



Parkside Borough Hall



Parkside Fire Company

THE PARKSIDER

“Raising the level of communication”



Parkside Elementary School



The Woodlot

Vol. 4-4; **Autumn 2020**

FEEL-GOOD PARKSIDE PD STORY

In June 2020, Parkside Police Officer, Patrick McKeown, responded to a theft report of an Xbox. Through a thorough investigation, McKeown was able to locate the stolen Xbox at a home in Chester and determined that it was purchased online for the woman's grandchildren, not realizing that it was stolen.

After sharing the story with his wife, Giovanna, she reached out to her brother, Anthony Severoni, who is a ROTC Cadet at West Chester University. Anthony offered to purchase and donate an Xbox to the family.

Both McKeown, and Severoni, were able to meet with the family and give them the new Xbox.

“As one can imagine, the children were thrilled and a negative action was turned into a positive outcome”, said McKeown (below right).



PARKSIDE LOSES AMBULANCE SERVICE

Borough residents were informed in late August, through Facebook posts and an email blast, by Council President Shirley Purcival that the officers of Parkside Fire Company could not strike a last-minute deal with Prospect Holdings, the company who owns Crozer-Chester Medical Center among other entities.

Upon renewal of the borough contract between Prospect Holdings and Parkside Fire Company, officers learned that Prospect expected Parkside to agree to a \$31,000 per month contract to retain emergency paramedic service to the borough. This amount, it is noted, is the same amount charged to Springfield Township, a population in 2018 of 24,199 persons. Parkside's 2018 population was 2,322 persons. That is an 89.5% difference in population of Springfield versus Parkside. When this statistic was pointed out, Prospect Holdings would not budge on the agreement.

“Parkside has had a paramedic unit stationed at the Fire Company for almost twenty years”, said Purcival. “The fire company would receive 100% of their billing and last year, even purchased a new ambulance”.

The end-result is the paramedic unit, provided by Prospect Holdings, was pulled out of service from Parkside Fire Company on September 13, 2020.

Crozer-Chester Medical Center has taken responsibility of providing emergency service to borough residents. They will bill on a private basis or individual insurance companies for the services they have provided to residents. The patient will then be billed any member liability, after payment of their individual carrier.

The Fire Company retains two ambulances at this point and may sell one unit, with plans for the other that have not yet been made public.

Parkside Officers Instrumental In Arrests

Parkside Police Officers, Chris D'Antonio and Andrew Stasis, were instrumental in recent arrests that took four criminals off Parkside streets.

The first apprehension took place on the afternoon of September 23, 2020. Delaware State Police were investigating a robbery in Wilmington Delaware involving three individuals. Information was broadcast and the getaway vehicle spotted in Delaware county. Police gave chase but quickly broke it off due to speeds reaching an unsafe condition.

Ten minutes later, the vehicle was detected in Ridley Township. Police gave chase, which took to I-95, and the vehicle crashed on the interstate in the area of U.S. Route 322 in the height of rush-hour.

The three subjects fled on-foot into a wooded area under the interstate. Police from several surrounding agencies, including Officer D'Antonio, responded and began a search of the area. Officer D'Antonio spotted the subjects in the involved wooded area, and with a Chester Police Officer, apprehended the subjects and placed them into custody.

All three individuals were on the Delaware State Police "most wanted" list and considered armed and dangerous. During the early-morning hours of September 24, 2020, Chester Police reported a subject entering cars in the area of East Parkway of Chester. Information and descriptions were broadcast and Parkside PD and Upland PD joined Chester PD in the investigation.

The subject was observed several times and finally apprehended in the unit block of East Chelton Road. Officer Stasis and Upland Officers were instrumental in taking, yet another, criminal off our streets. "Excellent work by both officers for working together to take another criminal off our streets", said Mayor Thomas Deitman.



Officer Stasis (left) & Officer D'Antonio (right) -- 2019

Parkside Council Says Goodbye To Former President

Council President, Shirley Purcival, began September's council meeting with a moment of silence in recognition of past Council President, Emilio "Moose" Bonacquisti. Bonacquisti passed away July 29, 2020, at Crozer Keystone Inpatient Hospice at Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park.

Moose was an Aston resident until the time of his death and was born and raised in Chester. He worked for Granite Run GMC as a salesman, was a volunteer firefighter, director of Franklin Rescue Squad, former president of Parkside Council and was involved in Chester Youth Baseball and Parkside Boys Club Football. Moose is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joanna Bonacquisti, his children--Darren and Jason, four siblings and six grandchildren.

Moose was buried at Ss Peter & Paul Cemetery August 4, 2020.



Emilio "Moose" Bonacquisti 12/14/40-7/29/20

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Find Parkside Borough news, updates and information online at: www.parksideborough.com

Council Meetings Can Now Be Viewed on YouTube!
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Parkside Borough Council

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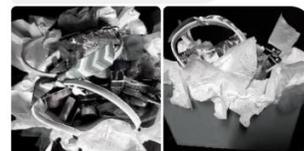
Parkside resident, Kim Roman, is conducting a raffle of for a basket of cheer and and a make-up raffle bag, to benefit *Parkside Police*.

Basket of Cheer tickets are: \$2.00, 3 for \$5.00 and 8 for \$10.00

Make-up Bag tickets are: \$1.00, 6 for \$5.00 and 13 for \$10.00



Basket of Cheer



Make up Bag

2020 Council Meeting Schedule

Borough Council meetings are held at borough hall on the 4th Wednesday of each month, with the November and December sessions moved up, to avoid conflicts with the holidays. Council meetings start at 7:00 pm. And seating is limited due to Covid restrictions. The complete calendar is:

October 28 November 18 December 16

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Borough Blurbs

~A recent update was made to ordinance 563 related to the solicitor fees within the borough for ice cream vendors. A decrease in permit cost was voted by Council from \$500.00 to \$200.00 with a limit of three permits per season

~All contracts have been signed by Council President for bids for the \$93,600 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to be put to work. "The next step will be the official okay to bid out the various jobs, then a pre-construction meeting to be held followed by a contractor start-date", said President Purcival. The project will include additional lights to be installed on Edgmont Avenue from Beechwood Road to the Parkside/Chester border. Additionally, the project will include the addition of conduits, wiring and sidewalk restoration

~The \$9,350.00 Greenways Grant has also been signed off. This project will be focused on the Wesley Coale Memorial Park and include additional lighting, electrical outlets, benches and an evergreen tree that can be utilized in the Winter for decorating into a Christmas tree. "Both grants are "free money" for the borough--with no matching grant required", said Purcival

~Borough Council is working on something special for the Christmas holiday to be held Saturday December 5 with a rain date of Sunday December 6. Details are continuing to develop and will be announced at the next Council Meeting on October 28

~The paving project for the west side, initially scheduled for August, will get underway this month—at approximately presstime of this newsletter—during the second week of this month. It will focus on West Chelton Road between Edgmont Avenue and Norfolk Lane and Crozer Street between Beechwood Road and Gray Street. Residents are asked to relocate their vehicles while the project is underway

~A tentative dedication is planned for the Woodlot and the Ford Fitness Trail for Spring 2021

~Parkside Fire Company was presented at the July council meeting with a check for \$10,000.00 by council President Purcival to Fire Marshal Rob Powers

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If your dog poops, but nobody is watching, you still must pick it up! DOG WASTE TRANSMITS DISEASE AND CONTAMINATES DRINKING WATER

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Residents Rally Support For Police

Residents from Parkside and surrounding areas rallied to show their support for Parkside's first, "Back the Blue", held August 12, 2020, along Edgmont Avenue in front of Parkside Elementary School.

Organizers, Ron Markawicz and Mike Cole, both west-side residents, decided it was time to recognize the sacrifices police make on a daily basis.

Participants gathered along the avenue with their flags, signs and special "back the blue" apparel in support of not only Parkside Police, but Officers from our surrounding towns of Chester, Brookhaven, Upland and Aston.

A second "Back the Blue" was held September 19th. "It was a chance to say thank you and to show our appreciation to the men and women in blue who risk their lives to keep us safe on a daily basis", said Markawicz.

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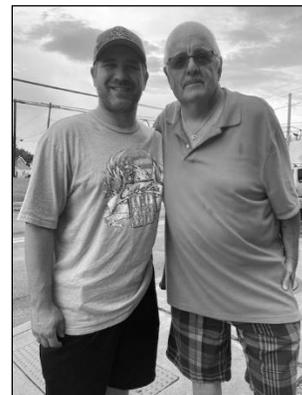


(left to right: Officers McKeown, D'Antonio, Redding and Barbone)

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(Organizers Markawicz and Cole)



(photo credit: Nick Ortiz)

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(photo credit: Nick Ortiz)

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Meet Your Parkside Police Officers

In an effort to better acquaint Parkside residents with the police officers who protect them, *The Parksider* will be featuring the following Q & A with different members of the PPD, including:



Police Officer Brian McNeill, Jr.

Background: Age 43, worked for Parkside Police Department the past 15 years; currently resides in Broomall; raised in Newtown Square; graduate of Marple Newtown Senior High School

How did you choose a career in law enforcement?

Some say they chose a career in law enforcement and others say that it is their calling. I grew up with a father in law enforcement who served the residents of Newtown Township as a police officer. He served with pride and admiration of the community for 43 years. I heard stories of him helping people and taking steps to make our community safer. I wanted to do the same. After high school, I was working in the security field. I remember it clearly, working at Kimberly Clark, on 9/11/01, and decided to advance my career to law enforcement by applying to the Delaware County Park Police. I was hired in November 2001. At the last minute, I heard a good friend was attending Delaware County Police Academy and decided what better time than to go with someone I knew. I graduated in 2002. Since then, I have attended hundreds of hours of certification and training programs in law enforcement, firefighting, fire investigation, emergency medical and emergency management. I am still working for the Delaware County Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Park Police and Fire Safety...assigned as a Detective and Fire Marshal.

What advice do you give to future police officers?

Ethics, integrity and attitude are your most valuable assets. Never compromise them in your personal and professional life. Many police careers were forever ruined, all based on lapses in these core values. Ethics are doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Integrity cannot be taken from you. You can only give it away. Your attitude is what others see of you and therefore judge by.

What are your hobbies and off-duty interests?

My brother, Bill, who is a full-time dispatcher for the County Emergency Communications Center, started a company, Flashpoint Lighting LLC that deals with emergency vehicle lighting and related equipment. I help with installation and repairs on vehicles when they come in for service installs. I also have a large collection of vintage police lights and sirens I obtained and restored for the love of saving the vintage police equipment.

Where have you volunteered?

Broomall Fire Company 1994-1997; Newtown Square Fire Company 1999-current; I have held the positions of firefighter, training officer, lieutenant, captain, chief engineer and assistant chief. It is very rewarding to have that community involvement. Going out at a moment's notice to help a complete stranger at possibly one of the worst days of their lives.

What is 'must-see TV' in your home?

Docuseries, history, emergency services, car building related shows or movies. Some I found interesting: Band of Brothers, The Pacific, Emergency!, Adam-12, Flint Town and West Coast Customs.

What is your favorite food dish?

I love to cook. I am told by others that I am pretty good at it. There is not much that I would say I don't like, there are a few restrictions on allergies to some things. My go-to dish would have to be chicken marsala or chicken parmesan over pasta.

What was the most memorable day of your professional life?

July 1, 2007, Brookhaven Police received a call to respond to the Brookhaven Swim Club for an unknown nature. My response was also requested and while I was on my way they updated that the subject was unresponsive and being removed from the pool. I teamed up with Diane Brees, who was a EMT with Parkside Fire Company, doing CPR and rescue breathing. I applied the automated external defibrillator and delivered one shock to the patient. At the time, Nicole—the patient—was 14 years old. As a result of that shock and good quality CPR, her life was saved. Just two years ago, Diane and I were honored to be guests at her wedding. Diane and I have remained in contact with her to this day.

In your opinion, what makes Parkside special?

"Small but strong" are the words in the borough seal, but there is a tremendous sense of community in this small town. For the most part, the people here are great and I love to help them in whatever way I can. Yes, as law enforcement we do get to see some of the bad apples, but for the most part, the residents are great. Without them and their support this job would be a lot different.

Personal: I enjoy spending times with family. Countless summers in Avalon with my parents, my sister and brother-in-law and of course my nieces. I can spend hours working around the house with my brother, Bill, building projects, doing repairs or tinkering with electronics or vehicles. When I am not doing that, I do enjoy spending time in the warmer months on the water with my good friend, "Big Al". During the winter, I long for snow to be falling. I find it pleasing to be out there clearing the way in the plow truck.