

## Greetings Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support for another challenging year! We continued to provide 24/7 Emergency Medical Services to our residents throughout 2021 as the pandemic continued to confront us all. And now our success to ensure we are able to respond to you during an emergency relies upon **YOUR** support now more than ever!

While the Westwood Ambulance has been serving Western Chester County for over 20 years, residents are now greatly benefiting from the recent inclusion of our Advanced Life Support Paramedic service! This means that now whenever an ambulance is summoned under normal circumstances, a Paramedic will arrive on-board our ambulance simultaneous with our EMT personnel.

This Advanced Life Support service upgrade has allowed us to offer more medications and interventions outside the hospital setting, and has significantly shortened the time it takes to get those life-saving measures to you and your family. With the healthcare changes and uncertainty in our region such as the heart catheterization lab closure at TowerHealth's Brandywine Hospital, these life-saving actions provided by your community ambulance service are more critical than ever.

As you may already know, funding for our ambulance service is raised through your contribution to this subscription drive; which is supported by various other fundraisers, grants, and through the generous support of the townships we serve.

While several municipalities have implemented funding through taxes to help offset the rising costs of emergency medical care, it is important to note that the municipal tax funding and contributions represent only 28% of the total operating budget of our ambulance service. This fund drive is a critical component for us to meet our budgetary needs, while keeping local taxes limited. All contributions to our fund drive help to minimize additional tax subsidies.

If we transport you to the hospital, we attempt to bill your insurance carrier. However, our services are not typically entirely covered by insurance. For instance, if we bill \$1,000 for our services and your insurance carrier covers \$500 of that, you would be responsible for the remaining \$500. If you are a member of this subscription drive, **we will waive** the remaining balance not covered by your insurance, even if you need our ambulance service multiple times during the year. This is a significant cost savings to you!

We continue to offer this subscription-based service for both our Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support services. For the first time, you may now enroll in this subscription via our secure online service at <https://westwood-fire-company.square.site> or use this QR code on your smart phone. Of course, you may continue to subscribe to this service with a check or money order as well.

Please bear in mind that your subscription covers the services which Westwood provides, and there may be other organizations involved in your care (such as another ambulance of paramedic service). Each organization is responsible for their own billing, and only for the portion of services they specifically provide.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity. Without help from the citizens like you and the continued support of the Boards of Supervisors of our service area, we wouldn't be able to provide the top-tier Emergency Medical Services you deserve.

Yours In Service,  
The Officers, Members, and Staff of Westwood Fire Company Ambulance Division

## Did You Know?

Costs for our ambulance replacement now exceeds over \$210,000!

Westwood EMS responds to more than 3,000 calls per year

Residents of Valley and East Fallowfield Township are serviced by our main station on Valley Road

Residents of West Caln, West Brandywine, and Wallace Townships are serviced by our ambulance located inside the Wagontown Fire Company in West Caln Township



Now you can use your smartphone to make your donation!