

Wayne Fire Department



In Wayne's early days the only fire service was neighbors and volunteers with buckets. In 1873, the village bought its first firefighting equipment: a 40-gallon fire extinguisher, 13 ladders and 36 leather buckets.



After a particularly bad fire in 1893, the village bought a hand-pumped fire engine situated on a wagon with two hose carts. The engine was stored at the Prouty and Glass factory and their employees acted as a volunteer fire department.



In 1911, a volunteer fire department was created, consisting of 12 men and Charles Goudy as the fire chief. In 1914, Wayne would get water mains and its first fire hydrants, and in 1917 its first fire truck.



In 1928, the Wayne Fire Department began paying its staff: three employees and 14 volunteers. They made \$1.00 per day and were paid \$4.00 for every fire they responded to. In the early 1930s, the fire department only responded to about 30 calls per year.



In 1947, an agreement to cover Nankin Township was reached, and the Wayne Nankin Fire Department was born. In 1953, a new fire station was built on Wayne Road.



In 1962, the fire department split into Wayne and Nankin, with Nankin becoming the Westland Fire Department in 1966. Wayne had 20 firefighters and five fire apparatus.



In 2003, a new fire station was built on Wayne Road, replacing the 1953 building.



The department today handles over 500 calls per year and also helps cover communities surrounding Wayne.