

# Meet A Volunteer

## Assistant Chief Michael Schwarz

Mike Schwarz joined Gladwyne Fire Company as a volunteer in 1997 while he was attending Harriton High School. Since then he has served in many capacities including, firefighter, apparatus driver/operator and Active Members Club President.

Mike now serves Gladwyne Fire Company as an Assistant Chief and is in charge of the Water Rescue Program and Communications Department. He has received many life-saving awards from the Gladwyne Fire Company and Lower Merion Township. In 2011, Whitmarsh Township recognized Mike for his part in rescuing five people in floodwaters during Hurricane Irene.

Mike is a graduate of Penn State University and is employed by Verizon.

When Mike is not at work or volunteering, he enjoys being with his wife Andrea and their three wonderful children: Riley, Taylor and Connor.



**MICHAEL SCHWARZ**  
*Volunteer since 1997*  
*Assistant Chief*  
*Heads Water Rescue Program*



PO Box 11  
Gladwyne, PA 19035



Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Upper Darby, PA  
Permit No. 1339

Summer 2014

# GLADWYNE Fire Company

Protecting the Gladwyne Village Since 1944

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



Kevin Gallagher  
President

## From the President

The response to our annual fund campaign during this, our 70th Anniversary, has been most gratifying. As of June 30th, 20% of the community residents have responded to our fund drive effort. On behalf of the volunteer firefighters and the Board, I would like to extend our gratitude to the many residents who have already supported our fund drive. If you have not contributed to our fund drive, we urge you to do so.

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Gladwyne Fire Company, we established a very ambitious fund drive goal. First, not unlike in previous years, we are striving to raise \$140,000 to satisfy our annual operating budget. However, in addition to satisfying the operating budget, we are also striving to reduce the mortgage on the apartment

house that was purchased ten years ago in order that our firefighters might have affordable housing in Gladwyne.

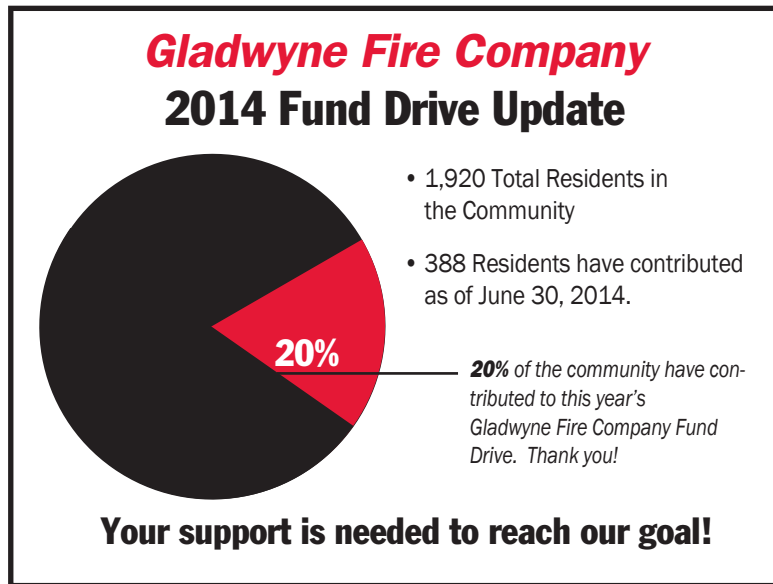
Having firefighters within a short distance of the firehouse means a shorter response time. With

such housing available, invariably the first firefighters to respond to an emergency will be the firefighters you enable to live in Gladwyne.

In closing, I would like to request that when you contribute to the Gladwyne Fire Company this year that you also consider including

a one-time anniversary gift to reduce the volunteer house mortgage.

Kevin Gallagher, President  
Gladwyne Fire Company





# 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

**Andy Block**

**Albert Breuers**

**Andrew Culbertson**

**George A. Culbertson**

**Hunter Hayes**

**Skip Irvine**

**Pauline McDaniel**

**Michael McDermott**

**Brady McHale**

**Phil Sullivan**

**Peter Wynne**

**Tom Zug**

**David P. Brown III**  
Director Emeritus

**Frank Hopkinson**  
Director Emeritus



*Blaine W. Leis*  
Chief

## Training Pays Off

On April 29, 2014 Gladwyne firefighters were dispatched to the 900 block of Black Rock Road for a house fire. In route to the fire, a message was transmitted from the dispatch center advising that the family was trapped on the roof because the fire was raging in the living room and up the steps cutting off their access to get out of the house.

Gladwyne firefighters arrived on the scene within a mere seven minutes of the call for help. The firefighters found the homeowner and his children standing on the garage roof in fear for their lives as they watched their house burning below them.

Captain Bart Rose, Engineer John Robb, Firefighters Tom Hayden, Andy Culbertson, Mike Newell and Dave Watrous immediately deployed ground ladders and expertly removed the homeowner and his children from the dangers of the fire. The firefighters then forced the front door open, brought a water hose line into the house, and extinguished the fire. In the course of all this activity, the firefighters also located and rescued the family dog!

On Sunday June 8th, 2014, just before 6 p. m., Gladwyne Firefighters were dispatched to a water rescue below the Flat Rock Dam on the Schuylkill River. Upon arrival the firefighters discovered there were three victims in the water, two males and a female, all desperately seeking to be saved.

Witnesses reported to the firefighters that a male and a female were riding on a wave runner at a good rate of speed and accidentally went over the top of the Flat Rock Dam, crashing into the rocks at the bottom of the dam. Before the firefighters arrived, a Good Samaritan tried to make his way out to the victims but became trapped in the rushing river waters.

The Gladwyne water rescue team navigated the rushing river waters and safely rescued all three victims in a harrowing ninety minutes. A rescue of this magnitude is considered a "technical rescue". It takes an extensive amount of training and specialized equipment to carry out difficult rescues of this nature.

The successful outcome to these two incidents would not have been possible if it were not for the dedication of our firefighters and the amount of training that goes into preparing for such emergencies. Your Gladwyne firefighters put in countless hours of training each year to be prepared to do heroic things at a moment's notice.

Your continued financial support in recognition of our firefighters is extremely appreciated.

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety Tip

Carbon Monoxide is often called the silent killer. CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane burn incompletely. Your heating system and cooking equipment can be sources of carbon monoxide.

To protect you and your family, CO alarms should be installed in your home.

- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting.

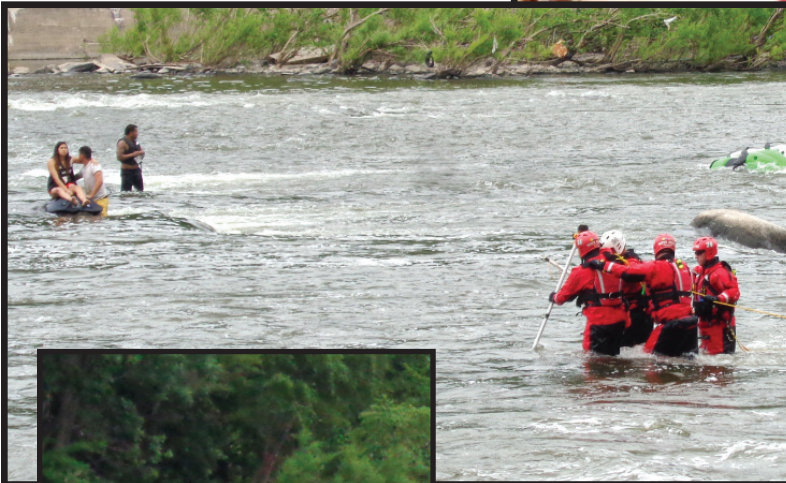
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call in the event the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move everyone to a fresh air location outdoors. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for.
- If the audible "trouble" signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside and away from the house.



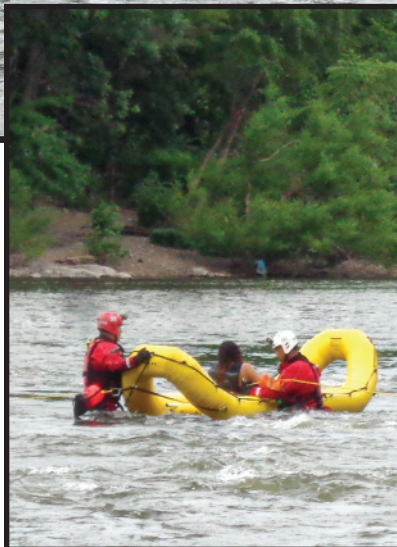
## 3 Saved in Black Rock Road Fire



Gladwyne firefighters rescued a family stranded on their garage roof as their house burned on Black Rock Road.



## 3 Rescued from River



Swift water rescue of 3 people after a ski jet accident in the Schuylkill River.

