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Farry puts out fire while campaigning

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One local candidate for state representative was hoping to get votes while knocking on doors Wednesday night, but he didn't expect to have to fight fires too.

Republican Frank Farry, the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Co.'s chief, is running against Democratic incumbent Chris King in the 142nd District.

On Wednesday evening, Farry was campaigning door-to-door in Lower Southampton. As he was knocking on her neighbors' doors on the 1400 block of Oak Road, Rosemarie Schaffner was making dinner. She put some chicken on the grill in her yard and went back inside to make the rest of the meal.

Farry was walking away from one residence when a man approached.

"A neighbor pointed out smoke in the area and we rounded the property and there was a large fire on the side of the house, a gas grill on fire," Farry said. "When we knocked on their door it wasn't to campaign - it was to get 'em out."

And get out they did, Schaffner, her two daughters, 23 and 21, and her mother who uses a wheelchair. Then they watched as Farry fought the fire with a garden hose.

Lower Southampton Fire Co. Chief Steven Krippel said Farry contained the fire while it was still fueled by the propane tank before extinguishing it. Krippel said it was a

dangerous situation because the tank could have exploded.

Schaffner, who said she's never met Farry, called it good timing.

"I told him, I don't know what he's running for, but he's got my vote."

King represents Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Hulmeville, Penndel, most of Middletown and most of Lower Southampton.

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