



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 10, Issue 1

Spring 2016

## Designs Shown For Station 6



On Tuesday, March 8, designs were presented for the rebuilding of Station 6 at 2601 Fairview Road. Architects Stewart-Cooper-Newell presented a final site plan, building elevations, and computer-generated 3D perspectives.

The community meeting was held in the apparatus bay of Station 6. It was the third in a series of public meetings, to present information and receive feedback.

Built in 1949, the fire station is the oldest in the city, and needs replacing due to its age and condition, and its smaller size.

The planned replacement will add 7,500 square-feet,

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## High Winds Fuel Fires



WCNC photo left

Two alarms were struck at an apartment fire early Saturday evening, April 9. Engine 16 arrived at 5034 Edwards Mill Road and found the two-story, elevated building entirely involved in flames.

Fire attack and exposure protection utilized aerial streams, ground monitors, and hand lines. Three occupants were injured in the fire, which displaced twenty-four people.

High winds contributed to the fast-moving structure fire, which was accidentally started due to improperly discarded smoking materials. Winds also spread embers into nearby wooded areas, and started ground fires as far away as the Beltline at Ridge Road.



The resulting call volume taxed the department's resources, and brought assistance from neighboring fire departments for both fire control (Western Wake, Bay Leaf, New Hope, Swift Creek, and Morrisville) and coverage at city fire stations (Durham Highway, Eastern Wake, Knightdale, and Stony Hill).

Several firefighters were called back on "A" platoon and sent to the scene, and three Battalion Chiefs and their Division Chief returned to their stations, to assist with logistics.

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

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including space for a planned ladder company. Other features include a public lobby space, and building elements that align with the architecture of the neighborhood.

Construction is planned to start soon after the completion of Station 5 renovations in early October. See below.

## Renovations Starting at Station 5

Construction on the renovations of **Station 5** at 300 Oberlin Road started in mid-April. The project duration is 168 days. It will completely renovate the interior of the 4,700 square-foot structure, which was built in 1961.

The project includes demolition and renovation of all interior spaces, new fire alarm and sprinkler systems, updated electrical and telecom systems, new mechanical systems, water and sewer replacements, new lighting, and the installation of exterior security cameras.

While the work is being done, Engine 5 will be housed at and respond to calls from Station 6.

## Training Center Improvements

HVAC upgrades are underway in the classroom building at the **Keeter Training Center**. Work started in mid-March and should be completed by late May. The project will replace all HVAC systems, with separate heating and cooling systems and controls for three areas: upstairs, downstairs, and the offices. The project has been planned since late 2014.

All communications and technology wiring at the training center is also being upgraded, with work coinciding with the HVAC project. This will help with future needs for replacing or upgrading components.

Other upgrades at the training center include replacing the lower gate with a mechanical system that includes keypad entry. The project should start in mid-May and finish in June.

In addition, the ventilation prop on the lower drill pad has been rebuilt. The structure simulates a slanted roof, where firefighters practice using saws and other tech-

niques for ventilating heat and smoke from inside burning structures. ❖

## FireWatch Retooled for Web

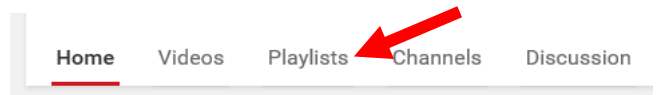


Have you seen the new YouTube stories about the Raleigh Fire Department, including a feature of the Station 6 project and a profile of the Raleigh Fire Museum? The clips are part of a new public education program produced in collaboration with Public Affairs.

The Office of the Fire Marshal has retooled the long-running FireWatch television program. The fire department will no longer be developing monthly thirty-minute episodes. Instead, short, 3-4 minute segments for YouTube will be produced on a variety of topics. The change is part of a new direction in Public Affairs to attract new audiences.

They'll be telling the same stories—operations, current events, history, and the human side of the fire department—but in smaller packages, more easily accessed and viewed in these busy digital times. The two newest videos are available on the city's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofraleigh>

There's even a special Raleigh Fire Department playlist. Visit the channel and click **Playlists**.



Have ideas for stories? The fire department is always looking for things that you find interesting. Contact the Office of the Fire Marshal to share your suggestion. ■

*Read back issues at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org).*



## Battalion Chief Bagwell Retires

Battalion Chief G. Randy Bagwell retired on February 1, 2016, with 37.4 years of service.

He was hired in September 1978 for a fourteen-week academy. His graduating class of twenty-five included such later veterans as Michael Franks, K.D. Harris, Paul Johnson, Rick Moore, and Danny Poole.



Chief Bagwell was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1979 on Engine 7, to Driver (Lieutenant) in 1982 on Truck 8, and to Captain in 1988 on Engine 14. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of District (Battalion) Chief.

His advice to those coming up in the ranks? Be prepared. "You'll get out of it, what you put into it." He doesn't believe in luck, per se. "Luck is when opportunity and preparedness come together."



Chief Bagwell has no big plans for the future, except to "enjoy life and family as much as possible." He thanks the fire department for a wonderful and rewarding career. "I loved every day of [it] and will

greatly miss the entire department."

## Family Connections

Chief Bagwell is also directly and distantly related to many present and past members of the Raleigh Fire Department.

His son is Firefighter Emmet Bagwell, who entered the department in 2014. His brother James Bagwell was a firefighter from 1974 to 1981. And his nephew is Capt. David Bagwell.

Chief Bagwell is also the father-in-law of Firefighter Jason Lee, who's the brother of retired Capt. J. Alan Lee.

His nieces married Captains David Barefoot and Dennis Tart. He's also a distant cousin to retired Capt. Dale Wall, who is related to numerous members of the Wall, Woodall, Partin, and Medlin families, among others.

Chief Bagwell is also related to our first career Fire Chief. He's third cousin by marriage, twice removed, of Sherwood Brockwell (1912-1914). ■

## More Retirements

Deputy Fire Marshal **Gregory T. Frazier** retired on February 1 with 15 years of city service, including 9.6 years in the fire department. Frazier was previously a career firefighter in Henderson for 15 years, with the last rank of Fire Marshal.



Captain **Scott P. Franks** retired on April 1, with 16 years of service. He entered the department in 2000 with Academy 24. He was promoted to First Class FF in 2003, to Lieutenant in 2009, and to Captain in 2015. He's also the son of retired Capt. Michael Franks.



On May 1, five members are retiring: Captains **Damon O. Chapel, Timothy N. Duke, Thomas N. Kinney, Michael J. Nixon**, and Senior Firefighter **John W. Stiver**. Details will be provided in the next issue.

## Promotions & Appointments

### May 1

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Eric L. Ferguson

Lt. John B. Rasor

Lt. Michael R. Gerke

Lt. Jay D. Rauer

Lt. Charles B. Kneeshaw

Promoted to Lieutenant:

SFF David M. Gresham

SFF John H. Sealey III

SFF Marshall J. Murphy

SFF Matthew T. Williams

### February 1

Appointed to Division Chief:

Battalion Chief John P. Fanning

Promoted to Battalion Chief:

Captain Jeffrey L. Harrison

Captain Lowell W. Smith

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. David G. Bagwell

Lt. Nicholas G. Lane

Promoted to Lieutenant:

SFF Travis W. Boykin

SFF Lance E. Hines.

## Operations

Incidents 39,145  
Runs ▼ 59,401

### Engine Companies

E1 1,974  
E2 1,720  
E3 2,696  
E4 1,212  
E5 1,297  
E6 1,200  
E7/Sq 7 2,163  
E8 1,944  
E9 1,547  
E10 1,740  
E11 2,462  
E12 2,608  
E13 1,355  
Sq14 1,560  
E15/Sq15 2,369  
E16 1,697  
E17 1,312  
E18 1,114  
E19 2,239  
E20 1,591  
E21 1,431  
E22 1,384  
E23 933  
E24 897  
E25 794  
E26 959  
E27 650  
E28 657  
E29 179

*Squad at Sta 15 moved to Sta 7 on January 16, 2015.*

### Ladder Companies

L1 (Sta 4) 1,026  
L2 (Sta 11) 1,995  
L3 (Sta 17) 1,069  
L4 (Sta 1) 2,248  
L5 (Sta 22) 1,078  
L6 (Sta 24) 396  
L7 (Sta 20) 968  
L8 (Sta 26) 576  
L9 (Sta 29) 122

### Rescue Company

R1 (Sta 15) 1,251

# Raleigh Fire Department Year in Review

## Overview

Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Stations	28
Budget	\$55,469,604	Engines (including two squads)	29
Personnel	609	Ladders	9
City Pop. (2014)	439,896	Rescues	1
City Size (sq. miles)	146	Battalions	5

## Office of the Fire Marshal

In 2015, the division performed **13,766 inspections** of existing buildings, including commercial, residential, industrial, and institutional occupancies. These activities included issuing permits and conducting consultations. It also issued **2,218 operational permits**, and conducted **6,985 plan reviews** and **5,430 new construction inspections**. Also last year, **108 nightclub and sports bar inspections** were conducted as a joint program with the Raleigh Police Department, that checks for code compliance and educates business owners on preventing overcrowding.

## Fire Investigation

This unit **investigated 282 fires** in 2015, consisting of 171 accidental fires, 49 intentional fires, nine naturally caused fires, and 31 of undetermined cause. It also assisted with 22 other investigations. The causes of the accidental fires:

Available Combustibles	21	11%	Improper Storage	5	3%
Candle	9	5%	Mechanical Failure	25	14%
Cooking	45	25%	Open Flame	11	6%
Electrical	20	11%	Unspecified Heat Source	18	10%
Heating Equipment	6	3%	Smoking Materials	23	12%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Public Education

In 2015, the Raleigh Fire Department conducted **446 education programs** for **38,245 participating children and adults**. These included visits to fire stations, programs initiated by individual fire companies, school and institutional programs, and activities during Fire Prevention Week. Additionally, ten episodes of FireWatch were produced for the Raleigh Television Network.

## Incident Types

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Incident types in 2015:

Fire (Structures, vehicles, woods, grass, etc.)	1,081	Service call (Child locked in vehicle, water removal, assist police, etc.)	2,470
Overpressure, ruptures, explosion, overheating (no fire)	87	Good intent call (Smoke investigation, controlled burn, wrong location, etc.)	4,646
Rescue and EMS (Vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, etc.)	23,790	False alarm and false calls (Unnecessary calls)	5,664
Hazardous conditions, no fire (Spills, leaks, power lines, etc.)	1,316	Severe weather or natural disaster	17
		Special incident type	21
		Other	53
		<b>Total</b>	<b>39,145</b>



# January 1 – December 31, 2015



## Milestones

- Received new mobile air unit (April)
- Graduated Recruit Academy 40 (May)
- Opened Station 29 (June)
- Activated Engine 29 and Ladder 9 (June)
- Sponsored National Fallen Firefighters golf tournament (June)
- Promoted 33 new First Class Firefighters (July)
- Conducted pressure tests on 2,000 public and 5,000 private fire hydrants (Summer-Fall)
- Published a five-year strategic plan (August)
- Received new pumper and aerial ladder (October)
- Deployed USAR Task Force 8 to eastern North Carolina for Hurricane Joaquin (October)
- Recruited for Recruit Academy 41 (Fall)

## Training

A total of **1,911 class hours** for **4,737 students** with **87,587 total hours** of instruction were conducted in 2015. Fire department members attended classes at locations including the Keeter Training Center, the Wake County Fire Training Center, and at individual fire stations.

Curriculum	Class Hours	Students	Total Hours
Career Development (Certification Classes, Promotional Testing)	259	269	6,783
Continuing Education – EMT	24	525	12,600
Continuing Education – Fire (Fireground Ops, High-Rise Ops, Emergency Vehicle Driving, National Incident Management System, etc.)	38	2,260	12,830
Haz-Mat	298	1,223	17,134
Special Operations Command (Technical rescue, USAR, NCHART)	374	399	5,280
Recruit Academy 40	910	36	32,760
Other	8	25	200

## Services

Over **3,919 work requests** were completed in 2015, including **1111 fleet maintenance and repair requests**. This division presently supports thirty-two facilities (buildings and land), including twenty-eight fire stations, a fleet of 216 vehicles (apparatus and support vehicles), and an inventory of supplies, equipment, clothing, and uniforms.

Planning also continued in 2015 for major facilities projects, including renovations of Station 2, Station 5, and Station 11, and replacement fire stations on Fairview Road (Station 6), Poole Road (Station 12), and Harden Road (Station 14).

## Information Technology

Staff responded to **2,315 support questions** in 2015, including 137 questions submitted after business hours. The requests included 553 questions about the Firehouse records management system, 151 requests for password resets, 115 questions about using and accessing e-mail, and 109 general questions about systems, software, and devices.

## Battalion Chiefs

B1 (Sta 19)	517
B2 (Sta 12)	649
B3 (Sta 8)	570
B4 (Sta 23)	277
B5 (Sta 9)	863

## Division Chief

Car 20 (Sta 8)	167
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## Fire Investigator

Car 401 (Sta 1)	258
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## Platoon Deputy Fire Marshal

Car 420 (St 16)	1,124
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## Special Units

Air 1 (Sta 8)	135
Air 2 (Sta 28)	47
HM1 (Sta 2)	92
HM2 (Sta 27)	71
HM3 (Sta 8)	75

## Busiest Engines

E3	2,696
E12	2,608
E11	2,462
E15/Sq15	2,369
E19	2,239
E7/Sq 7	2,163
E1	1,974
E8	1,944
E10	1,740
E2	1,720

## Also Last Year

*Raleigh Fire Explorer Post #108 members assisted at 25 working fires in 2015.*

*The Raleigh Fire Museum had 411 visitors in 2015, during both regular monthly openings and special events.*

## Photo Gallery



Recruit Academy 41 is underway. Thirty-eight future firefighters reported for duty on Monday, January 25. They'll complete their thirty-week academy in August.



Raleigh firefighters and their family and friends joined Wake County EMS for the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb at the Wells Fargo Capitol Center in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, April 2.



Raleigh provided mutual aid to Chapel Hill on Monday, April 4. Six firefighters travelled to the college town, and joined other departments to assist with foot patrols and more during the NCAA Championship basketball game.



Capt. Chris Laxton was sworn in as a new Deputy Fire Marshal at the City Clerk's office in February. He'll be assigned to the southeast inspection district, working in the first due terri-

tories of Station 2 and 10. Laxton brings a wealth of fire service experience and knowledge to the Office of the Fire Marshal, and will be working to obtain a Level II inspection certification over the next year or so.



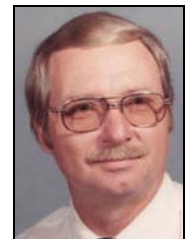
On Thursday, March 10, Squad 7 and Ladder 4 members on "B" platoon freed a trapped child whose foot was stuck in a drain in a parking lot on Poole Road.

Squad 7 members Marcus Horne (left) and Donovan Pitz (right) are shown.

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

## Passings

Retired Captain Robert Stanley, 74, passed away in Cedar Point, NC, on February 29. He retired in 1995 with 28.5 years of service.



Retired Lt. Richard M. Eddins, 73, passed away in Raleigh on April 13. He retired in 1985 with 17.5 years of service. He was also the department's first arson investigator, and helped create the team.



*Editor's note: Both Capt. Stanley and Lt. Eddins are related to many members of the fire department. See our family tree at [raleighfirenews.org](http://raleighfirenews.org).*



## Firefighter Wins Art Award



Lt. **John Johnson** (E22B) recently won a Second Place award in a Raleigh/Wake County employee art contest.

His 9" by 12" colored pencil drawing—titled “Out with a Friend”—won in the Intermediate category.

He and the other participants—including Firefighter **Jason Hall** (L3B), see below—were honored at a reception at the Municipal Building on December 4. Their works were displayed on the first and second floors through January 15.

John recently resumed drawing, after a twenty five-year break. “I’ve been drawing from childhood through high school,” he notes. “I started back last year.”

He draws mainly on his four-day break, and produces two or three pieces per month. This is his first contest entry. “I’m more of a hobbyist right now, and am just drawing for myself.”



Hall also entered a piece in the Intermediate Category. His work, titled “Carolina Crystal Coast,” was also displayed at City Hall.

Hall creates art using reclaimed wood and, primarily, palettes. He paints murals, creates logos, and other artwork, which he sells under the name EPIC Woodworx.

The contest was sponsored by the National Arts Program. Over 6,000 city and county employees were invited to participate. ❖

## Chief Hobson Wins Awards



Battalion Chief and Safety Officer **Frankie Hobson** received a pair of academic honors on March 30. He was named Student of the Year by Fayetteville State University College of Arts & Science, Department of Government & History.

He also received the Dr. Booker Juma Fire Service Leadership Award from the University, an annual award in the spring that recognizes leadership, professionalism, and service to the community.

Chief Hobson completed the degree program in December. The program is conducted as a partnership with the university and the Fayetteville Fire Department. He’s pictured above with his wife Darlene. ❖

## Lt. Lane, Firefighter of Year



American Legion Raleigh Post 1 has selected Lt. **Jason Lane** (E6-B) as Firefighter of the Year. He was recognized in a ceremony on Thursday, April 14.

Lane entered the department in January 1996 and is the brother of Capt. Nick Lane (E13-C), and the brother-in-law of Firefighter Teresa Lane (E-25C).

They’re also the sons of retired Raleigh Police Major Dennis Lane, and the brother of Brian Lane, a North Carolina State Trooper. ■

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Raleigh, NC 27602

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXPLORER BANQUET  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER, SATURDAY MAY 7  
FIREGROUND SIMULATION AT 4:00 P.M.  
DINNER SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.

CODE SAVES CEREMONY  
DUKE ENERGY CENTER, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 7:00 P.M.

RETIREE LUNCHEON  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18  
CHICKEN 'N' RICE SERVED AT NOON

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

MONTHLY FIRE MUSEUM OPENING  
KEETER TRAINING CENTER  
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

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).

## More Facility Updates

Bidding on building the replacement **Station 12** starts this month. The 18,000 square-foot facility will be located on 3.40 acres at Poole Road and Bus Way. It will house an engine, ladder, Battalion Chief, and Division Chief. Construction should start in August.

Design services for the new **Station 14** were awarded in March to Stewart-Cooper-Newell. It will be of similar size and function to the new Station 12. The 2.22-acre site is located at the corner of Harden Road and Nancy Ann Drive.

Land acquisition is still underway for a new **Station 3** at the corner of Rock Quarry Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and is nearly complete for **Station 30**, an in-fill station to be located near the intersection of Wake Forest and New Hope Church roads.

The renovations of **Station 2** have been expanded with a redesign, with the apparatus bays expanded and rear entrances added. Work should start in September.

And the renovations of **Station 11** have also been expanded to a larger redesign. New apparatus bays will be built where the dayroom and kitchen are located, and the existing bays will be turned into living areas. Work is expected to begin in FY17. ■