



# 2019

## Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report



James Van Goor, Chief



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“Every community should have its own plan for fire protection, as “each community has a set of conditions unique to itself, and a system of fire protection that works well for one community cannot be assumed to work equally as well for other communities. To be adequate, the fire protection system must respond to local conditions, especially to changing conditions and community needs” (Bland, 1973).

## INTRODUCTION

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Organized fire protection began in the Village of Ridgewood in 1897 with the formation of the Protection Hook and Ladder Co. #1. Much has happened since that time and the history of the fire department has gone from the Bucket Brigade to automated master streams.

Today's firefighters are called upon to do much more than put out fires. Our fire department is skilled at handling a variety of emergency situations and is called upon to respond to motor vehicle accidents, hazardous spills, downed wires, confined space rescues, and medical emergencies to name a few. The department daily handles a number of minor emergencies as well. Some of these include pumping flooded basements for residents, responding to activations of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, ring removals, residential lock-outs, child lock-ins, and electrical problems. The department also has a Rescue Dive Team to handle ice and water rescues.

Monday thru Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the fire department responds to all medical emergencies in conjunction with Ridgewood EMS, and as a first responder to all ALS calls 24/7. Having a fire engine and ambulance respond simultaneously ensures that medical assistance reaches the scene within 3-4 minutes.

The basic organizational structure of the department consists of an administrative component, a fire and emergency response component, and a Fire Prevention component. The administrative component is comprised of a Chief and an Administrative Assistant. The normal work schedule is 35 hours per week with the Chief Officer on call 24 hours per day.

The fire and emergency response component is made up of both professional and volunteer Firefighters. The professional firefighters are grouped into three platoons of 13 and provide the primary response to fires and emergencies 24/7. Each platoon is comprised of (1) Captain, (2) Lieutenants, and (10) Firefighters. The platoon's shift schedule is based on a 56 hour per week work schedule. The volunteer personnel are a support group for the department and are called out whenever there are working fires, during the times of storms or for multiple responses.

The Fire Prevention component is comprised of a Fire Official, Fire Inspector, and an Administrative Secretary. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for inspections under the Uniform Construction Code and the Uniform Fire Code. All Fire Prevention activities and Public Fire Safety Education programs are scheduled through the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Fire Department members are expected to perform all of the duties associated with responding to fires and emergencies. Such duties include incident management, personnel accountability, establishing a water supply, hose deployment, forcible entry, search and rescue, ladder placement, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, and any other activities required to safely complete an operation.

To ensure the safety of personnel and the highest level of service to the community, a training schedule has been established to ensure that all components of fire suppression and emergency operations are covered in a comprehensive manner.

## **CHIEF'S MESSAGE**

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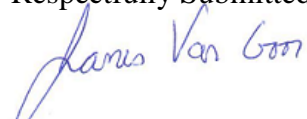
It is my pleasure to present to you the Ridgewood Fire Department 2019 Annual Report. Within this report you will find many interesting facts, data, response statistics, specialty team reports, and services that our Fire Department provides. Demand for fire/EMS response and fire prevention inspections continues to climb yearly throughout the Village. The fire department responded to 2,565 calls for service, and conducted 3,382 fire prevention inspections.

The fire department responds to emergency service calls of all kinds; fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents and we are prepared for much more than the obvious. Fire department personnel hold a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and resources in many areas other than fire or medical emergencies. Our daily emergency activities include responding to all fire and medical emergency requests, vehicle accidents, carbon monoxide situations, trench rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials protection, water and ice rescue, storm damage mitigation and alarm notifications. We will help our residents with smoke detector installation and battery changes, home fire inspections, lift assists, well-being checks, home lock outs, and much more.

The Ridgewood Fire Department is a proactive organization staffed with 42 professional firefighters and 6 volunteer firefighters dedicated to the delivery of service to the citizens and visitors. This past year Captain DuFlocq retired. We will miss his contributions of knowledge, experience, and personality. We also welcomed a new member, promoted new officers, and we look forward to the contributions they will make in the future.

On behalf of all the Firefighters and Administrative Staff of the Ridgewood Fire Department, I would like to thank Mayor Hache, the Village Council, and the residents of Ridgewood for their continued support. I also want to thank all of the different departments in town for their prompt and professional assistance given to this department. Without their support, we would not be able to carry out our mission. Please enjoy this report.

Respectfully Submitted,



James Van Goor, Chief

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

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CO - Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to humans when encountered in concentrations above about 35 parts per million.

CPR- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency procedure that combines chest compressions with artificial ventilation to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest.

### Elevated Alarms:

- Volunteer Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- Platoon Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and off-duty Specific Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.
- Department Recall - Ridgewood Volunteer Firefighters and all off-duty Professional Firefighters are notified by pager to assist in times of emergency when more firefighters are needed.

Fast Team - Firefighter assist and search team (FAST), also known as a rapid intervention team/crew (RIT/RIC), is a team of two or more firefighters dedicated solely to the search and rescue of other firefighters in distress.

Heimlich maneuver- The manual application of sudden upward pressure on the upper abdomen of a choking victim to force a foreign object from the trachea.

Jaws of Life - Hydraulic rescue tools are used by emergency rescue personnel to assist vehicle extrication of crash victims, as well as other rescues from small spaces. These tools include cutters, spreaders, door busters and rams.

Narcan-NALOXONE is a narcotic blocker. It is used to treat narcotic drug overdose.

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

Response Time - The amount of time it takes to arrive, from units dispatched to the location of the emergency.

SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is a device worn by rescue workers, firefighters, and others to provide breathable air in an "Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health" atmosphere.

Stokes Basket- A stretcher designed to be used where there are obstacles to movement or other hazards.

T.I.C. - Thermal Imaging Camera is a type of thermographic camera used in firefighting. By rendering infrared radiation as visible light, such cameras allow firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers.

Uniform Construction Code - A complete set of technical standards for construction with a uniform method of administration and enforcement.

Uniform Fire Code - Ensures that all areas of the State are protected by a uniform, minimum fire safety code so that the lives and property of the State's citizens are guarded against the hazards presented by fire.

## **MISSION/VISION STATEMENT**

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### **Mission Statement**

The Ridgewood Fire Department protects the lives and property of all Village residents and visitors. The department is entrusted to the prevention and suppression of fire, emergency medical calls, disasters, public safety, education and enforcement.

### **Vision Statement**

The Ridgewood Fire Department will be a progressive, modern department that will maintain high levels of service ensuring responsible use of the resources, and focus on the professional development and training of all personnel.

### **The Ridgewood Fire Department serves the community by performing the following essential services:**

Fire Suppression – Building, Vehicle, Brush, Electrical, etc.

Water Calls / Floods/ Broken pipes/ Basement pump outs

Lock out / Lock-in (house & car)

Storm Emergencies / Wires down / Tree Limb Removal

First Responder/ EMT

Confined Space Rescue

Dive Team / Swift Water Rescue

Hazardous Material Response

Vehicle Extrication

Auto-Accidents / Spill Cleanups / Battery Disconnects

Building Collapse/Entrapments

Electrical Emergencies

Chemical Spills / Leaks

Carbon Monoxide

Elevator Rescue

Utility Emergencies

Gas Leaks (Natural Gas or LPG)

Rope Rescue / High and Low Angle

Fire Prevention Services:

Building inspections

Code enforcement

Plan review

Public fire safety education



## THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

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### MAYOR AND COUNCIL 2019

Mayor Ramon Hache

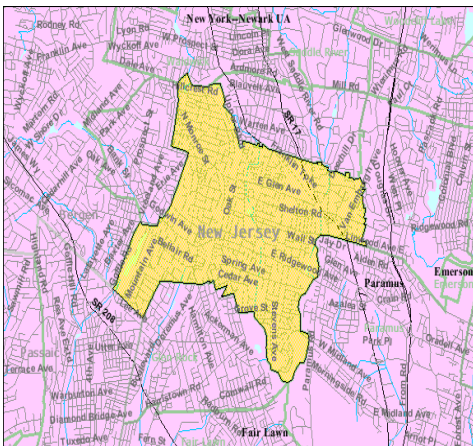
Deputy Mayor Susan Knudsen Councilman Michael Sedon

Councilman Jeff Voigt Councilwoman Bernadette Walsh

### VILLAGE MANAGER

Heather Mailander

To Ridgewood's Mayor, Council, and Village Manager; I extend my thanks and gratitude along with that of all our personnel for your support and valued service. I know firsthand of the long hours and hard work you put in to make Ridgewood a great place to live and work.



25,056 POPULATION

94.7 ROAD MILES

5.8 SQ. MILES LAND AREA

4,339 RESIDENTS PER SQ. MILE- DENSITY

8,743 HOUSING UNITS

8,456 HOUSEHOLDS

1,100 BUSINESSES

2 FIRE STATIONS

## PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

The Ridgewood Fire Department is proud to announce that in 2012 and again in 2018 we earned the Village a Class 2 Public Protection Classification (PPC). Insurance Service Organization (ISO) assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest rating. By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, Insurance Service Organization (ISO) helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training.

Insurance Service Organization (ISO) collects information on municipal fire-protection in communities throughout the United States. Insurance companies to establish fair premiums on fire insurance for homeowners and commercial properties use the information. ISO evaluated 41,177 communities countrywide, only 1,597 are rated as Class 2 and 348 received a Class 1. Out of 676 communities in New Jersey, only 26 communities received a Class 2, and 2 communities received a Class 1 rating. This accomplishment has placed the Ridgewood Fire Department as one of the top twenty-six Fire Departments in New Jersey.

A community's investment in fire protection is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Statistical data on insurance losses proves that there is a relationship between excellent fire protection and low fire losses. Not only does a lower classification reduce the insurance rate for homeowners and businesses, it also justifies the investment that the Village has put into fire protection. Having a Class 2 fire department should give the residents a feeling of security and a greater peace of mind.



## 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

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A 5-year strategic plan was developed in 2014 to provide the Ridgewood Fire Department with valuable information concerning goal development as well as the positive and negative aspects of the overall organization. One component of the process included evaluating the past and present culture, programs, and services of the department. The initial part of the strategic planning was spent identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). Particular attention was given to the current conditions, growth of the community, and demand for services.

The focus was on customer service, continuous improvement, and the safety and welfare of our residents and employees. The Ridgewood Fire Department's Strategic Plan provides a realistic approach that will effectively guide our department for the next five years. The department's goal is to provide emergency and non-emergency services in an effective, fiscally responsible, and compassionate manner. This document serves as a planning tool to direct the current and future activities of the Fire Department in an effort to provide the best possible service to the community for the next five years.

The programs and goals for the next five years are:

- 1-Expand on the current programs/classes to support professional development, leadership training, Firefighting and EMT
- 2-Expand on and improve our emergency medical calls, first responder
- 3-Improve radio communication and equipment
- 4-Increase Fire prevention inspection/pre-fire plans
- 5-Create programs to improve customer service
- 6-Create and improve on Fire Prevention education and outreach programs to children, seniors and the disabled
- 7-Develop a health and wellness program for the personnel

The Ridgewood Fire Department must proactively respond to changes. Today's fire departments are called on to respond to a much wider range of services. The fire department staff must continually assess the needs of the organization and their ability to continue to improve the level of service. Strategic planning is another tool that will aid the department in accomplishing future goals. The strategic plan is never finished; it will need to be evaluated and updated on a regular basis. Strategic goals will need to be updated to identify accomplishments and to recognize change within the fire department. When evaluating progress towards accomplishing the goals, timelines may need to be adjusted to reflect changes in the department's needs, environment, and resources. This year we will be developing a new strategic plan that will be a guide for the next five years.

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## ***FIRE STATIONS: HISTORY AND LOCATION***

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### **Fire Headquarters:**

Fire Headquarters is located at 201 E. Glen Avenue. This facility has been operational since June 1, 1992. It serves as quarters for the officers and firefighters of Engine Company No. 35, Tower Ladder No. 36, Rescue Company No. 42, Ambulance 11 as well as the reserve apparatus. The building also houses the Administrative Offices and the Fire Prevention Bureau.

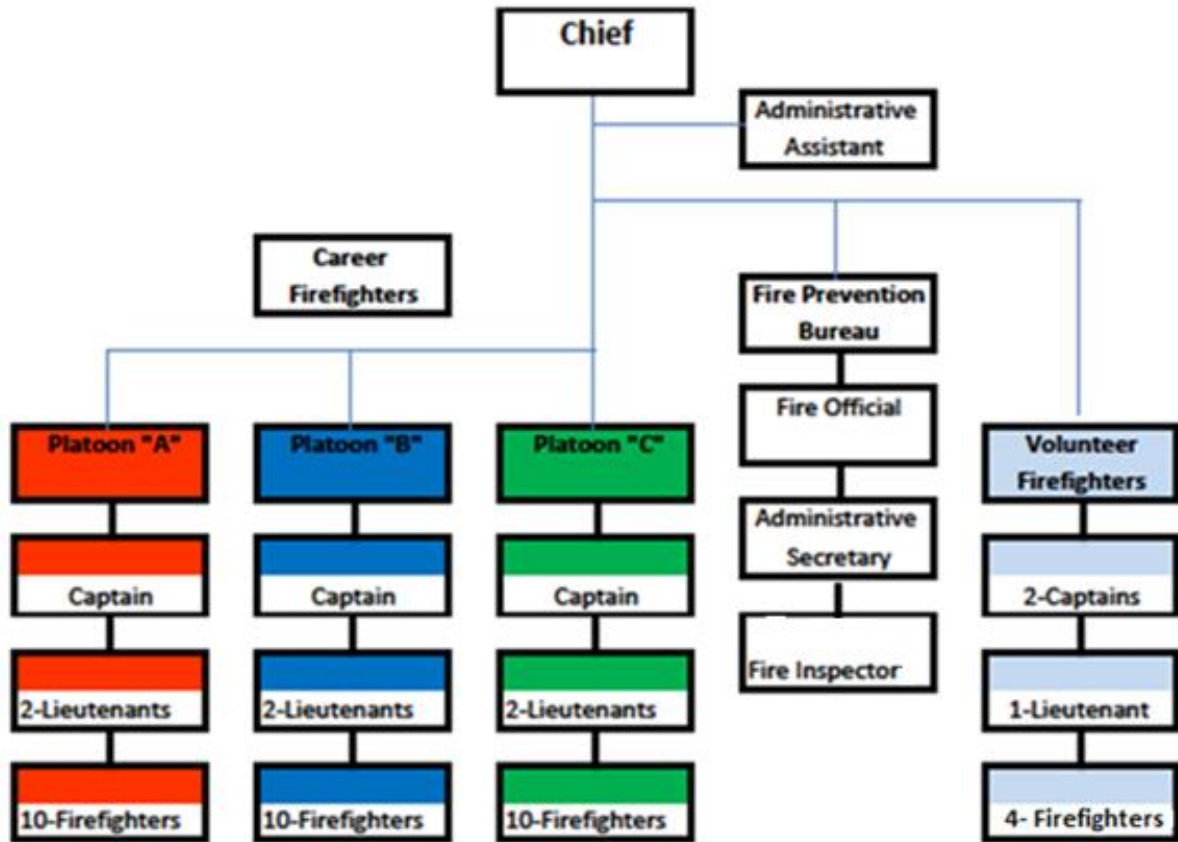


### **Engine Company 31:**

In response to residents' concerns after serious fires in the mid 1940's, and to better serve the West side of town, Engine Company No. 31 was established in 1947. Located at 311 West Glen Avenue, the structure is a renovated barn, which houses an apparatus room, offices, and living quarters for firefighters. A crew of three firefighters are on-duty 24 hours a day. This fire station has served the Village for over 70 years, with many upgrades completed in 2019.



## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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## CAREER PERSONNEL

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### Administration:

Chief James Van Goor  
Administrative Assistant Patti Walsh

### Captains:

Captain John Judge  
Captain Brendan Corcoran  
Captain Scott Schmidt

### Lieutenants

Lt. Joseph Ferraro  
Lt. Jason Kane  
Lt. Matt Ramge  
Lt. Michael Kakolewski  
Lt. Justin O'Connor  
Lt. Jordan Zales

### Fire Prevention

Lt. /Fire Official John Young  
Lt. /Fire Inspector Vincent Krug  
Admin. Dolores Tomei

### Appointments:

Prob. FF Mark Barone

### Retirements

Capt. Chris DuFlocq

### Senior Firefighters Engineer:

FF. Matthew Bombace  
FF. Paul Brennan  
FF. Scott Cornell  
FF. Michael Ferraro  
FF. Jason Jacoby  
FF. Michael McLaughlin  
FF. Matthew Musicant  
FF. Thomas Shortway  
FF. Daniel Steen

### Firefighters

FF. Thomas Benintende  
FF. Tim Bombace  
FF. Greg Corcoran  
FF. Anthony Dinice  
FF. Chris Eidschun  
FF. Trevor Fetkowitz  
FF. Kurt Harba  
FF. James Kakolewski  
FF. Dave Kelly  
FF. Brian Kelly  
FF. Dane Knudsen  
FF. Dan Kostro  
FF. Oscar Martinez  
FF. Christopher Mead  
FF. Brian Peacock  
FF. Michael Rohrman  
FF. Ryan Romero  
FF. Shelby Taylor  
FF. Hank Van Wageningen  
FF. Chris Wolfstirn

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## AWARDS

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### Firefighter of the Year

Starting in 2010, the “Firefighter of the Year” Award is dedicated in Memory of FF. Mark Cassidy. This year the “Mark Cassidy Firefighter of the Year” award was presented to Firefighter Kurt Harba.



### CPR Save

Engine 31 was dispatched to a report of CPR in progress. Upon arrival they found the wife administering CPR. Engine 31 personnel took over the CPR, connected the automatic defibrillator and administered one shock. The patient's pulse was regained but still needed assistance with breathing. The firefighters assisted the patient with breathing with the use of a bag valve mask. In the ambulance, the patient woke up and began breathing on his own with a viable heartbeat.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Lieutenant Jason Kane  
Firefighter/EMT Paul Brennan  
Firefighter/EMT Oscar Martinez

### Life Saving Award

Engine 35 responded to call at the Stop and Shop for an unconscious individual barely breathing. Engine 35 personnel inserted a nasal airway and used a bag valve mask to assist the patient with breathing. Recognizing that the patient was showing signs of an opioid overdose, Narcan was administered. In the ambulance on the way to the hospital the patient began breathing on his own.

The Ridgewood Fire Department would like recognize:

Firefighter/EMT Brian Kelly  
Firefighter/EMT Kurt Harba  
Firefighter/EMT Mike McLaughlin

### Hometown Hero



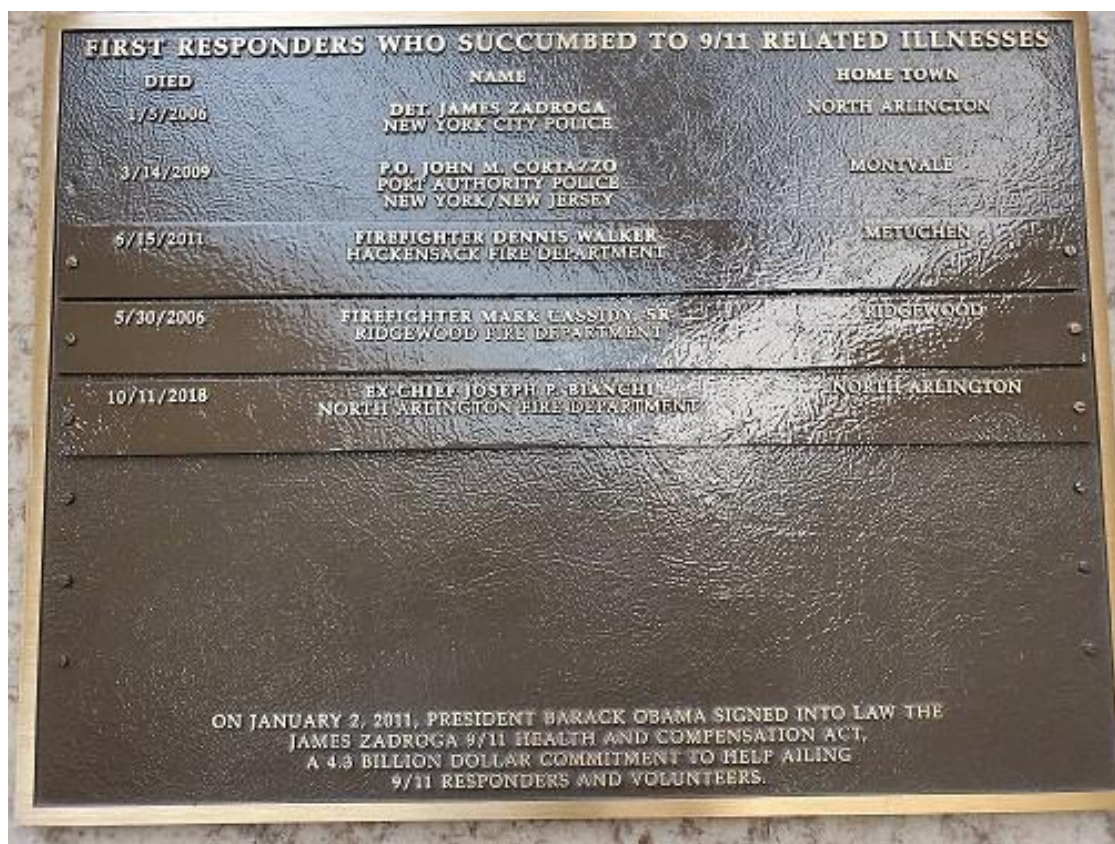
Josh Gottheimer awarded Firefighter Michael Ferraro with the Hometown Hero Award. Michael has been a firefighter and EMT for 32 years, protecting our families and our community. He has also been involved in local Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) chapters and is currently serving as the state delegate for FMBA Local 47. He organizes a picnic each summer for retired firefighters, so they remain connected to the community. He also visits local schools for presentations and training on fire safety, to ensure children know what to do during an emergency.

## SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL- MARK CASSIDY

The 9/11 Bergen County Memorial Committee has accepted the name of Ridgewood Firefighter Mark Cassidy to be enshrined at this year's Fire Academy services on September 11th.

After the tragic events on 9/11, Mark volunteered to go to New York City to work at the site of the World Trade Center. He was there with some of his fellow firefighters working on top of the rubble looking for survivors. Mark lost his battle with cancer in 2006.

Mark Cassidy was a career Firefighter/EMT in Ridgewood at the time of his death. Mark was a dedicated Firefighter and EMT who loved responding to emergency calls because he truly cared about people. Firefighter Cassidy joined the Ridgewood Fire Department as a volunteer on August 7, 1989 and was appointed as a career firefighter on July 1, 1996. Mark grew up in Ridgewood and was a graduate of Ridgewood High School.



## VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL

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### Fire Officers:

Administrative Capt. Richard Scalione  
Capt. Chris Raimondi  
Lt. Robert Peacock

### Firefighters:

FF. David Azzopardi  
FF. Jeffrey Creegan  
FF. Dennis Johnson  
FF. Anthony Monton



## TRAINING

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To be ready at all times and to provide superior service, firefighters must be highly-trained. The men and women of the Ridgewood Fire Department train rigorously every day to prepare them for the unexpected. This training ensures that every incident is handled by an extremely capable and professional crew of Firefighters.

Annually, the Ridgewood Department documents over 20,000 hours of training. This training begins their first year at the Bergen County Fire Academy. The classes they attend include Firefighter I&II, Emergency Medical Technician, Hazardous Materials Operations, Confined Space Operations, Apparatus and Pump Operations, and Driver Training.

To keep the Firefighters as prepared as possible, a yearly training schedule is created. This schedule guarantees that the firefighters keep up-to-date on new training and technologies. The firefighters are required to progress with the changing times, as well as keep their time-honored skills sharp.

Our yearly training schedule includes:

Active Shooter Response	Confined Space Operations	Decontamination
Bloodborne Pathogens	Personal Protective Equipment	Building Construction
Personnel Accountability	Structural Firefighting	Officer Development
CPR Re-certification	Building Collapse & Safety	Right to Know
Trench Rescue	EMT Continuing Education	Pre-Fire Planning
Vehicle Firefighting	Engine Company Operations	Ropes & Knots
Driver Training	Rescue Tools	Wildland Firefighting
Vehicle Extrication	Sprinklers & Standpipes	Forcible Entry
Search & Rescue	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Ground Ladders
Aerial Ladder Operations	F.A.S.T. Operations & Equipment	Master Streams
Radio Communications	Advancing Hand Lines	Information Technology
Ventilation	Report Writing	Air Tools & Rescue Air Bags
Pump Operation	Elevator Rescue	Tools & Equipment
Confined Space Rescue	Equipment Maintenance	Fire Behavior
Operation of Gas Meters	Salvage & Overhaul	Thermal Imaging Camera
Fire Cause & Origin	Water Rescue	SCBA Confidence Training
Natural Gas Emergencies	Incident Command System	

**"In the heat of the battle you don't remember very much. You don't think very fast. You act by instinct, which is really training. So you've got to be trained for battle so that you will react exactly the way you did in training". - Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN**

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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

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### ***CPR Call - Response Time: 3 min 25 sec***

Engine 31 responded to a CPR call. Once on scene, Engine 31 personnel performed CPR until ALS arrived. Upon ALS's arrival the Engine 31 personnel assisted the medics. The patient arrived at Valley Hospital with a viable heartbeat.

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### ***Extrication - Response Time: 1 min 40 sec***

Dispatched for a construction worker who had fallen approximately twenty feet in a home under construction. The worker was found in the basement severely injured. Fire personnel assembled rigging equipment; while firefighter EMT's were attending to the injured worker. Patient was secured in a stokes basket, hoisted out the basement window, and transported to St. Joseph's Trauma Center.

---

### ***Kitchen Fire- Response Time: 1:53***

Received a phone call to Fire HQ from a passing motorist reporting a fire alarm activation at restaurant in the CBD. Search of the kitchen area revealed a burning pot of meat left on a burner. The fire was extinguished and the smoke was cleared from the building using PPV fans. Fast fire department response saved the fire from spreading and allowed the restaurant to open the next day.

---

### ***Carbon Monoxide Incident located during Company Fire Inspections***

While on a company fire inspection of a Ridgewood business, a utility issue was observed; a boiler in the rear of the cleaners appeared to not be properly venting to the exterior of the building. Investigation found a carbon monoxide condition. The businesses were evacuated, the boiler was shut down, and the building was ventilated while awaiting PSE&G arrival.

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### ***Child Stuck between Crib Bars- Response Time: 2:35***

Upon investigation, found a toddler with their leg stuck between vertical crib bars. Engine 35's crew removed articles of clothing around the toddler's leg, and pried apart the crib slats. The child was successfully extricated with no apparent injury and no damage caused to the crib.

---

### ***Carbon Monoxide Incident in CBD-Response Time: 2:15***

Upon arrival, a CO condition was found and FD personnel evacuated all employees and patrons of the business. Fire crews put on SCBA's and searched the premises for additional employees or customers. The building was ventilated and it was determined that the CO condition was created due to a floor cleaning company using propane powered equipment inside the building.

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### ***Pediatric Seizure-Response Time: 1:15***

Responded to an intersection in town where a pediatric male was having a seizure in a vehicle. Patient was disoriented and had difficulty breathing. The seizure lasted approximately two minutes. Fire personnel administered oxygen and continued their assessment. Care was transferred to ALS upon their arrival.

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### ***Washing Machine Fire in a Multi-Family Residence-Response Time: 3:10***

Received report of an activated fire alarm at a large multi-family residence. All occupants were evacuated during investigation. Investigation found a smoke condition in the basement of the building from an overloaded washing machine that burned up.

---

***CO Condition – Response Time: 2:15***

Engine 31 and Car 38 responded to a home for a CO condition. Upon investigation, readings at the top of the basement stairs exceeded safe levels and SCBA units were donned. Higher readings in the basement were found and a malfunctioning boiler was determined to be the source. The unit was shut down, PSE&G was notified, and the home was ventilated down to zero levels by Fire Department personnel before being turned back over to the tenant.

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***Manhole Explosion-Response Time: 2:45***

Upon arrival, the smoke had dissipated, but bystanders reported an explosion and smoking from the middle of the road. Further investigation found an underground vault area to be the source. Firefighters entered adjoining businesses and conducted a search for occupants and possible fire. The area was isolated as PSE&G responded. An arcing transformer in a vault was found to be the source and it was isolated and shut down pending future repair.

---

***Car off the Roadway with Entrapment- Response Time: 2:50***

Upon arrival, found a vehicle off the roadway that had attempted to drive over a pedestrian footbridge. The vehicle's front end went off the bridge into a small ravine causing the car to be vertical and trapping the driver. The vehicle was stabilized and the driver was successfully extricated.

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***Helicopter Landing for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Transfer- Response Time: 4:00***

FD was requested to establish a landing and take-off area and standby fire suppression operations for a Pediatric transfer to CHOP via Penn Star 6. The helicopter landed without incident and the specialized crew and incubator were driven to Valley Hospital. When ready for transfer, the patient was then transported from the hospital to the helicopter at Vets Field and was flown to Philadelphia for specialized treatment.

---

***Attic Fire: Response Time: 3:05***

Upon arrival, smoke was showing from the attic windows. The homeowners reported a small fire in the attic area and had evacuated the home. Utilizing a Thermal Imaging Camera, a fire was located that was caused by a power strip and had extended to the carpet and surrounding area. The strip was de-energized and the fire extinguished. Further investigation also showed an electric baseboard heater plugged into the strip had shorted and was scorched as well.

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***Structure Fire- Response Time: 3:00***

Upon arrival, the incident commander reported smoke coming from the windows. Ladder 36 began the primary search, while hose lines were being stretched by the engine companies. A fire was found in a clothes dryer in the basement. Due to a fast response the fire was extinguished with no extension.

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***Gas Leak- Response Time: 2:20***

Dispatched to an odor of gas in the home. Upon arrival, found a fallen tree had ripped the gas meter from the home. Air sampling was performed finding levels of gas in the home. The home was vented as the gas was actively leaking, which minimized the potential for an explosive gas/air mixture. PSEG was put on a rush and secured the gas supply to the home. The home was vented of all combustible gas.

***Child Locked in Bathroom:*** Responded to a report of a 2-year-old locked in the bathroom. Upon arrival, the child was crying in the locked bathroom but uninjured. FD personnel made entry via a window causing no damage to the residence.

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***Car Fire - Response Time: 2:31***

Upon arrival, found the engine compartment on fire. Occupants of vehicle stated that they were driving, and smoke started to enter cab area. Fire personnel stretched hose lines and extinguished the fire. The engine compartment was overhauled and monitored with thermal imaging camera for any other hot spots until the tow company arrived to remove the vehicle.

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***Transformer Fire with Subsequent Grass Fire - Response Time: 4:00***

Upon arrival, found a transformer that had burned with an associated grass fire below and fluid leaking on the street. Absorbent material was utilized to contain the spill to keep it out of the storm drains and fire was extinguished. Fire personnel kept the scene safe until PSE&G's arrival.

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***Hazmat - Response Time: 2:00***

Upon arrival, found a white milky substance flowing into the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook from a storm drain. FD personnel deployed absorbent booms to contain the substance. The substance was coming from a local residence where contractors were rinsing their dry wall equipment into the sump pump, which ended up in the storm drain and subsequently in to the brook.

---

***MVA with Injury and Entrapment - Response Time: 0:39***

Upon arrival, found a 2-car accident with 1 vehicle resting on the driver's side. Both occupants were still in the overturned vehicle. FD personnel stabilized the vehicle using step chocks and ResQ Jacks. A precautionary hose line was stretched. Once stabilized, the occupants of the overturned vehicle were removed via the rear hatch. Both patients were assessed by FD EMT's, and one of the occupants was transported to Valley Hospital.

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***Motor Vehicle into Building with Partial Collapse - Response Time: 2:56***

A mid-size sedan hit one support structure that was supporting the second floor of a building. Fire personnel used cribbing and Resq Jacks to stabilize the building. Once the vehicle was removed by a tow truck, FD personnel on scene cut lumber to shore up the bottom half of the partially collapsed column and wrapped it with plywood. The driver was transported to the hospital.

---

***Dryer Fire - Response Time: 3:32***

Upon arrival, a smoke condition was found, and the dryer was abnormally hot. The appliance was removed from the home and overhauled where a fire was found within the unit. The fire was extinguished, and the homeowner was advised to replace the unit due to damage.

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***Child Locked in a Vehicle - Response Time: 1:30***

Upon arrival, found a small child locked in a car who had gotten out of the car seat and was distraught. Entry was quickly gained to the vehicle without damage.

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***Power Lines and Trees down across the Roadway - Response Time: 3:00***

Upon arrival, found two large trees that fell across the front yard of a resident's home and in the roadway pulling down the power lines, as well as cable and telephone wires. PSE&G was notified. FD personnel created a safe perimeter and the home was checked for damage. Fire personnel remained on scene awaiting PSE&G to ensure the safety of those in the area.

***Mutual Aid to Ho-Ho-Kus - Response Time: 5:25***

Responded to Ho-Ho-Kus for a report of elevated gas readings in a commercial structure. Ridgewood Firefighters along with Ho-Ho-kus Firefighters were able to secure the gas leak. Fans were utilized to ventilate the structure of all gas.

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***Multi-Story Garage Fire – Response Time: 6:00***

Upon arrival, the incident commander reported a fully involved detached garage fire. Due to the volume of fire and imminent collapse, Engine 31 initiated an exterior fire attack. Engine 35 stretched additional lines to protect the exposures. After extensive overhaul, the cause of the fire was unable to be determined due to structural collapse and the large amount of debris.

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***Van in to Woods with Medical Emergency - Response Time: 3:20***

Upon arrival, found van entangled in tree limbs and bushes off the roadway with the driver having a medical emergency. FD personnel removed some of the debris and extricated the driver for treatment and remained on scene to remove the limbs and bushes with a chainsaw.

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***Carbon Monoxide Condition - Response Time: 2:37***

Upon arrival, Car #38 obtained readings of over 60PPM in the doorway, so fire personnel immediately donned SCBA and entered the home. Readings of up to 200PPM were found and the cause was determined to be two large stove burners not operating cleanly under large pots. PSE&G was notified and responded. The home was ventilated, and the occupant was transported to Valley Hospital for symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poison.

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***Mutual Aid to Glen Rock – Response Time: 5:00***

Engine 35 and Car 38 were requested to respond to Glen Rock for a working house fire. Upon arrival, Engine 35 crew was instructed to stretch the initial attack line to the seat of the fire. Once the fire was extinguished, Glen Rock firefighters then assisted the Engine 35 crew with overhaul and checking for extension.

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***Stove Fire Extending to Cabinets – Response Time: 2:10***

Upon arrival, a stove fire was found extending to the microwave and cabinets above. The fire was extinguished. The structure was then ventilated, and the damaged appliance and cabinets were removed.

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***Fully Involved Garage Fire - Response Time: 1:45***

Upon arrival found a single-story garage fully involved in fire and threatening the exposure building. A 2½” hose line was stretched to knock the fire down, and an additional 1¾” hose line was used to stop extension into the exposure building.

---

***Oven Fire - Response Time: 2:45***

Upon arrival, the incident commander reported a fully involved detached garage fire. Due to the volume of fire and imminent collapse, Engine 31 initiated an exterior fire attack. Engine 35 stretched additional lines to protect the exposures. After extensive overhaul, the cause of the fire was unable to be determined due to structural collapse and the large amount of debris. **House Fire** Fire personnel established a water supply and deployed hand lines to the front door and made entry. It was found that the dryer was on fire and was spreading to the surrounding structure. The fire was quickly extinguished, ventilation was conducted, air monitoring, and salvage tarps placed to reduce water damage.

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***Opioid Overdose – Narcan Administration***

Upon arrival, fire department EMTs found the victim unconscious. An airway was established to provide oxygen. Fire personnel quickly recognized the signs of an opioid overdose and administered Narcan. Prior to arrival at the hospital, the patient started breathing on their own.

---

***Mutual Aid to Ho-Ho-Kus***

Received a mutual-aid request from Ho-Ho-Kus for a working fire at a commercial property. Ridgewood Fire personnel responded and assisted with fire extinguishment, forcible entry, and checking for fire extension.

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***Mutual Aid to Glen Rock – Response Time: 4:00***

Received a mutual-aid request from Glen Rock for a reported structure fire. Engine 35, Car 38 and Car 30 responded. Upon arrival, Engine 35 was first on scene and secured a water supply. Engine 35 then stretched an attack line through the front door of the home to extinguish the fire in the attic area. Engine 35 remained on scene supplying water for the attack lines for approximately 1.5 hours until released by Glen Rock Command.

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***Overturned Vehicle on Rt. 17 with Fully Involved Fire – Response Time: 2:05***

A fully involved vehicle fire was found with the occupants out of the car. Upon arrival, Engine 35 positioned uphill from the vehicle. Tower 36 and Rescue 42 positioned as blockers on the highway to stop traffic and protect crews operating on scene. An attack line was stretched to extinguish the fire, and additional personnel assisted in containing fluid spills from the scene with speedy-dry.

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***Mutual Aid to Mahwah for a Building Supply Store Fire – Response Time: 16:22***

Received a mutual-aid request from Mahwah for a commercial building fire on Christmas morning. Engine 35 and Car 30 responded. After staging briefly at the Mahwah Co. 1 firehouse, Engine 35 reported to the scene to assist other mutual aid companies. Engine 35 personnel forced entry through a metal gate door for hose line access, then assisted with fire attack. After several hours on scene, Ridgewood units were released after additional resources arrived.

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***Vehicle Fire with Power Line Compromise – Response Time: 2:30***

After extinguishing a vehicle fire, Engine 35 requested PSE&G to respond for damage to overhead wires. Fluid spills from the vehicle were also contained with speedy-dry and absorbent pads.

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***Electrical Fire Outside Impinging on Home – Response Time: 2:30***

Upon arrival, resident stated that she heard an explosion outside her residence. FD personnel observed flames and smoke coming from an electrical box near the central air conditioning unit, with extension to the vinyl siding. Fire was knocked down by the resident using an ABC extinguisher. Fire personnel checked for extension using thermal imaging cameras. Power was secured at the breaker for the air conditioning and the burned-up assembly was removed.

---

***Elevator Rescue Valley Hospital – Response Time: 4:30***

Upon arrival, found an elevator stalled between the #1 and #2 floor, with 3 people inside. Engine 35 personnel established voice contact with elevator occupants and confirmed no additional emergency. Power was then secured to the elevator car. Engine 35 personnel gained access to the elevator from the #2 floor. Once power was confirmed to be secured, a stepladder was placed inside the elevator. All 3 occupants were assisted out.

---

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON 2017-2019**

<b><u>FIRES (100 CODE)</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
STRUCTURE FIRES (111-123A)	37	38	29
VEHICLE FIRES (131-138)	6	10	6
TREES, BRUSH & GRASS FIRES (140-143)	13	16	15
REFUSE FIRES (150-155)	6	4	6
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE (160-173)	0	3	1
<b>TOTAL CODE 100</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>
<b><u>OVERPRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION - (200 CODE)</u></b>			
STEAM, AIR & GAS RUPTURES (200-251)	8	13	8
<b>TOTAL CODE 200</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
<b><u>RESCUE &amp; EMERGENCY SERVICES (300 CODE)</u></b>			
EMT CALLS (321D)	1245	1207	1036
EMT MUTUAL AID CALLS (321M)	0	0	0
SEARCH, RESCUE, EXTRICATION (322-381)	26	34	139
<b>TOTAL CODE 300</b>	<b>1271</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1175</b>
<b><u>HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (CODE 400)</u></b>			
COMBUSTIBLE SPILLS & LEAKS (400-413)	102	116	95
CHEMICAL HAZARD/Carbon Monoxide (420-431)	44	41	44
ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT (440-445A)	186	316	192
VEHICLE ACCIDENT/STRUCTURE COLLAPSE (451-482)	29	40	34
<b>TOTAL CODE 400</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>365</b>
<b><u>SERVICE CALLS (500 CODE)</u></b>			
SERVICE CALL PERSON IN DISTRESS (500-512)	77	68	68
WATER PROBLEM (520-522)	52	53	48
SMOKE REMOVAL/INVESTIGATION (531-531A)	107	93	102
OTHER ASSISTANCE (540-571)	112	138	148
<b>TOTAL CODE 500</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>366</b>
<b><u>GOOD INTENT CALL (600 CODE)</u></b>			
GOOD INTENT CALL (600-641)	66	108	113
SMOKE SCARE/INVESTIGATION (650-661)	24	27	20
HAZMAT RELEASE INVESTIGATION (671-672)	4	4	4
<b>TOTAL CODE 600</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>137</b>

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPARISON (2017 - 2019) CON'T

**ALARM ACTIVATIONS (700 CODE)**

MALICIOUS CALL (700-729)	14	11	6
MALFUNCTION OF ALARM (730-736)	189	234	216
GENERAL ACTIVATION (740-746)	235	258	229
<b>TOTAL CODE 700</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>451</b>

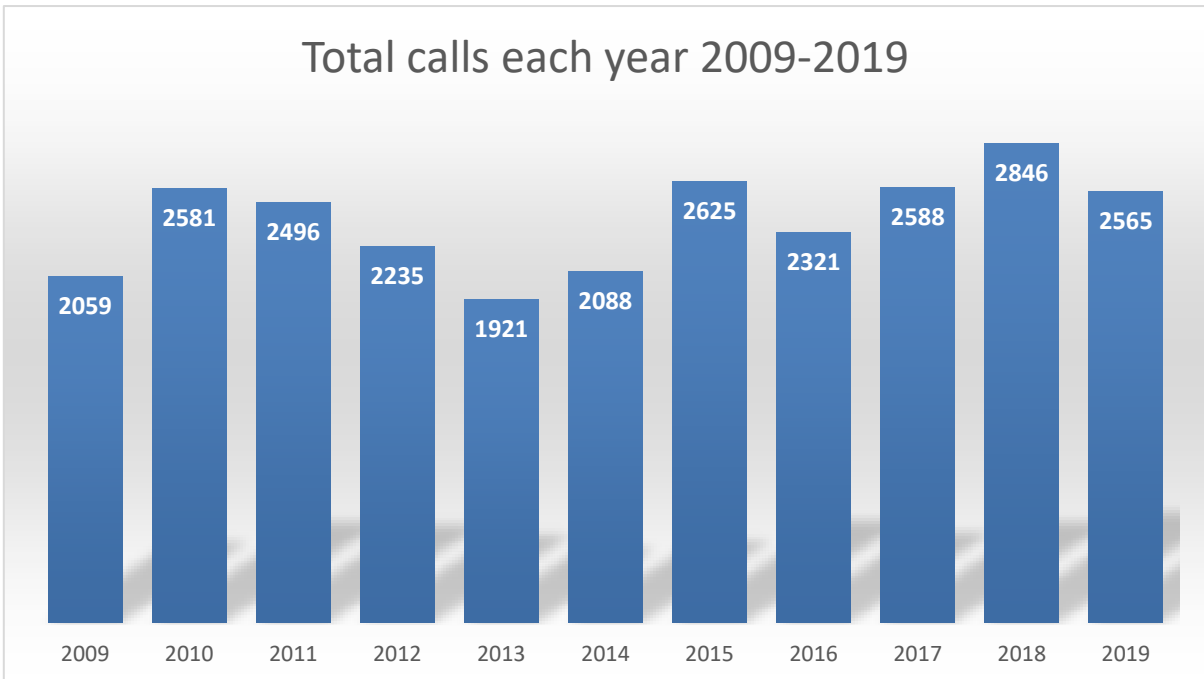
**SEVERE WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTER (800 CODE)**

WIND STORM, LIGHTNING STRIKES (800-815)	4	14	3
<b>TOTAL CODE 800</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>

**SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE (900 CODE)**

SPECIAL TYPE (900-911)	2	0	3
<b>TOTAL CODE 900</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>2017 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>2588</b>		
<b>2018 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>		<b>2846</b>	
<b>2019 TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>			<b>2565</b>



## DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

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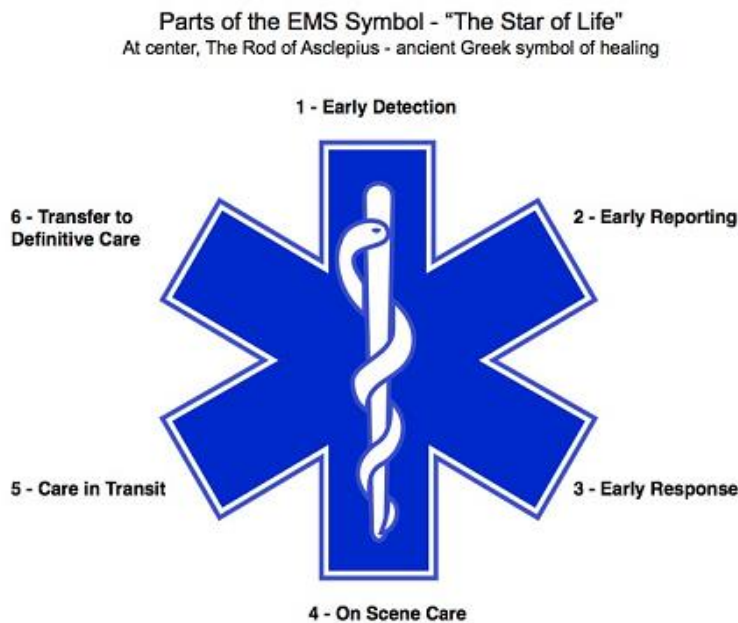
## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE**

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For many years, Ridgewood had ample volunteer personnel for ambulance staffing. However, the Village is not immune to the problem of volunteer staffing during daytime hours. In 1986, Ridgewood addressed this problem by allocating Fire Department resources to make sure that Village residents are provided with the best emergency medical service available. Monday through Saturday, from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm, the Fire Department responds in conjunction with Ridgewood EMS to all emergency medical calls, with additional responses to all advanced life support calls 24/7.

When an emergency medical call is received, Fire Department EMT's are given the location and the nature of the emergency. Based upon the location, the nearest engine company is dispatched from either Fire Headquarters or the West Glen Avenue Firehouse. At least one Fire Department EMT is always on duty at each station. The Ridgewood EMS duty EMT responds with the ambulance from their quarters, located on Douglas Place. Both engine companies carry three firefighter/EMT's and provide basic life support. Engine Company #35 and Engine Company #31 are fully equipped with medical equipment, automatic external defibrillators and medication to treat diabetic emergencies or overdoses.

The system ensures two EMT's arrive on the scene quickly, and additional manpower is available to handle the emergency. While two EMT's are required to staff the ambulance, many calls require additional help with lifting, securing equipment, and providing other assistance. One of the biggest advantages of having additional personnel is the support available to move and carry the patient, especially when stairs are involved. An example would be a patient requiring Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). CPR requires at least two responders to work on the patient, leaving no one available to move the patient and/or drive the ambulance.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

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There are twenty-eight Firefighters, seven Lieutenants, two Captains, and the Chief that have completed the extensive Emergency Medical Technician training course and have become certified. In addition, one Captain is a trained Paramedic.

Chief James Van Goor  
Lieutenant John Young

### Platoon A

Captain Scott Schmidt  
Lieutenant Michael Kakolewski  
Lieutenant Matthew Range

Firefighter Matthew Bombace  
Firefighter Scott Cornell  
Firefighter Shelby Taylor  
Firefighter Ryan Romero  
Firefighter Daniel Kostro  
Firefighter Gregory Corcoran  
Firefighter Trevor Fetkowitz  
Firefighter Michael Barone  
Firefighter Dan Steen

### Platoon B

Captain John Judge  
Lieutenant Joseph Ferraro  
Lieutenant Jason Kane

Firefighter Paul Brennan  
Firefighter Chris Wolfstirn  
Firefighter Kurt Harba  
Firefighter Benintende  
Firefighter Brian Kelly  
Firefighter Oscar Martinez  
Firefighter Mike Rohrman  
Firefighter Tim Bombace  
Firefighter Matt Musicant

### Platoon C

Captain Brendan Corcoran  
Lieutenant Jordan Zales  
Lieutenant Justin O'Connor

Firefighter Jason Jacoby  
Firefighter David Kelly  
Firefighter J. Kakolewski  
Firefighter T. Shortway  
Firefighter Anthony Dinice  
Firefighter Brian Peacock  
Firefighter Chris Mead  
Firefighter Chris Eidschun  
Firefighter Dane Knudsen  
Firefighter H. VanWageningen



## **SWIFT WATER/ RESCUE DIVE TEAM**

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The Ridgewood Fire Department proudly staffs a special swift water rescue team during and after extreme rainfall events. Specially trained fire fighters equipped with wet suits, personal flotation devices, helmets, and specially designed water rescue devices staff these teams. The Department's Swift Water Rescue personnel have the ability to create land-based water rescue system, as well as to perform water-based contact rescues in order to save victims trapped in the many natural and man-made waterways in the Village of Ridgewood.

The Ridgewood Fire Department Dive Team has sixteen Certified Scuba Divers and sufficient equipment to facilitate a water rescue when needed. Whenever the lifeguards at Graydon Pool receive a call of someone missing or a possible drowning, the fire department is summoned. The Dive Team conducts combined drills with Graydon Pool Lifeguard Staff and Ridgewood Emergency Services. While the Dive Team is dispatched primarily to Graydon Pool, there are several large ponds located in Ridgewood where the Dive Team may be needed.

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors certifies the following personnel:

Captain Brendan Corcoran	Firefighter Greg Corcoran
Lieutenant Joseph Ferraro	Firefighter Kurt Harba
Lieutenant John Judge	Firefighter Jim Kakolewski
Lieutenant Michael Kakolewski	Firefighter Brian Kelly
Lieutenant Justin O'Connor	Firefighter Dane Knudsen
Lieutenant / Fire Official John Young	SFFE Matthew Musicant
Lieutenant Matthew Ramage	SFFE Matthew Bombace
SFFE Michael McLaughlin	Firefighter Chris Wolfstirn



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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It is part of our Mission Statement to provide fire prevention and public safety education to the residents and businesses. The best way to accomplish that goal is to be out in the community. We are able to get the message out to reduce fires and other emergencies in a wide variety of ways. As firefighters and a department, we pride ourselves on being able to help spread that message. There are many events throughout the year.

Firehouse Tours

Camps

Fire Station Open House

Junior Police Academy

Downtown for the Holidays

Michael Feeney's Best Day Ever

We have requests for fire house tours throughout the year. Requested tours come from day cares, schools, Boy and Girl Scout troops and families wanting to know more about the Ridgewood Fire Department. Firefighters discuss general fire safety basics including checking smoke alarms, changing smoke alarm batteries, and creating an escape plan. The children's favorite part is sitting in the trucks and learning about the tools. The firefighters are always willing to give their time for these important opportunities to spread the word about fire prevention and safety.



## FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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Lieutenant/Fire Official John Young is Director of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Lieutenant Young joined the Fire Department in December of 2002 as a Firefighter and was assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau in July of 2005.

The Bureau conducts annual fire code inspections at every commercial building, looking for any hazards or code violations that could endanger the occupants of the building. The Bureau also does tent, fireworks, inflatable, and life safety inspections for special events throughout the community.

There are 36 Fire Inspection Districts in the Village that include Valley Hospital and Nursing Homes, all Village Owned Buildings, Public and Private Schools, Day Care Centers, Multi-Family Dwellings, and all Commercial Buildings. In 2019, there were 191 Life Hazard Uses, and 1,231 periodic Fire Safety Inspections conducted. A total of 516 occupancies were re-inspected. The inspections are also conducted by the on-duty shifts and double as a building familiarization drills for all Firefighters.

Under the N.J. Uniform Fire Code 5:71-3.3, the local Fire Official is required to “investigate, or cause to be investigated, every reported fire or explosion occurring within the jurisdiction that involves the loss of life or serious injury or causes destruction or damage to property.” Lt. /Fire Inspector John Young and Lt. /Inspector Vincent Krug are trained in fire cause and origin investigation. They are both members of the Bergen County Arson Task Force.

In October 2019, a very successful Open House was held at Fire Headquarters supporting Fire Prevention Week. Demonstrations on cooking safety, repelling, fire extinguishers, exit drills, and stop, drop, and roll were all well attended. There were tours of the Fire House and Fire Department apparatus were on display. A car fire was simulated and extinguished by firefighters and a demonstration on how the jaws of life are used at a motor vehicle accident.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is very involved in Public Fire Safety Education. In 2019, there were 16 School Visitations, 15 Visitations to Fire Headquarters, and 6 Special Programs, reaching over 2,687 children and 635 adults. Also, the Fire Department conducted fire drills at all the Public Schools, Church Sunday Schools, and various locations as requested for 4,575 children and adults.

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## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

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### **FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS** **(COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS)**

General Business	946
Gas Station and Auto Repair Shops	9
Restaurants	79
Retail Food Stores	3
Lumber Yards	1
Multi Family Buildings	54
Institutional Buildings	23
Public and/or Private Schools	28
Church and/or Sunday School Buildings	27
Municipal-Owned Buildings	26
Life Hazard Use - Annual	117
Life Hazard Use – Quarterly	24
Fire Prevention NE/INL	93
Smoke Detector Certification Inspections	816

### **UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE** **(HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE INSPECTIONS)**

Fireplace/Chimneys	15
Furnace Installation – Gas	98
Furnace Installation – Oil	1
Other Gas Appliances	96
Oil Tank Installations	2
Fuel Tank Installations	0
Fuel Pump Installations	0
Abandonment of Underground Tanks	0
Removal of Underground Tanks	149
Removal of Interior/Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks	39
Chimney Liner Installation	67
Other	4

**UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE**  
**(CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS)**

Fire Sub-Code Permits Issued	527
Building Permits Issued/Fire Inspector Inspects	12
U.C.C. NE/INL	7
C.C.O. Permits Issued	23
C.C.O. Inspections of Commercial Occupancies	17
Progress Inspections	8
Fire Sub-Code Related Duties	247
Blueprints Checked	181
Review of Site Plan Locations	19
Smoke Detector - Placement/Installations	133

**NOTICES ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS**

Fire Sub-Code Violations	112
Fire Prevention Bureau Violations	1,268
Re-Inspections to Assure Correction	829
Summons Issued	15
Letters Sent	154
Municipal Court Appearances	1
Construction Board of Appeals Appearances	0
Fire Prevention Permits Issued	57
Fire Prevention Permit Inspections	46
Fire Prevention Penalties Issued	96

**FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

S/D Certification Fees (Ordinance #3288)	\$39,925.00
Inspection Fees Local	\$80,500.00
Fire Prevention Permit Fees	\$ 1,178.00
Fire Prevention Penalties	\$10,540.00
Life Hazard Use Inspection Fees (State)	\$28,497.00
Fire Sub-Code Fees (Building Department)	\$86,545.00
Fire Alarm Registration Fees	\$39,907.00
C.C.O. Fees	\$0.00

**JOINT INSPECTIONS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS,  
CONTRACTORS, OWNERS, TENANTS, AND OTHER AGENCIES:**

With Building Department	14
With Other Village Departments	0
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	0
With Board of Education Personnel	0
With Valley Hospital Personnel	0

**NOTIFICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF CODE VIOLATIONS:**

To Building Department	10
To Other Village Departments	36

**CONFERENCES WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS, CONTRACTORS, OWNERS, TENANTS AND OTHER AGENCIES:**

With Building Department	150
With Other Village Departments	5
With Fire Department or Signal Bureau Personnel	3

**COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED:**

Hazardous Condition	53
Blocking Exit Ways	1
Improper Trash Storage and/or Collection	
Re-Inspections to Assure Corrections	59

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Fire Safety Education/Training Program	6
Prep. And Maintenance of Reports/Inspection Schedules	250
Respond to Fire Incidents	16
Investigate Fire Incidents	4
Meetings and Schools Attended	3
Check for Safety at Public Affairs	10
OPRA Requests Completed	110



## **ADOPT A HYDRANT PROGRAM**

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In 2013, The Ridgewood Fire Department began a program called “Adopt A Hydrant”. The purpose of this program is to encourage Village residents to keep the fire hydrants in their neighborhood clear of snow and debris.

Most people think little about the fire hydrants throughout the Village, other than it’s a good place to walk the dog to. Actually, fire hydrants are a very important device; it is the Fire Department’s only water source and is necessary to help them save lives and protect property.

When a fire is reported, the Fire Department looks at a map to find the closest hydrant to the fire before responding. When they get there, they must be able to find the hydrant very quickly and every second counts. When things block their view, (i.e. cars, trucks, dumpsters, construction equipment, garbage cans, etc.), it could take minutes to find them and once found, may not be able to be used if blocked.

In winter months, snow covered hydrants are a very serious problem. During high snowfall winters, the fire hydrants could be covered by as much as 4’ of snow. This would make them impossible to find. Even a moderate snow can completely cover them, as they are located on the curb line where snow plows pile up the snow. When the hydrant is needed in an emergency, if not cleared and easily located, it could make the difference between life and death.

Although we have had quite a few adoptions, we are still looking for residents and civic groups to adopt a hydrant in their neighborhood.



## APPARATUS

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**Car # 30:**  
2018 Chevy Tahoe  
Chief of Department

**Car #40:**  
2017 Chevy Tahoe  
Fire Prevention Bureau

**Eng. # 31:**  
2012 1500 GPM Pierce Saber Pumper

**Eng. # 32:**  
1994 1250 GPM Pierce Arrow Pumper

**Eng. # 33:**  
2003 1250 GPM Pierce Saber Pumper

**Eng. # 35:**  
2017 1500 GPM Pierce Saber Pumper

**Tower Ladder # 36:**  
2012 Pierce Arrow XT 95' Platform

**Eng. # 37:**  
2000 1250 GPM Pierce Dash Pumper

**Car #38:**  
2018 Chevy Tahoe  
Tour Commander

**Car #39:**  
2015 Chevy Tahoe  
Tour Commander (Reserve/Recall)

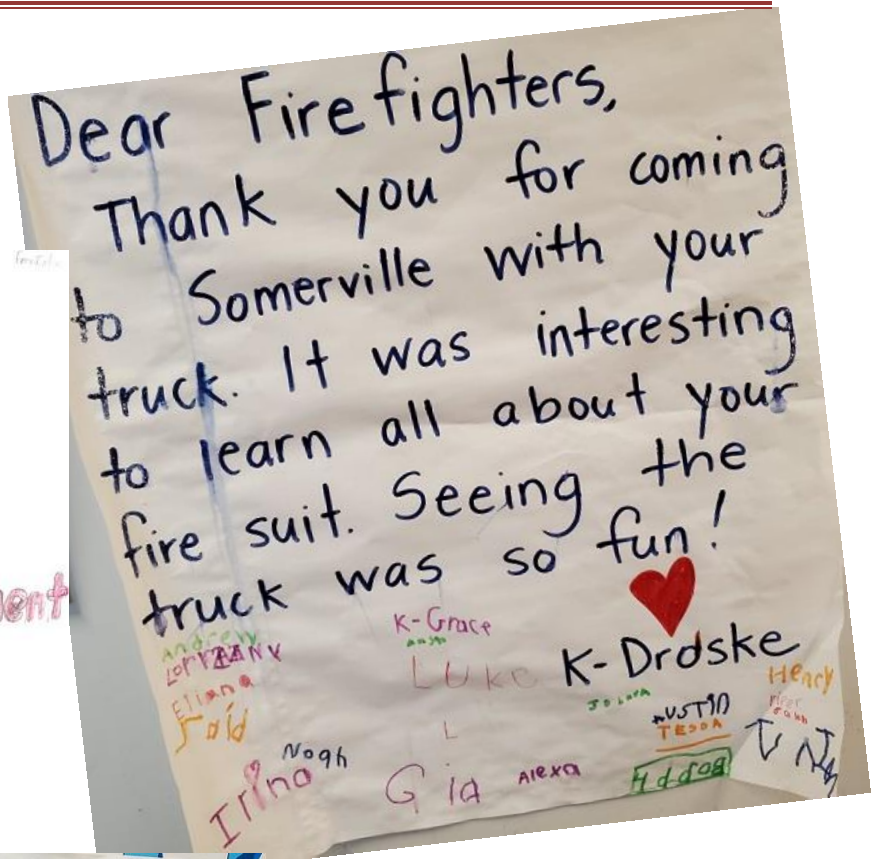
**Car #41:**  
2010 Ford Escape XLT  
Fire Prevention Bureau

**Rescue #42:**  
2019 Ferrara Cinder Rescue

**Car #43:**  
2014 Ford F250  
Utility Pickup



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION





... glorifying God by making disciples through Christ-centered worship, community, service, and mission.

January 9, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

I want to write a letter on behalf of Grace Church for the tremendous response of the Fire Department to a medical incident this past Sunday. The firefighters were very polite, quiet and helpful. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Graves".

Pastor Jeffrey L. Graves  
Associate Pastor

Hello Chief Van Goor, and Chief Luthcke-

My name is Anne McAskin. I am a Ridgewood resident and wanted to say "Thank You" to the members of your staff who helped my 10 year old daughter, Maddie, when she was injured at a basketball practice in town last Wednesday, September 25th. I wish I had taken the time to remember each of their names so that I could personally thank them; however, I did not take note or remember. If there is a way for you to forward this to anyone who may have helped us on Wednesday, Sept. 25th at Bethlehem Lutheran around 6pm, please forward to whomever was there to help.

To the EMS, Fire Department, and Police Staff-

I've been trying to find the right words to thank you all for your help on Wednesday, Sept. 25th with our daughter, Maddie, who injured her arm/elbow at a basketball practice at Bethlehem Lutheran; however, each time I go to write, I find that I'm unable to find the words that truly express my gratitude.

All I can truly say is Thank You.....

Thank you for answering the call and coming so quickly.

Thank you for remaining so calm, for sitting with Maddie and doing all that you possibly could to try to keep her calm and comfortable and reassure her that she would be ok.

Thank you for evaluating the situation so quickly and for stabilizing her arm so well.

Thank you for transporting us so quickly and smoothly to Valley Hospital and ensuring that she was taken in and seen so quickly by the Valley Staff.

Thank you for being so comforting and sweet with Maddie.

Thank you for speaking so calmly with me and reassuring me that everything would be ok.

Thank you for helping me to think clearly about the situation and understanding that transporting her via the ambulance was best.

Thank you for everything!

I wish I could have thanked you personally and I do hope that this message may reach each and every person who helped us that day. We are truly grateful to have such a wonderful Ridgewood EMS, Fire Department and Police Department and we thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Anne McAskin (and Maddie)

Ridgewood Police Department  
131 N. Maple Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Ridgewood Fire Department  
201 E. Glen Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

November 29, 2019

Dear Ridgewood Police and Fire Departments:

I would like to thank the firemen and policemen who came to my aid on Friday, November 22, when my car caught fire on Ridgewood Avenue.

I am grateful for how quickly they came, since I was very afraid that the fire from the car would endanger a passing motorist or nearby properties. The fact that they arrived so quickly, closing off the road and putting out the fire, greatly decreased this risk, and no one got hurt.

I'm very sorry I caused such a commotion. My family has lived in Glen Rock since the 1950s, so both Glen Rock and Ridgewood are near and dear to me. My sister and I kept my mother's car, the 1988 Toyota, after she passed away. She loved that car. We knew it was old, but we took care of it and only drove it locally. I don't know what caused the fire, or whether the mouse that the firemen saw had anything to do with it, but I'm sorry to have had to call upon the police and fire services. However, these individuals really came through. They brought the whole episode to a safe and swift end, for which I am extremely grateful.

Kind regards,

*Barbara*  
Barbara Bekiesz

Glen Rock and Morristown

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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The 2019 Ridgewood Fire Department Annual Report is made possible through the help and support from the following people:

**FORMAT AND LAYOUT:**

Patti Walsh, Administrative Assistant  
SFFE Matthew Musicant

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:**

Sr. Fire Prevention Officer/Fire Official John Young  
Dolores Tomei, Bureau Administrative Secretary

**PRINTING:**

Patti Walsh, Administrative Assistant

**FIRE NARRATIVES:**

Captain Judge  
Captain Schmidt  
Captain Corcoran

**PICTURES**

Boyd Loving, Village Resident  
SFFE Matthew Musicant  
FF Michael Martinelli, Hackensack FD

