

PRESENTING OUR FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR



Want to learn more about your hometown heroes?

Here are four outstanding local residents who come to the aid of their neighbors in their strongest hours of need.

Each Firefighter of the Year is chosen by his or her own company. From rookie to seasoned, these firefighters serve East Lampeter Township at the following fire companies: Hand-in-Hand, Ronks, Witmer and Lafayette.



Francisco "Cisco" Rivera
EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTER
LAFAYETTE FIRE CO.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU JOIN THE FIRE COMPANY?

I joined Lafayette Fire Company in 2022. Best thing I've ever done because I like to help out the community.

WHAT MAKES YOU SHOW UP?

What makes me keep showing up is the crew—and knowing that I could help people. To me, this means a lot.

FUN FACT OR PERSONAL TIDBIT ABOUT YOU

I love the outdoors. I love hunting; I love to ride ATVs, and ride jet skis with the family.

WHAT IS YOUR DAY JOB?

I have a full-time job during the day. I work for United Rental as a truck driver. I've been with them for 13 years.

FAVORITE MEMORY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR FIRE COMPANY?

Helping people out. Also, I look forward to helping out at the chicken barbecue every year.



Christian Miller
2ND LIEUTENANT
HAND-IN-HAND FIRE CO.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU JOIN THE FIRE COMPANY?

I joined 7 years ago as a junior firefighter when I was 14 years old. My dad was a firefighter for years, so while growing up it was part of life. Then my older brother Arlan joined, and it was even more that way.

WHAT MAKES YOU SHOW UP?

It's something that needs to be done. Someone needs to show up and help these people. I'm also a guy who loves adrenaline, and the fire service is perfect for that.

FUN FACT OR PERSONAL TIDBIT ABOUT YOU

If I can sit around a campfire and just listen to chill music, then I'm probably going to be the happiest person around.

WHAT IS YOUR DAY JOB?

I work at a small shop that uses CNC routers to cut out and make lawn furniture as well as other items.

FAVORITE MEMORY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR FIRE COMPANY?

I have three brothers, and all three are members of the fire company. So just being there with family, and running calls with my brothers is probably one of the coolest things.





Jason Keys FIRE CAPTAIN WITMER FIRE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU JOIN THE FIRE COMPANY?

I joined the fire service when I was 14 years old, starting as a junior firefighter in a neighboring department. Over the past 11 years, I've had the privilege of riding with 3 different organizations in this county. I joined to serve my community on my neighbor's worst day.

WHAT MAKES YOU SHOW UP?

The fact that our department culture is family-oriented, is involved with community events and strives to train—all make me show up. On any given weekend now, it's normal for us to have a qualified crew in station ready to respond. We have a young group of guys eager to learn from those that came before them, and protect the community they live in. A staffing day may include, but is not limited to: cleaning apparatus, cleaning the station, servicing tools, training, and having a meal together. Our response times overall have improved since starting this. Having dedicated volunteers willing to staff fire trucks and ready to run calls—whether in East Lampeter or a surrounding community—makes me proud to be a part of Witmer Fire Protective Association (WFPA).

FUN FACT OR PERSONAL TIDBIT ABOUT YOU

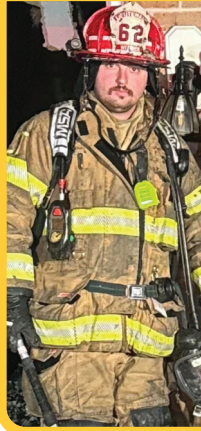
I enjoy working on house improvements, and visiting dog parks with my girlfriend Alexis and our 2-year-old Red Lab named Wesson.

WHAT IS YOUR DAY JOB?

I'm a 911 dispatcher for Lancaster County Wide Communications. My job involves processing police, fire and medical calls. Every shift I work is different—you never know what kind of call you'll take next. A shift can range from taking a parking complaint to working someone through CPR instructions.

FAVORITE MEMORY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR FIRE COMPANY?

There's many memories I have pertaining to important events that have occurred within the fire department throughout my time volunteering. The memories that stick out are the ones that involve peers putting their egos aside to do what's best for the community. I can proudly say that we've built a group of selfless individuals who are reminded it's a privilege to be a firefighter and to have the trust of the community.



Jacob King INTERIOR FIREFIGHTER RONKS FIRE CO

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU JOIN THE FIRE COMPANY?

I joined in May of 2005. I've been doing this for 19 years, and I've probably run 2,500 fire calls. I joined to help my neighbor out on the worst day of their life.

WHAT MAKES YOU SHOW UP?

It's a multitude of reasons. The base of that would probably be the committed executive board we have in our fire company. A lot of factors feed into that, [including] if the township is committed to standing behind that executive board and funding. Lastly, I enjoy the day-to-day-fire calls we run, and helping out my neighbors.

FUN FACT OR PERSONAL TIDBIT ABOUT YOU

I enjoy deer hunting.

WHAT IS YOUR DAY JOB?

Carpentry and construction.

FAVORITE MEMORY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR FIRE COMPANY?

I enjoy the camaraderie and going out to a fire call and figuring out what the issue is.

With Firefighter King's 19 years of experience in firefighting, which includes over 400 hours of certified training, and responding to approximately 2,500 fire calls—we asked him:

WHAT ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS A PERSON SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER DURING A FIRE?

- 1 Smoke goes up, so crawl low.
In an extreme emergency—drop to your knees, look around and find a door out. And do not re-enter.
- 2 Know your first aid education. This is comprised of one session with an educator instructing you on CPR, how to use an AED (an automated external defibrillator) and how to do the Heimlich maneuver. My wife reminded me that over the years [while off-duty] I've helped three separate choking victims.
- 3 Check the batteries in your smoke detector and your carbon dioxide detector. Get new detectors if needed.
- 4 Keep your fire extinguishers in good working order.
- 5 To fellow firefighters: Make sure your families are educated to protect you. Because your family may not know how to do CPR, use an AED or do the Heimlich maneuver. As firefighters, we receive all of this training—so share it with your families.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Tuesday, August 6 6-8pm
at the Shops at Rockvale

CADET CAMP
Fri. Aug 2 & Sat. Aug 3
Lafayette Fire Co.

CHICKEN BBQ
Sat. August 31
Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.

**BIRD-IN-HAND HALF MARATHON,
5K & KIDS FUN RUN**
Fri. & Sat. September 6 & 7
bihhalfmarathon.com

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT
Fri. June 28
at Witmer Fire Protection Association

**COMMUNITY CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT**
Sat. August 3
at Witmer Fire Protection Association

WITMER OX ROAST
Sat. October 19
at Witmer Fire Protection Association

EVENTS



**Witmer Fire
Protective Association**
455 Mt. Sidney Rd, Lancaster
witmerfire.com
717-393-1259



Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.
313 Enterprise Dr, Bird-in-Hand
bihfire.com
Station: 717-392-0112
Paul Fisher: 717-380-1109



Lafayette Fire Co.
63 Lafayette Way, Lancaster
lafayettefire.com
joinlafayette.com
717-392-5097



Ronks Fire Co
134 North Ronks Road, Ronks
ronksfirefireinfo@gmail.com
Steve Gribble: 717-368-5585

If you have questions about this information, or are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the fire companies listed above.