

Volunteer Today. Chester County Lives Depend on It.



East Bradford Township is served by two fire departments – the West Bradford Fire Company serves the western portion of the Township; the West Chester Fire Department serves the east side of the Township. A map showing the fire service areas is available on the website (www.eastbradford.org) under the Maps & Docs heading (Maps – General). The Township is in the process of negotiating agreement renewals with both organizations. One of the biggest challenges that these (and many other) fire departments face is that of dwindling volunteers.

The Chester County Fire Chiefs Association (CCFCA) is excited to launch a new volunteer recruitment and awareness campaign. This new campaign will promote the importance of volunteerism and encourage residents to become a firefighter, fire police, EMT, junior firefighter or administrative volunteer by visiting HelpFightFire.com. The CCFCA is the advisory body to 55 separate volunteer fire departments and companies located in Chester County, all of which have volunteer opportunities within their respective locations.

There are a variety of opportunities available for prospective volunteers:

- **Firefighters:** Help save lives and protect property in your community. In the

exciting world of firefighting, volunteers learn to do things like advance a hose line, perform search-and-rescue operations, and position ladders strategically. Training and equipment needed to stay safe is provided free of charge.

- **EMTs:** Help save lives by transporting the sick and injured to the hospital. Volunteers are there to respond to specialized calls like auto accidents, carbon monoxide alarms and other rescue calls. Again, training and equipment is provided.
- **Fire Police:** Help keep an emergency situation safe by directing traffic and crowds and providing general assistance to other first responders.
- **Junior Firefighters:** Gain experience around a fire house as a teen, lend a hand and begin fire training that will prepare you to become a full member at 18 years old. Volunteering as a junior firefighter is also a great way to secure community service hours.
- **Administrative Volunteers:** Non-emergency volunteers play a huge role. They help teach fire safety, assist in fundraising events, help with bookkeeping, human resources, website maintenance and other duties. Whatever the skill set, we can use it.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit HelpFightFire.com. You can also visit the West Bradford Fire Company website (<http://www.wbfc.org/>) and the First West Chester Fire Company website (<http://firstwestchester.org/>) to learn more about the organizations that serve our Township. ●

Valley Creek Road Bridge Update

In May, Justin Coyle, PE, from Carroll Engineering attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to present the final concept plan for the Valley Creek Road Bridge over Broad Run. He commented that the entire project can be accommodated within the right-of-way (negating the need for any easements), but noted that the two trees located immediately adjacent to the bridge will have to be removed.

Mr. Coyle outlined the next steps for the project. Provided the DEP permit is issued in June, the project could be put out to bid in July. If the contractor is selected by August, construction may begin as early as September. Provided the construction process is smooth, work could be complete by late November or December. One of the most time-consuming aspects of the construction process will be ordering the bridge – this can take approximately two months. Weather is another unknown factor. Unfortunately, there is really no way to prepare for a catastrophic event. That said, the construction contract will include provisions to deal with “acts of God” and resulting time extensions. A final note: The Board has agreed to name the bridge Broad Run Bridge in recognition of its location.

Please visit the Township website under Departments, then Public Works & Roads for a complete summary of the steps taken since July 2017 towards the re-establishment of this bridge and also for future updates as they occur.