

Wake Forest-Falls Merger in Wake Weekly

06/26/09 200 W - + 9 - 13

[This week's Wake Weekly](#) includes a cover story on the merger of the Wake Forest and Falls fire departments. The first page of the article can be viewed on the paper's web site, albeit as an image. You may have to squint. The merger process begins in July, the article notes, with WFFD starting the process of absorbing FFD volunteer firefighters. The merger will take about two years. Paid personnel at Falls will move into open slots at Wake Forest Fire Department during this period. Falls apparatus and equipment will be taken over by WFFD eventually. "All with no cost to the town of Wake Forest, according to Wake Forest Fire Chief Freddy Lynn." The Falls fire district will be split between Wake Forest and Bay Leaf fire departments. The article notes that with road improvements such as the NC 96 bypass extension, Wake Forest Fire Department will have better access to some rural areas than Bay Leaf, and would be "tasked by the county to cover those communities eventually." [Read the first page of the article](#), or, if you're in Wake Forest, pick up a copy at your local newsstand!

Its funny how there is no mention of the Falls Fire Department side of the story. Nor did anyone from Falls know about the story. The merger is not official yet, just a letter of intent. If two sides cannot agree on some things it may not happen. I think this article is putting the cart before the horse.

In the Know - 06/26/09 - 16:26

hmmmm, sounds like someones counting their chickens before they hatch. word on the street is that wffd is doing away with part time positions starting july 2009. does this mean FFD paid staff should quit raleigh to go work at wffd?

amused in wake county - 06/26/09 - 16:44

Since when does the news media care about the other side of the story? I would be contacting the editor on that one!

ncff - 06/26/09 - 16:44

Ok... Falls FD did know about the story, and thier Chief had an opportunity to comment for the story. The merger is going to happen over a couple of years and not overnight. As in everything else, not everyone will be happy about it, but from speaking with people from both departments, the members see it as a positive move for everyone.

Swiman - 06/27/09 - 08:39

Will this trend of merging departments likely continue over time? I'm wondering if mergers will slowly continue over the 10-20 years and eventually end up with only a handful of departments. Is this likely or not?

Bob Jacobs - 06/27/09 - 09:45

Mergers, mergers, mergers. What role might they play in the Wake County fire service of 2019 or 2029? I suspect that most if not all of the municipal fire departments will continue in their present incarnations. Might they absorb an errant rural department, as Greensboro has done with, say, Guilford College? Perhaps. Alternately, might multiple rural departments be merged into or absorbed by a Wake County Fire Department? Perhaps. Otherwise, smaller-scale mergers are probably possible. Looking strictly at districts and resources, there are probably numerous opportunities on paper. Add people and politics, and, well, you might get different results.

Legeros - 06/27/09 - 11:36

Obviously Swiman you have not talked to the right people. This article might be the straw that broke the camel's back. First the Fire Commission submission was not scene by the board of Falls, and now this article.

Falls Member - 06/27/09 - 15:04

Falls Member, I must have not, and sorry that there is strong emotions there. Falls has a great membership and knowledge base (being a former member), and I personally look forward to having those members within the department

Swiman - 06/27/09 - 20:03

Sounds like the part-time positions at both Falls and WF are in jeopardy...better start looking now if you are one of those unlucky few.

Bill Jones - 06/29/09 - 13:10

Best of luck to both organizations during this change process. I hope everything transitions well for all!!

A.Rich - 06/29/09 - 16:36

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