

Barnesville Ambulance Keeps Up With The Times

By Michael Stein

Not every community the size of Barnesville can boast of its own ambulance service. It's something that can provide a sense of comfort when you're 25 miles from the nearest emergency room.

In 2019, Barnesville Ambulance continues to be an efficient, fast and reliable emergency response provider. After several equipment updates in 2017, the push last year was for staff training and education.

"It was pretty much a status quo year for us," said Ambulance Manager Scott Nelson. "We're doing more CPR training, for instance, as well as outreach with other emergency providers, such as the Sabin Fire Department."

Along with enhancing critical skills for emergency responders, training leads to greater revenue for the ambulance service through fees.

"In 2017 we had four instances where we were able to get pulses back," Nelson said. "That number was down last year, but that can be attributable to good CPR before and after we arrive."

The Barnesville Ambulance's LUCAS 2 automated chest compressor, which was added in 2017, continues to make a vital impact.

"The LUCAS has made a big difference with our cardiac arrest patients," Nelson said.

But until the ambulance--along with LUCAS--arrives, proper CPR can mean the difference between life and death.

"We promote our training as much as possible," Nelson said. "It's part of community education. We post class offerings on social media. But it's often still word of mouth."

Nelson said all licensed daycare providers in the county are required to take CPR training,



Members of the Barnesville Ambulance Service include, front, from left: Lisa Hegewald, Laurie Ernst, Robyn Morey, Mark Pearson, Rebecca Kluck, and Scott Nelson, ambulance manager; back: Ryan Whiteford, Averil Whiteford, Krystal Swenson, Brad Hersch, Susan Yeske, Jon Yeske, Ron Seidschlag, Nikki Froslie, Theresa Renecker and Nathan Swenson.

as well as a refresher course every two years.

Recently, Nelson held a CPR training class for a group of Hawley school teachers.

There are 26 people on the Barnesville Ambulance squad. Of those, about 10 to 15 members take calls on a regular basis.

"We're always looking for more volunteers," Nelson said. "Of course, people have to work regular jobs, so weekdays are sometimes tougher for them to be on call. But we also have firefighters who help out as well."

Barnesville Ambulance has added two new paramedics in the past year, both also serve with FM Ambulance.

"They are able to take a significant number of calls," Nelson said. "So we're getting a

lot of experience out there."

This year's harsh winter led to several crashes. But whether those crashes are related to icy conditions or inattention, Nelson said he's noticed the positive effects of seat belt law enforcement.

"We're seeing greater use of seat belts, which means no or less severe injuries. But at the same time, we also see people who have been in an accident refusing to get checked out. Sometimes an injury isn't obvious at first. So it's best to play it safe, get to the hospital and get checked out."

The Barnesville Ambulance also celebrated May's National EMS Week with an open house Wednesday, May 23, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.



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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH
29-30 Suz Dance Studio Spring Recital

APRIL
4 Barnesville Lions Sportsman Stag
12 Thursday Nite Lions Ladies Fun Nite
17-19 Spring Clean-up Week

MAY
3-4 Spring Area-Wide Rummage Sales
3-5 Community Ed Spring Play
9 Show 'n Shine Car Show
16 VFW Auxiliary Syttende Mai Dinner
25 BHS Graduation
31 Disney's Aladdin Kids Play

JUNE
1 Disney's Aladdin Kids Play
6 Clay County Relay for Life
11 Main Street Annual Golf Tournament
13 Show 'n Shine Car Show

JULY
11 Show 'n Shine Car Show
11-14 Clay County Fair
25 Barnesville Community Picnic
25 80th Miss Barnesville Crowning

AUGUST
8 Show 'n Shine Car Show
23-24 Potato Days Festival

SEPTEMBER
11 Show 'n Shine Car Show
21 Fall Rummage Sales/Farmer's Market
25 VFW Annual Membership Supper

OCTOBER
21 VFW Auxiliary Octoberfest Supper
25 Baker/Downer Church Fish Dinner
27 St. James Soup Dinner

NOVEMBER
11 Valley Care & Rehab Veteran's Day
21 Our Savior's Lutfesk Supper

DECEMBER
4 Our Savior's Church Advent Program
4 City Tree Lighting Ceremony
7 Breakfast with Santa



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SCOTT BAUER
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WARD 1
DAWN STUVLAND
701.306.9434
hannemandawn@yahoo.com



WARD 2
DON GOEDTKE
701.238.4934



WARD 2
DAVID BROWN
701.219.3079



WARD 3
TONYA STOKKA
701.371.0593
tjstokka@gmail.com



WARD 3
BRAD FIELD
701.361.2202
bfield@bvillemn.net