



THE SIREN

Glenside Fire Company No. 1

Proudly serving Glenside, Wyncote, & Laverock since 1900



Meet the Crew: an interview with Brady D'Lauro

Brady D'Lauro was born in Glenside and attended Glenside Elementary, Elkins Park, Cedarbrook, and Cheltenham High School. He's twenty years old and has lived his whole life in Glenside. He's been a member of the GFC crew for five years.

It wasn't really tough. Demanding, a little, yes. But I enjoyed learning new things and doing the training exercises. There was always new information about fighting fires. I just liked becoming more and more confident in what I was doing.

How did you come to join the GFC?

I was about fifteen and I came over to the firehouse one night and I just liked what I saw there. I mean like most kids I played at being a fireman when I was younger, but what I saw made me think I really could be one. So when I turned sixteen I became a junior crewmember.



I got to know the trucks. I carried tools and hoses. Helped anyway I could. As a junior crewmember I couldn't actually fight fires, but I did get to break some windows. I would go to the training sessions here almost every Monday.

And then you became a regular crewmember?

At eighteen. Then I took the Fire Fighting One course at the Bucks County Fire Academy where they covered all the basics. I learned first aid, CPR and emergency rescue techniques. We learned about building construction and fire behavior. There were so many topics. It was 184 hours of instruction. We even covered ropes and knots.

What was the toughest part of the training?

What were some challenges you've faced recently?

We've had a couple of big fires recently—the Towers at Wyncote and 1600 Church Road, but I can't say they were really challenges. We knew what we were doing. At the Towers it wasn't easy getting to the fire at such a height and being able to extinguish it.

Does work interfere with your duties here?

Not really. I show up whenever I am available. I have a pretty flexible schedule working in property maintenance. But sometimes I am on a strict schedule and that limits what I can do here. It really hasn't been a problem so far. I know it can be hard on some of the others who have a lot more obligations.

What would you say to a prospective recruit?

You aren't going to meet a nicer group of people. It's a great place to make new friends. And you are always learning something. It makes you feel proud to be part of this group. And you know being a fire fighter is just about as good as I thought it would be when I was a kid.

Are Volunteer Fire Companies Going the Way of the **HORSE AND BUGGY?**



The Glenside Fire Company has by and large avoided the problems that Rick

decades ago, is down to 72,000. New York State, which had 140,000 15 years ago, now has 96,000.

The kinds of volunteers who used to be able to cover weekday calls — farmers, shop owners, factory shift workers — are becoming as rare as a firehouse Dalmatian. (May 2005)

Hampson of USA TODAY has detailed in the article excerpted below, but this doesn't mean we can be complacent.

The problem is this: The volunteer fire company, an institution that dates to Ben Franklin, is slowly going the way of the horse-drawn pumper.

Blame it on the changes in society: longer commutes, two-income households, year-round youth sports, chain stores that won't release workers at midday to jump on a fire-truck. Blame it on new folks in town who don't even know the department is volunteer. Blame it on stricter training requirements and fewer big fires and the lure of paying fire jobs in the cities.

There is no greater, longer-running expression of volunteerism in U.S. history than the volunteer fire service, which still saves taxpayers billions of dollars each year. Almost three-fourths of the nation's 1.1 million firefighters are volunteers, and two-thirds of all fire departments are volunteer.

In many communities, the volunteer fire company is a social and civic anchor. Members organize the Fourth of July parade and hang the holiday decorations on Main Street. ...

But even though emergency calls are up, the number of volunteer firefighters has dropped nationally more than 10% over the past two decades. The decline is particularly steep in the Northeast. Pennsylvania, which had about 300,000 volunteers three

The Glenside Fire Company has so far bucked the trend. For 2014 GFC managed a healthy average of 11 crew members per call on 441 calls. Response times are still very good. But GFC does need new members on the crew and new members to join the Board of Directors that supports the crew.

Arrange for a visit to GFC and see if GFC is right for you. Send us an email at info@glensidefire.com.

Some Basic Facts About the **Glenside Fire Company**

- Glenside Fire Co. was **chartered in 1900** and has been an all-volunteer organization throughout its history. It is one of five fire companies that make up the Cheltenham Township Fire Department (CTFD).
- Our district includes Glenside, Laverock and part of Wyncote.
- Our designation in Montgomery County is Station 1.
- The Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Public Benefits corporation.
- The mailing address is **P. O. Box 92, Glenside, PA**. Our location is **210 West Glenside Avenue**. The building has 10,750 sf. of space with five apparatus bays on the first floor, and meeting rooms and offices on the second.
- Our website address is **glensidefire.com**.

Keep the Home Fires From Burning: Preventing House Fires

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$7.3 billion annually. 20 years ago you had roughly 17 minutes to get out of your home safely. Today that's down to 3 or 4 minutes. But home fires can be prevented!



To protect yourself, it's important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a phone call. Because of new building materials and open floor plans in just 2 minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In 5 minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than the flames. Inhaling the super-hot air can sear your lungs. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a 3:1 ratio.

Here are some leading causes of home fires and some ways to protect yourself and your family:

Cooking Equipment:

When a pot or pan overheats or splatters greases, it can take only seconds to start a fire. Stay in the kitchen when cooking, especially if using oil or high temperatures; most kitchen fires occur because people get distracted and leave their cooking unattended. Keep combustibles (e.g. oven mitts, dish towels, paper towels) away from heat sources.

Heating Equipment:

Have your furnace inspected annually by a qualified technician, and your chimney cleaned and inspected annually. Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn (including curtains, furniture, and you), and don't use your heaters to dry shoes or clothes. Install a carbon monoxide alarm to alert you to the deadly gas.

Electrical Equipment:

- 1) Your electrical appliances shouldn't have loose or frayed cords/plugs
- 2) Your outlets shouldn't be overloaded with plugs
- 3) You're not running electrical wires under rugs or heavy furniture
- 4) You're not overusing an extension cord. Be careful about do-it-yourself electrical projects; many home fires are caused by improper installation, so use a licensed electrician and
- 5) Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:
 - Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
 - A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
 - Discolored or warm wall outlets
 - A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
 - Flickering or dimming lights
 - Sparks from an outlet

For more fire prevention information go to: http://www.glensidefire.com/Fire_Prevention.htm

STICKER SHOCK

Sometimes the price of some things just leaves us gasping—New York City apartments that routinely sell for \$20million+, cars like the Bugatti Veyron for \$2.4million or the Mercedes Maybach at \$1.3million with sticker prices that run to seven figures. Then there are boats like Steven Spielberg's \$200million yacht. While the costs of fire engines haven't reached those heights, firefighting equipment is becoming alarmingly expensive. This is a concern because our current apparatus is aging. The newest piece is almost 15 years old, the oldest over 40. The 1972 Seagrave pumper, 1982 Mack Pumper, 1994 Seagrave ladder, 1997 Seagrave pumper and 2001 Ford 350 special service look good because they are well-maintained and well-cared for. But the wear and tear of literally thousands of calls have taken their toll. The clock is ticking.



The replacement cost of a pumper engine comparable to our current equipment is roughly \$550,000.00. This cost doesn't include anywhere from \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 for equipment to outfit the engine. The replacement cost of a ladder truck comparable to our current equipment is roughly \$930,000.00. This again doesn't include anywhere from \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00 for equipment to outfit the truck.

At some point the continuing cost of repairing existing equipment (those costs are rapidly increasing as well) no longer makes economic sense. We are nearing that point.

**Your Volunteer Firefighters
Are there for you
Be there for them**

Donate today:

Glenside Fire Co.
210 West Glenside Ave.
Glenside, PA 19038
<http://www.glensidefire.com/>

Now with PayPal

Mike Hensley 1960-2015

Fire Fighter for 37 Years

Rest in Peace

While volunteer firefighters save local governments an estimated \$139.8 billion annually, according to the National Fire Protection Association, the operation of a volunteer department still requires a significant budget.

GFC's operating budget and capital projects are raised through a combination of township appropriations, grants and fundraising. The Company applies for various grants on an annual basis. But your donations are vital in helping to fund our operations, capital purchases and apparatus savings program. Without your help GFC would not be able to serve and protect the community with the same effectiveness.