

# Nassau County Fireman's' Parade, Drill & Block Party This Weekend

BY ANDREA MARTONE

Since 1903, the Nassau County Fireman's' Association has sponsored a huge parade and drill for the thousands of firefighters across Nassau County. This year, Port Washington will be the site of the upcoming July 8th & 9th extravaganza, complete with block parties that will have everything from square dancing, 50's music, rides, food and more for the entire community.

Thomas Murray, president of the Nassau County Fireman's' Association and a local businessman as well as firefighter, says "This annual affair is one of the most fun-filled affairs on Long Island. We're proud to host this event in Port Washington and invite the entire community to support us." Murray says a contingency of 3,000 firefighters from Nassau County representing 55 fire departments will participate in a lengthy parade that will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 9th at the intersection of Wakefield Avenue and Port Washington Boulevard and wind its way down to the Flower Hill Hose Company's firehouse on Haven Avenue, which will be the site of a huge block party that begins at 5 p.m. and ends at midnight. The block party will begin the previous evening on Friday, July 8th from 5 p.m. to midnight.

There is free admission to the event, however, raffle tickets will be sold for food, drinks and rides. According to Murray, the proceeds will benefit a centennial celebration of the Port Washington Fire Department in the year 2007. Friday's block party will feature the popular country and western group, *Six*

the 50's group, *Jukebox*.

Preceding the Saturday block party will be a Fireman's' Drill that will consist of maneuvers with their equipment and trucks. Trophies will be awarded to the best maneuvers. The drill will take place at the Town of North Hempstead Training Center on Denton Avenue in New Hyde Park beginning at 8 a.m. until completion. The public is welcome to observe these skilled maneuvers. On Sunday, the maneuvers continue (instead of motorized, they will be the old fashioned way). Same time, same place.

Motorists are warned to pay attention to road closings on Port Washington Boulevard on Friday, preceding the parade. The following schedule will be followed:

- Port Washington Boulevard closed Saturday, July 9th northbound and southbound from Willowdale Avenue to Main Street from 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- Port Washington Boulevard will be closed to traffic northbound only from Stonytown Road to Willowdale Avenue

- Main Street will be closed from Port Washington Boulevard to Mackey Avenue

- South Bayles Avenue will be closed from Willowdale Avenue to Main St. until midnight.

- The parking lot at the train station on the Haven Avenue side will be closed from midnight on Thursday, July 7th and will reopen on Sunday at noon. All cars left in the parking lot after midnight on Thursday will be towed away.

- Captain James Ellerby suggests that residents find alternative routes in and out of town for themselves and their guests during this period.



Pictured left to right Donald Kurz, co-chairman, Charles Lang, general chairman, and Thomas Murray, Jr., honorary chairman, of the Nassau County Fireman's Association Parade and Drill which is being hosted by the Port Fire Department.