

Fire Service Developments in Durham County

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At least, as reported by the Durham *Herald-Sun*. This week, they reported on reactions to some aspects of the county manager's proposed budget for FY15, notably the funding source for a new Division Chief and new Data Analyst position in the Fire Marshal's office. The "rural" fire departments are raising objections to the monies used and if that's a double-taxation issue. There's even questions of legality, based on contract wording and state law. [Read the story.](#)

The newspaper also notes that the proposed budget increases staffing for the Bahama, Lebanon, and Redwood fire departments. And to fund these positions, fire tax increases are recommended for each district. Bahama raised by 0.5 cents per \$100, Lebanon by 0.7 cents per \$100, and Redwood by \$2.75 cents.

[Here's the web page](#) with the budget document. The Division of Fire Suppression has thirty-one full-time employees and twenty-five volunteer employees. (Those are the members who staff the former Bethesda Fire Department, correct?) There are also eleven full-time county employees at Lebanon Fire Department. The Fire Marshal's office, meanwhile, has six full-time employees, with a recommended to add one and a half positions.

[Here's the web page](#) with information about viewing live and archived Board of Commissioners meetings. There's a search box, which returns matches on "fire" from prior meetings, and the agenda items that were covered at those meetings.

We've blogged before about recent developments in Durham County, notably the results of a fire study received latelast year. [Read that posting.](#)

We've also tweeted some of the *Herald-Sun* reporting about fire service news in Durham County, such as:

- June 12 (today!) - Durham Herald-Sun, County strategy for fire district taxes criticized, <http://tinyurl.com/pj2cvoy>
- April 2 - Durham Herald-Sun, City likely to end subsidies of Parkwood Fire Dept, <http://tinyurl.com/nlxkobp>
- April 2 - Durham Herald-Sun, Parkwood fire chief ousted; downsizing in works, <http://tinyurl.com/lc5p58g>
- Feb 15 - Herald Sun, Durham County Slows Work on Some Fire-Service Changes, not all study recommendations to be made, <http://tinyurl.com/kmm59bj>
- Jan 17 - Herald-Sun, Parkwood Fire in Durham County ends EMS July 1, also trustee to manage finances, <http://tinyurl.com/pmgoxot>

Finally, an open question for readers. Are there other news sources that are reporting on these issues? Or other web sites (or even Facebook pages/groups) worth noting, that provide perspectives on these issues and what's happening in Durham County?

No other source that I've seen, unfortunately. Parkwood turned over EMS service at its primary station to DCoEMS on May 4th, and has revamped its leadership structure since then.

An interesting finding from the Durham City preliminary budget (http://durhamnc.gov/ich/as/bms/Documents/2014-2015_prelim_budget/09.%20Section%20IX%20-%20Public_Safety.pdf):

Under accomplishments for 2013-2014: "Acquired the land for Fire Station 17 at the preferred location of Leesville Rd and Doc Nichols Rd." This location puts it a mile or so from the Wake County line. This document (http://www.durhamnc.gov/agendas_new/2012/cma20120820/8660_OTHER_SAFER_GRANT_ANALYSIS_OF_P_313006_465586.docx.PDF) shows (all the way at the end) the proposed response area from Station 17, primarily the "existing Brightleaf subdivision and proposed annexations in the Leesville Rd. area of the city, Dell-Webb and Briar Creek Townes."

Under anticipated accomplishments for 2014-2015: "Initiate the acquisition of land for future Fire Sation 18 in the area of Herndon Rd and

Stinhurst Dr."

This would put the new station 1.3 miles from Parkwood's station 1 and presumably take over coverage for the district that the city had been contracting out to Parkwood until recently.

Both of these locations fall outside city limits, at least according to the version of city limits that Google Maps knows.

egg1 - 06/15/14 - 20:46

Durham's planned Station 17 will also be but two miles or so from Raleigh Station 29, which should open in December. Thinking those two engines will be heavy on the auto-aid with each other.

Legeros - 06/15/14 - 21:07

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