

## Carrboro's New Fire Chief... and Connections to Raleigh

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*Morning update. This [News & Observer story](#) adds additional biographical information. We've updated our story below.*

As this [Herald-Sun story](#) reported today, Carrboro's new Fire Chief has been announced. Susanna Williams starts on August 3. She's currently the Division Chief of Training for Jacksonville Fire and Emergency Services. Before taking that position in 2012, she was the Volunteer Program Coordinator for New Hanover County Fire Rescue from 2010 to 2012.

Chief Williams holds two bachelor's degrees and a master's in public administration. She's a graduate of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute and is enrolled in the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy.

From 2003 to 2009, she worked for the Chapel Hill Fire Department, as a Master Firefighter and Administrative Captain. She's also fought fire with Oak Island, Burlington, and Graham fire departments. Prior to her fire service career, she was an Educator. She her impressive [resume](#).

Chief Williams will oversee a career department with two fire stations and thirty-seven employees. Her position was previously held by Interim Fire Chief Rusty Styons, who retired from Raleigh as Assistant Chief of Operations in 2012. He's held the interim position since February 2015.

The Carrboro Fire Department was previously led by another former member of the Raleigh Fire Department. Carrboro Fire Chief Travis Crabtree, a former Fire Protection Engineer in Raleigh, served from March 2006 to January 2015.

His Deputy Fire Chief from December 2006 to May 2010 was William "Trey" Mayo, a former Captain in the Raleigh Fire Mayo. He left to take the top slot in Rocky Mount, and again in Winston-Salem in November of last year.

Now for the trivia question. What other retired Raleigh Assistant Chief from Raleigh has served as Interim Fire Chief in our area? Answer is R. Lee Matthews, who led the Cary Fire Department from January to May, 1967. He retired from Raleigh in 1963 with over thirty-six years of service.

As [this prior blog post](#) notes, the Raleigh/Cary connection doesn't end there. Read more about other future and former Raleigh firefighters who were or became Fire Chiefs or Assistant Chiefs in Cary.

Everybody's connected to everybody, aren't they? (And we could make a heck of a "family tree" across all departments around here...) Meanwhile, congratulations to Chief Williams. Looking forward to meeting, greeting, and maybe seeing on scene.



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