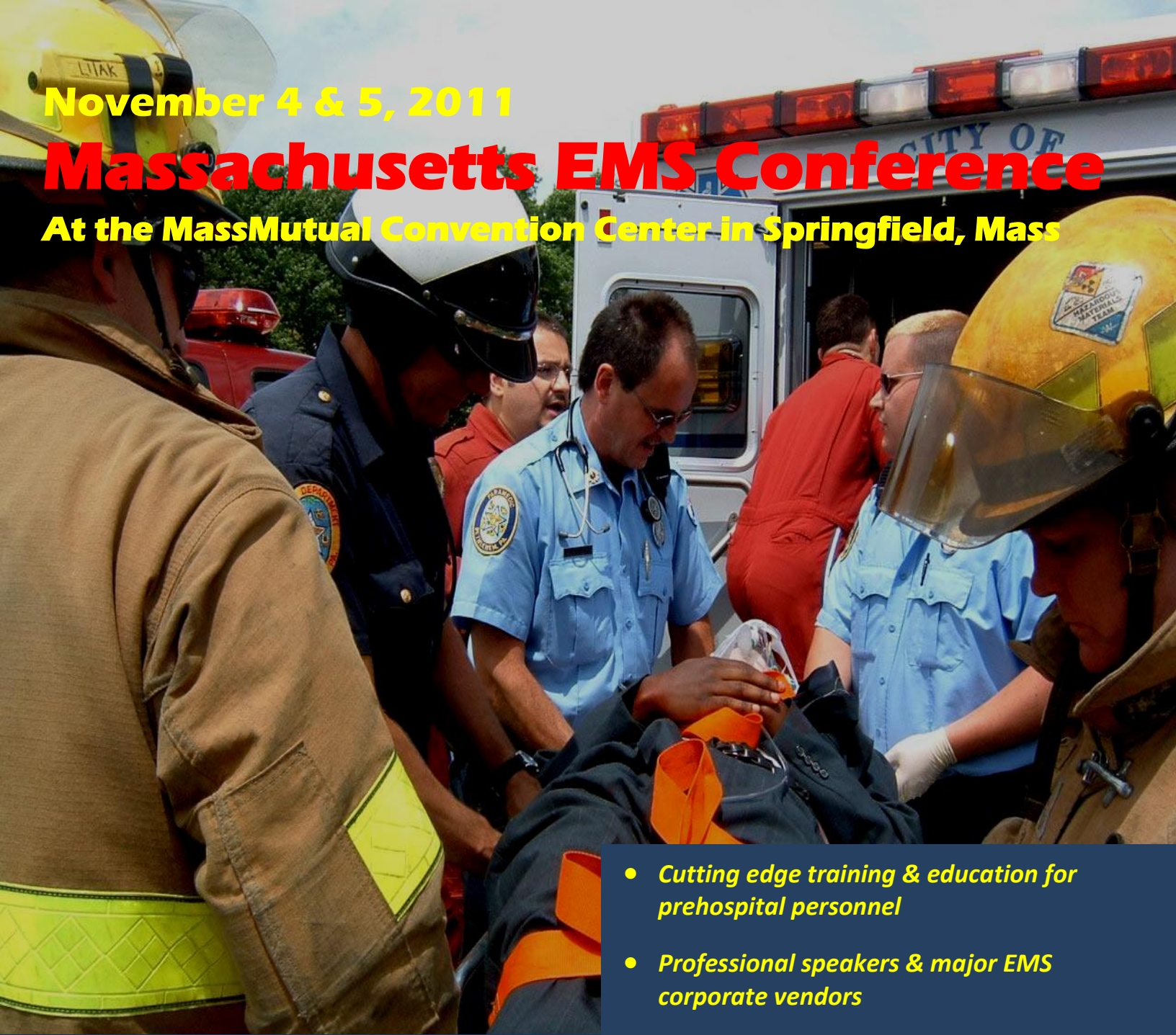
Come test your nerves...if you dare.

For more information on this or any other Explorer related event, please call our office at 413-884-5729.

November 4 & 5, 2011

Massachusetts EMS Conference

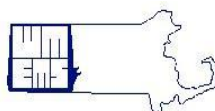
At the MassMutual Convention Center in Springfield, Mass



- *Cutting edge training & education for prehospital personnel*
- *Professional speakers & major EMS corporate vendors*
- *State-of-the-art vehicle and product exhibits*
- *Register early (before October 1) and save \$20!*
- *To register or for more information, please visit:
www.massemsconference.com*



Sponsored by: Western Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services



168 Industrial Park Drive ~ Northampton, MA 01060 ~ (413) 586-6065