

An era is coming to an end.

After 40 years, the Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1 (MTHC1) will have a new president this summer. David Hourigan who has led the hose company for four decades has decided not to seek re-election as president.

“Forty years ago, and just recently married, I went home to tell (my wife) Sharon after our February meeting that I was going to be the new president until August as our then-president Bob Leyfert was moving out of the area,” Hourigan related. Those six months turned into 40 years.

“Luckily, Sharon supported me to be with what she called “the other woman” for all these years,” the hose company president said. “It has been a great run. Together we did a lot changing the face of the fire service in our community,” he added.

The well-known realtor noted he will be 70 years old in June and he and Sharon’s first grandchild is coming soon. “It is time for me to free more time for family as all of a sudden I am realizing that there really is an end date to our lives,” he offered. “Not that my demise is pending,” he emphasized. “But just in case it is, time to be spent with family and friends becomes a priority.”

Hourigan told me that Jason Menghini has agreed to become MTHC president beginning in August.

“I have begun sharing what my responsibilities are with him so he can transition into the role,” Hourigan said of Menghini. The long-time president said he plans to continue as a trustee. “In that capacity I can ensure that the donor relationships that we have built over the years continue keeping MTHC1 on sound financial footing,” he noted. Hourigan noted Menghini has fresh ideas for hose company operations which will be unfolding in the months ahead.

Menghini, who emphasized he still must be elected to the post in August before he can take over as president, lauded Hourigan for his contribution to the hose company and the community.

“What he’s been able to contribute to the Mountain Top Hose Company and Fairview Twp. is unmatched,” Menghini said of Hourigan. “I honestly don’t think the fire company would exist all these years without Dave,” he added.

Menghini has been a member of the hose company since 2016, just a few years after moving to Mountain Top with his wife, Amanda, who also is active with the fire department. The couple has three children, Gavin, Luca and Via. He took over the department’s Facebook and social media accounts that year and was part of the last bazaar in 2017. That same year, he helped bring back the annual Santa Claus parade through Fairview Twp. The parade has become an annual event since.

He was appointed the hose company’s interim secretary in 2018 and has been re-elected to the post ever since.

Menghini, who has taught in the Pleasant Valley School District the last 17 years, said his vision for the hose company is simple – to preserve what has been and continue to thrive. “I want to keep the fire service in Fairview Twp. the same caliber all the years we’ve had it,” he commented.

He also wants to see the department become more visible in the community. He pointed out that after the last bazaar in 2017 and subsequent COVID years, the fire company was less visible in the community. “My goal is to move the hose company in a direction to be more visible in the community,” he related.

As part of that goal, he recently led the chartering of Cub scout Pack 106 and Boy Scout Troop 106 with the hose company. He also is working with Jina Kohl, wife of fire chief Pete Kohl, with the reorganization of the hose company auxiliary.

“My platform is service,’ Menghini related. “That’s why I joined the hose company.”

There are some other changes in the hose company. Amanda Menghini now will be coordinate the picnic ground rentals She has set up a dedicated phone line and email address for those seeking rentals. The phone number is 570-591-1252 and email address is Rentals@mthc1.com. Mike Herron will work with Amanda to make sure the picnic grounds is ready for rentals. The picnic grounds have been renovated and are ideal for graduation parties, class reunions and family reunions.

Herron was appointed captain to complete the term of Jared Aigeldinge who recently resigned the position. Jerry Banyas was named fire police captain and Ray Loucks will be the lieutenant.

As Menghini noted, Jina Kohl is organizing a group of female members to undertake fundraising activities. The group is holding a soup, potato pancake and haluski sale on March 24. Soups are broccoli and cheddar and New England clam chowder. Cost for soup and haluski is \$5 a pint and \$10 a quart. Potato pancakes are \$1 each. The sale is pre-order only. Orders must be made by March 22. Pickup will be March 24 between 5 and 8 p.m. and times will be scheduled when order is placed. To order call Jina at 570 328-6623 or Tiffany at 570 498-5580.

Fairview Twp. supervisors will hold a hearing Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. to get public input on a proposed ordinance that would require the installation of lock boxes on new commercial, industrial and institutional buildings and remodeling of those types of buildings requiring a building permit. A vote on the ordinance will be held at the board meeting to follow. The ordinance was proposed to supervisors by officials of Mountain Top Hose Co. No. 1.

With spring around the corner, some municipalities are getting the jump on their annual paving projects. Wright Twp. supervisors voted this month to advertise for bids to paving in Fox Run and Yeager Road.

Rice Twp. officials have advertised for bids for its 2023 paving project. The project includes Wintergreen Court, Catalpa Ave, Sassafras Court, Tanager Way and Woodbrook Way, some base repair plus double tar and chip and fog seal. Alternate one is Ice House Drive from Ice harvest Drive to Winterberry Lane – double tar and chip and fog seal. Alternate two is Park Avenue, base repair and double tar and chip with fog seal. Alternates are contingent on bid costs.