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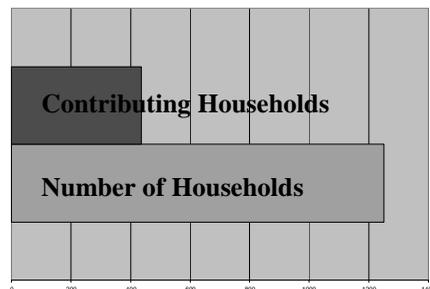
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2009 FUND DRIVE PROGRESS



Contributing Households
436
Number of Households
1250
Percentage Contributing
34.9%

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The Bulldog Bulletin®

Volume No. 1 Issue No. 23 Sept. 2009

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



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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.

- 1. How long have you been active in the (fire / EMT) service? And how long have you been a member of GTVFC?** I have been an active member for 15 years, 5 years with Greenfield.
- 2. What is your opinion of volunteer fire and ambulance services?** They are needed organizations that are under funded and under staffed.
- 3. Were you a Cadet member before becoming a regular member of GTVFC?** No I was not an official cadet member. I have spent my childhood and teen years helping out at numerous functions and fundraisers.
- 4. Have you ever been a member of another fire company?** Yes. I was an active interior firefighter and lieutenant in the Lake Ariel Fire company.
- 5. Are you now or have you ever been a member of a paid municipal fire company or ambulance service?** I worked for a private ambulance service in the city of Scranton.
- 6. At what age did you first become interested in volunteering?** I have been interested in volunteering since I was 10, about when I was able to go on calls with my dad.
- 7. Are any other members of your family active now or had been active in the (fire / EMT) service?** Yes, my father, grandfather, god-father, husband and best friend are all involved in the fire and EMS fields.
- 8. Did other members of your family influence your becoming a member of the fire service?** My father was my and is my greatest influence for being here. He taught me that we are here to serve and be the strength that people in distress need.
- 9. Did any friends, neighbors, or co-workers encourage your joining a fire/EMS company?** I truly found my friends in the fire service. People I was around had no knowledge of the fire service and did not understand why I could just go out and join. I had a job I could be called to at any moment. It taught me responsibility and dedication.
- 10. What is your opinion of the training and certification processes in place at GTVFC?** I believe the training program here is focused on getting each member appropriate training for the level they are interested in and is tremendous in the sense of the caring for the member.
- 11. Has the training you received as a member of GTVFC influenced your choice of vocation and are you currently employed in that vocation?** I did utilize the exposure I received as a young adult as influence for my career choice. I am and have been employed in my vocation for 11 years now.
- 12. Has the training you received as a member of GTVFC helped you in your current employment?** The emergency response training I have received has truly helped me be more productive and of more value to the companies I have worked for.

This interview will be continued in the next issue of The Bulldog Bulletin.

The Rest of the Lake View School Fire Story!

By Fire Chief F. Bales, CFPS, CFI

As you may remember from our previous discussion, on Ash Wednesday in 1908, a fire erupted in the basement of the Lake View School in Collinwood, Ohio; claiming the life of 172 students, 2 teachers, and a fire fighter. Like the Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School, (see March 2009 News Letter on at www.greenfieldtownship.org) the lack of fire doors allowed the stairwell to fill rapidly with smoke. But why did so many children, in both fires, die?

According to a study by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), “So tightly were the children wedged that rescuers could do little to free them, and consequently they perished at that location”. Students and teachers on the upper floors, exiting down the stairs to the outside, were blocked by the smoke and fire. Many perished in the stairwells. As smoke began to fill the upper floors, students jumped from windows, never using the fire escape on the south side of the building.

Investigators looking at the tragic loss noted that the school conducted regular fire drills, and the students were well disciplined and orderly during the drills. Specifically, the students were taught to exit the classroom into the center hall, and then down the stairs to the outside. However, like MOST schools today, the students did not practice using the alternate escape routes, such as fire escapes and exterior windows. At the time of the fire, the school did not have fire doors; panic hardware equipped exit doors, as this technology was not available at that time; sprinklers; or automatic fire detection.

Today the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) requires that classrooms normally used by “preschool, kindergarten, or first-grade students” on the same level as the building exit discharge (e.g., direct access to the ground level outside), and those used by second-grade students to no more than one story above the level of exit discharge. However, upper floors may be used if there is a separate exit specifically for use by “preschool, kindergarten, first-grade, or second-grade students only.”

Like the Our Lady of the Angels Catholic

School, the events and conditions of this tragic fire in Collinwood, led to many fire code improvements and requirements that are in place today for schools. Including outward swinging exit doors, equipped with panic hardware; fire doors separating floors and stairwells; and the requirement to identify two separate escape routes for emergencies. Sadly, many schools, worksites, and public places, fail to practice using these secondary escape routes. Fires occur suddenly and with little warning. Fire and life safety professionals recommend that in addition to the normal exit routes, drills should be conducted where the alternate escape route is used. Through practice, people will learn to listen for directions to use alternate routes and will automatically seek out those routes when their primary escape path is blocked.

One year after the fire a new school, the Collinwood Memorial Elementary School, was erected on a lot adjacent to the former site of the Lake View School. On March 9, 1909, the Ohio General Assembly declared the original Lake View School site is forever dedicated as a memorial park in memory of those who perished in the fire. Today, the garden stands prominently on the site where the tragedy took place. The memorial is a 50-foot by 30-foot raised plateau with brown sandstone pavers surrounding it along with hundreds of plants and over two dozen small trees.

To view burial footage of the 19 students from the Lake View School Fire, go to You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pezuuTrxG8>.



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A Turtle Rescue

By L. Drennan—Administrative Member

Stifling laughter, with tears running from their eyes, center’s dispatchers must have worked hard to keep the snicker off the air. You won’t believe this one! Who’s gonna respond to a call to rescue two snapping turtles the size of New Jersey stuck in a drain pipe?! At the fire company engineer’s request, the call to rescue two trapped snapping turtles went out simply as “community service” at Newton Lake. Meanwhile the tones go off and Engine 24 and crew respond and have no inkling of what they are going to have to do. Ironically it is John Apostolakes, in full gear that jumps from the engine to answer the call. The drawback is that John, a fully certified firefighter, has a bit of a problem when it comes to reptiles. Let’s just say he has a strong desire to avoid them

At first, John’s fellow firefighters tell him he’s going to rescue a snake (just because they know he has an aversion to them.) Nothing like a little friendly harassment to get you going. It’s obvious; John would rather run into burning buildings! As the crew try to get a look at the first trapped turtle caught between a grate and the drain pipe, John realizes he is definitely out of his comfort zone. He asks, “What kind of turtle is that?”.....”You want me to do what?” “Pick it up?!” The company engineer assures him that once they get the turtle into position, he will be able to pick it up by the tail without a problem. Trouble is John looks into the murky water and can’t see where the head is and which end is which, and this does not instill confidence. To make matters worse, John can only use one arm as he needs to balance himself while kneeling and stretching to reach the turtle under the water. At this point the dedication is apparent; these firefighters really do trust each other ...John listens to the crew standing above him with the hook in place; “NOW ...He’s in the right position...reach down and you’ll have his tail”...Following orders, he blindly grabs and catches hold of the tail and in one swoop hurls the huge turtle up and out into the lake. We all cheer. I don’t know who is more shocked...John or the turtle? The turtle recovers

more quickly!

The second turtle is much further down the drain pipe and too far for the hook to reach. After a meeting of the minds, the obvious solution was flushing the wedged turtle out of the drain. The force of the water raised the turtle from his wedged position in the pipe resulting in his exit with the water. Mission accomplished. John proudly grins....”My first rescue!! “

He’ll be living that one down for a while! But lets face it, you have to admire the dedication of these firefighters who respond to any call for help, not knowing with what they’ll be confronted. It really is true...being a firefighter; you never know what you’re going to have to deal with. Just ask John!

My Favorite Recipes

By M. S. Karolyi—Administrative Member

Kraut Beans

This recipe evolved as a result of having the last of a pot of stuffed cabbage after all the cabbage rolls were gone...you know, just the loose sauerkraut, cabbage and gravy left. Not wanting to throw it out, I added a can of baked beans to the leavings, and it has become a family favorite. A good complement to meat loaf, sausage, and goes well at a cook out. The taste is not unique, but it will please your taste buds.

- (1)Medium onion, chopped;(1)Garlic clove,chopped
- (1) 14.4 oz. can of sauerkraut – drained and rinsed if you prefer less salt
- (1) 28 oz. can of Bush’s baked beans
- (½) cup tomato sauce; (4) Tbsp olive oil

In a two quart saucepan: Sauté onions and garlic in olive oil until translucent. Add sauerkraut and tomato sauce and cook covered for about ten minutes on medium heat or until the kraut is tender. Add baked beans and fold into the kraut mixture for an even consistency. Recover and simmer until ready to serve. About six servings. Enjoy!

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GTVFC—June 2009

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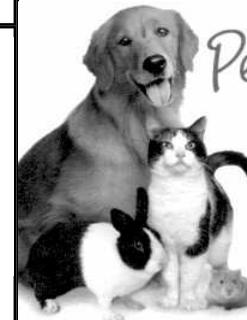


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