

GRAND MARSHAL 2015 DARLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Darlington Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1926. In January of that year, the newspaper informed citizens of a gathering to be held in Darlington Borough for the purpose of forming a volunteer fire department, there having been several serious fires in the vicinity that had occurred in the previous years. The fire that was probably the impetus for the formation of the department was the Darlington Hotel fire that occurred on October 7, 1925.

The leading lights of Darlington were duly gathered and chartered the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department in February 1926. The department operated out of the current Darlington Borough building until 1951 when the former Graham Brothers Garage at the corner of Market Street and 2nd Street was purchased by the department for its fire hall. The department operated independently of the dedicated support of a municipality for the first 55 years it existed. The members dedicated themselves to supporting the department financially through dances, chicken barbecues and many other fundraising activities. Eventually, though, the costs associated with operating a fire department would become too burdensome and the department re-chartered in 1981 as the Darlington Township Volunteer Fire Department. This relationship has been mutually beneficial to both parties, and the department still provides fire protection to the Borough through a contractual arrangement.

With the financial support of the Township, the department was able to purchase a modern, custom-built fire engine in 1984, a new water tanker in 1989 and begin planning

for the construction of the current Darlington Township Municipal Complex which was dedicated as part of the original Darlington Days festivities in 2000. The fire department continues to provide service to the community as it has for 89 years and counting. The community, in turn, provides the members for the fire department and the financial support they need to keep protecting the lives and property of the residents of the community of Darlington.