TOWNSHIP OF

# -- MIDDLETOWN --

# Thank You to Middletown Volunteer Firefighters

Welcome to this special edition of Middletown Township E-news, where we shine a spotlight on the incredible volunteer firefighters who dedicate their time and energy to keeping our community safe. As you read about their remarkable contributions, we hope you'll feel inspired to join their ranks and support the four volunteer fire companies that serve Middletown Township. Your involvement could make a vital difference.



# The Role of Volunteer Firefighters in the Community

Volunteer firefighters play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. They respond to fires, medical emergencies, and other critical



situations, often putting themselves in harm's way to protect others. But their contributions extend far bevond emergency response. In our tight-knit community, volunteer firefighters do more than just respond to emergencies; they are also vital in educating the public about fire safety. This summer, volunteer

firefighters have been actively participating in various community events to spread awareness about fire prevention and safety.

Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of our community's emergency response. They sacrifice their time and energy to ensure the safety of our residents. But their contributions go beyond just fighting fires—they are passionate about preventing them. By attending local fairs, school events, and community gatherings, these dedicated volunteers are making a significant impact on public safety to prevent fire and emergencies from happening to begin with.

# **Volunteer Firefighting in Middletown**

Middletown Township is served by four volunteer fire companies and supported by career firefighters during daytime, weekday hours. These dedicated volunteers keep the community safe from fires and other emergencies.

Click to learn more about each Fire Company:

Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company
Parkland Fire Company
Penndel Fire Company
William Penn Fire Company





### **Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company**

Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company responds from two stations. One is located at 114 E Maple Ave (Station 21) and 1741 Langhorne Yardley Road (Station 22). Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company was founded in 1829. Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company responds to an average of 600 calls per year. In addition to fire services, they also provide some EMT and first aid assistance. To learn more about the fire company go to their <a href="Facebook page here">Facebook page here</a>.

# **Parkland Fire Company**

Parkland Fire Company is located at 831 Avenue D, Langhorne (Station 9). Parkland Fire Company has been serving the community for over one hundred years. Parkland is the first fire company in the world to use the 'jaws of life" also known as the "first with the hurst". Parkland Fire Company is situated in the Parkland section of Middletown Township, their coverage area runs from Playwicki Park, through Neshaminy High school , and down to Business Route 1. Parkland Fire Company responds to an average of 200 calls a year. You can learn more about the fire company at PARKLANDFIRE.COM or by stopping by on any Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

# **Penndel Fire Company**

Penndel Fire Company is located at 220 Centre Street Penndel (Station 8). Penndel

Fire Company serves Penndel Borough, and Middletown Township, and also responds to I-295. Penndel Company was founded in 1911 and responds to an average of 475 calls a year. Penndel operates four special pieces of apparatus a heavy rescue, tower ladder, county foam unit and a special service that provides water and ice rescue support. The company also responds to first alarm assignments in over 50 square miles of lower Bucks County. To learn more about the fire company go to their Facebook page here.

William Penn Fire Company

William Penn Fire Company has two stations one is located at 123 Main Street, Hulmeville (Station 7) and the other is located at 1170 Bristol Oxford Valley Road, Levittown (Station 77). Station 7 provides services to Hulmeville Borough and Station 77 provides services in Middletown Township. The company was founded in 1832. William Penn Fire Company responds to roughly 600 calls per year . To learn more about the fire company go to their <u>Facebook page here</u>.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED!! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

All four of our fire companies are always looking for their next volunteer firefighter to join the department. No experience? No problem. Joining one of the companies will provide you with the following opportunities:

- Free Training and Equipment: When you sign up with any of the four companies, you'll receive fully funded training, including the essential Firefighter 1 School, which is required to enter a burning building.
  - o Highschool students can join and begin to learn about being Volunteer Firefighter.
  - o At 18 years old, you can attend Firefighter 1 Training, allowing you to enter burning buildings once the course is successfully completed.



- **Valuable Skills:** As a volunteer firefighter, you'll gain hands-on experience and develop critical skills in emergency response, teamwork, and leadership. These skills are not only vital in firefighting but also highly transferable to other careers and aspects of life.
- A Chance to Serve Your Community: Volunteering as a firefighter allows you to make a meaningful difference in the lives of your neighbors. You'll be on the front lines, helping to protect and save lives, homes, and businesses in your community. There's no greater reward than knowing you've made a positive impact where it's needed most.

Each fire company seeks individuals who want to give back to the community, whether by serving as a firefighter or aiding in administrative tasks. Apply to join one of our local volunteer fire companies today!



To support our volunteer firefighters and encourage retention, Middletown Township offers a range of incentives designed to ease the financial burden on these dedicated individuals and their families.

- 1. **Tax Relief:** Beginning in 2025, every active volunteer firefighter is eligible for a tax incentive of up to \$500 per year to be credited toward Middletown Township Real Estate Tax or Earned Income Tax (EIT). There are also tax incentives available from the Neshaminy School District and Bucks County.
- 2. **Stipend:** Each volunteer firefighter, whether they are a resident or nonresident, receives \$250 per year.
- 3. **Park and Recreation Discount:** Middletown Township offers volunteer firefighters and their families a \$100 discount on Parks and Recreation programs each year. Take a look at all of the programs <a href="here">here</a>.

These incentives are a small way to give back to those who give so much to our community. They also serve as a reminder that the Township values the contributions of its volunteers and is committed to making their service as rewarding as possible.

# **Volunteer Spotlight**



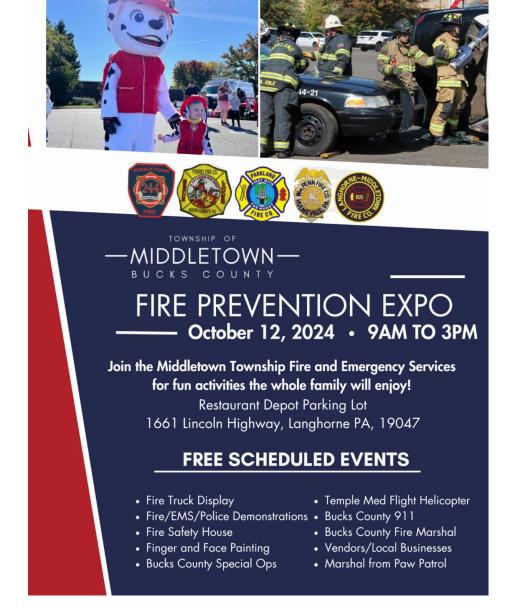
### **Meet Tim Walter!**

Some might say that the fire service is in his blood. "I come from a family of firefighters, so I always wanted to be a firefighter when I was a kid," he said. A 2015 graduate of Neshaminy High School and a 2017 graduate of Bucks County Community College, Tim has been serving the community as a member of the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company (LMFC) for more than a decade. His father Bob is a life member of the LMFC, currently serving as Assistant Chief of Station 22. His older brother James is a firefighter for the Philadelphia Fire Department, and also a member of the LMFC. For the Walters, firefighting is a family affair.

In addition to being a firefighter, Tim serves as Captain of Station 22, which is located near the intersection of Woodbourne Road and Langhorne-Yardley Road. He is also a member of the Recruitment/Retention Committee, Training Committee, Safety Committee, and the Investigating Committee. "The part I enjoy most from being a member of the LMFC is the family you get from it," he said. "You create so many friendships from spending a lot of time together during the good and bad times." When he is not fighting fires, Tim works for the Bristol Township Department of Public Works, and he enjoys spending time with his fiancée and his dogs.

"My advice for someone joining the fire company is to know that it's one of the best decisions you could ever make. You get to help your community when needed." Every Thursday you can find Tim alongside his brothers in service at the fire station continuing to acquire new knowledge and skills at a weekly drill night. "Never stop training," he said. "The fire service is always evolving and there's so much to learn." If you're interested in becoming a member of the fire company, feel free to stop by on a Thursday, pick up an application, and meet Tim in person!

# **Fire Prevention Expo**



In honor of Fire Prevention Month, the Middletown Township Fire and Emergency Services Department is hosting a Fire Prevention Expo at the Restaurant Depot Parking Lot on Saturday, October 12th, from 9:00 a.m -3:00 p.m. This Expo is the highlight event for Fire Prevention Month here in Middletown, dedicated to raising fire safety awareness and helping ensure that your home and family are protected from fire hazards.

The event will feature the four volunteer fire companies serving Middletown Township: Parkland Fire Company, Penndel Fire Company, William Penn Fire Company, and Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company. Residents are encouraged to join us for police, EMS, and fire demonstrations, Bucks County Special Ops presentations, and fun activities for kids, including an appearance by Marshall from Paw Patrol! Attendees can also enjoy a fire truck display, see the Temple Med Flight Helicopter, and hear from the Bucks County Fire Marshal.

# **Engaging the Public with Hands-On Learning**

At recent events, volunteer firefighters have set up interactive booths where residents can learn about fire prevention in a hands-on way. Demonstrations on how to properly use a fire



extinguisher, the importance of having working smoke alarms, and tips on creating a family fire escape plan are just a few of the activities that have drawn crowds. These sessions not only educate but also empower community members to take action in their own homes.

# **Stay Connected!**









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www.middletownbucks.org

Thank you for reading this edition of the Middletown Township E-news. Feel free to share with friends, family, and neighbors!

We'd like to hear from you! If you have an idea for something that we can cover in the Enews, please let us know by emailing Liz Lawson at elawson@middletownbucks.org

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