



Village Ambulance Service Summer 2012 Newsletter



Let the Sun Shine!

Welcome to the Summer 2012 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



William "Bill" Mahoney EMT-Basic

Bill started working full-time for Village Ambulance Service in 1989 after certifying as an EMT through a program offered in Pittsfield. Bill is one of the few employees still with Village Ambulance Service since its transition from a private to a non-profit company.

After acquiring his Bachelor's Degree in Construction Engineering from Central Connecticut State University in 1994, Bill moved to part-time status for the service where he remains today.

For his "day job," Bill currently works as the Operations Manager of the Berkshire Mall in Lanesborough, MA. He also holds a Construction Supervisor's license in Massachusetts and has spent many years as a rental property owner.

According to Bill's wife and best friend,



Kassie, "He really enjoys the ambulance work. He likes to do that one day a week to keep active, to retain the information, and he enjoys helping people. I've seen him in different situations before and he's very calming to people in crisis. "His colleagues couldn't agree more.

When Bill's not working for the mall or for the ambulance service, he enjoys travelling to foreign countries, woodworking, and spending time with his wife and pets.

Thanks for your hard work and dedication, Bill!

Building Youth Relationships

One of summer's greatest gifts is the gift of time. Don't squander it. Invest it in strengthening familial relationships. Few things help kids and teens feel safer than knowing that parent's, and other important adults in their lives, have made a commitment to being there.

Being there is not just about making sure our children are housed and clothed. It is also about making sure that our children are:

- Heard
- Valued
- Encouraged
- Challenged

Being there is also about making time to be fully present and available to our kids, and summer time is the perfect time for doing just that.

Creating Memories

Think back on your fondest childhood memory. What feelings come up for you? Maybe the memory brings up feelings of warmth, safety, security or the feeling of being grounded; planted firmly in loving and attentive soil.

Summer time means vacation time for many families. Even if you can't leave town you can find creative ways to enjoy new experiences together and make memories that last. Remember, vacation isn't about money spent, it is about memories made.

Yes, summer safety is about making sure our children adhere to the usual summer safety rituals around sunscreen and swimming. But more is required of parents.

Summer is also about strengthening familial relationships, making time to be available to each other and exploring new opportunities for fun and learning.

Source: Parenting Methods at Suite 101

COMMUNITY

2012 EMS EXPO

Emergency Medical Services Corporation (EMSCO) of Berkshire County held its 3rd Annual EMS Exposition on Sunday, May 20, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Berkshire Mall, Lanesborough.

This event brought approximately 55 (twice as many as year one and two) of the finest Berkshire County public service agencies to display their equipment, interact one-on-one with mall-goers, conduct interactive demonstrations, and provide direct insight into the EMS trade.

In addition, this event offered EMS providers an intimate setting to directly network with other EMS and EMS-related agencies, like fire departments, rescue agencies, police departments and other first responders.

A letter written to the Berkshire Eagle editor said "with sincere thanks to the people who put together the EMS Expo at the Berkshire Mall on Sunday, May 20. This was a great opportunity for education and awareness. We are blessed to have such dedicated emergency response personnel supporting our community!"

For information on how to exhibit, sponsor, or to join our committee, please contact the EMSCO Outreach Committee at P.O. Box 2942, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

On behalf of EMSCO of Berkshire County's outreach committee, thank you for attending and we look forward to seeing you in 2013!



Barbecue Safety

Barbecue season is upon us. This means many people will be enjoying cooking and eating food that was prepared in this manner. It also means people will be injured and thousands of dollars of property damage will result because of carelessness. Even people who use combustible products safely at the worksite will make mistakes and ignore safety practices once they are at home. Many fire fighters and paramedics have responded to barbecue fires and related injuries that could have been prevented. The following are a few tips we should keep in mind to help us have a safe barbecue season:

1. After purchasing a barbecue, make sure you follow the manufacturer's directions for assembly and use.
2. Don't use your barbecue indoors. Fire and carbon monoxide poisoning are a real threat. Keep the barbecue a safe distance (over 3 meters, or 10 feet) from your house. If there is a fire, you don't want it to spread to your house.
3. Keep your barbecue's propane tank in an upright position. If it's not in an upright position, the tanks relief valve may not work properly. Also make sure the burner ports are clear of rust and dirt.
4. Check for leaks by putting a soapy solution on the connection of the tank and hoses. Where you see bubbles, tighten the connection. If you can't stop the bubbles, don't use the barbecue – its leaking propane. Never use a match to check for leaks.
5. When lighting a gas barbecue, keep the lid open to avoid gas buildup and light the barbecue as soon as you turn on the gas. Keep your face away from the grill. Make sure the flame is visible from the burner ports.
6. A barbecue lighter with a long handle is safer to use than matches. It provides the extra reach that reduces the chance of singed hair or a burn to your body.
7. Make sure coals are cool before you dispose of them.
8. Avoid wearing baggy sleeves when cooking over a barbecue. They could catch fire.
9. Remember, the entire barbecue assembly is hot. Keep children away.

Berkshire County Honors EMS Professionals at Annual Awards Dinner

The Emergency Medical Services Committee of Berkshire County held its annual dinner and awards banquet on Friday, May 18, 2012 at the Wahconah Country Club, Dalton. The dinner, scheduled for 7 PM, was open to all emergency responders in Berkshire County and featured an exciting itinerary, including a special presentation by Berkshire County Sheriff Thomas Bowler.

On this evening, nearly eighty providers who embody the dedicated spirit and professional ideals of the EMS profession were recognized by representatives directly impacted by their hard work. Together they applauded these professionals for their heroic actions, exemplary performance and community involvement in 2011. Eight Village Ambulance Service employees were among those receiving awards. In addition, survivors were in attendance to help honor the emergency responders who played an integral part in saving their lives.

TRAINING

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



FOR A CAREER THAT COUNTS!

WHERE

Berkshire Mall – Route 7 & 8 Connector Rd., Lanesborough, MA 01237

WHEN

Classes begin September 6th and run until December 8th on Monday and Thursday evenings 6:00pm-10:00pm. (Saturday classes TBA)

COST

Program Cost: \$750.00
(\$250.00 non-refundable deposit with application, \$500.00 due first night of class)
Cash, Money Order, Bank Check, or Agency Check Accepted

CONTACT

To obtain an application packet, please visit our website, call our office, or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone.

EMT – BASIC PROGRAM

The Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) Course teaches initial evaluation, treatment and transport of patients with medical problems and/or trauma. Students learn to recognize and provide initial care for ailments including, but not limited to, shock, heart problems, breathing problems, strokes, burns, diabetes, drowning and accidents.

For medical emergencies, they provide rapid response, initial evaluation and care, and transport to an appropriate medical facility. They also provide non-emergency transportation for patients who are bedridden and/or require continuous monitoring and basic-level care.

EMT-Basics are the foundation of American pre-hospital emergency medical care.



Village Ambulance Explorer Post Welcomes Two New Members

Village Ambulance EMS Explorer Post 911 is pleased to announce the addition of two new members. Welcome Dean and Brandon!

Dean Stockley, who just graduated from Pittsfield High School, would like to work as an EMT over the course of late summer 2012. Dean is a recent graduate of Village Ambulance Service's EMT-Basic program held at the Berkshire Mall and is actively pursuing a career as a Paramedic. "I have wanted to be a paramedic my entire life and have always been fascinated by anything having to do with it," Dean said. He added, "I like helping out in any way I can." In his spare time, Dean enjoys music and sports. He plays hockey, lacrosse, football, soccer, and crew. Dean has also coached hockey, lacrosse and learn-to-skate.

Brandon Moore is no stranger to Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Both of Brandon's parents are full-time paramedics in Pittsfield. Like Dean, Brandon graduated from Pittsfield High School this year and is also interested in a career in public service. He currently works at Big Y in Lee, MA, and enjoys playing volleyball and the guitar in his spare time. Brandon's response when asked about a career in EMS, "My career goal is to become a successful paramedic for whatever service will need me." We think Brandon won't have any trouble finding a service that could use his new found skills and enthusiasm.

Welcome Brandon and Dean!



Explorer Post to Host Third "First Nighter" Meeting

Since 2009, Village Ambulance Service has sponsored an Explorer Post for area youths interested in pre-hospital emergency medical care. All new recruits must be between the ages of 14 and 21 and have completed the 8th grade.

The mission of the Post is to offer the co-ed youth of our community an insight into the field of Emergency Medical Services, as well as instill the importance of community enrichment. It is also our purpose to help these same young adults become responsible, caring, and productive adults who may one day become the face of area emergency medical services.

The annual meeting will be conducted with hopes of recruiting new members and to inform the public about our mission. In addition, the Post will cover what is expected from both the Explorer and the Post, and allowed prospective Explorers the opportunity to enroll into the program.

For meeting information, please go to our webpage www.villageambulance.com → Community → Explorer Post, or call our office at 413-884-5729.

Congratulations! Village Ambulance Service Hires Two Explorers

Village Ambulance Service is proud to announce the hiring of two members from the Explorer Post. Kevin Stant and Mary Tremblay, both of whom successfully completed over 135 hours of EMT-Basic training and passed the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services practical and written examination, were hired earlier this year.

Welcome aboard!

