

October 2, 2014

Dear Mayor Liptak and Members of the Council:

On Sunday, September 28th, the members of Relief Hose Co. #2 participated in the 3rd Annual Raritan Riverfest and Rubber Duck Race. As you know, this community-oriented event is organized under the Raritan Borough Economic Development Committee and the Raritan Riverfest Committee, in which Council President Don Tozzi and Councilwoman Denise Carra played a large part. The Duck Race is sponsored by Uncle Vinnie's Clam bar and benefits the Steeplechase Cancer Center at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset as well as Relief Hose Co. #2.

Riverfest requires many months of planning and organizing by a variety of elected and appointed officials and volunteers. In addition, these same people put in many volunteer hours of effort to set up, execute, and take down the event. The volunteer members of Relief Hose Co. #2 provide the manpower and know-how to work safely in the river to actually conduct the race successfully.

It may not be widely known that the members of Relief Hose Co. #2 own and operate the firehouse on North Thompson Street. Our non-profit organization requires funding to pay for utilities, operations and repairs. For this reason we conduct an annual fund drive, the proceeds from which have been declining for several years. At present, our income from charitable contributions does not meet our expenses.

The members of Relief Hose Co. #2 have volunteered to provide fire protection to our town and we continuously train to do so safely and efficiently. Since our talents lie in public safety, not in fund raising, we are particularly grateful to those who have organized the annual Duck Race. They have given us an opportunity to use our skills to contribute to the success of an event which, in the end, benefits Relief Hose Co. #2.

The Duck Race clearly illustrates that individuals, organizations and agencies with different interests, diverse skills, and dissimilar goals can work together toward a common goal that benefits us all. The Officers and Members of Relief Hose Co. #2 are very grateful to each and every person who contributed to the success of the Raritan Riverfest and Rubber Duck race.

Very truly yours,

Louis J. Laine
President

cc: William C. Mener, Fire Chief