Fire Department and University mark 10 years of volunteer firefighter program

When the Princeton Fire Department sounded the alarm for more volunteers, Princeton University responded to the call. In fact, University employees have responded to nearly 1,950 fire and rescue calls over the past 10 years as part of a unique partnership. The Princeton Fire Department Associate Member Program allows University employees to volunteer as firefighters during their work shifts, augmenting the municipal department’s ranks during critical daytime hours. The University volunteers respond to emergencies both on and off campus.

The program launched as a pilot in 2009 as the fire department experienced a decline in members, particularly during the day when volunteers were busy working, many far from Princeton. While University employees and students have long volunteered on their own with the fire department (as well as the Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad), the program was the first formal partnership of its kind between the University and the Princeton Fire Department.

“A University associate is a full member of the Princeton Fire Department and is rightly considered a Princeton firefighter on equal standing with those who live in Princeton,” said Princeton Councilman and Fire Commissioner Tim Quinn. “There’s no doubt the University program has enabled the fire department to remain all-volunteer for longer than it would have otherwise. This has allowed the municipality to hold down taxes and utilize revenue for other services.”

Quinn said the partnership exemplifies a spirit of cooperation between the University and town that extends into other areas of civic life.

“There’s a camaraderie among firefighters that I’ve witnessed between University staff and our hometown members,” Quinn said. “They’ve gone through the same training and share a strong desire to serve, and a sense of duty that reflects the importance of their work.”

That camaraderie was on display at a summer picnic celebrating the affiliate program’s 10th anniversary. University Fire Marshall Scott Loh noted the program’s growth from 13 original members to 34 University volunteers today.

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Art@Bainbridge opens with neighborhood block party

Following extensive restoration and preservation efforts, Bainbridge House, one of the few remaining 18th-century structures in downtown Princeton, has been transformed into a compelling public venue programmed by the Princeton University Art Museum. Called Art@Bainbridge, the new gallery space will feature the work of contemporary artists in an intimate domestic setting.

On Saturday, Sept. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the museum will host a neighborhood block party to celebrate the grand opening of Art@Bainbridge. The event, which includes live music, exhibition tours and family-friendly activities, is free to the public.

Visitors will have the rare opportunity to discover the whole of Bainbridge House, including the private upper floors.

“The museum looks forward to launching Art@Bainbridge with the entire Princeton community,” said James Steward, the Nancy A. Nasher–David J. Haemisegger, Class of 1976, Director. “This beautifully restored and updated historic building represents the institution’s ongoing commitment to examining the powerful work of today’s most exciting practitioners as it relates to our shared histories, values and concerns.”

Art@Bainbridge, located at 158 Nassau St., is a brief walk from the museum at the heart of the Princeton campus. In its inaugural year, Art@Bainbridge will offer installations and exhibitions tied to the theme of shelter. The opening installation presents hand-embroidered pictures by artist Jordan Nassar, organized by the Princeton University Art Museum.

Ground-floor galleries also will serve as a convening space for museum programs, community gatherings and partnerships with neighbors such as the Princeton Garden Theatre and Labyrinth Books.

One of the oldest houses in Princeton, dating to 1766, Bainbridge House has housed members of the Continental Congress and for University students, served as the Princeton Public Library for more than 50 years, and was home to the Historical Society of Princeton from 1967 to 2015. Owned by Princeton University since 1877, the University supported the cost of its renovation.

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Princeton University Library starts high school summer internship program

This summer, three students from Princeton and Lawrenceville high schools spent much of their break interning at Princeton University Library (PUL), learning more about library work and research as well as preparing for their academic and professional futures.

Nabia Evans, Toniyah Harris and Jaynee Lam joined PUL's pilot summer internship program developed with Princeton's Office of Community and Regional Affairs and summer youth employment programs in Princeton and Trenton. Working closely with PUL mentors and supervisors, the students carried out a number of responsibilities, from digital mapping and preparing course reserves for University faculty and staff to shelving and cataloging.

"When [Associate Director] Erin Metro from the Office of Community and Regional Affairs asked if we were interested in hosting summer interns, we were delighted to have this unique opportunity to connect with the local community," said Anu Vedantham, assistant University librarian. "Our interns will gain not only professional experience but also a stronger understanding of academic libraries, whether as a potential career path for them or as a partner in their future research."

In addition to everyday tasks, each student is required to complete a research project of their choice, a challenge that excites them as they prepare for college-level research. Evans, who will soon start her first year at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, said learning about the key components of the library, such as searching and scanning materials or creating a bibliography, will really help her in college. Lam, 16, is studying art history, using the collections in the Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology.

"Art is a major part of culture," Lam said. "I'm looking at the art history books on America and [observing when and how the style] changes." He's currently researching how paintings became more patriotic after the Revolutionary War and how art expanded, from portraits to scenes.

While the interns gain experience in research and scholarly work, they also view their experience at the library as one beyond academics. "Honestly, I think I want to take away something about myself, being that I am working in African American studies [with librarian Steve Knowlton]," said Harris. "I want to learn something about me, my culture, my background, where my people came from, [their] great accomplishments."

Evans said "learning the history behind [the library collections] is really interesting." A recent graduate from Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, she learned about the internship through the Millhill Child and Family Development Center, which partners with the city of Trenton and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce to offer students ages 16 through 21 summer employment with a local organization or city government.

Harris and Lam, rising juniors at Princeton High School (PHS), found the opportunity through Princeton's Summer Youth Employment Program, which provides students ages 14 through 18 living in Princeton or attending PHS with professional experience and career development training.

"This is a superb opportunity for these youth to learn about Princeton University, working on a college campus and, in particular, the many interesting opportunities that are available in the area of library science," said Kristin Appelget, director of the Office of Community and Regional Affairs. "We are thankful for the Princeton University Library leadership and staff who are managing this pilot program. We hope to learn from the experience, take feedback from participants in the program this summer, and perhaps expand to other departments on campus in future years."

Stephanie Ramirez, Library Communications Office
Climate change is here, says Sustainable Princeton Executive Director Molly Jones, and her team is charting the path for those who live, learn and work in Princeton to mitigate its impact. We spoke with her to understand what it will take to build a healthier, resilient and more equitable local community.

Q: What is Sustainable Princeton’s mission and vision for the region’s environmental priorities?
A: Sustainable Princeton emerged around 2009, as community members and government leaders perceived a real void of activity in sustainability. Of the 565 towns in New Jersey, only a handful have dedicated staff working on sustainability. Princeton is unique in this regard, and we feel fortunate to be on that leading edge. Today, we work with local government, residents, businesses and nonprofits to surface solutions and share lessons that we hope will benefit all communities across the state.

Q: How does the CAP relate to the University’s Sustainability Action Plan, released in April?
A: Our top goal is to have 80% of 2010 emissions by 2050. That is, we want to take the level of carbon gases we emitted in 2010 and decrease to 80% of that total by 2050. We aim to pursue strategies that bring us to a 100% reduction but there are a lot of unknowns; so much will change between now and 2050. It’s a very ambitious agenda.

Q: How can local residents — including the students, staff and faculty who live, learn and work here — take action to mitigate and reverse it?
A: First, we are working to reduce the miles we all drive using fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Third, we are working to make our community more resilient to the changing climate. Stormwater is one of this region’s greatest issues. We need to look at stormwater as a resource to be captured and soaked back in to land, rather than diverting it away as we’ve done in the past, because we’re creating problems downstream and flooding out our neighbors.

Q: Sustainable Princeton and the University have collaborated on multiple levels. How has that collaboration helped to shape your work and its impact in the community?
A: (Director of Princeton University’s Office of Sustainability) Shana Weber and Eric Larson (senior research engineer in the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment) sat on the CAP steering committee, bringing a depth of scientific knowledge to the decision-making process. Eric also has led CAPERS (Climate Action Plan Emission Reduction Strategies), a team of graduate students, undergraduates and faculty working on emission projections for our plan. They analyzed, if we do X, what impact is that action slated to have? It has been hugely helpful in assisting us and community leadership in prioritizing strategies. We also worked with a Tiger Challenge team through the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education. When the idea of Princeton’s CAP was first launching, we asked the Tiger Challenge team to apply their design-thinking skills to helping the plan be widely adopted. These undergraduate students interviewed more than 80 community members, and came up with a set of profiles that succinctly describe different types of Princeton residents, their views on climate change, and what would motivate them to take action to mitigate and reverse it.

This resulted in the “Inchworm” campaign — a way to release information and strategies to community members over time. The CAP has 80+ strategies — an overwhelming set of ideas and approaches on how to change our behaviors. The Inchworm concept concentrates on one topic for several months and goes deeper on a narrow set of behavior-change approaches, and then moves on to a new priority to facilitate wider adoption. What do you do to help reduce flooding, for example? Look at the plan!

Q: What are key actions that local residents — including the students, staff and faculty who live, learn and work here — can take to help the town achieve its targets?
A: Think about where your energy comes from, and how you can get it from more renewable sources, either through a third-party provider or solar panels. We’re looking to make renewable energy sources available not just to higher-income populations but to lower- and moderate-income residents as well. Energy efficiency is also key. Get a home energy audit and work to minimize your home’s and business’s footprint.

Q: If the CAP is successful, what do you see as the future of the Princeton region?
A: We’ll all be much more conscious of our consumption. When you purchase something or take a trip, you’ll be more aware of the impact that has on our environment. We’ll see more density across our community … homes built more closely together, more apartment living, more amenities within walking distance. There will be fewer vehicles on the road and more biking, walking and car-sharing … a collective culture of less ownership.

Ultimately, sustainability works toward the common good — it lies at the intersection of benefiting the environment, the economy and people. We look for that sweet spot where they come together. This is how we go about building a stronger whole … how we find those strategies that make progress and create a better community for us all.

Learn more:
sustain.princeton.edu/plan
sustainableprinceton.org/climate-action-plan

happenings


Nov. 5 A conversation with designer, architect and artist Maya Lin in honor of her new public artworks at Princeton, 5 p.m. Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall. Free ticketed event. artmuseum.princeton.edu

Nov. 14 Public lecture featuring art historian and Brandeis University professor Anita Hill. 6 p.m. McCosh Hall, Room 50. Free ticketed event. lectures.princeton.edu

Nov. 16 Princeton Athletics hosts Salute to Service Day. Service members with ID get free admission to the Princeton-Yale football game. 1 p.m. Princeton Stadium. tickets.princeton.edu/athletics


For more details visit www.princeton.edu/events and sign up for the UPROAR community e-newsletter at community.princeton.edu/about-us/newsletter
This September, Princeton University will begin work to dredge parts of Lake Carnegie. The lake has been dredged for maintenance purposes several times since it was created, most recently in 1972. Since that dredging 45 years ago, lake depths have become progressively shallower, with some areas becoming a potential grounding hazard.

The current project will address sedimentation issues between the University’s Shea Rowing Center and the Harrison Street bridge, and at the outfall of Harry’s Brook, adjacent to the Kingston, New Jersey boat launch site.

In addition to mitigating the shoaling issues, deepening the lake improves water quality and enhances the habitat for fish, reptiles and plants. The dredged material provides a source of soil and fill for campus-wide facilities, landscaping and infrastructure improvements. Area residents should know that, unlike the 1972 project, there will be no dredging activity on the lake at night.

“One of the important considerations in choosing the consulting engineering firm for the project was the firm’s ecological professional staff,” said project manager Robert Ortego. “It was very important for us to partner with a firm that respected and understood the sensitive lake ecosystem. Part of that sensitivity is avoiding dredging work during fish spawning season (May 1 to July 30) and bald eagle nesting season (Dec. 15 to July 30).”

Thousands of cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the lake through the dredging process. This substance, high in organic materials, makes an ideal blend to improve soils. Usually this material is trucked away from dredging sites and disposed of in landfills but, in this case, it will be used in the soil improvement program on campus. This will save hundreds of miles of truck trips on local roads.

Lake Carnegie was created in 1907 by constructing a concrete overflow dam across the Millstone River in Kingston. It was built to provide a venue for competitive rowing and boating, which remains its purpose and primary use. Publicly accessible at several locations for recreational purposes, the lake covers 259 acres and varies in width from approximately 40 feet to over 500 feet at its widest point.

Christopher Lillja, Facilities