

Oh baby! Rescue squad delivers

■ It was the squad's first assisted delivery in 14 years.

By PAUL SHIN
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FANWOOD — Borough residents Jean and Matthew Glennon are the proud parents of a 1-week-old girl, and some Fanwood Rescue Squad members and local police officers also are feeling pretty good about it.

The squad's first assisted delivery in 14 years helped bring Kelly Alexis Glennon into the world. It all began at 2:01 p.m. Feb. 16 when Mr. Glennon, who happened to be at home, called 911 to report that his wife was about to give birth.

When Patrolman James Stewart, 39, a trained medic with the Fanwood Rescue Squad, arrived at the scene, the mother-to-be lay in the upstairs bathroom in labor with the baby already crowning and contractions coming less than two minutes apart. Stewart supported the woman with towels and put her on oxygen.

Determination made

Three rescue squad members arrived in an ambulance, joined by two paramedics from the an intensive care unit of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. They determined the baby was too close to birth for the ride to the hospital, said Capt. Sue Davis of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. At 2:22 p.m., Kelly Alexis was born.

"I was very excited. It's an amazing sight to see," Stewart said Wednesday. Though he was present for the birth of his two sons, the situation felt more urgent because it was not in a controlled environment.

Squad member Steve Siegal, 37, who also assisted, said, "I walked around glowing like it was my own."

Twenty minutes after delivery, mother and baby were taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit and were discharged two days later, both reportedly in good health.

All volunteers

The Fanwood Rescue Squad is an all-volunteer service with about 30 active members, of which four to six people are on duty during the day. Last year, it responded to 538 calls.

The last assisted delivery by the Fanwood Rescue Squad, 14 years ago, was of a baby girl born to one of its volunteers, who is still a member of the squad.