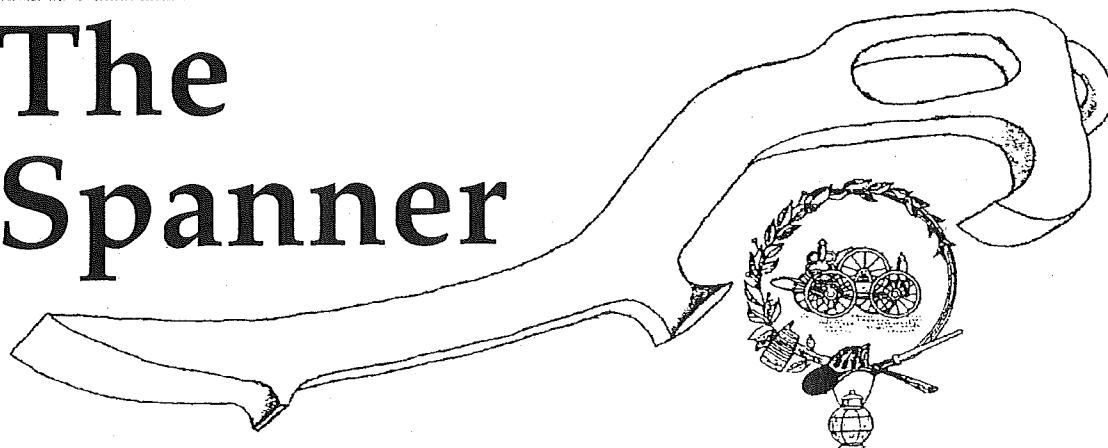


# The Spanner



Winter 2005

Issue 9

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## JOIN TODAY - YOUR FIRE COMPANY NEEDS YOU

On December 7, 1736 Benjamin Franklin organized a group of 30 men to form the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia. The equipment the volunteers were to bring to every fire included leather buckets, strong bags, and baskets for packing and transporting goods. The blaze battlers met monthly to talk about fire prevention and fire fighting methods.

We have come a long way since then, but many in our community are not aware that the majority of Pennsylvania residents are still protected by volunteer fire companies. We would like you to join Lingohocken Fire Company and become a firefighter. You need no prior experience, and we accept members starting at age 14. The first step is to fill out an application that can be downloaded from our website at [www.lfco.org](http://www.lfco.org). You can also pick up an application at the Firehouse on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 during training drills. Lingohocken Fire Company is located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Mill Creek Road in Wycombe. After completing the application, drop by the Firehouse on a Tuesday evening or mail it to the address above.

Once you submit your application, a background check is conducted then a personal meeting is held with the Membership Committee. A

vote on your membership, based on the Membership Committee's recommendation, is then held at the next business meeting (held on the Tuesday of each month 8:00 PM).

Once you have become a member, you will be issued firefighting turnout gear and a pager that alerts you to fire calls. You also can attend, free of charge, firefighting classes at the Bucks County Public Service Training Center in Edison (Doylestown Township). The course, titled *Firefighter I*, is conducted at times that accommodate most people's schedules.

We accept Junior Firefighters at age 14. At this age, participation in drills, learning CPR, First Aid, and attendance at the Firefighter I class at the Training Center is permitted. Safety is a prime concern and stringent limitations on the degree of participation are followed. No firefighter under the age of 18 is allowed inside any fire scene building. Without stating all the guidelines for Junior members, rest assured that no Junior member is ever placed in harms way.

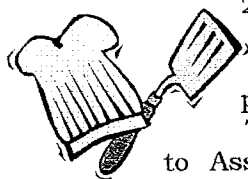
We need both Adult and Junior members. Membership gives you the opportunity to give back to the community in which you live, provides an environment in which one can learn new skills and find new challenges and make new friends. Give volunteering a try!!

It is as important in 2005 as it was in 1736. PS

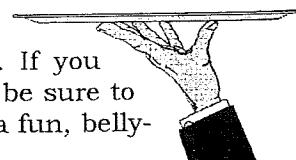
## 2004 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The April 25<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast was a great success earning some \$1,800. The Breakfast was made possible by the unstinting efforts of 57 volunteer firefighters and associates. More than 230 man-hours were donated on the day of the event alone - not to mention plan and prep time.

The Fire Company is grateful to Associate Patricia Scanlon for her devoted leadership. We also appreciate the donations from Wrightstown Tax Collector and neighbor, Greg Soto.



We served 597 breakfasts that morning - all were hot, fresh and served with a smile. If you joined us, we thank you. If not, be sure to come out in 2005 - it's always a fun, belly-filling community event.



Speaking of 2005, guests will be seated in the larger, newer engine room (facing Washington Avenue) because the 1950-built engine room (facing Mill Creek Road) has been partially leased to Central Bucks Ambulance.

Come out and see how we manage the challenges of this new location - including the flight of stairs between the kitchen and the dining tables! GR

## ALARMING INFORMATION

With over 130 calls for service to date in 2004, down from last year, more than 30% are fire alarm activation calls. Responses to fire alarm activations increased by 2% over 2003. Of those activations, many were accidental or system malfunctions. Many of these responses could be avoided through preventive maintenance.

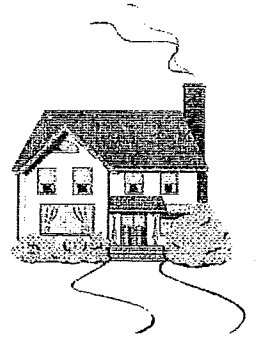
According to fire alarm professionals, dirty detectors cause most fire alarm activations. Other causes include improperly installed detectors, excessive heat, cold, humidity (steam from showers) or construction dust. Keep an eye on the detector locations in your home or business. If detectors are located near steam, consider moving it. If you are having renovations made and construction dust will be created, a simple plastic bag placed over the detector will avoid an accidental activation. This will also prevent contamination of the detector. Remove the bag each day when construction staff leaves to be sure the detector will function properly if a fire occurs that evening.

The life expectancy of a smoke detector is 10 years although each detector should be serviced at least once a year. It is also recommended that home fire suppression systems are maintained at least once each year to insure that water flow switches are adjusted properly. Understand that in many cases, contractors are not required to tie fire detection systems to outside monitoring agencies.

The alarms only activate in the home to alert your family to possible danger. If you want an alarm system that contacts us directly, you must contract with an alarm company. Investigate the alarm company's reputation, get references and talk to others who utilize them before signing any service agreement. Understand completely what services they will provide to you. Recently we responded to an alarm activation wherein the alarm company took 30 minutes to contact Emergency Services. This delay could have resulted in destruction of the home or much worse - be aware.

While smoke detectors and home fire suppression systems do save lives, families must still plan an emergency escape route and practice it at least two times a year. Everyone should know two ways out of each room. In homes with more than two stories, please consider the purchase of emergency escape ladders to make quick exits out of windows if smoke or fire blocks the stairs. Remember a quick decisive response is essential in any fire. Take every alarm seriously and respond immediately.

Also understand that most builders do not install Carbon Monoxide detectors. Protect your family or employees and install Carbon Monoxide detectors. WM



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### TED MIDDLEMAN - FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

Ted Middleman is one of the newer members of Lingohocken Fire Company, but he is no stranger to the Fire Service. He is Wrightstown Township's Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshal. He brings twenty years experience with the Huntington Valley Fire Company wherein he has served as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Trustee and Fire Policeman. He, like many before him, was inspired by his volunteer firefighter father's example and followed him into fire service. He is trained to the Firefighter II level and has had many other courses to prepare him for his present work. Before coming to Wrightstown, he was a code officer in Lansdowne, Delaware County as an assistant to the fire marshal. He is a certified Fire Inspector at both the State and National level.

Ted grew up in Huntington Valley and graduated from Upper Moreland High School. He attended the Vo-Tech School where he learned carpentry. Later

he started his own small construction business. Ted's construction background has been a valuable asset in his present code enforcement career.

Ted and his wife, Wendy, live in Huntington Valley with their two-year old daughter, Jessica. When working in Wrightstown, Ted responds to fire calls - a fortunate situation for all as volunteer manpower is in short supply during the day. His hobbies include golf, bicycling and his classic 1957 Chevy.

Of concern to this Emergency Services professional - the need for house numbers to be plainly visible. House numbers should be easily seen from both approach directions and be legible. Be sure that your house numbers don't fade into the background on which they are mounted. A simple task, a big benefit.

Ted is delighted to be working in what he calls a "neat town". He feels that the supervisors have done a good job in handling growth and development and have implemented wise zoning plans. GR

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### FROM THE CHIEF - THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

This year we were fortunate to obtain grant money from several sources. The monies were used to purchase equipment we would not otherwise have been able to afford for another few years, due to our budget constraints.

For those of you who donate to our much-needed Fund Drive, we thank you so very much. Approximately 30% of our working budget is donated during this important event. However, a disturbing figure is that 60% of our budget is spent on debt reduction.

Another disturbing fact is that some residents still do not know that we are all **VOLUNTEERS**. This is not *our job*; no member receives any type of stipend for on-call time or per-call time. We do this for the love and safety of our community and our fellow neighbors. On a recent call in Buckingham, a resident was talking to one of our members. The firefighter asked this young man if he would like to volunteer. Much to the chagrin of the member, the resident said "No, but I would gladly pay more per month to have a paid fire department".

*continued on next page*

Continued

## FROM THE CHIEF – THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

As Chief of this organization, I ask you to ponder these statistics: "On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Foundation officially released its Cost Savings Study and Calculator at a conference in Washington, D.C. The study, conducted by the Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute at St. Joseph's University with the assistance of Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS), found that it **would cost American taxpayers \$37.2 billion dollars annually if all volunteer fire companies nationwide were replaced with career staffing.**

In Pennsylvania, volunteers staff and provide fire protection services in 1,924 of the 2,062 fire departments or some 93%. According to the 2002 Study of Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this results in an estimated **\$6 billion savings to Pennsylvania taxpayers versus providing career staff.**"

The main task of any fire department is to protect the lives and property in its territory, of course. However, by working diligently with the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), the company that establishes the rates for the fire insurance portion of your homeowners' insurance policy, we are

actively working to decrease the current ISO rating of 9 in Wrightstown Township. From there, we intend to extend this effort into the Buckingham and Upper Makefield communities we protect.



What does this mean to you, the homeowner, resident or business owner? It can translate to a 20% to 40% reduction in homeowners' insurance. Would you like to help us in this effort? We have lots of work to do – much of it documentation. In this grass roots effort, there are tasks for everyone. Give us a call if you can lend a hand.

As our 91<sup>st</sup> year of serving the community draws to a close, I wish to thank all the officers and members of this organization for volunteering their time and talents in protecting you the residents and businesses of our fire protection community.

To help us protect your home and property – please **clearly and effectively display your house or business number at the street.** We need you to have 3-inch reflective house numbers at the curb – we want to ensure a safe and happy holiday for all, please identify your property.

*Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.*

*Chief Wayne G. Murphy Jr.*

### HOW YOU CAN HELP US OUT

Your volunteer fire company is a group of neighbors dedicated to helping neighbors when trouble strikes. The more neighbors that help, the stronger the organization will become. Even if you don't want to actually fight fires, there are many ways that you can help to make your fire company stronger and to help control your taxes. **So, what can you do? Check the list in order by commitment level.**

1. Shop at Genuardi's Supermarket, register your Genuardi's Club Card to benefit Lingohocken Fire Company. It's easy to register, go to [www.genuardis.com/communitycaringCashback.asp](http://www.genuardis.com/communitycaringCashback.asp), choose Lingohocken as your e-scrip account. We will receive a cash back percentage from your purchases.
2. Save your Acme Market receipts and send them to the Fire Company. A percent of each one is rebated to the Fire Company when submitted.
3. Join us at the Pancake Breakfast each spring.
4. Play or sponsor a hole in our annual golf outing each fall. Look for details on [www.lfco.org](http://www.lfco.org).
5. Make a donation to the Fund Drive via the enclosed envelope. Donate by check, credit card or even gifting of stock shares. Some 30% of our yearly income is collected during the annual fund drive. Money that is critical to the success of our operation.
6. Become an Associate Member. Associates don't respond to emergencies but support the firefighters from behind the scenes. Associates can participate in all non-fire activities such as:
  - Annual fund drive letters.* All work on the mailing is done by volunteers to save administrative costs.
  - 413 Task Force.* We pick up litter on Rte.413 between Rte. 232 & New Hope Road.
  - Grange Parking.* Volunteers collect parking fees for entry at the annual Grange Fair in August. The Grange splits the parking fees between the Grange and the three fire companies that provide manpower for collection. A major fund-raising event for us.
  - Administrative duties.* We have many opportunities for folks to assist with pre-emergency plans, record keeping and other administrative tasks. Currently these jobs are handled by our firefighters but your help will free them to train for, prepare for, and to respond to emergencies.
7. Join us as Fire Police Officer. Fire police provide critical traffic and crowd control during emergencies.
8. Become an Emergency Medical Responder. We need more medical first-responders to assist during medical emergencies in our coverage area.
9. Drive a Truck. You don't need to fight fires to have a big impact. We need Apparatus Drivers both day and night. No commercial drivers' license is – although basic firefighter training is.
10. **BE A FIREFIGHTER!** Both men and women can serve as firefighters. Training begins for those as young as 14. Bring a strong will and a strong commitment to your neighbors and friends – we'll give you the training.

We provide all equipment and free training for all volunteer positions. You supply the commitment. Pick up an application online at [www.lfco.org](http://www.lfco.org) or stop by and see us in Wycombe on Tuesday evenings.

GJ

## WE WORK HARD FOR THE MONEY



The Lingohocken Fire Company is fortunate to have strong financial support from the communities we serve - Wrightstown Twp, Buckingham and Upper Makefield Townships. In addition to the fund raising events discussed in this newsletter, we host a Golf Outing and collect car parking funds at the Grange Fair. We have been working very hard over the past year pursuing grant opportunities from both the State and Federal governments as well.

### We are pleased to inform you of our grant successes this year:

1. We received a FY2004 Pennsylvania State Fire Department Grant for \$12,762 to purchase new turnout gear for our firefighters and new forcible entry tools to get us into buildings more quickly for search and rescue. The Lingohocken Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association provided additional funds so that all of our firefighters will have updated firefighting clothing, instead of 10 year old gear. One set of new firefighting gear - a coat and a pair of pants costs more than \$1,000.
2. From the PA Department of Community & Economic Development we received \$5,000 for the purchase of detailed fire fighting maps for our

### Lingohocken Fire Company has also applied for these additional grants:

1. A 2004 Federal FIRE Act Grant - \$180,000 to replace our 1969 field truck with a quick attack truck that will allow us to fight field fires as well as structural fires in hard to access areas. A 10% match is required for this grant.
2. A 2004 Federal Fire Prevention/Safety Grant - \$27,625 to obtain mobile computers for putting all pre-plans on computers and to make them accessible in our vehicles. Detailed pre-planning can be the difference between life is and death in an emergency. This grant requires a 10% match.
3. A PA Department of Community & Economic Development Grant for \$20,000 to renovate and outfit a portion of the Wycombe Station as a fire

coverage area. As many of you know, the infrastructure of our area has changed dramatically in recent years. This funding will allow us to replace mapping that, in some cases, is more than 10 years old. We thank State Representative Scott Petri for obtaining this grant for our community.

3. We received a 2003 Fire Prevention Grant through the Department of Homeland Security for \$7,425 for fire prevention material including a laptop computer and computer projector. This equipment allows us to deliver accurate, easy-to-follow fire prevention presentations. The Fire Company must contribute a 10% match for this grant.

fighter fitness center. Our fitness is key in preventing injury and fatalities from stress or heart conditions. Local workout space also means that firefighters are in the area and ready to respond. State Representative Scott Petri is assisting with the grant application.

4. A PA Department of Community & Economic Development grant for \$29,800 to purchase two new thermal imaging cameras, update more frequently used equipment, update on-board vehicle radio chargers, purchase Carbon Monoxide meters for use in investigations and piercing nozzles for each of our first-out engines. State Senator Tommy Tomlinson is assisting us with this grant.

We also plan to apply for at least \$15,000 from the PA State Grant for Fire Departments Program for 2005. The application would be for apparatus and Forest Grove Station debt reduction.

We do work hard to obtain grants but your contributions remain critical to our operation. Grants allow us to complete projects in more timely manner but they are not guaranteed. Also, many grants require matching and your generosity provides those funds. Thank you to our Congressmen for their grant expertise. *GJ*

### CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA CLAUS TOUR!



Santa Claus will once again visit the Lingohocken Fire Company on Christmas Eve. Seated high atop a Fire Truck he will come to visit all the good little boys and girls in our area - check the schedule below and listen for the fire truck siren to sound; then come out and greet **Santa at his designated stops (intersections)**. Santa's schedule has a 10-minute margin of error.

#### 2:00-2:45 PM

Devonshire Estates: Oxfordshire Rd, Phase I Gazebo, Playground, Phase II Gazebo, Buckingham Shire Rd

Mega Way, Swamp Rd & Apple Hill Fox Hill Dr at Martindell Dr ; Anchor Crossing Shopping Center

Williams Ave, Woodland, Ranch, Brownsburg Rd, Colts Neck

#### 5:00-6:00 pm

Buckingham Valley Nursing Home

#### 3:45-4:45 PM

Buckingham Springs: Springmeadow Blvd, short stop at Community Cntr Dark Hollow Rd at MacClesfield, Camelot; Mozart Rd, L. Mountain Rd, Franklyn Dr, Devonshire Dr & Lookaway Ct, No Name Ln, Holicong Rd, New Hope Rd, New Rd; Ridge Rd, Towerview Cr

Street Rd at Windy Hollow, Lurgan Rd, Eastburn Dr, Buckmanville Rd, Pineville Rd, Pine Ln, Pineville Tavern Township Line Rd, Brian Ln, Cherry Ln, Benjamin Ln; Penns Park Methodist Church; Penns Park Rd & Cedar Ln Wrenwood Way, Hampton Ct, Buckman Dr, Maher Ln, Estates Ct, Neshaminy Cliffs, Hallowell Dr, Wooly Run, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pub (Penns Park Tavern)

#### 3:00 - 3:30 PM

Buckingham Forest: Powderhorn Dr & Green Ridge Rd, Green Ridge Rd & Hedgrow La, Powderhorn Dr & Spring Hollow Dr

Alexander Ct, Skoures Ln, Jericho Valley Dr, Fire Creek Rd, Fire Thorn Rd Hunters Wood Dr, Ridge Ave,

**7:00 PM**  
Community Carol Sing  
at Wycombe Train Station

Forest Grove Church, Upper Mountain & Edgehill Rds, Smith Rd btwn Forest Grove & Swamp Rds, Rushland PO, Swamp Rd &