



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 4

Fall 2015

## Public Presented Plans for Rebuilding Fire Station 6



On Wednesday, October 7, the Raleigh Fire Department held a public meeting at Fire Station 6 on Fairview Road. They presented plans for replacing and rebuilding the sixty-six year-old building.

Fire Chief John McGrath opened the presentation with an overview of the project, followed by Architect Ken Newell, from Stewart-Cooper-Newell, who spoke about design considerations.

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## New Apparatus Delivered



The Raleigh Fire Department has placed two new pieces of apparatus in service, a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT tractor-drawn aerial ladder (or tiller) as Ladder 9, and a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT pumper as Engine 29.

They were delivered in mid-October after a stop at the Pierce service center in Fayetteville. Equipment was added at Services, and training was conducted by factory representatives in early November.

Special training for the tiller operators was conducted earlier in the fall, with a driving course set up at the city bus depot on Poole Road.



Ladder 9 is equipped with a 1500 gallon per-minute (GPM) pump, 200 gallon water tank, and 102-foot aerial. Engine 29 is equipped with a 1500 GPM pump, 500 gallon water tank, and 20 gallon foam tank.

Station 29 opened on June 9, 2015. It's the first new fire station in the city's history to be assigned two new pieces of apparatus. ■

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Questions were asked and answers were provided by city staff and other members of the firm.

The meeting was the first of several planned with the public, to get input and hear their concerns.

### Fire Station 6



Located at 2601 Fairview Road, Station 6 is the oldest operating engine house in the city. It's also outdated and outmoded. Based on analysis of current response times and requirements, the station site remains the ideal location. A newer and larger building is also necessary to accommodate a ladder company in addition to the engine company.

Because of the small site size, a two-story structure is needed to meet the project requirements. A prospective floor plan was presented, which includes apparatus bays, kitchen, dining, and day rooms, a Captains office, and a public lobby.

Sleeping rooms are located on the second floor, along with toilets, showers, and an exercise room.

### Design Considerations

Though they've created a floor plan, the architects are still collecting inputs for a design. And they want their design to be compatible with the architecture of the neighborhood and surrounding community.



Their presentation included a review of the current station and its site, including proximity to the intersection, sloping rear grade, sloping side grades, rear water garden that's part of the water collection system, a

pair of old trees on property that will be preserved if possible, and the architectural styles of surrounding properties.

Groundbreaking of the new fire station is expected in early fall 2016.

### Historical Perspective

The original Station 6 was a single-story structure at 2519 Fairview Road. Engine 6 occupied half of the building from 1943 to 1948. Built in 1936, it had last housed a soda shop.



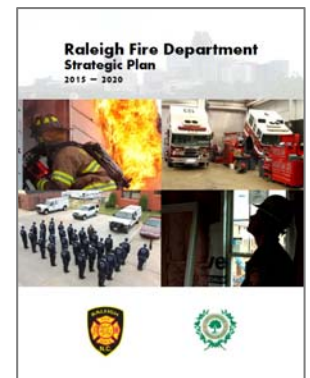
Courtesy NC State Archives

After the lease was lost, Engine 6 moved to Station 5 until the new Station 6 was completed. ❖

### Strategic Plan Published

The Raleigh Fire Department has released a new Strategic Plan, which details organizational and operational goals for the next five years.

The plan was created by a thirty-two member planning committee during a series of meetings this summer.



The planning team included the Fire Chief, his Assistant Fire Chiefs, Division and Battalion Chiefs, and other members of command staff.

The Strategic Plan was developed during a planning meeting in July 2015, with inputs gathered from a stakeholder survey in May 2015.

Five goals are outlined in the Strategic Plan: promoting workforce excellence, adjusting operational and support staffing levels, strengthening functionality and condition of infrastructure, automating business systems, and enhancing public communication.

The thirty-four page document concludes with appendix materials that includes a summary of the recent City of Raleigh Public Protection Classification assessment by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and a list of strategic accomplishments from 2010 to 2015.

Read the document at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

## Two Alarms on Atlantic Avenue



On Friday, November 6, two alarms were struck at a commercial structure fire at 5020 Atlantic Avenue. Rescue 1 and Engine 15 were first on scene and found heavy fire and smoke from the two-story brick and metal building with 18,253 square-feet.

Crews were withdrawn after about ten minutes, due to deteriorating structural conditions. Defensive operations began, including two portable monitors in the rear, and a portable monitor along with Ladder 2 in the front of the building.

Four hydrants were used, and three additional engines were requested about an hour into the incident. Dispatched at 1:42 p.m., the fire was controlled at 4:10 p.m. See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ❖

## Other Extra Alarm Fires



Two alarms were struck at **1426 Quarter Point** on Saturday, August 22. Engine 18 arrived at a two-story townhome building with heavy fire in the rear of the structure. Dispatched at 8:44 p.m., the fire was controlled at 10:15 p.m. Operations included an initial exterior (or transitional) attack, and a later aerial stream after fire extended into the attic space of one unit.

Two alarms were also struck at **8310 Hampshire Place** on Saturday morning, September 19. Engine 18 arrived at a two-story townhome building and found heavy fire in the rear of one unit. Dispatched at 10:36 a.m., the fire was controlled at 10:53 a.m.

The townhome belonged to Raleigh Police Officer A. R. Morales. Her neighbor was Raleigh Senior Firefighter John Stiver (E25-C). Over \$7,000 in donations from 156 people were raised, by a GoFundMe campaign started by other members of the department. ❖

*Editor's Note: At least two prior two-alarm fires have happened on Hampshire Place, on June 23, 2006, at 8311, and, December 18, 2000, at 8321 Hampshire.*

## Patriotic Employer Awards



On Monday, November 2, Battalion Chief Greg Bridges (B3-A) and Captain Dan Haynes (E20-A) received Patriotic Employer awards, as presented by the North Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

They were nominated by Firefighter Nick Lamotta, who is a Staff Sergeant with the 516th Civil Engineering Flight, United States Air Force Reserve.

The award was presented in a ceremony at Fire Station 20. ESGR Public Affairs Director Bill Patterson presented the award to Chief Bridges and Captain Haynes, for their support of Staff Sergeant Lamotta's military service.

ESGR is an office of the Department of Defense whose mission is to help employers support their Guard and Reserve Service Members. ■

## Division Chief Johnson Retires

Division Chief Robin "Rob" R. Johnson (Car 20-B) retires on January 1 with 26.9 years of service.

He entered the department in February 1989 with Academy 13, alongside A.C. Rich, Barry Spain, Duffy Deyo, Greg Bridges, Jerry Ward, Todd Jones, and others.



Johnson was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1992, to Lieutenant in 1994, and to Captain in 1998. His first assignment as Captain was Engine 10-B.

In 2004, he was promoted to Battalion Chief. In 2013, he was appointed as Division Chief on "B" platoon.

As he's risen in rank, Chief Johnson's learned to look at the fire department from a broader perspective: "I once was more concerned with what was happening at the station and my particular platoon."

"Once I made BC and then DC, I learned to look at the entire organization and beyond one platoon. It takes all platoons and divisions working together to successfully accomplish the goals of the department."

His advice for younger firefighters? "Get an education from an accredited university and keep current with the profession. Do not become complacent with learning and trying to get better at our trade. It's changing all of the time and is still dangerous."



Chief Johnson's moving to Oak Island, NC, where he'll take a new job as Fire Chief of Sunset Harbor & Zion Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

"My wife and I are excited and nervous about our opportunity. We'd been planning to move

down there and [this] presented itself sooner than we were expecting." ■

## Retirements

Capt. **David P. Hebert** (L9-B) retired on December 1 with 27.8 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1991, Lieutenant in 1996, and Captain in 2003.



Capt. **Phillip W. Jernigan** (L5-A) retired on December 1 with 23.8 years of service. He started in 1992 with Academy 16. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1995, Lieutenant in 1999, and Captain in 2002.



Capt. **Kenneth A. Perry** (E29-A) retired on December 1 with 27.8 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1991, Lieutenant in 1993, and Captain in 2001.



Lt. **Raymond E. Harrell** (L6-A) retired on December 1 with 24.8 years of service. He started in 1991 with Academy 15. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1994, and to Lieutenant in 2004.



Capt. **Glenn B. Jones** (E28-C) retires on January 1 with 33.1 years of service. He started in 1982 with Academy 8. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1986, Lieutenant in 1987, and Captain in 1992.



Capt. **J. Alan Lee** (E8-A) retires on January 1 with 25.9 years of service. He started in 1990 with Academy 14. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1993, Lieutenant in 1997, and Captain in 2001.



Capt. **Michael K. Townsend** (E10-C) retires on January 1 with 30.4 years of service. He started in 1985 with Academy 10. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1988, Lieutenant in 1992, and Captain in 2005.



Capt. **Dean H. Taylor** (L7-B) retires on January 1 with 27.9 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1991, Lieutenant in 1992, and Captain in 1996.



*Continued on next page*

## Retirements (continued)

Capt. **Ricky L. Tharrington** (L1-C) retires on January 1 with 24.8 years of service. He started in 1991 with Academy 15. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1994, Lieutenant in 1997, and Captain in 2003. ❖



## Promotions & Appointments

### January 1

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Adam C. Ferguson	Lt. Christopher N. Townsend
Lt. Christopher D. Laxton	
Lt. Michael C. Murray	Lt. Charles E. Smith

Promoted to Lieutenant:

SFF Jeffrey L. Barefoot	SFF Jorge F. Leiva-Penate
SFF Aaron C. Brents	SFF Ben O. Mallard
SFF Christopher L. Campbell	SFF Jimmy D. Narron
SFF Anthony E. Capps	SFF James W. Pearce
SFF Ian D. Griffin	SFF Jesse C. Richardson
SFF Alexandra O. Gutierrez	SFF Michelle R. Smith
SFF Robert G. Hand	SFF Glenn A. Todd
SFF Erika D. Johnson	SFF Adam L. Walker
	SFF Joel B. West

### December 1

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Kevin A. Evans	Lt. Bryan J. Kilmer
Lt. William T. Gautier	

## New Recruit Academy

Recruit Academy 41 starts on January 25, 2016. Capt. Jamie Hill will lead the program, replacing Capt. Lowell Smith as Recruit Academy Coordinator effective January 1.

Conditional offers of employment have been made to thirty-eight recruits, contingent upon successful completion of psychological evaluation, medical screening, and testing for banned substances.

Recruitment started in July, with the debut of an online application process. Of the 1,059 completed applications received, 977 were invited to the written aptitude test.

The test was taken by 495 individuals and 388 passed. Those who passed were invited to the physical agility test, which was passed by 299 individuals.

Upon completion of background investigations, ninety-one candidates were interviewed. ❖

## More Training Updates



The state fire marshal's office conducted a train-the-trainer class on **LP gas fire suppression** in September. Four firefighters have received certification as trainers and are now qualified to conduct live LP fire suppression exercises using the gas props at the Keeter Training Center.

**Promotional testing** for Captains and Lieutenants has concluded. Seventy-seven applied for Lieutenant and thirty-seven applied for Captain. Written tests for both were administered in the first week of October.

Assessments and practical tests were held in November. Thirty-nine passed the process for promotion to Lieutenant, and fourteen "made the list" for Captain. The promotional lists are valid for two years and members will be promoted as vacancies are presented.

On Nov. 24, Haz-Mat Coordinator Capt. Marvin Brooks and "A" platoon haz-mat team members participated in an **exercise at North Carolina State University** to help test the school's Emergency Contingency Plan.

The event simulated a train derailment with diesel fuel, acetone, and a pesticide, with an explosion, fire, and structural damage to campus buildings.

The NC National Guard and US Coast Guard assisted the fire department with creating plume models. ■



*Decorated for the holidays. But where's the Festivus pole?*

## Task Force 8 Deployed After Hurricane Joaquin



On October 2, NC USAR Task Force 8 received activation orders for a Type III Swift Water Rescue Team as a result of Hurricane Joaquin.

The team was approved, mobilized, and deployed on the same day with Paul Moss and Keith Gaudette (Chapel Hill FD), Kevin Ellsworth (Raleigh FD), and Garland Maurer (Durham FD). They initially reported to New Bern, NC.

Their activities in New Bern consisted of equipment readiness checks, town surveys, and assisting at a structure fire by changing air bottles and rolling hose.

On October 4 they were ordered to Swan Quarter, NC. While en route, they witnessed a vehicle leave the highway and enter a canal with about 10 feet of water.

They immediately donned their personal protective equipment (PPE) and rescued the two occupants. After the arrival of additional responders, the team continued to Swan Quarter.

They spent the remainder of their deployment in that area until their return on October 7. They assisted the National Guard in the affected areas with door-to-door wellness checks and assisting residents, as needed.



The storm's impact had rendered 60% of the roads flooded with 20% of those impassible. ■

*NC USAR Task Force 8 members Garland Maurer (left) and Kevin Ellsworth pose with one of two people they rescued from a sinking car in eastern North Carolina on October 4.*

## Photo Gallery



On Saturday, November 21, nearly 300 firefighters, family, and friends dined and danced at the convention center at the 2015 Raleigh Fireman's Ball. Co-sponsored by the Raleigh Fire Museum, the event also collected children's toys for Wounded Warriors project through Firefighters Assisting Armed Forces Families - Heroes Helping Heroes.



On Monday, December 7, forty-nine retirees gathered for food and fellowship at Angie's Restaurant in Garner. The annual breakfast was organized by retired Capt. Donald Summers.

## Transitions

Capt. **Homer B. Daniel**, 72, passed away in Raleigh on October 21. He retired on July 1, 1999, with 28.7 years of service.



Former firefighter James L. Giles (1963-1969) passed away in Raleigh on November 18. He was one of the original seven black firefighters hired by the city in 1963 and 1964.

## Office of Fire Marshal Updates



Three new Deputy Fire Marshals have been hired: **Daniel S. Gillespie**, who started November 30. He's shown above taking his oath of office from Asst. Deputy City Clerk Ralph Puccini.

Gillespie has over 21 years of fire service experience including eleven years with the Durham Fire Department, and five years overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. His prior position was a Health & Safety Specialist at Duke University.

Deputy Fire Marshal **David R. Stanley** and **Andy G. Culbreth** also recently joined the Office of the Fire Marshal. They were hired on October 5.



Stanley is the former Director of Fire Inspections for the town of Warrenton, where he served since 2011. He previously was a career member of the Henderson Fire Department for six years, with the last rank of Battalion Chief.



Culbreth is a nine-year veteran of the Henderson Fire Department, last serving as Battalion Chief. He also has seven prior years as a career firefighter in Roxboro, with the last rank of Fire Engineer. ❖

## Services Updates

Updates on several major facilities projects:

Station 2 – Larger renovation now planned. Design development underway, including looking at reworking the structure to provide drive-through apparatus bays. Construction anticipated after July 1, 2016.

Station 5 – Design finished for a complete renovation of the dormitory space. Other enhancements include

adding a captain's office to the rear of the apparatus bay, a patio added in the back of the day room, and some interior renovations to the "day side." The six-month construction will start in the spring. Engine 5 will be relocated to Station 6.

Station 6 – Public presented with initial design plans and project scope on October 7. Feedback received, to be incorporated into project. Groundbreaking expected early fall 2016. See story on Page 1.

Station 12 – Plans review finishing. Construction expected to start spring 2016. Expected as a twelve-month project.

Station 14 – One more parcel has been purchased on Harden Road, for a larger station site. Site analysis and project planning starts this winter.

## Project Expansion for Station 11

A larger renovation is now planned for Fire Station 11 at 2925 Glenridge Road. The current "day side" of the station will be re-



placed with two new, larger apparatus bays. The current bay space will be remodeled as the day room, dining, and kitchen area.

The apron will be moved left and parking spaces added in the front. The new building will have a slightly larger footprint.

A new timeframe is still being determined, as additional funding is required. The project's been identified by the fire department as the highest priority capital project request for the coming budget year.

## Other Updates

Smaller facility projects include concrete apron repairs in April for Stations 19, 22, and 26. At Station 3, the canopy over the bays will be replaced and new exterior doors installed in January. And new HVAC units and duct work is planned at the training center, for all upstairs offices and classroom space.

Hurst equipment upgrades continue, with high-pressure tools installed on Squad 14. In January, Squad 7 will receive their tools. Also, Ladder 9 has received Hurst EDraulic equipment.

Ten MSA Evolution 6000 Xtreme thermal imaging cameras were purchased and placed in service this fall.

Raleigh Fire Department  
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Raleigh, NC 27602

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT [www.raleigh-nc.org/fire](http://www.raleigh-nc.org/fire).

## Firefighters Climb for Charity



Fifteen firefighters, two friends and family members, and a Raleigh Fire Explorer participated in the Charlotte Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on September 12. More than 500 people climbed 110 floors at the Duke Energy Center to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Pictured left to right are (front row) Taylor Kinlaw, Elizabeth Cook, Michelle Smith, Nick Campasano, Diana Trout, Parker Roberts, (middle row) Kamilah Webb, Dwayne Massenburg, William Henderson, Kempton Healey, Dena Ali, David Boyette II, (back row) Reginald McLaurin, Mike Ezzell, David Boyette, Travis Holland, and Ryan Dover. ■