

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Written by Jane Purcell

Bantam is the quintessential small New England village where people know who their neighbors are. Everyone knows everyone. If they are talking about you this week well, then they are leaving me alone. Our fire and ambulance services are run entirely by volunteer members, your neighbors. When that siren sounds, they come running. It doesn't matter if they are just getting ready to have dinner or watch UCONN play basketball. Anytime, day or night, rain or snow, because that is what neighbors do in Bantam.

The Bantam Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary was started in 1970. At that time women were not allowed to join the actual fire department, at least none ever had. The women needed a way to be able to help. So they founded their own organization. The members help out with parades, drills, and fundraisers.

The Bantam Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary has compiled a cookbook which features recipes from friends, family, and members of the Auxiliary and Fire Company. There are new recipes along with favorites from their original cookbook, and included throughout are hints and ideas that cooks will find helpful. It is contained in a washable three-ring binder allowing for easy addition of recipes.

All proceeds go towards equipment for the Bantam Fire Company, aiding local families in time of need, and the Ladies Auxiliary Annual Scholarship with preferences given to students pursuing the medical sciences.

Copies of the cookbook are \$12.00 each and can be purchased at the Fabric Bug, located at 135 East Main St. in Thomaston.  
Call for directions: 860-417-6522. Or call: Betty Sparks at 860-567-9546. We hope you will find several new recipes to add to your collection.