



## Firefighter George Crocker Dies



Senior Firefighter George E. Crocker, 32, died on Sunday, June 22. He was found unresponsive at his home, and transported to WakeMed hospital. Assigned to Engine 12 on "A" shift, Crocker began his service with the Raleigh Fire Department on October 7, 2002. He was promoted to the rank of First Class Firefighter on January 7, 2006. Crocker was also Chief of the Pine Level Fire Department, where he volunteered since 1999.

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## Two Rescued in House Fire



Two residents were rescued at an early morning fire on Saturday, May 31 at 8000 Brown Bark Place. Engine 16 arrived to find fire through the roof of a four-unit, single-story townhome. Occupants met the first arriving units with a report of someone possibly inside. Crews conducted searches and found two victims in two units. Multiple companies worked in tandem to rescue the subjects, the first an 89 year-old female from the adjoining unit. She was treated and transported for minor smoke inhalation.

The second victim, a 55 year-old female, was rescued from the unit of origin just as the ceiling began to collapse. She was not breathing, but was revived on scene by fire and EMS personnel. Both victims were listed in stable condition later that morning. Aggressive efforts prevented the fire from spreading to other units. The alarm time was 3:11 a.m. Several days later, Station 16 received a visit from the second victim, who thanked her rescuers and posed for a picture. ■



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Hundreds of firefighters and other responders attended the memorial service on June 25, at the Paul A. Johnston Auditorium at Johnston Community College in Smithfield.



Firefighter Crocker was buried with Raleigh Fire Department honors in Crocker Cemetery in Pine Level. More photos by Lee Wilson are available at [www.legeros.com/rfd](http://www.legeros.com/rfd).



## High-Rise Procedures Start

Effective July 1, new procedures take effect for reported fires in high-rise buildings. Five engines, two ladders, one rescue, a Battalion Chief, and a Division Chief will comprise the initial dispatch. The EMS response will include three EMS units, two District Chiefs, a Major Operations Support Unit, and a Logistics Officer.

Arriving companies will have pre-designated duties based on the order of dispatch, including fire attack, fire floor support, lobby control, elevator control, and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT).

Extensive preparation and training has been conducted for the past year, most recently with drills at

vacant dormitories at North Carolina State University.

High-rise buildings are defined as those in which total emergency evacuation is not practical, and in which the fire must be fought internally. A high-rise building has occupied floors located more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. ❖

## New Ladder Company Coming

The approved FY09 city budget includes 15 positions for a new ladder company. Expected to be placed in service this fall with a reserve aerial, the addition raises the number of ladder companies to eight.

Funding for construction of Station 29 was also approved. The station, to be located on Leesville Road in northwest Raleigh, will serve Brier Creek and surrounding areas.

Other budget items include a new pumper, more mobile data terminals, more back-up generators for fire stations, an interactive pump simulator, continuation of the capital leadership training program, and furnishings for remodeled administration and fire prevention offices.

Starting salaries were also increased for new fire and police personnel. The salary increase is 5%, with an additional 3% increase after the academy. ❖

## Special Operations Update



The replacement for USAR 1 has been ordered. A sister of the pictured unit (above left), the apparatus is being built by Hackney and should be ready in spring 2009. In other USAR news, all four swift-water rescue boat trailers have been delivered to the Task Force 8 member departments. Raleigh's swift-water rescue unit, USAR 801, is parked at Station 14.

Station 8 has received a 2008 Ford F-350 Super Duty haz-mat recon vehicle (above right) to be utilized by members of NC Haz-Mat Regional Response Team (RRT) 4 and NC USAR Task Force 8. The unit will be equipped with basic entry and air monitoring equipment, chemical protective clothing, and simple decon equipment. It also has a tow hitch, for pulling the 21-foot RRT trailer from Station 22. ■

# Asst. Chief & Fire Marshal Tommie Ann Styons Retires

Raleigh Fire Marshal and Asst. Chief Tommie Ann Styons retired on July 1 with 28 years of service. She was hired on May 5, 1980, and graduated from the 14-week academy on August 15. Her first assignment was Engine 1, and she still remembers her first fire.



"It was a little shed over by the Barber College. I had to catch the hydrant, which is the most lonesome place in the world."

"I was scared to death. Bless Rick Moore, who went and put the fire out, and came back and checked on me."



Tommie Ann was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1983 and became the first female driver the next year.

"I drove Engine 12, for Captain Jerry Eddins."

After becoming the city's first female fire captain in 1987, she was assigned to Truck 1.

"I rode the old Mack," she recalls. "Then they brought the tiller back, and then the Snorkel was delivered. I rode all three in the space of six months."

Chief Styons stayed at Station 1 after her promotion to Battalion Chief (1995) and Division Chief (1997).



After moving to Station 9 as Division Chief, she recognized the challenge of staying in touch with the troops. "I always tried to stay in tune, and it was harder the more removed I was from station life."

Promoted to Assistant Chief in 2006, she has led the Fire Prevention Division since July 1, 2007. She has learned much in her role as Fire Marshal.

"It is a piece of the puzzle that is always in the background for Operations people, but that's a valuable piece. Their job is to enforce codes and standards that prevent fires, protect lives, and, really, also protect firefighters."

Chief Styons reflects on the past and sees one obvious difference between then and now: "The complexity of the job today, and the extensive skills needed for the fire department's many disciplines."

What's next? "I am going to take a month or two to disengage and reset my clock, before the next phase of my life."

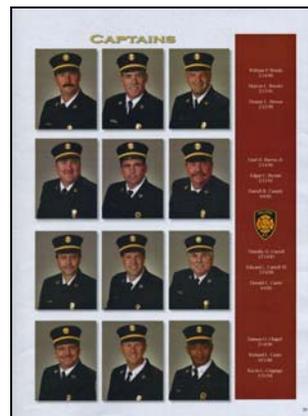
Whatever that may be. ❖

## Yearbook Production Wraps



Production is concluding on the new Raleigh Fire Department yearbook. Two sets of design proofs have been reviewed, and printer's proofs are expected this month. The books should arrive in September.

The committee thanks everyone for their patience during this long and involved process. The book can still be ordered at [www.mtpublishing.com](http://www.mtpublishing.com). Just click the **Coming Soon** section and scroll down the page to see the standard and leather editions. ■



## New Employees

Asst. EMS Coordinator Tara Lester, started June 3.

## Appointments & Promotions

Division Chief W. Rusty Styons, appointed to Assistant Chief & Fire Marshal, July 1.

Senior Firefighter Kevin J. Ellsworth, promoted to Lieutenant, May 1.

Senior Firefighter Jeffrey L. Massey, promoted to Lieutenant effective May 1.

Senior Firefighter Paul D. Witmer, promoted to Lieutenant effective May 1.

Senior Firefighter Lee C. Allred, promoted to Lieutenant, June 7.

## Retirements

Lt. Wilbert Dunn Jr. retired May 1 with 27.1 years of service.



Lt./Deputy Fire Marshal Bertram V. Dupree retired May 1 with 27 years of service.



Lt. Keith D. Frederick retired May 1 with 24.4 years of service.



Lt. Billy T. Medlin retired May 1 with 28 years of service.



## Deaths

Retired Lt. Roma L. Wilder, 88, passed away on June 16. He retired in 1981 with 30 years of service. Wilder was one of the original rescue squad drivers.



Retired Lt. Arthur R. Bradford, 65, passed away on June 17. He retired in 1994 with 28 years of service.



Retired Lt. Michael S. Johnson, 53, passed away on June 19. He retired in 1995 with 17 years of service.



Retired Capt. Edsell S. Thornton, 86, passed away on June 23. He retired in 1983 with 32 years of service.



## Academies Ending and Starting



Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy #34 graduates on July 14 with an evening ceremony at the Fletcher Opera Theater. The 24 members started their 26-week academy in January. The next recruit academy starts on August 25. A total of 557 applications were received, with 229 passing both the written and physical agility tests. Applicants will be further screened before oral interviews are scheduled. The fire department is hiring approximately 25 members. ❖

## Golf Tournament Scores

The second annual Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 12 at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. With 140 players and 25 volunteers, the event raised over \$12,000. See photos at [www.legeros.com/rfd](http://www.legeros.com/rfd).

Over two dozen tournaments across the country are being held this year to support the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In 2007, the first year for the regional contests, ten locations including Raleigh raised a total of over \$115,000. ❖

## Honors for Cardiac Saves

Raleigh firefighters were among the Wake County fire, EMS, and emergency communications personnel honored on May 21 at Fletcher Theater at the 2007 Cardiac Arrest Save Ceremony. A total of 103 city firefighters received recognition for their role in resuscitating 32 cardiac arrest patients between January 9 and December 7, 2007. ■

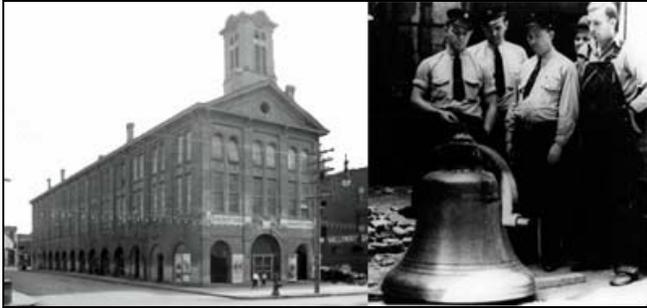
# Retiree & Family Events

The "A" shift crew of Station 26 hosted a **retiree lunch** (below) on Tuesday, April 29. Chicken and rice was served to some 90 retired members. The event was sponsored by the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association. The second **retiree and family day** (right) was held at the Keeter Training Center on Saturday, May 14. Both retired and active personnel were invited, along with family members. Some 300 people attended. See more photos at [www.legeros.com/rfd](http://www.legeros.com/rfd). ■



## City's Old Fire Bell Found

A graduate student at North Carolina State University has found the city's old fire bell. Originally housed in a clock tower at Metropolitan Hall on Fayetteville Street, the 1870 bell served a number of functions including alerting Raleigh's volunteer firefighters. It was moved to Station 1 on West Morgan Street in 1914. When the tower at the fire station was demolished in 1938, the bell was removed.



Late last year, Matt Robbins, a graduate student in architecture, uncovered the bell's subsequent history. By 1948, it was installed atop Withers Hall at NCSU, as a replacement for the steam whistle used to signal students. The 138 year-old artifact still sits atop Withers, though long-since silent. It is one of the oldest surviving artifacts of the Raleigh Fire Department. ❖

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.  
JULY 8

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.  
AUGUST 12

### RECRUIT ACADEMY STARTS

Keeter Training Center, 105 Keeter Center Drive  
August 25

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

Pam's Restaurant, 5111 Western Boulevard, 7:30 a.m.  
September 9



## Pre-Plan Blitz Conducted

In preparation for a new pre-plan policy in development, companies have conducted "windshield surveys" of all commercial occupied structures in the city. The purpose of the "pre-plan blitz" was validating business names and addresses entered in the fire department computer system. Companies were assigned a grid in their territory, and most completed their surveys in the space of a couple of afternoons. ❖

## Youth Fire Academy

During the week of July 21, sixteen 11-14 year olds will participate in the Raleigh Fire Department Youth Fire Academy. This weeklong camp introduces them to the department's different divisions and activities. In addition to a mini-combat challenge, they will visit several fire department facilities and the Emergency Communications Center. The participants will also assist a station in their morning duties and have lunch with the crew. For more information, contact Fire & Life Safety Educator Ronald Campbell at 831-6392. ❖

## Where Are They Now?

Retired Lt. Creighton Edwards lives in Rolesville, NC, with his wife Pat. He has a daughter, and three grandchildren. He and his wife spend much of their time traveling with their camper. Winters are spent in south Florida, summer in the mountains for a month, and spring and fall in Myrtle Beach. He's also an avid fresh- and salt-water fisherman. Since his retirement in 1991, he has traveled to the Gulf coast 10 times after Hurricane Katrina on mission trips with the North Carolina Baptist Men. He's also a cook on a feeding team with the Baptist Men. Creighton keeps in touch with other retirees through church, retiree breakfasts, and telephone calls. ❖



## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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