



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 3

Summer 2015

## New Fire Station Opens



The Raleigh Fire Department's newest facility at 12117 Leesville Road was dedicated on Tuesday, June 23, at 10:00 a.m. Raleigh City Councilman John Odom, Asst. City Manager Marchell Adams David, and Fire Chief John McGrath each gave remarks before they and others pushed Engine 29 into its quarters as part of the ceremonies.

The nearly 11,000 square-foot fire station was placed in service at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, with the newly created companies Engine 29 and Ladder 9. Thirty fire-

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## Crews Battle Church Fire



Crews battled an early morning church fire in southeast Raleigh on June 3. Arriving units found heavy fire venting from the sanctuary of Gethsemane Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 2525 Sanderford Road.

Firefighters made an interior attack while the two ladder trucks were positioned. Their two aerial streams contained the bulk of the fire, and crews re-entered for extinguishment and overhaul.



The cause of the fire was determined as accidental, started by pipe soldering. The building was undergoing renovations.

Since 1900, there have been at least twelve major church fires in the city, including Hayes Barton Baptist Church in 1993 and 1965, Gospel Chapel Church on E. Franklin St, in 1992, Lincoln Park Pentecostal on Heath Street in 1983, Tupper Memorial on Cabarrus Street in 1982, and Edenton Street Methodist Church in 1956.

See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

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fighter positions were created to staff the new station, and the newest members of the department graduated from their six-month recruit academy in May.

Designed by Williard Stewart Caliendo Architects, PA, the \$3M facility introduces a number of new design features. There's a front foyer with public restrooms, a front entrance-facing watch desk, and an office facing both for the company officers.



Other features include a mud room and exercise room, an expanded parking lot in the rear with room for apparatus turning, and energy-efficient HVAC, lighting, and water systems.

Planning the facility started in 2008, but was delayed due to the recession. Land acquisition also delayed the project. Several plots of land in both Wake and Durham counties had to be combined to create the ideal site.



Construction started in early 2014, though work was delayed due to snow and ice storms, and then wet weather in the spring.

A few improvements at the facility are still underway. The larger dorm rooms will be divided into smaller quarters to give firefighters more privacy.

Station 29 protects some 4,000 homes and businesses

in the Leesville Road area. It improves response times to areas protected by Raleigh Fire Stations 23 (Pinecrest Road) and 24 (Brier Creek), and contracted protection from the Durham Highway Volunteer Fire Department. ❖



## Facilities Updates

Design development for **Station 5** renovations are underway, with Davis Kane Architects partnering with Stroud Pence structural engineers. Design should be completed in September, with bidding by the end of October. Construction should start in December with an estimated 120-day completion time.

Design development is underway for **Station 2** renovations, with work starting at the start of FY17. See the next issue for details on these two projects, which are the first in a multi-year project to renovate the city's older engine houses.

Construction documents are being developed for the expansion and renovation of **Station 11**. Work is expected to begin in early 2016. Planning is ongoing to identify a temporary location for Engine 11 and Ladder 2 during construction.

Site drawings have been reviewed and approved for new **Station 12**. The architects are expected to submit plans to City Development Services in late August, for first round of review. After the review cycles, bidding is expected in October or November. The year-long construction project is anticipated to start in January 2016.

Schematic design is underway for rebuilding **Station 6**, with a concept to present to citizens likely in September. Environmental assessment of the site—former underground fuel storage—is also underway.

Land acquisition continues for new **Station 14**. The city owns two parcels in the 3500 block of Harden Road, and is acquiring a third. ■

# First Class Firefighter Promotions

Twenty-three firefighters have successfully passed the Raleigh Fire Department First Class Firefighter promotional testing.

After studying and preparing for nearly two years, each candidate—the majority from Recruit Academy 37—applied online in March and successfully passed pre-testing in April. This involved a written exam and practical pump test.

Two First Class Firefighter schools were conducted from May 4 to May 22 and from June 1 to June 19. The students were split between the sessions, and each assigned to three weeks of day duty while they attended.

Students were instructed by qualified Raleigh Fire Department Driver Operator instructors and successfully passed all requirements for North Carolina Driver Operator Pumps certification. Additionally, each student also successfully passed the requirements for North Carolina Emergency Vehicle Driver certification.

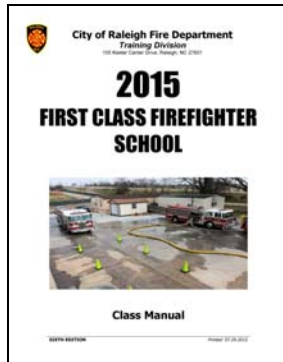
The first two weeks involved classroom instruction and hands on application of both state requirements for Driver Operator Pumps and Emergency Vehicle Driving, as well as Raleigh Fire Department procedures for pumping, water supply, and safe driving in the field.

During the third week, the promotional tests were administered. These consisted of three practical tests—cone course, road test, and pumping—and a written final exam with one hundred questions.

All promotional testing was administered by the training division staff.

Effective July 13, the following firefighters were promoted to First Class:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Charles Baker III | Marc Lockley     |
| Donnie Brown II   | Lewis Lovell     |
| Jason Brown       | Donald Macon III |
| Grady Collins     | Adam Marshburn   |
| Eric Godwin       | Julio Mercado    |
| Henry Grady III   | Joe Montague     |
| William Haliko    | Cassie Neugent   |



- Kempton Healey
- Elijah Johnson
- Zachary Kahan
- Nicholas Lamotta
- Jason Lee

- David Parsons-Foresi
- Jonathan Seagroves
- Andre Somme'
- Aaron Stevens

## Recruiting For Academy 41

The recruitment process has started for Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy 41, planned to start in January 2016.

Applications were accepted from July 1 to July 31, 2015. They were submitted online through a new online process implemented by the city in July 2014.

Optional physical agility and written aptitude exam practice sessions were conducted at the Keeter Training Center on July 30, 31, and August 1.

Written aptitude tests will be administered at the Raleigh Convention Center on August 24. Four days of physical agility testing at the Keeter Training Center begin on August 25.

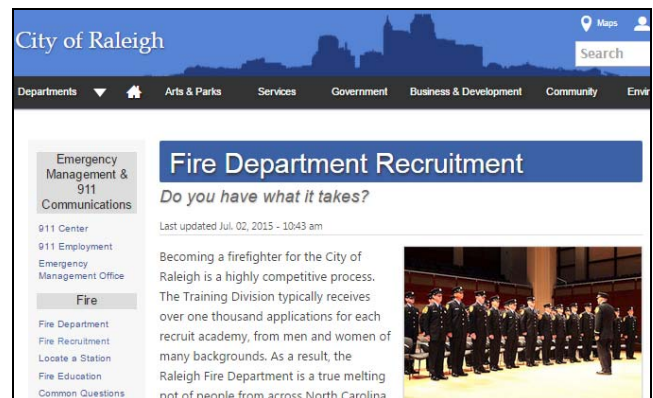
Applicants must pass the written test to continue to the physical agility test.

The Raleigh Fire Department is hiring about thirty recruits to fill vacant firefighter positions.

Recruitment is led by Fire Academy Coordinator Capt. Lowell Smith, with support from the fire department recruitment team, as well as the entire training division.

Recruiters visited various places throughout the Triangle area and points beyond including military bases, college campuses, community centers, and weekend events in downtown Raleigh. They distributed posters and recruitment information.

The twenty-eight week academy is expected to graduate in July 2016. ■



Recruitment web site at [www.raleighnc.gov/fire](http://www.raleighnc.gov/fire)

## Promotions & Appointments

### July 13

New assignments for command staff:

Asst. Chief Brad Harvey to Operations  
Asst. Chief J. Danny Poole to Services  
Asst. Chief Kendall T. Hocutt to Training  
Asst. Chief W. Keith Tessinear to Office of Fire Marshal.

Promoted to First Class Firefighter: See page 3.

### July 11

Promoted to Captain:  
Lt. Jerry L. Richardson

### May 30

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Frank D. Black	Lt. David J. Freeman
Lt. Melvin L Cooley	Lt. Grant A. Williams
Lt. Scott P. Franks	Lt. Paul D. Witmer

Promoted to Lieutenant were Senior Firefighters:

Scott P. Broaddus	John W. Johnson
Richard D. Carlson	Tarmel L. Kennion
David B. Carroll	Derek J. Liles
Anthony V. Cassone	Daniel R. Richardson
William T. Janke	Kenneth T. Yahiku

## Retirements

Lt. Keith D. Moses retired on August 1 with 12.8 years of service. He entered the department in 2002 with Academy 28. His was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 2006 and Lieutenant in 2013. His last assignment was Ladder 1 on "C" platoon.



Senior Firefighter Sandra B. Woodall retired on August 1 with 8.9 years of service. She entered the department in 2006 with Academy 33. She was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 2010 and Senior Firefighter in 2013. Her last assignment was Ladder 8 on "C" platoon.



## Remembering Chief Pickard

Retired Fire Chief Sherman A. Pickard, 87, passed away at Duke University Hospital in Durham on June 9.



He was appointed in March 1986 as the city's thirteenth career Fire Chief and retired in July 1995 with 9.3 years of service.

Chief Pickard's decades of fire department and municipal experience included the Burlington Fire Department (1949-1955), the North Carolina Department of Insurance (1955-1967), and the North Carolina League of Municipalities (1967-1986).

He was also a volunteer firefighter in Garner in the 1960s.

Chief Pickard is survived by his wife and retired Raleigh firefighter Matilda A. "Tillie" Pickard (1978-1994),



his two sons and stepdaughter, and eight grandchildren.

He was buried in a private ceremony in Franklinton on June 13. ❖

## Other Deaths

Retired Captain Bonny W. Young, 86, (top) passed away in Raleigh on June 16. He retired in 1987 with 27.4 years of service.



Retired Captain James V. Kelly, 77, (bottom) passed away in Rolesville on June 3. He retired in 1987 with 27.4 years of service.



They died within two weeks of each other and were also hired a week apart: Young on July 25, 1960, and Kelly on August 1, 1960.

Also, a former member of the Raleigh Fire Department recently passed away. Driver Oris H. Baker, 78, died on April 30. He was hired in 1960 and resigned in 1976 with 16.4 years of service. ■

## Meet the Interns

Interns Hope Rennells and Issa Smith have returned to the fire department for another summer.

They're part of the city's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Hope (top) is a rising senior at Wakefield High School. She's looking forward to graduating, and pursuing a career in medical science, focusing on cancer research.

Issa (bottom) is a rising senior at Millbrook High School. He's planning on either attending college to major in biology, or entering the United States Air Force Academy. He wants to enter the medical field to become a doctor.

Both Hope and Issa are assisting with administrative tasks for command staff, including the Office of the Fire Chief and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The Raleigh Fire Museum also has an unpaid intern this summer. Madison Scott is a rising college sophomore pursuing a history major at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

She's also an award-winning figure skater who hopes to compete in the Olympics. This summer, she's helping the museum with tasks ranging from staffing to research.

Madison is staying with her family in Durham. ❖

## Welcome Keri Crowson Clarke

Keri Crowson Clarke started on June 29 as the new Senior Staff Support Specialist for the training division. She comes from Puryear Tank Lines in Apex, where she worked as a dispatcher. She previously worked in-

side sales in building products. Keri is a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Pilot Fire Department in Franklin County, and former part-time EMT in both Franklin and Nash counties. She has a ten year-old daughter and lives in the Five County area. ❖

## We Say Goodbye

Captain Bart W. Travis resigned on June 29. He's starting a new career as the full-time fire chief for the



town of Claremont in Catawba County. Travis entered the Raleigh Fire Department in 1998 and leaves with 16.9 years of service. He was last assigned to Engine 21 on "A" platoon. ❖

## Office of Fire Marshal News



The Office of the Fire Marshal has received five new passenger vehicles: four 2015 Chevrolet Equinoxes (pictured) and a 2015 Ford Taurus. They'll be assigned to Car 42 (Taurus), and Cars 425, 432, 444, and 446.

Congratulations to the following Deputy Fire Marshals for obtaining state fire inspector certifications.

- Ebenezer Adesiyan Level III
- Michael T. Furr Level III
- Phillip King Level II
- Kristin H. McLamb Level II
- Corey Campbell Level I

Hiring started in July for two new Deputy Fire Marshal positions. They were advertised both internally and externally.

Hydrant testing starts in August, primarily for the estimated 5,000 private fire hydrants in the city. Engine and ladder companies will use new tablet computers to record their progress.

The Office of the Fire Marshal planned and presented a summer youth fire academy camp for children ages 12 to 14. Students were introduced to the challenging and rewarding career of a firefighter through educational programs, practical exercises, and demonstration of fire service ethics and fellowship. ■



*Platoon Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Morgan (center) talks to employees after a grease fryer fire at a restaurant on Wake Forest Road on July 26.*

## Baby Deer Rescued



On Thursday evening, June 18, the Raleigh Fire Department assisted with an unusual rescue at Anderson Point Park. They helped remove a baby deer from a railroad car.

Police and Animal Control officers were called

to the park, located off Rogers Lane, after a passerby spotted the fawn inside an empty coal hopper car that was parked on the nearby tracks.

Though the rail car was equipped with an outside ladder, the officers needed a second one to climb inside and rescue the fawn. They called the fire department.

At 6:42 p.m., Engine 12, Ladder 8, and Ladder 4 were dispatched as a non-emergency Request for Service. Battalion 2 from Station 12 also responded.

After arriving at the park, Battalion Chief David Whitley walked down to the railroad car to assess the situation. "We only needed a roof ladder, so I canceled the second ladder company," he says.

The firefighters from Engine 12 brought the roof ladder, accompanied by the crew of Ladder 8. They assisted Animal Control Officer C. L. Narron, who climbed into the car to capture the fawn, along with a police officer.



"Firefighters Emit Bagwell and Kirsty Thayer helped hold the net," said Whitley, "and the fawn ran right into it."

The rescue took about ten minutes, says Captain Pat Overton from Engine 12. "It took as long to walk to the tracks as it did to rescue the deer," he says.

Though scared at first, the deer relaxed after it was held. It was taken to a rehabilitation agency, to be checked for injuries and released back into the wild.

How often do fawns find themselves trapped like that? Animal Control had never seen such a thing.

The deer might've been standing on an embankment, been startled by the passing train, and jumped into the passing rail car, said Animal Control Supervisor Tracey

Alford, in a subsequent phone conversation.

The "B" platoon firefighters on scene were Capt. Pat Overton, Lt. Todd Gautier, and Firefighter Emmet Bagwell from Engine 12; Capt. Paul Witmer, Lt. Lynn Scarborough, and Firefighters Kirsty Thayer and Eric Griffin from Ladder 8; and Chief Whitley.

The Animal Control officers on scene were C. L. Narron, S. P. Williams, and A. Staten. ❖

## Dog Rescued From Drain



On Thursday, July 2, Engine 17 assisted Animal Control officers with rescuing a dog from a below-grade drain pipe. The animal had been trapped for three days after being struck by a car.

The dog was about ten feet from the end, and crews provided some water via booster line and fresh air via SCBA bottle. This gave the weakened dog some energy and he moved closer to the end.

"We gave the owner our tool we use to pop door locks," said Capt. Christopher Atkins, "and he was able to catch the dog and pull him to safety."

The rescue took about thirty minutes with "B" platoon members Atkins, Lt. Dena Ali and Firefighter Addison Lynch. ❖

## Class of 1990 Reunion



Recruit Academy 14 (1990) held a reunion breakfast at the Keeter Training Center on July 28. Pictured left to right are Captains Donnie Brown, Sammy McIntyre (ret.), Zeb Overton (ret.), Bill Bristle, Robert Jackowski, and Ed Carroll; Lt. Kristine Britt; Captains Emil Burriss and Alan Lee; Lt. Joel Rieves (ret), Captains Damon Chapel and Steve Bartholomew, and Asst. Chief of Operations Brad Harvey. ■

## Photo Gallery



Engine 20, Battalion 4, and Haz-Mat 1 on "B" platoon assisted North Carolina State University officials at a hazardous device investigation at a Centennial Campus dormitory on July 20.



Ladder 4 members on "B" platoon provided tours and displayed the American flag during Independence Day events on Fayetteville Street on July 4.



High-rise firefighting operations training was conducted with "A" platoon companies at the old police department headquarters on Hargett Street on June 13. Saturday training sessions are planned through September.



Recruit Academy 40 graduated on May 14 in a ceremony at Fletcher Opera Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh.



On June 22, the Raleigh Fire Department hosted the ninth annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament at Bentwinds Country Club in Fuquay-Varina. Thirty-one teams and 124 players competed.

The event raised about \$9,000 for the foundation. Battalion Chief Greg Bridges was the Coordinator and had ten volunteer committee members to plan and execute the event.

Pictured on the green are Lt. Mark Randall (retired), Capt. Alan Lee, Capt. Tim Wilson, and Lt. Gregory Buxton (retired). See more photos by Tim Blaisdell and Drew Carter at [www.raleighfirenews.org/golf](http://www.raleighfirenews.org/golf)

The Raleigh Fire Department will also host a state firefighter's golf tournament on August 10 and 11 at Lonnie Poole Golf Course in Raleigh. The event is part of the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo.

To learn more, visit [www.tinyurl.com/RFDgolf15](http://www.tinyurl.com/RFDgolf15). ■

Raleigh Fire Department  
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27602

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SOUTH ATLANTIC FIRE RESCUE EXPO  
RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER  
AUGUST 12-15, 2015

RALEIGH FIRE MUSEUM  
105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE  
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST  
PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.  
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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## Budget Adopted

The Fiscal Year 2016 budget was approved by the City Council in June. Major Operating Budget items for the fire department included adding two Deputy Fire Marshal positions and converting three Firefighter positions to Lieutenants for the delivery of a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT tiller that's due in October. (Also due is a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT pumper, both ordered in FY15.)

Increased operational funding of \$320,000 was budgeted for Station 29. The amount covers expenses related to the new station and new companies, such as equipment for the apparatus, vehicle maintenance, repair, and fuel, and facility expenses.

Station 10 and Station 15 are identified as next for renovations, part of a multi-year station improvement project. Design services are funded in FY16. They'll follow renovations at Station 5 and Station 2, funded in the prior fiscal year.

Also in the new budget year, a number of vacant firefighter positions will be filled with a new recruit academy planned to start in early 2016. ■