



# Gates Mills Fire Department

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**This month's Pink Sheet article is a copy of my speech given at the Gates Mills Improvement Society Dinner on January 12, 2018 which reviews 2017.**

On behalf of the Officers, Firefighters, and families of the Gates Mills Fire Department I'd like to thank the members of the Improvement Society and the residents of Gates Mills for the annual village employee holiday bonus program. I'd also like to express my appreciation to Mayor Schneider and our village council for their support of the fire department and the numerous services and programs that we provide.

My speech this evening will be the thirteenth time that I have had the privilege of addressing this group.

2017 was a record year in many ways. The fire department celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and saw a 43% increase in responses. Members of the Gates Mills Fire Department responded to assist our neighboring fire departments a total of six times in 2017.

Some of the highlights for 2018 include:

The transition from our mass notification system known as Code Red to a new system called Your 911. Please keep reading the Pink Sheet and mailings from the village regarding the change to Your 911 this summer!

Members of the fire department have begun writing the specifications needed for the replacement of our 27 year old fire engine. This is a long process which is necessary to insure that the new fire engine meets the specific needs of this community. Once this process is completed, it will take a full year to build the engine.

Again this year, we improved the safety of our residents by providing and installing photo-electric smoke alarms. In 2017 we installed smoke alarms in 6 more homes in Gates Mills. Home fires cause the majority of all civilian fire deaths, civilian injuries and property loss due to fire in the United States. If you need smoke alarms or if your smoke alarms are over ten years old you should give me a call! See me tonight, or look me up in the Pink Sheet.

Thank you, and have a Safe and Happy New Year!!!

P. Thomas Robinson, Fire Chief

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