

TOM AND GIGI OWENS
JOE AND SUSAN STORY
GULF BREEZE, FL 32561

City of Gulf Breeze

Mayor Cherry Fitch
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Naile
Councilman Todd Torgersen
Councilman Randy Hebert
Councilman JB Schluter
City Manager, Samantha Abel
Fire Chief Craig Carmichael
Fire Captain Pat Grace
Police Chief Richard Hawthorne

Escambia Fire Dept (Pbfd Station 13)

County Administrator Janice Gilley
Interim Fire Chief Paul Williams
Fire Rescue Capt. Craig Ammons
Fire Rescue Lt. Jim Beagle

Santa Rosa Fire Dept. (Midway Station 35)

County Administrator Dan Schebler
EMO Chief Tom Loyd
Battalion Chief Larry Brewer
Captain Jamie Chandler

As residents of Gulf Breeze, we want to both bring to your attention and provide our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the brave men and women of the Gulf Breeze Police Department, the Gulf Breeze Fire Department, the Pensacola Beach Fire Department, and the Midway Fire Department. These firefighters and police officers saved both of our homes on the evening of Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

As a result of an equipment failure between our homes a little after 10 p.m., a fire began which spread quickly upon the explosion within the equipment. We called 9-1-1 around 10:15 when we first noticed the fire, and within five minutes the Gulf Breeze Police were on-site and communicating with Fire and Rescue. Within 15-20 minutes from the 9-1-1 call, the first fire engine arrived, and they continued to arrive over the following 30 minutes. It is amazing to us that three separate fire departments, with mostly volunteer firefighters and staff, would be able to respond so quickly and work so well together to save our homes.

While the Owens home sustained damage, the Gulf Breeze Fire Chief informed us that within four minutes we would probably have lost the entire home. The vast majority of the home and contents were saved, despite the fact that the equipment explosion spread flammable liquid on the side of the house where the fire quickly spread. With the help of Chief Carmichael, the fire was extinguished within inches of the Story home before it set the home on fire.

We simply cannot thank the following personnel of your organizations enough:

Gulf Breeze Police:

Patrick Pulley
Dennis Youngren
Kyle Simms
Shane Singleton

Gulf Breeze Volunteer FD:

Craig S. Carmichael - Chief
Pat Grace - Captain
Del Sherburne - Fire Fighter
Carl Hoffman - Fire Fighter
Nick Highers - EMT
Laura Knisbell – Fire Chaplain
Helena Fatolitis – Fire Fighter

Pensacola Beach FD:

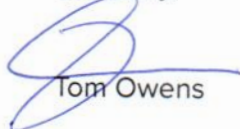
Jim Beagle – Lieutenant
Dale Coulter – Fire Fighter
James Southern – Fire Fighter
Thomas Bradley – Fire Fighter

Midway FD:

Larry Brewer – Battalion Chief
Jamie Chandler – Captain
Jimmy Skipper – Lieutenant
Neil Bethell – Fire Fighter
Jacob Pugh – Fire Fighter

The people of Gulf Breeze, Pensacola Beach and Midway are very blessed to have the caliber of first responders we have in these folks and their colleagues. They are our heroes!

Sincerely,


Tom Owens


Gigi Owens


Joe Story


Susan Story