

Village of Lancaster



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Heroes recognized in the Village of Lancaster after pulling a resident from a burning building

Lancaster Dispatch reported a working structure fire in the early morning on Thursday, December 9, 2021 on Wilma Drive in the Village of Lancaster. Lancaster Police Officers Joseph Sobaszek and William Delano arrived on the scene first and learned that there was a male trapped inside the house. At this time, Lancaster Village resident, Thomas McGuire, was out for an early morning walk and stopped to assist. Officer Sobaszek and Officer Delano entered the burning building and worked to locate the resident in the smoke-filled house and dragged the victim towards safety. As the fire conditions continued to intensify, Lancaster Fire Chief Eric Feldmann arrived on the scene and was able to pull the resident from the burning structure where he was quickly transported by LVAC to receive medical treatment. The basement fire was extinguished by the Lancaster Fire Department with assistance from the Twin District and Bowmansville Fire Departments. Depew Fire Department was called to stand by at the Lancaster main hall. Officer Joseph Sobaszek, Officer Delano, Chief Feldmann and Mr. Thomas McGuire will be recognized by the Village Board tonight for their heroic actions.

Village Mayor Lynne Ruda reflected on the incident saying, "It is in moments like these, that we truly understand the selflessness of our First Responders. Our Village residents are protected by an incredibly dedicated group of well trained and professional First Responders who are prepared to answer the call at any hour, on any day. Special recognition goes out to resident Thomas McGuire, who could never have known that he would choose to be a hero that morning. We are fortunate, as a community, to have our emergency services work so well together to serve our residents. Our thoughts are with the family of the home that burned as they work through the aftermath of this tragedy."

Fire Department Chief Mark Stonebraker stated, "As Chief of the Lancaster Fire Department, I am very proud of the members who volunteer with our fire department. They have always risen to the occasion and give 100%, which I am very thankful for. A huge thank you to the Lancaster Police Department and Dispatch, as they are always there to assist us no matter what we need. It is a team effort, and we are fortunate to have this relationship."

Police Chief William Karn said " I am proud of the actions of my officers and dispatchers last Thursday. Officer Sobaszek and Officer Delano risked their safety to rescue a resident from a life-threatening situation. I am also grateful for the dedicated members of the Lancaster Fire Department and the tremendous job that they do. The efforts of my officers combined with the fire departments resulted in the successful rescue of the trapped resident and is another example of what happens when we work together to serve our residents."

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