

VITAL CONNECTIONS

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM NARBERTH AMBULANCE

SPRING 2016

New Advisory Committee Kicks Off Capital Campaign Focused on a Sustainable Vehicle and Equipment Fund

In affirmation of its continuing commitment to the 95,000 residents it serves, Narberth Ambulance has launched a new Capital Campaign under the stewardship of a newly formed Advisory Committee. The Campaign, which is slated to launch in March 2016, aims to preserve and extend Narberth Ambulance's standing as a regional leader in emergency medical care.

Comprised of nine community leaders with distinguished backgrounds in law, business, medicine and government, the Advisory Committee will seek to leverage its expertise in corporate outreach, community engagement and fundraising to guide Narberth Ambulance in its new campaign. "The Advisory Committee will also be instrumental in supporting our strategic planning and growing community awareness," said Chief Christopher B. Flanagan, who also co-chairs the Committee. "I believe the passion of our Advisory Committee members will pay dividends."

According to Advisory Committee co-chair Dr. George Koenig, a local trauma surgeon and long-time Narberth volunteer, new economic trends have brought about a pressing need for

community nonprofit organizations, like Narberth Ambulance, to reinvent their approaches to financial sustainability. "In the past, insurance reimbursements were adequate to cover operational expenses when paired with our annual fund drive. But times have changed, and reimbursements have dropped." This has created a deficit on the operational side and an unfunded capital budget. "This directly impacts our ability to purchase essential vehicles and life-saving equipment when needed," Koenig emphasized.

In its current fleet, Narberth Ambulance maintains seven ambulances, a mass-casualty unit, a command vehicle, and a physician's responder vehicle, all of which remain fully equipped to provide advanced medical care at a moment's notice. "Our dedication to the health and safety of those we serve demands that our providers and equipment remain at the cutting edge of medical advances," affirmed Dr. Benjamin Usatch, Narberth's Medical Director and local emergency physician. "We owe it to our patients to have the best and most reliable resources at our disposal."

Executive Director Patrick Doyle noted that in addition to covering a fraction of the Narberth Ambulance's current operational expenses, the Capital Campaign will seek to strengthen the organization's long-term financial security, with a specific emphasis on ensuring that its equipment remains state-of-the-art. Most importantly, the Campaign will undertake as its primary objective: the creation of a self-sustaining fund that will allow the organization to ensure that its ambulances (which respond to over 6,100 calls across four municipalities each year) can be properly supported and responsibility replaced if necessary.

For Advisory Committee member Lance Rogers, a former Lower Merion Commissioner, the timing is right for a campaign that reaffirms the community's support for the organization amid an evolving economic landscape. "I have seen the importance first-hand of first responders. I want to do something to support them in their efforts." ■

Founded in 1944, Narberth Ambulance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that proudly serves as the sole 9-1-1 emergency medical services provider to the 95,000 residents of Lower Merion Township and the Boroughs of Narberth, Conshohocken, and West Conshohocken. To offer your support to Narberth Ambulance, please review the remittance envelope included in this newsletter.



(L-R) Susan Marks (Contributing Member) James Rowley MD (President) Patrick A. Doyle (Executive Director) Christopher B. Flanagan (Chief) David Zaslow esq (Board of Director) Robert Archibald (Contributing Member) Lance Rogers Esq (Contributing member) Missing from the picture Eric Rehling (Contributing member), B. John Duffy (Advisory team member) and George Koenig MD (Vice - President)



Narberth Ambulance Offers Free Booklet on Preventing Falls

Six out of every 10 falls happen in the home - a statistic that only increases as we age. If the risk of falling is a concern for you, Narberth Ambulance has compiled an informational "booklet" called Preventing Falls for Sixty-Plus Adults that offers helpful advice in reducing risk factors associated with falls.

Among the many tips and guidelines offered in the booklet include:

- Throw rugs should be avoided. If you choose to use them, secure them with double-sided tape to the floor.
- Inspect tile and linoleum flooring regularly for broken or loose tiles and remove/replace any that are found.
- Tripping over clutter, loose rugs and even electrical cords are among the top reasons for falls in the home. Place these items away from high-traffic areas in a room and arrange furniture in a way that allows for plenty of room to move.
- Apply non-slip strips in tubs, showers and uncarpeted stairs. Most hardware stores and home centers carry these strips and they can easily be installed by the consumer.
- Consider installing grab bars in the shower/tub and near the toilet. Make sure the bars are securely fastened to the wall.
- Apply non-slip strips in tubs, showers and uncarpeted stairs. Most hardware stores and home centers carry these strips and they can easily be installed by the consumer.
- Make sure the top and bottom of all stairways has adequate lighting and install handrails on both sides.
- Avoid wearing clothing that falls below the hemline, which can cause a tripping hazard.
- Eating well and maintaining an exercise routine can help keep your body strong, which reduces the chances of falling due to weak muscle tone or balance issues.

These tips and more helpful advice are available in the booklet, which is available by request from Narberth Ambulance. Give us a call today at 610-645-7770 to receive your free copy!

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Narberth Ambulance Volunteer Physicians Recognized as "2015 Top Doctors"

Narberth Ambulance is pleased to announce that two of its physician team members - Drs. Ben Usatch and Joseph Bushra - are receiving some well-deserved regional recognition for their efforts by Main Line Today magazine.

Drs. Usatch and Bushra have been named among the area's finest physicians for 2015 by Main Line Today in the Emergency Medicine category. Each year, the publication compiles a list of the top doctors in their specialties. Candidates are selected based on votes from other licensed Pennsylvania doctors. Doctors are not permitted to vote for themselves.

"This award solidifies what we already know - we care about community and care about the providers' work on the street; hence, the training and support we get from these two doctors and the entire Narberth Ambulance physician response team," said Narberth Ambulance Chief of Operations Chris Flanagan.

Dr. Usatch has been involved in EMS for more than 35 years. He serves as Narberth Ambulance's Medical Director, and holds the position of Montgomery County Regional Medical Director. Dr. Bushra has been involved with EMS for more than 15 years and serves as the Deputy Medical Director for Narberth Ambulance.

Flanagan said the doctors are responsible for training Narberth Ambulance's paramedics in advanced care and its EMTs in basic care. "Under their leadership, Narberth Ambulance has the first and only single-source EMS physicians unit," said Flanagan. "Not only do they volunteer, but they take turns with the six other volunteer doctors that take the truck and are on the streets working with us to save lives and to help our medics and EMTs improve."



Dr. Ben Usatch,
Narberth
Ambulance's Chief
Medical Director



Dr. Joe Bushra,
Narberth
Ambulance's Deputy
Medical Director

Drs. Usatch and Bushra said they are pleased to be able to volunteer their expertise with Narberth Ambulance to help provide quality emergency medical services to area citizens.

"There are very few areas of greater satisfaction in my job as an Emergency Medical Physician than working with the talented professionals from this organization," said Dr. Usatch. "After 35 years, I remain in awe of the care rendered and the lives saved."

"It is an honor to work with the outstanding caregivers of Narberth Ambulance," added Dr. Bushra. "Our collaboration supports the excellent care delivered in the field, and enables a seamless transition to the hospital environment. The end result is the best possible care for the patient." ■

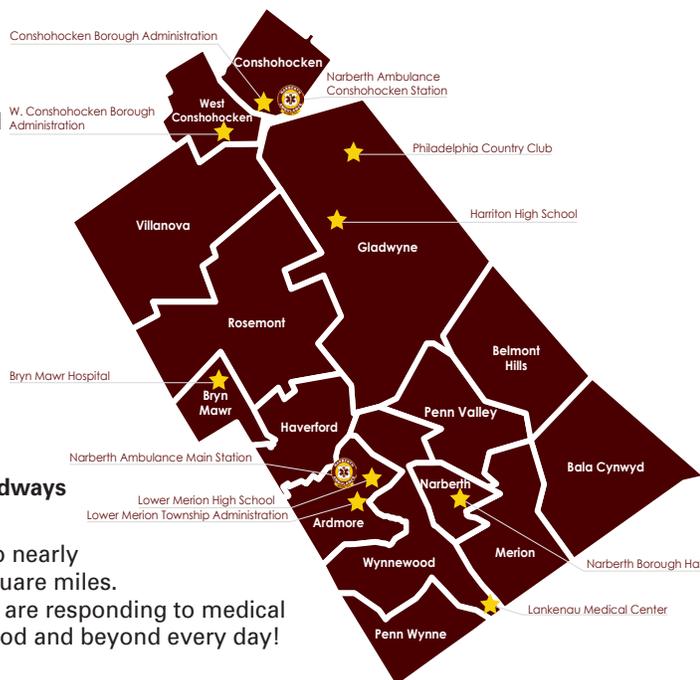
Narberth Ambulance: Our Reach is Vast!

Yes, our name is Narberth Ambulance, but our coverage area is so much broader! In fact, did you know that we provide pre-hospital emergency care and medical transportation to:

- 95,000 residents
- 7,000 businesses
- 96 educational facilities
- 6 shopping malls and 70 high rise buildings
- 9 senior centers
- Transit systems and local roadways including I-76 and I-476

Narberth Ambulance responds to nearly 6,000 calls annually across 30 square miles.

Don't let our name fool you...we are responding to medical emergencies in your neighborhood and beyond every day!



Narberth Ambulance Provides Turkey Dinners for Families in Need



For most families on Thanksgiving, stuffing themselves with turkey and all the trimmings is an annual tradition. But for other families, there is little or no food to share around the table during the holiday.

According to current statistics, one out of every four people in the Greater Philadelphia area lives in poverty and is considered to be food insecure. Eager to support families in need within the communities it serves, Narberth Ambulance provided 50 turkeys, all the trimmings and dessert to area families in need.

This is the fourth year that the nonprofit pre-hospital care and medical transport organization has purchased and delivered turkey dinners to families in need. The program is spearheaded by Marie Eckman, Lieutenant of Operations.

“Marie does a fabulous job organizing this event,” said Chris Flanagan, Chief of Operations. “She has identified and partnered with local organizations in each area served by Narberth Ambulance to ensure an equitable distribution of Thanksgiving meals.”

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, volunteers packed up the turkey dinners and on Tuesday, loaded them into ambulances for delivery. “It’s an honor and a privilege to support the communities that have been so supportive of Narberth Ambulance,” said Eckman. ■

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Solid Operational Planning Ensured Pope’s Stay in Wynnewood Was Seamless and Incident-Free

When the Papal Committee selected St. Charles Seminary in Wynnewood to house the Pope, organizers did not realize that he would be outside of Philadelphia’s city limits, thus requiring special logistics and support. Placed in charge of the Pope’s medical transport and the emergency care and medical transport of all of his visitors and spectators, Narberth Ambulance partnered with the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center and Main Line Health to develop a “medical village” – an incident management structure that could take the place of a hospital, since road closures would restrict access to hospitals within the city.

Set in a parking lot at Saunders House, the medical village consisted of a 20-bed medical care unit staffed by physicians, nurses and technicians. Narberth Ambulance supplied crews to staff seven ambulances, bike teams and its medical rehabilitation bus – which was converted into a medical mobile unit with the capability to perform complex resuscitations as well as basic medical procedures including suturing and fracture care. A paramedic motorcycle was also on hand to reduce the wait time for those patients in congested

areas where ambulance response time could be delayed.

“A tremendous amount of training was devoted to making sure everyone was prepared to deal with anything that could happen……. mass gatherings pose particularly challenging problems,” explained Dr. Ben Usatch, Narberth Ambulance Medical Director.

According to Deputy Chief Al Davey, Narberth Ambulance had another key priority to consider during this event: its citizens.

“We were committed to ensuring that the 95,000 community Narberth Ambulance serves 24/7 saw no delays in our response time and no differences in service during the Papal visit.”

“Narberth Ambulance is grateful for the close collaboration it shared with Main Line Health, Lower Merion Township Fire and Police, Montgomery County EOC & EMS, and our Staff and Volunteers for ensuring the success of this historic visit,” stressed Chief of Operations, Christopher Flanagan. ■





Narberth Ambulance Now Equipped to Safeguard Pets Thanks to Oxygen Kit Donations from Ardmore Animal Hospital

Smoke inhalation during a fire isn't just life threatening to humans; it also can be harmful to the health of household pets. Treating with

oxygen is one of the quickest ways to aid people and pets suffering from smoke inhalation until medical care can be administered.

Now, Narberth Ambulance vehicles are equipped with oxygen masks that can be used on a variety of family pets following a fire thanks to a generous donation from Ardmore Animal Hospital.

Ardmore Animal Hospital raised enough money during its month-long fundraising campaign to purchase six oxygen kits for Narberth Ambulance.

"We are excited that Narberth Ambulance has these tools in their hands now, and we hope they never have to use them," said Erika Lombardo, marketing lead for Ardmore Animal Hospital.

Scott Kramer, Narberth Ambulance paramedic and lead project manager for this initiative, said Narberth Ambulance is thrilled to have the units available should they ever be needed. "We have seen these masks in use in other municipalities, and they have made a huge difference," said Kramer, "We are very grateful to Ardmore Animal Hospital for their support in getting these kits for our vehicles," he said.

The masks, which come from Wag'N O2 Fur Life, can be used on a variety of animals, including small pets like cats and reptiles to large pets like dogs and alpacas. All emergency personnel at Narberth Ambulance received training on how to use the masks.

Narberth Ambulance also has worked out an agreement with Keystone Veterinary Emergency and Referral to treat animals involved in fires. The facility is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pets requiring medical assistance following a fire rescue will be referred to Keystone since Narberth Ambulance cannot transport animals. ■



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