



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT







# 2021 CTVFC ANNUAL REPORT

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# A MESSAGE FROM CTVFC

## On behalf of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company (CTVFC),

The key to organizational success is transparency internally and externally. We, just as any other organization, have faced many challenges in 2021. While COVID has had an impact, the challenges of a volunteer firehouse existed prior to 2021. Our concerns revolve around the modernization of our organization and the modernization of the 21st century volunteer fire service, along with numerous reports about a nationwide decline of volunteerism in the fire service industry.

In the fire service industry, members spend a significant amount of time considering family finances and having to make difficult decisions in how they use their spare time. In order to make ends meet, many families evolve into multiple incomes, jobs, and activities that take a considerable amount of time.

The industry also experienced a decline in volunteerism as the shift went from an industrial mill working area in the 1970s to a medical/technological based region in the 2000s. This change in the work force created a unique change in availability and schedules. 24-hour rotating shift work was replaced with traditional daylight schedules.

The two aspects of a modern family and workforce, coupled with the requirements and the necessary training to be a volunteer firefighter, casts some light on current challenges that we are facing in volunteer fire service.

At the CTVFC we treat these as challenges, not barriers. We can find solutions to work around these aspects of life through the service model we provide. The organization is committed to providing the residents in the township and beyond with qualified responders from all aspects of our organization. The township leadership has blessed us with a level of support that most organizations do not have. We continue to break down barriers to our success through their support.

Our focus continues to be on what matters:

- Operational efficiency through training & 24 hour a day staffing
- Health and wellness of our membership
- Community engagement and awareness
- Recruitment and retention

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great community,

DFES Chief Scott Garing  
CTVFC Division Chief Michael Hanks  
CTVFC Assistant Chief John Pristas  
CTVFC President Dan Kane  
CTVFC Vice President Steve Dancisin



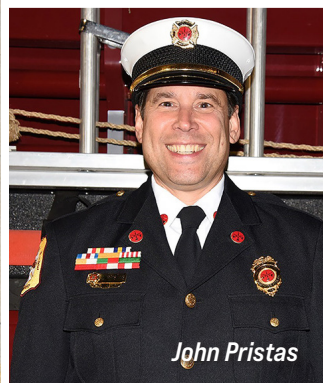
• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP •  
**FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**



Scott Garing



Michael Hanks



John Pristas



Dan Kane



Steve Dancisin



# MISSION & VISION



## Mission Statement:

It shall be the mission of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company to preserve and protect the life and property of the citizens and visitors of Cranberry Township from the dangers of fire, disaster and other emergencies through education, prevention, and emergency response.



## Vision Statement:

The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company strives to be a highly-respected model of professional fire service delivery, with a sufficient number of competent, well-trained, well-equipped, active, and healthy members to meet the challenges and demands we may face, while delivering the best possible service to our community.





# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2021, the CTVFC responded to 881 calls for service.










This makes 2021 our 2<sup>nd</sup> highest call volume in the history of our organization.

On these calls we responded with an average of 3.3 firefighters per apparatus.

We had an average response time of 8.48 minutes (dispatch to on-scene; representing first arriving suppression apparatus) and we spent a total of 4,330 manpower hours on incident scenes.

If you compared these numbers to years prior, you would clearly see a very clear positive trend on all fronts that leads to improved outcomes throughout our community.

## INCIDENTS BY TYPE

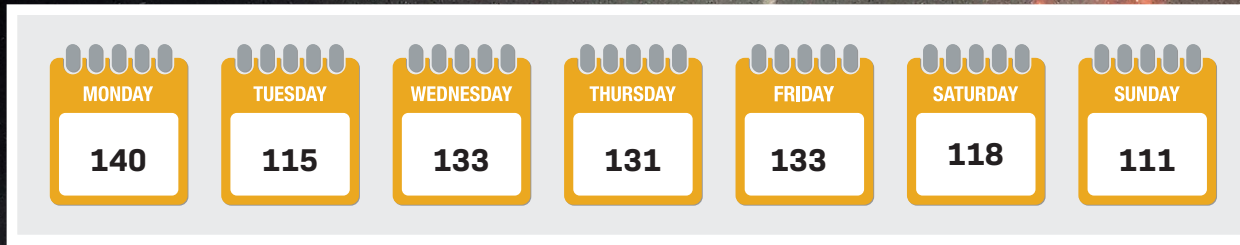
	FIRE	71
	OVER PRESSURE, RUPTURE, EXPLOSION	4
	RESCUE	135
	HAZARDOUS CONDITION	91
	SERVICE	56
	GOOD INTENT	274
	FALSE ALARM	241
	SEVERE WEATHER	8
	SPECIAL INCIDENT	0

**TOTAL 881**

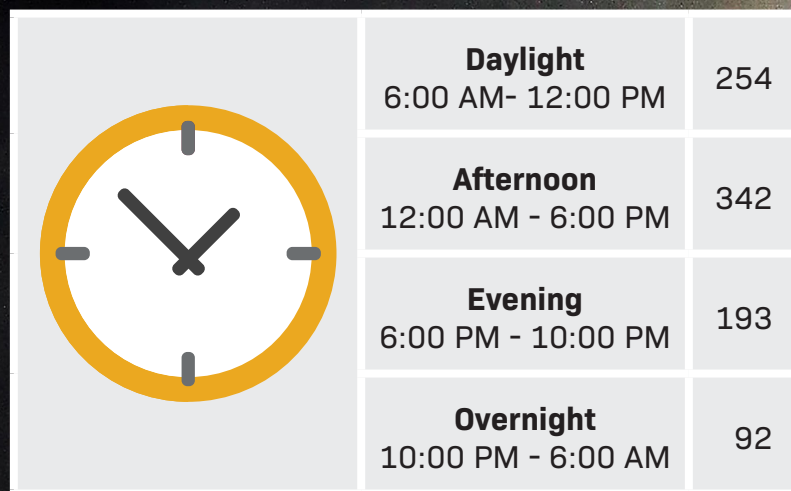




## INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK



## INCIDENTS BY HOUR



## MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID

<b>Mutual/Automatic Aid Given</b>	149
<b>Mutual/Automatic Aid Received</b>	287



# PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

## Staffing Averages

The staffing situation fluctuates on a daily basis. The program permits 4 firefighters at the Park Station and 2 firefighters at the Haine Station around the clock.

During the year the organization responded to ALL requests for service in our township and beyond.

We continue to focus our efforts on the staffing of the firehouse to ensure reduced response times that directly correlates to improved outcomes for our residents and beyond.



## Staffing Statistics

- 31,084 staffing hours
- 81% - average time for 2021 where the stations were staffed with 2 or more qualified firefighters on the stipend program
- 3,830 stipend shifts filled
- Remaining time is covered by our duty firefighters or our home response program



## Training

IN-HOUSE DRILLS (includes shift & training night)	188
IN-HOUSE HOUR TOTAL	3,476
EXTERNAL TRAINING HOUR TOTAL	1,743
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS	32



## Top 20 Responders

Richard Herzog	Aidan Upton	Richard Kisic	Dave Mack
John Pristas	Michael Hanks	David Dellinger	Spencer Shea
Nunzio Martin	Amy Behun	Christopher Snedeker	Tim Barch
Nouhoum Cisse	Sean Mulraney	Tom Klingensmith	Jason Hawk
Jeff Ammerman	Bryce Sekera	John Walter	Alex Hepler



## Training & Certifications

Under the direction of the CTVFC Training Division, firefighters from CTVFC and mutual aid organizations participated in a 24-hour training blitz. Training scenarios included search and rescue operations, vehicle accidents, structural fires and more. Scan the QR code to watch a recap of the whirlwind training session or visit [www.CranberryTownship.org/TrainingBlitz](http://www.CranberryTownship.org/TrainingBlitz).

Watch the Video!



### NOTABLE CERTIFICATIONS BY OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS

**Amy Behun** – Fire Company Officer II, Fire Instructor II

**Andrew Chambers** – Firefighter II

**Nouhoum Cisse** – Firefighter I, Special Vehicle Rescue Technician, Truck Company Ops

**David Dellinger** – 168 hours Essential of Firefighting, Firefighter I

**Scott Garing** – HazMat Incident Commander, Fire Instructor II

**Nickolas Grace** – 168 hours Essentials of Firefighting

**Michael Hanks** – Fire Company Officer II, PSFA Engine Company Ops

**Alex Hepler** – Firefighter I

**Brad Horlick** – Special Vehicle Rescue Technician

**Connor Mack** – Fire Company Officer 1, Fire Inspector III

**Nunzio Martin** – Special Vehicle Rescue Technician

**Cory McLaughlin** – 168 hours Essentials of Firefighting, Firefighter I

**Sean Mulraney** – Firefighter II, Special Vehicle Rescue Technician

**John Pristas** – Fire Company Officer I, Incident Safety Officer

**Mark Sekera** – Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician

**Spencer Shea** – Firefighter I, Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician, PSFA Engine Company Ops

**David Smith** – Firefighter I, Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician

**Chris Snedeker** – Firefighter II, PSFA Engine Company Ops

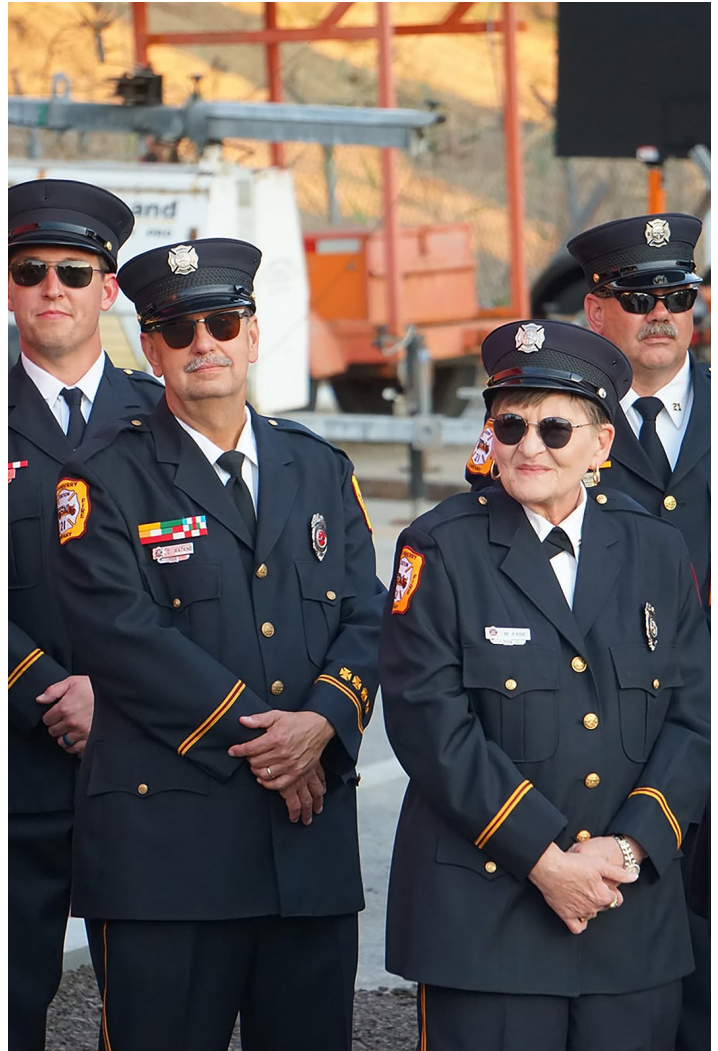
**John Walter** – 168 hours Essentials of Firefighting, Firefighter I



## Membership

(The organization categorizes its membership into several different classifications.)

BRIGADE (Emergency Response)	44
ASSOCIATE BRIGADE (Emergency Response)	15
JUNIORS (Emergency Response)	7
ADMINISTRATIVE	21
AUXILIARY	23
NON-PARTICIPATING LIFE	33



SPOLIGHT  
ON

2021  
Volunteer  
Hours

## CTVFC MEMBERS

Response Hours: 4,330.33

Training Hours: 5,073

Station Staffing Hours: 31,084.50

Other Event Hours: 4,871.20

**TOTAL HOURS: 45,359.03**





# FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY EDUCATION



- 3,115 children/2,025 adults educated on fire prevention & safety
- 21 fire extinguisher training sessions
- 300 free fire extinguishers distributed
- 64 prevention events and 17,652 man hours





# STRATEGIC PLANNING

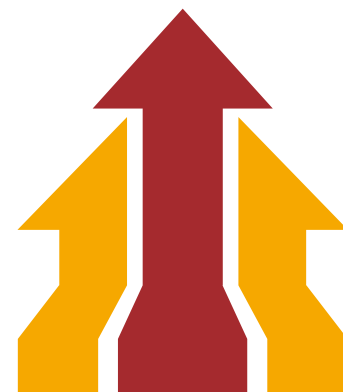
Since 2016 our organization has been working through a strategic plan that was put in place with input from the community, the Township, and the Fire Company.

We are proud to say that in 2021 we completed this 6-year plan that outlines a path towards modernizing the volunteer fire service in Cranberry Township.

The final pieces of the recommendations were completed this year which were the new agreement and the brigade officer selection process. Obviously, the progress doesn't just stop, with each objective we have achieved we continue to locate new goals to achieve along the way.

**The tasks that have been completed over the last few years have been immense and are continuously revised to ensure we are meeting our objectives.**

- Execute an agreement with the township that is approved by the Board of Directors
- Establish an officer appointment process based off of professional qualifications, organization activity, written/practical testing, and interviews.
- Review and implement modern by-laws, policies, procedures, and guidelines
- Background checks for all firefighters
- Implement a staffing program and provide a standard of cover
- Facility improvements
- Apparatus ISO score improvement
- Fire prevention program recognition award
- Hydrant inspections
- Baseline officer qualifications
- Establish an officer appointment process
- NFPA Physicals





# 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

The organization has worked tirelessly to complete our objectives for 2021. It is true that the work never stops. Luckily, through the support of many avenues internally, we can accomplish objectives that were once thought impossible.

- **Completion of the officer selections process**
- **Implementation of modern policies, procedures, and guidelines**
- **Burn building design and installation at the PSTC**
- **Conducted the first Junior Cadet academy with an 80% recruitment rate into local fire companies**
- **Execution of the first 24-hour training blitz that focused on operational readiness**

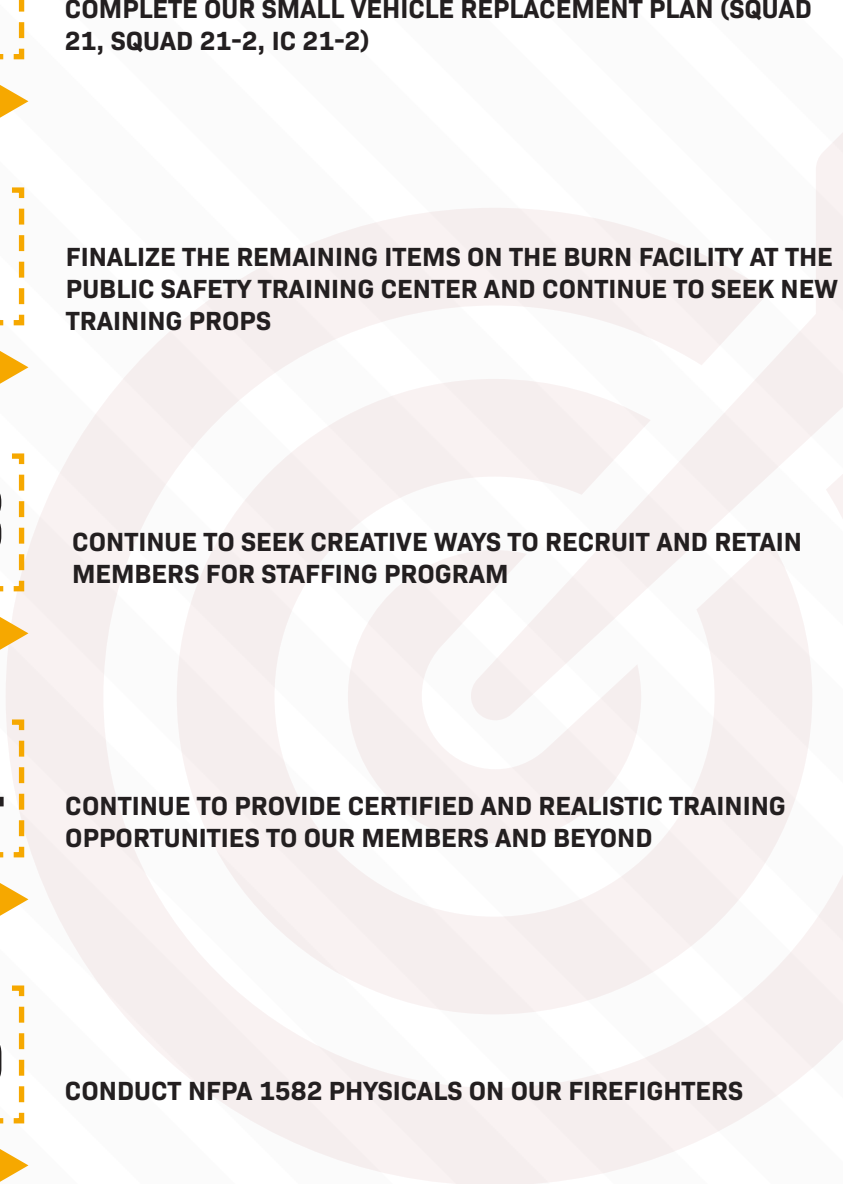




# 2022 GOALS

Just as any organization, the progress never stops.

There are many things that take an immense amount of time to accomplish, and we remain committed to accomplishing these objectives for the betterment of the fire service delivery to our community.

- 
- 01** COMPLETE OUR SMALL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN (SQUAD 21, SQUAD 21-2, IC 21-2)
  - 02** FINALIZE THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE BURN FACILITY AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER AND CONTINUE TO SEEK NEW TRAINING PROPS
  - 03** CONTINUE TO SEEK CREATIVE WAYS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN MEMBERS FOR STAFFING PROGRAM
  - 04** CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CERTIFIED AND REALISTIC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR MEMBERS AND BEYOND
  - 05** CONDUCT NFPA 1582 PHYSICALS ON OUR FIREFIGHTERS
  - 06** CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MODERN ACCOMMODATIONS AT BOTH FIRE STATIONS



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Participants in the new Cadet Fire Academy learned what it takes to be a firefighter.



CTVFC was on hand for the return of CTCC Community Days in the park.



Recruitment was the main focus of the new Fire & Food Trucks events in 2021.



John Pristas played "Taps" at the annual commemoration ceremony on September 11.



CTVFC and guests paid tribute to firefighters who have been laid to rest.



Santa Claus arrived by fire truck at the annual Santa's First Stop event.



## *Closing Remarks*

There are many talented firefighters at CTVFC that service this great community. We expect 2022 to be packed with action just as years prior.

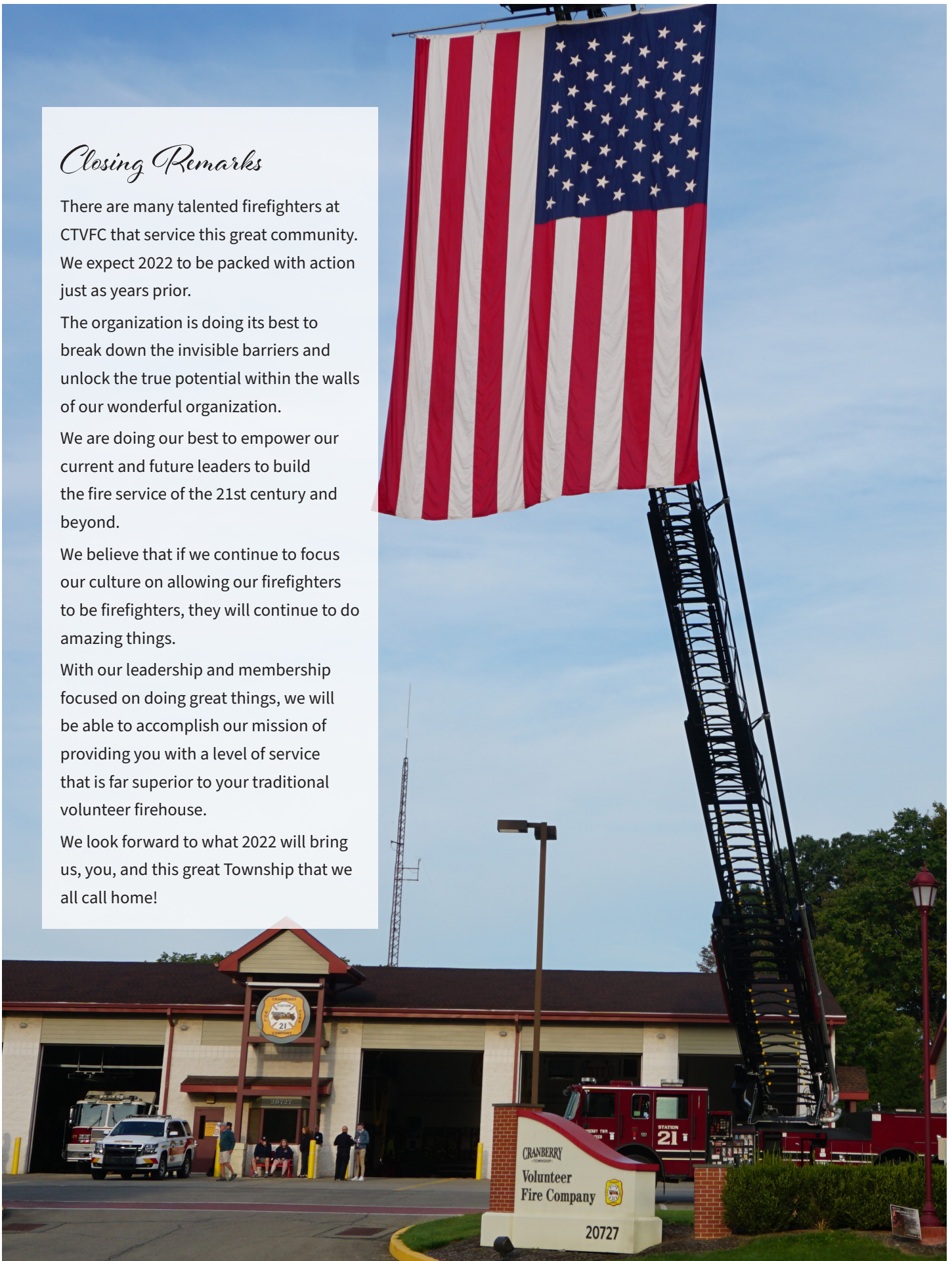
The organization is doing its best to break down the invisible barriers and unlock the true potential within the walls of our wonderful organization.

We are doing our best to empower our current and future leaders to build the fire service of the 21st century and beyond.

We believe that if we continue to focus our culture on allowing our firefighters to be firefighters, they will continue to do amazing things.

With our leadership and membership focused on doing great things, we will be able to accomplish our mission of providing you with a level of service that is far superior to your traditional volunteer firehouse.

We look forward to what 2022 will bring us, you, and this great Township that we all call home!







**CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

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Scott Garing, *Fire & Emergency Services Chief*

