

Spring 2014

GLADWYNE Fire Company

Protecting the Gladwyne Village Since 1944

1044 Black Rock Road • PO Box 11 • Gladwyne, PA 19035



From the President



Kevin Gallagher
President

I am confident you will agree it is a joy to finally have one of the most challenging winters in many years behind us. For your fire company, the challenges were almost non-stop. However, as a result of the tremendous commitment and dedication on the part of the entire brigade, every emergency call was responded

to promptly, every event was expertly handled, and everyone returned to the fire house safely without harm.

As we turn our attention and efforts to the potential challenges that come with the return of warm weather, we are extremely pleased and proud to share with you that 2014 is the 70th Anniversary of the Gladwyne Fire Company.

Little did anyone know back in the spring of 1944 when, at a town meeting to discuss the need for adequate fire protection within the Gladwyne community, your fire company would have grown to become one of the premier fire companies in Pennsylvania.

In September of 1944 a committee of residents was formed to

pursue the creation of a fire company in Gladwyne. A building and equipment campaign was begun with the goal of purchasing a fire engine and provide adequate housing. By March of 1946, \$10,000 had been raised, a sum sufficient for the Lower Merion Board of Commissioners to recognize the Gladwyne Fire Company as the operating fire company in Gladwyne.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the commitment of a select group of residents who subsequently volunteered to be members of the Gladwyne fire-fighter brigade and the generous financial support of the Gladwyne community.

For 70 years your fire company has fulfilled its commitment to safely protect the lives of you, your family, and your property. You can rest assured that will continue to be our goal in the years that lie ahead.

On behalf of our volunteer fire-fighters, our three career housemen, and our Board, we look forward to celebrating our 70th Anniversary year with the entire Gladwyne community.

Kevin Gallagher, President
Gladwyne Fire Company



In an effort to help our firefighters we launched a "Hydrant Clearing Contest". Our winners were Riley and Taylor Schwarz pictured above helping clear the fire hydrant from snow! Our firefighters need YOUR help to clear out around the fire hydrants from snow and also from bushes and anything else that "hides" them. Searching for hydrants is precious time lost!



Chief's Corner

Officers

Blaine W. Leis

Chief

Andrew J. Block

Deputy Chief

Christopher Flanagan

Assistant Chief

Michael Schwarz

Assistant Chief

John Remillard

Assistant Chief

James H. McLean

Assistant Chief

Bart Rose

Captain

George A. Culbertson

Chief Emeritus

Board of Directors

Kevin Gallagher

President

Steve Zipf

Vice President

March Pepper

Treasurer

Blaine Leis

Chief

Board Members

Kevin Berry

Andy Block

Albert Breuers

Brian Brown

Andrew Culbertson

George A. Culbertson

Hunter Hayes

Skip Irvine

Pauline McDaniel

Michael McDermott

Phil Sullivan

Peter Wynne

Tom Zug

David P. Brown III

Director Emeritus

Frank Hopkinson

Director Emeritus



Blaine W. Leis
Chief

2013 - A Year in Review!

First, a special ‘thank you’ to all of the Volunteers, Career Staff Members, Board of Directors and community members for all of the support and help that you have provided to our company throughout the year.

As many of you are aware, it was a challenging year. Your Gladwyne Firefighters answered the 319 emergency calls for help with the utmost professionalism and returned home safely to their families after each and every call. Above and beyond answering the many calls, our firefighters met every Wednesday night and spent countless hours training and practicing our craft of protecting the lives and property in our community.

Due to the extreme weather, the first two months of 2014 have proven to be busier than ever. Our volunteers have already answered 65 emergency calls for help! They have spent many hours away from their homes and many have staffed the firehouse to ensure quick response. Early the morning of February 5th, the Gladwyne Firefighters responded to a call for a significant fire at a house on Youngsford Rd. which was extinguished quickly and efficiently.

On February 11, 2014 we received word from the PA State Fire Commissioner and the PA State EMS Director that we were being recognized as the 1st Pennsylvania State Swift-Water Rescue Type 2A Team in Montgomery County. This cherished award certification affirms that we are equipped and trained to the standards set forth by several accrediting agencies.

On behalf of everyone at the Gladwyne Fire Company, I would like to thank the residents of our community for all their wonderful support in 2013 and wish you a healthy and safe 2014.

CFL Bulb Safety



Energy saving Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs are becoming very common in homes and at work. In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. Here are important safety tips regarding CFL's.

When a CFL Burns Out

- It may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. This is normal and not a fire safety issue.
- CFL's should never be discarded with household trash, but instead recycled.

If a CFL Breaks

CFLs are made of glass and can break. Care should be taken when removing from a socket, from packaging and installing. If a CFL breaks:

- OPEN a window and allow the room to air out for 5–10 minutes.
- People and pets should LEAVE the room.
- TURN OFF forced air heating and/or air conditioning.
- COLLECT broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape or a damp paper towel.
- PLACE the debris in a glass container with a metal cover in a safe location outside until you can dispose of it.
- CONTACT your local government to find out how to dispose of the debris.
- CONTINUE airing out the room for several hours.

A Winter to Remember....

It's been a busy few months, as Gladwyne Firefighters responded to multiple fires and emergencies in the area. We even found time to train for ice rescues on Dove Lake.



Gladwyne Firefighters responded to Bala Cynwyd to assist our brothers at a large house fire on Bryn Mawr Avenue. To the right are Gladwyne Firefighters Buckingham and Watrous manning hose-lines outside the engulfed home.



Gladwyne Firefighters help to extricate and transport a vehicle accident victim who drove off the expressway down on the river bank.

Despite the cold weather and falling snow, Gladwyne Firefighters spent 3 hours training in ice rescue at a local pond that the homeowner was gracious enough to allow us to use.

Several holes were cut into the ice and we started practicing self-rescue drills, rescuing both conscious and unconscious victims, and utilizing our "banana boat" or Oceanid Rapid Deployment Craft to assist in ice rescues.



Gladwyne Firefighters responded to a house fire on Youngsford Road in the early morning hours during a snow/ice storm. The fire was contained and later found to have been started by a surge protector that sparked when the electricity went out and lit a nearby sofa.



Meet A Volunteer

Firefighter Bradford “Brady” McHale

Brady joined Gladwyne Fire Company as a volunteer when he was in 10th grade at Lower Merion High School. Since joining the Company, he has been a top responding volunteer.

He now serves Gladwyne Fire Company as a Firefighter and is a trained Tiller Operator of the ladder truck. In addition, he is the newly elected president of the Active Members Club.

To his credit, he recently graduated from the Delaware County Police Academy and works part time at the Easttown Township police department. He is also pursuing a college degree at La Salle University.

When Brady is not at school or volunteering, he enjoys cheering the Lower Merion High School men’s basketball team. He was the team manager when he attended Lower Merion and still enjoys helping the team out when he can.

Within the Gladwyne community he is known as the Firehouse Birthday Party Coordinator!



BRADY McHALE
Volunteer since high school
Recent Police Academy graduate
Firehouse Birthday Party Coordinator



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Gladwyne, PA 19035



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