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Ladder Truck Event Nets Thousands



A Saturday on the Street - Carol Lynn Vicini (center) of Vandergrift, author of “Steel Dog” a book of Steel Dog’s exploits with his famous owner Steel Man (right) and the famous dog himself. To the far left is the popular children’s face painter “Stephanie” of Butler.

by David Croyle

There has been no specific amount released from last weekend’s fund-raising event by Kittanning Hose Company #1’s efforts to keep their ladder truck, but first indication shows it was a success.

KFD1 Spokesman Jerry Shuster said a check given by West Kittanning’s fire department was a big help.

“They gave us a check for a thousand dollars.”

Shuster said this is not the first time West Kittanning has come to the aid of the downtown fire station.

“West Kittanning was also the first when we refurbished the 1953 truck to give us a thousand dollars for that truck. You can tell that when West Kittanning has a fire, Kittanning Hose Company #1 – particularly the ladder – is very shortly after the first call and for good reason. Last Monday was a classic with the fire that they had there, but that’s one of the reasons why we work so well together in mutual aid.”



SATISFIED CUSTOMER - The results of face painting by “Stephanie” were displayed on a child visitor to Saturday’s ladder truck fund raiser. He said he “loved the look. It was really neat!” He was one hundreds to attend the affair according to event planners.

Shuster praised all the participants of Saturday’s events.

“Everyone seems to be coming together in a very positive way, to help in a very negative situation.”

Although Council has voted to sell the ladder truck, Shuster said Hose Company #1 will continue to raise funds toward it.

“We’re going to do what we have to do. So far we haven’t been given any guidance from Council as to what Council expects of us. When we made the offer to pay the \$129,000 payment – which some people thought was insignificant, but it’s a thousand dollars a month – we had no feedback from Council. They just proceeded to do what they initially did in the first place to sell the truck. The fire company will do what it needs to do because we are absolutely certain that the truck is needed contrary to what the comments were made by the mayor or the town. Of course that was kind of debunked within 18 hours after the statement was released by a major fire in Kittanning.”

Shuster said he isn’t worried about the possibility that Council will sell the ladder truck out from under them.

”It is not going to be easy to sell that truck and generate from the proceeds of the sale what the value of the truck is and how much they owe on the truck. They have to pay it all off. Simply by paying it all off doesn’t make a lot of sense either if they generate a sale because we already have a significant amount of money in equity in the truck itself. So they have to get that back too. They can’t pull the cover over the eyes of the taxpayers saying we owe \$450,000 and we got

\$455,000. But we already have \$250,000 in it. They need to get that back too or that really doesn't make sense. The borough can't take a loss! That seems to be to be approaching malfeasance of office if they do that."

The final amount collected at Saturday's event may be known as early as Wednesday.

"We're meeting tomorrow night to both finalize the amount generated on Saturday. We had some other sizable donations too. So it was a very positive thing and we'll make sure that the public is kept informed just how much money the fund drive is generating."

Shuster said F&M Bank is handling all of the money generated from fund-raising activities.

"The public is going to be protected simply because all of the funds that come in are going directly to F&M Bank and they will be the controlling interest of that. We want to make sure everyone is understanding we are not keeping that money in a special account at the fire hall."

He said the fire department will also do additional fund-raising throughout the area.

"From time to time you will see the aerial on the streets of Kittanning for selling coupons and tickets and occasionally on the hill and perhaps Ford City and other locations. We will be doing some other fun fundraising events so this is just the beginning and it has started off extremely well. We are very pleased."

The entire interview with Shuster can be heard on the Internet at www.wtymradio.com/morningshow and clicking on the August 15 link.

Original article at: <http://www.kittanningpaper.com/2011/08/16/ladder-truck-event-nets-thousands/19380>



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