

# Kendall Park

# Volunteer Fire Company

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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KPVFC

## MONTHLY CALLS:

- January - 18
- February - 19
- March - 21
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

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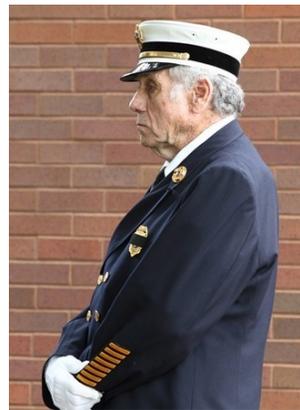
## KPVFC Enters Its 53rd Year

### Trip down memory lane w/Jim McIntire

Prior to 1967, Kendall Park residents were serviced by neighboring fire departments of Franklin Park along with the other South Brunswick companies Kingston and Monmouth Junction. Unlike today, volunteers did not have pagers and relied on either devices called "instalerts" which were placed in homes of certain individuals or sirens hung on street poles. Response times were long, especially if help was coming from out of town.

The formation of the Kendall Park Volunteer Fire Company was the result of an unfortunate incident. In August 1966, a terrible house fire of a prominent KP contractor prompted the start of KPVFC. The contractor went to the town asking why Kendall Park did not have its own fire company and the town's reply was that "no one started one." The contractor was determined to round up and collected the 25 signatures needed for approval to have Kendall Park establish its own. After the town went through its process, on Jan 1, 1967, KPVFC became official.

The township provided the newly formed company \$10k which was used to purchase their first engine, a 1947 Ward LaFrance open cab pumper and 6 new instalerts.



Initial responses were out of a garage in Franklin Park (previous repair shop across the old KP skating rink on Route 27), then a barn in Franklin Park, followed by another barn in Kendall Park and finally in 1971, the land at 125 New Road was purchased. The exterior foundation was constructed and the rest of the building was "built by the sweat and tears of the fire members. It

was like a baby being born - the feeling was marvelous to finally have our home" as per McIntire.

The Ladies Auxiliary played a major part since inception and the tradition has continued to present day.

Gone are the days of members and the Ladies Auxiliary going door to door collecting donations but the one thing that hasn't changed is the hardworking volunteers that put their lives on the line to service their neighbors and complete strangers that live in Kendall Park. Jim is happy to see how The Company he helped form has grown.

Jim McIntire is one of the twenty-five original Kendall Park Volunteer Fire Company chartered members. Having been part of the KPVFC family for past 54 years, Jim has served as a Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and Chief (4 years), Fire Commissioner (12 years), Chairman to the Board (6 years) and Company Treasurer (over 20 years).



Practice fire safety while operating fire pits and BBQ grills

## Winter recap and Spring Fire Safety Tips

The first 3 months of 2020 started off with many calls related to smoke detector and carbon monoxide alarms going off. Many were battery related but one call we responded to at 3am was an actual CO emergency with CO blowing out of the HVAC vents. Luckily the home owner had working CO detectors and woke up and dialed 911. We cannot stress the importance of having working detectors and to change batteries frequently.

With the weather changing, please practice the following safety tips to help keep you and your family safe this spring.

- Before starting your bbq grill this season, be sure to check the hose to the propane tank to make sure there are no holes or cracks.
- Keep all bbq grills and fire pits at least 3 feet from your house and shrubs during use.
- Remove unnecessary clutter such as boxes and newspapers which act as fuel in a fire.
- Clean around fire detectors. Change batteries to fire and CO alarms when the you adjust the clocks.
- Clean your dryer vent. Call a professional or check YouTube for instructions.
- Do not run dryer when no one is home or when everyone is sleeping.

*“We love how Kendall Park Fire is one big extend family” - Firefighter Moosavi’s daughters Alina and Ariana at Noor-UI-Iman MLK Day Event*

## Noor-UI-Iman invites KPVFC for MLK Day

On Jan 20th, KPVFC was once again invited to the Noor-UI-Iman School in Monmouth Junction to speak about the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community for their Martin Luther King remembrance day. Lieutenant Devin Melchisky along with firefighters Ali Moosavi and Ernie Cleworth and probationary firefighters Anthony Luterzo and Santosh Gumudavelli spoke to thirty-five

6th grades explaining why we joined, going over the history of Kendall Park Fire along with our vigorous training, the types of calls we respond to and the events we hold for the community such as our Valentine’s and Mother’s Day flower sales, Open House and our annual Santa-cade. We also spoke about The Company’s recent engagement with Home Depot to help a local

veteran with his yard work. Family is also very important so we discuss how we include our families with the station and firefighter Moosavi’s two daughters Alina and Ariana spoke about how they enjoy attending and helping year round with the Company and the Ladies AUX’s community events. The Noor-UI-Iman students baked cookies KPVFC to show their appreciation.

## New Engine 221 Update

Since late 2018, KPVFC’s Engine Committee worked tirelessly reviewing different fire apparatus manufactures that are available to us in our area. After a long review, the committee chose Absolute Fire Protection Inc. which is an E-One Manufacture rep for Central Jersey to build

our New Engine 221. With the guidance of Mike Pizio from Absolute, the committee spent months reviewing different drawing and styles of engine chassis offered by E-One. Months of hard work came together in early June 2019 when members of the committee visited E-One in

Ocala, Florida to finalize the details and specs for Kendall Park’s new engine. Production is slated to begin in June 2020 with a possible delivery in the 4th quarter of 2020. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for progress updates!

# Meet Your Local Firefighters (Life & Active Members)

Name - Year Joined

Jim McIntire - 1967  
 Chuck McPherson - 1968  
 Eddie Adamko - 1971  
 Robert Blum - 1976  
 Darby O'Brien - 1978  
 Chris Perez - 1987  
 Rick Scherer—1989  
 Sean Sidoti - 1989  
 Tom Miele - 1990  
 Joe Melchisky - 1991  
 Larry Rosenberg - 1996  
 Rob Cioffi - 2001  
 Mike Corl - 2001  
 Tom Luterzo - 2002  
 William Orchard - 2004

Prem Ghooray - 2005  
 Rick Ghooray - 2005  
 Nick Berezansky - 2008  
 Dylan Corris - 2008  
 Erik Schmitt - 2009  
 Sarah Berezansky - 2009  
 Larry Schollenberger - 2010  
 Evan Josephson - 2011  
 Devin Melchisky - 2011  
 Marc Katronetski - 2013  
 Chris Falletta - 2013  
 Ethan Goldstein - 2015  
 Ali Moosavi - 2015  
 John Hohmeier - 2015  
 Ernie Cleworth - 2016  
 Peter Traficante - 2016

Anthony Luterzo - 2018  
 Matthew Cleworth - 2019  
 Santosh Gumudavelli - 2019  
 Daniel Oese - 2020



**Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; They just have the heart.**

## County RIT Taskforce training (1 of 4)

At a moment's notice, a team of highly skilled firefighters on a fire scene can be deployed to help a downed firefighter in need. This team is known in the fire service as a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

Since 2015, Kendall Park has trained to create an elite group of members to meet such a task. Kendall Park has deployed our RIT Team to the towns of Plainsboro (last several years) and Princeton (starting late 2018).

In efforts to provide a quicker response on large scale incidents, Middlesex County has formed regional taskforce teams throughout Middlesex County to meet this response.

On Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>, members from Kendall Park, Plainsboro and North Brunswick #2 came together for the first of many quarterly trainings at the Bristol-Myers Squibb facility in Plainsboro. Members were tasked with a mass area search, rapid

removal of a firefighter, high angle rope rescue from a high-rise building, and confined space rescue. All companies were comingled with each other to perform all tasks throughout the day.

This was the first of its kind RIT Taskforce and is just the start of great things that are to come out of Middlesex County. Stay tuned to future updates.

**“Don't practice until you get it right. Practice until you can't get it wrong.”**

## Chief's Corner

2019 ended with a record year for number of calls for Kendall Park Volunteer Fire Company. I am extremely proud of the way these volunteer firefighters responded at all hours to service the residents of Kendall Park. The professionalism and commitment of this Company in providing the highest quality and most efficient fire and rescue ser-

vices to our residents, businesses, schools, and place of worships is bar none.

The global pandemic the first quarter of 2020 has change how we operate. We have set forth strict guidelines to protect ourselves and the public in the way we operate. I look forward to another year protecting Kendall Park with the same

integrity and commitment we have always provided.

- Chief Chris Perez



## KPVFC

125 New Rd

Kendall Park, NJ 08854

<http://www.kpvfc.org>



## Line Officers

Chief: Christopher Perez

Deputy Chief: Mike Corl

Captains: Thomas Luterzo

Nick Berezansky

Lieutenants: Devin Melchisky

Erik Schmitt

## Executive Officers

President: Robert Cioffi

Vice President: Ernie Cleworth

Treasurer: Peter Traficante

Secretary: Sarah Berezansky

# Join Our Company—Volunteers Needed



Applications can be dropped off at the station on Mondays between 7pm and 9pm or email [rcioffi84@gmail.com](mailto:rcioffi84@gmail.com)

Contributors this quarter:

Chief Chris Perez, Deputy Chief Mike Corl, Captain Nick Berezansky, Lieutenant Devin Melchisky and Firefighter Ali Moosavi