

## 2009 Fund Drive

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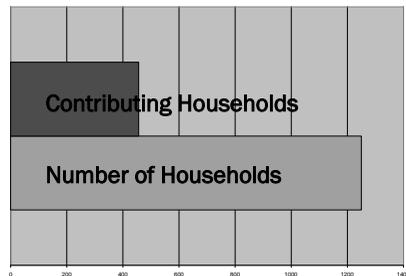
Thank You for your continued support and 2009 contributions to your community.



Thank You for filling these boots!

From our firefighters, EMS, Instructors, Drivers, Maintenance, Administrative staff:  
Wishing you a safe & happy holiday season!

### 2009 FUND DRIVE PROGRESS



Contributing Households  
456  
Number of Households  
1250  
Percentage Contributing  
36.5%

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS YOUR PROTECTION !

## The Bulldog Bulletin®

*Volume No. 1 Issue No. 24 Dec. 2009*

Greenfield Township  
Volunteer Fire Company  
(GTVFC) Fire/EMS Station 24  
424 Route 106  
Greenfield Twp., PA 18407



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Emergency Dial 911

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We are an equal opportunity 501 (c)(3)

non-profit organization



## Can You Fill These Boots ? Greenfield Needs You !



### Firefighter Interview

By L. Bales—Vice President, Firefighter, EMT

A multi part series aimed at getting to know the members of your fire company based on questions developed by the Recruitment & Retention Committee. First on our list is Current Vice President and Active Interior Firefighter Leigh Bales. The following is a continuation of the start of the interview in the September issue.

14. **When did you decide that you wanted to make being a member of the (fire / EMT) or related vocat ions your choice of life's work?** I chose to be a paid EMT when I realized that would offer so much more training than classes would, real on the job experiences, what could be better. In relation to what I do now, I think the volunteer in me exists at work; I am always trying to help other departments if they need it and getting involved with committees.
15. **Does volunteering give you any satisfaction and how would you rate that satisfaction on a scale of 1 thru 10 with 1 being the lowest?** Volunteering does give back satisfaction and with regard to grad-ing it, I call it a strong 9 out of 10, only does spending time with my family get a 10. Although the fire company is part of my family so let's say a 9.9.
16. **How do other members of GTVFC look upon you as a member of the organization?** I think I am looked to as a member who knows about other ways to do things, or sometimes the voice that is will-ing to speak out not matter what as well as a confident ear who won't spill their beans.
17. **At what age do you feel members should scale back actively responding to incidents the company is called out for?** I do not think there is a set age, nor should there be. There are always jobs to be done at incidents or at the station or after the incident.
18. **We all know that there is more to an active organization than just responding to incidents. Should older members, no longer responding to incidents, remain active in company administration and fund raising or should those functions be left to those members who specifically join the company for that purpose and why?** I think the ones who are not actively responding to incidents should be involved with the administrative/supportive side of the company, yet they need to be listening to the active members on what we need, we are the ones in harms way and life safety comes first.
19. **Should active responders be proactive in company administration and fund raising?** Of course, we are the ones this is all being done for, we are not a social club, we are a family and the active members/responders are the true voice of what is needed and the supportive roles are the ones who help get it done.
20. **What are your suggestions for recruitment of new members, including cadets, firefighters and administrative personnel?** My suggestions to recruit new members are to listen to the community. There needs to be fund raisers that meet the age and mind set of the community. I have run suppers, markets, tournaments, lecture series events. These are what people do for fun, go out to eat, rummage for bargains and look for ways to laugh or get in shape, be outdoors, and include their family. The idea that recruiting volunteers is for us is not true, we need to find what reasons they want.

*Conclusion continued on the next page.*

## Firefighter Interview Continued

By L. Bales—Vice President, Firefighter, EMT

21. **How can these recruitment suggestions be made active?** I think by researching the ideas and having good details and good contacts for each event. Not too many hands on the spoon while the pot is being stirred.
22. **Is GTVFC doing enough to increase the community's awareness of the importance of support for the fire company?** Not right now, we need to refocus on the changing needs of the community and the economy, bring the fears to rest about decreases in jobs how this is not affecting us.
23. **What are your suggestions for raising the company's stature within the community?** The company needs to raise its stature in the community by holding more events that involve the residents, a lot of the residents of this community are originally from somewhere else and expect the things that happened where they came from. For me the fire company in the area where I started was truly reflected the nature of the environment.
24. **If fire companies cannot recruit enough new members to sustain an active roster of fire fighters and administrative personnel, what is your opinion of the future of not only GTVFC but for volunteer fire companies as well?** If there are no new members coming in whether on the active or administrative side then the fire company will slowly dwindle to a minimal operation company, the mutual aide companies will be stressed covering and that hurts other communities and vice versa with the companies around us.
25. **Based on your experience, would you recommend becoming a GTVFC volunteer?** Yes, I would recommend being a volunteer with Greenfield or anywhere to anyone. Giving back in your community, that is the noblest thing I can think of, it is so rewarding
26. **Would you recommend a 14 year old male or female to join GTVFC as a cadet, and if so why?** Absolutely! I would recommend volunteering to 14 year olds. It lets you learn so much and so many different things that will only benefit someone for their future like teamwork, respect, self dedication, commitment, persistence, and family.
27. **Would you recommend your own child of that age to join GTVFC as a cadet?** No question, being a member of any fire company is a family and if I can keep my families together than that makes it all the more special, and all the more meaningful.

While a member of GTVFC, I have learned the skills of communication, compassion, quick decision making and keen observation. I am able to utilize these skills daily in my profession as a Physical Therapist in a local hospital. In the end I believe that giving of yourself is noble and rewarding for both yourself and your community.

As stated in this article, even though an individual is already established in their chosen work field, profession or career, the training and exposure to team interaction at GTVFC expands capabilities they might not have realized they even had.

Regarding our cadets. We are proud of those who have, as a result of GTVFC participation and training, have gone into community service professions such as Professional Firefighter, Physician's Assistant, Nuclear Medical Technician and Nurse Practitioner. All are still members of GTVFC.



## Haunted Castle at Six Flags Great Adventure Fire

By Fire Chief F. Bales, CFPS, CFI

It was a warm, Friday, summer night in Jackson, NJ on May 11, 1984, when eight teenagers entered the Haunted Castle at Six Flags Great Adventure, never to be seen alive again.

The Haunted Castle was a popular attraction at the park, and like many "Dark Rides" found in amusement parks all over the country, its sole purpose was to create fear, anxiety, and fun. Twenty-nine people were inside the Haunted Castle, when fire erupted around 6:30pm. The Castle, constructed from 17 trailers connected together, formed a long (400 ft) confusing maze. While alternately subjected to total darkness and bright strobe lights, guests felt their way along the foam rubber covered walls to exit. The trailers were not equipped with smoke detectors or fire sprinklers. The presence of foam rubber walls accelerated the fire, and rapidly filled the Castle with thick black smoke.

At 7:41 pm, the fire was declared out, with fire fighters beginning to search for hot spots. Two hours later the charred bodies of eight teenagers were found huddled together in the center of the Castles rubble. Initially fire fighters thought the bodies were mannequins used in the show. Officially, a child (who was not charged) using a lighter to see as he moved through the trailers caused the fire accidentally, igniting the foam rubber wall.

Six Flags and the park management were charged with aggravated manslaughter, for "recklessly causing deaths under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to human life". During the trial, it was shown the Township Officials failed to inspect the attraction, which became the basis for the defendants to be acquitted. However, dozens of civil suits were filed against the Township and Six Flags, which were settled out of court for an estimated \$20 million.

Because of the fire, many other states strengthened code inspection efforts at dark rides and "any structure that intentionally disorients". Fire codes have specific requirements, such that prohibit the use of combustible wall coverings such as foam rubber, require smoke detectors and sprinkler sys-

tems in assembly occupancies. However, the Haunted Castle would not be the last time lives were lost due to foam rubber walls and poor exit design.



**Breakfast With Santa**  
**December 20th**  
**8:00 am to 12:00 noon**  
**All are welcome -Children free**

From all of us at GTVFC to all of you and yours, we wish you  
**A Merry Christmas, A Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous, Happy New Year**

## My Favorite Recipes

By M. S. Karolyi—Administrative Member

### Savory Beef Stew with a Twist

Beef stew with tomatoes, carrots and raisins, flavored with molasses and red wine vinegar and served with steamed rice or wide noodles.

Ingredients: 3 Lbs. chuck roast cut into 2 inch pieces, 3 medium chopped onions, 6 chopped carrots, 2 tbs. flour, 1 tsp. salt, 2 cloves garlic chopped, 1/2 tsp. celery salt, 1/4 tsp black pepper, 1/2 tsp. ground ginger, 1 (14.5 oz.) can of crushed tomatoes, 1/3 cup red wine vinegar, 1/2 cup molasses, 1/2 cup raisins, 1/2 cup water, 2 tbs. oil or shortening, 4 cups cooked rice or 1 package wide noodles.

Directions:

1. Combine flour, salt, celery salt, pepper, ground ginger and chopped garlic. Coat beef with mixture. Brown beef in oil in a heavy bottomed pot.
2. Add all other ingredients to the pot except rice or noodles and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 2 hours
3. Prepare rice or noodles per package. I like to add about 2 tbs. butter for flavor.

I like to use my cast iron Dutch oven and bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 2 hrs after browning.

Advertising Supplement to the *Bulldog Bulletin*

GTVFC—Dec. 2009

If you wish to place an ad. that will reach every household in Greenfield Township

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Cut-off date for the March issue is Jan. 31, 2010

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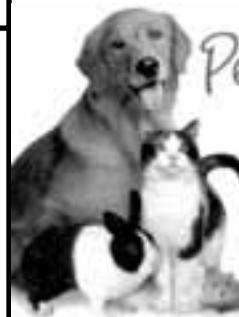


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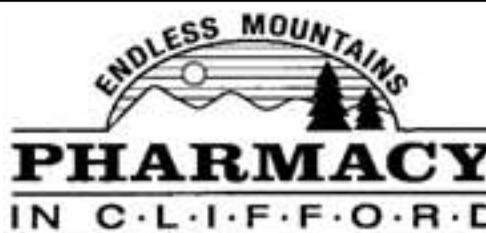
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***Santa Breakfast***

***Dec. 20th***

***Everyone is Welcome***

***Support Your Fire Company!***

***Hey! Hey! Whadaya Say?***

You want to do something positive for the community in which you live? You want to raise your children to be good citizens by being a role model?

***Consider Volunteering at GTVFC***

***Hey! Hey! Whadaya Say?***

Are you concerned about rising costs and worry about future fire and ambulance service?

***Consider Volunteering at GTVFC***

***Hey! Hey! Whadaya Say?***

You have no interest in active fire fighting? That's OK! There are many ways to help yourself, your family and your community thru GTVFC.

***Consider Volunteering at GTVFC***

***Hey! Hey! Whadaya Say?***

Ambulance runs and emergency health responding is not for you? That's OK! There are many ways to help your community thru GTVFC. ***JUST ASK US! FILL OUT THE FORM AND BRING IT IN!***

**GTVFC POTENTIAL MEMBER PRE-APPLICATION REGISTRATION**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: (Day)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: (Other)** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate Preference:** Tactical – Firefighter \_\_\_\_\_ Tactical-EMT \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cadet:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cadet Working Papers:** Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Availability:** Days: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening only: \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends only: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Skills:** Previous Firefighting/EMT experience Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ CDL: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**HAZMAT:** Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list below any current certifications you hold and where they were obtained:**

**Briefly state below why you wish to join GTVFC:**

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company is required by law to comply with ACT 45 – Ambulance Service Management. This act, as well as GTVFC standard operating procedures require physical screening for certain service positions. All applicants for membership in GTVFC shall be required to undergo complete background investigation. The undersigned applicant shall provide any and all pertinent information requested and hereby agrees and permits GTVFC and the Greenfield Twp police to complete any and all aforementioned checks/ tests deemed necessary. All information provided to GTVFC will be held in the strictest confidence.

**Applicant signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cadet Parental signature** \_\_\_\_\_

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**GTVFC**

**June 2009**

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