

YOUR VOLUNTEER VOICES

Here is where your local volunteer fire company members will answer questions, provide event dates, offer ways to get involved, and most importantly, reconnect with our communities.

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 Chief. From rookie to seasoned, these firefighters serve East Lampeter Township at the following fire companies: Hand-in-Hand, Ronks, Witmer and Lafayette.



Gary Nissenzone
LIEUTENANT FIREFIGHTER
LAFAYETTE FIRE CO.

Gary has become an integral part of the Lafayette Fire Company team. Often providing his years of operation knowledge to the team but introducing new ideas and tackling new challenges faced by the Company. Gary shows a commitment to running dayside (7am-7pm) calls, a timeframe where many of our volunteers are away at work. Gary has participated heavily in the Conestoga Valley High School Internship, a program that teaches high school aged students the skills and complexities of being a fire fighter. Gary continues to show the core values of Lafayette Fire Company through Loyalty to his fellow firefighters by responding to 100s of calls in 2024. Faith in each of his brothers and sisters to do their job on the fireground and get the job done. Charity as Gary has given countless hours to Lafayette Fire Company through responding to fire calls to being part of the chicken team during our annual BBQ. Gary was given the rank of Lieutenant for the 2025 year and has joined the Line Officers in helping ensure that East Lampeter Township receives the best services possible.



Leon Fisher Jr.
INTERIOR FIREFIGHTER
HAND-IN-HAND FIRE CO.

Hello fellow ELT community members! My name is Don Boyer, Chief of the Hand-In-Hand Fire Co. It is my pleasure to announce our Firefighter of the Year for 2024. This award is voted on by the over 60 active members of the department for over 30 years. The department votes for a peer who demonstrates the core values of the Hand-In-Hand Fire Company; trust, stability, and integrity. At our annual banquet this January we presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Leon Fisher, Jr. Leon joined the fire company in 2022 as a Junior Firefighter, when he took a job with a local business.

In his short time at Hand-In-Hand Leon focused on becoming an interior firefighter when he turned 18. He spent over 200 hours completing the training to make sure he can safely & confidently serve the East Lampeter Township community, as well as the surrounding areas. Whenever Leon is at the firehouse, he can be seen helping wherever needed and always with a smile on his face.

Leon displays one of our core values, Integrity, at all times. He is always willing to work along the side of his fellow firefighters and junior firefighters, passing on his knowledge. From his time with Ronks Fire Co, Leon has trained in vehicle rescue and has led several projects at Hand-In-Hand Fire Company to increase our capabilities to provide better and more efficient response to MVA's in our area.





Dereck Gerlitzki
FIREFIGHTER
WITMER FIRE PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION

Throughout the year, Dereck has shown remarkable leadership, bravery, and professionalism both in the field and behind the scenes. Whether responding to emergencies, training fellow firefighters, or participating in community outreach programs, Dereck has consistently gone above and beyond in their duties. We are thankful for constant dedication to Witmer and our community.



RONKS MEMBERSHIP

RONKS FIRE CO

Ronks Membership joined to help all neighbors out on the worst day of their life. All Ronks Members offered countless hours of their time responding to fire calls, maintaining station readiness and interacting with our local community.

We appreciate all local support over the last year and hope to see many new faces and continued support this year.

We look forward to what 2025 may bring and are honored to serve the East Lampeter Township Community



The 2025 Cadet Camp will be held Aug 1st 4:30pm-9:30pm and Aug 2nd 8:30am-6:00pm at Lafayette Fire Company
Registration Deadline July 1, 2025.

BLOOD DRIVE
Tues. March 25th
Hnad in Hand Fire Co.

CHICKEN BBQ
Sat. May 24th
Hand-in-Hand Fire Co.

CHILD PROTECT
Tues. June 10
at Witmer Fire Protection Association

WITMER OX ROAST
Sat. April 26
at Witmer Fire Protection Association

LAFAYETTE ANNUAL BBQ
Saturday, April 12 11am-1:00
out
at the Lafayette Fire Company

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

LAFAYETTE CADET CAMP
August 1st and 2nd
at Lafayette Fire Company

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
ronksfirerescureinfo@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.