



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 1

Winter 2017

## Renovations Complete at Fire Station 5, Starting at Station 2



On Thursday, November 10, the crew of Engine 5 moved back into their quarters on Oberlin Road. Renovations had finished at Fire Station 5.

The \$950,000 project started in April, when the engine relocated to nearby Station 6 and construction workers began removing all the furnishings and fixtures from the 1969 structure.

“This was a down-to-the-walls reconstruction,” says Assistant Chief of Services Danny Poole. “And the first of several station remodels. We’re trying to completely update our older fire stations.”

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## Crews Head West for Wildfire



In November, a team of Raleigh firefighters headed west to assist with the Party Rock wildfire. They joined dozens of other Wake County firefighters, who were all requested by the State Office of the Fire Marshal.

The 7,142-acre fire brought hundreds of firefighters from across North Carolina to the Lake Lure area, to assist with structural protection, due to the many buildings in the town, and in Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, and surrounding communities.



The Raleigh Fire Department took its commercial bus to Lake Lure, along with a passenger van, and a mini-pumper.

Raleigh firefighters were deployed for four days, and assisted wildland crews as well as standing by for any structural fires.

The Party Rock Fire was announced as 100% contained as of December 1.

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

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“We’re adding newer dayroom furniture, such as recliners and more durable kitchen chairs. We’re also adding washers and dryers,” says Poole.



New lockers were installed and new bedroom furniture: new beds, night stands, and night lights. “Firefighters will no longer have to bring their own stands and lamps,” says Poole.

Other changes include individual showers instead of community showers, and adding handicap accessible space.

“We’re trying to take the institutional feel out of the fire station. These are their homes away from home,” adds Poole.

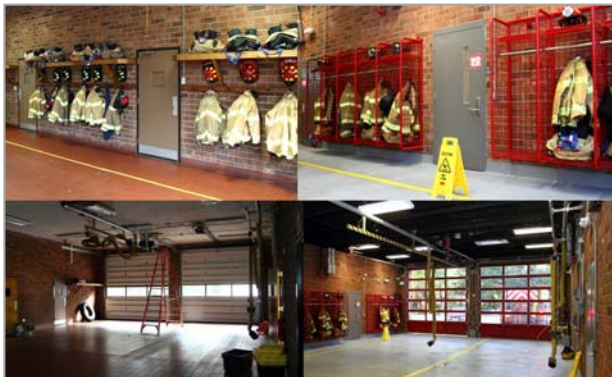
### **Building Systems Also Upgraded**

During the seven-month construction project, all electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems were removed. Interior walls, doors, cabinets, and partitions were also removed.

“Everything was replaced and reconfigured,” adds Poole. “The fixtures and systems were upgraded to current building codes and modern technologies.”

Some of the 21<sup>st</sup> century features include motion-controlled room lights, and surveillance cameras for the main entrance and rear doors. “They help with station security,” adds Poole.

Also added to the building was a fire sprinkler system.



*Before (left) and after (right)*

Though the physical footprint of the structure wasn’t changed, there were a couple exterior enhancements.

The rear patio was expanded from a narrow slab of concrete to a formal back deck.

### **First in a Multi-Year Project**

Station 5 is the first in a multi-year plan to perform similar renovations to most of Raleigh’s “legacy fire stations.”

Construction on Station 2 started in December, and work will begin on Station 15 this year, with Station 10 thereafter.

The multi-year project will completely renovate some fourteen fire stations through FY23.

### **Engine 2 to City Farm Road**



On Wednesday, November 30, Engine 2 moved into the old city radio, sign, and signals shop at the corner of South Wilmington Street and City Farm Road.

The thirty-six year-old building houses their pumper and their exercise equipment. It will also serve as a storage space.

The company’s haz-mat apparatus—Haz-Mat 2, Haz-Mat 5, and the foam trailer—was moved into the old CAT bus depot, behind their building.

For living quarters, a modular dwelling was installed on the site.



The Station 2 renovations will also renovate the old maintenance shop space, and incorporate most of that section of the building into a drive-through apparatus bay.

Work is expected to be completed in nine months. See more photos at [www.raleighfirenews.org](http://www.raleighfirenews.org). ■

## Heavy Flooding After Hurricane

On Saturday, October 8, heavy rain and high winds pelted the city as Hurricane Matthew passed along the eastern edge of the state. At the airport, a new daily record of 6.45 inches of rain was observed.

Heavy rains started in Raleigh after 10:30 a.m. and continued until about 6:00 p.m. High winds started rising in the 8:00 a.m. hour and continued strong (32 mph maximum with 47 mph gusts) until about midnight.

From 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., the fire department answered 437 calls. Peak volume was around 3:00 p.m.

There was widespread flooding throughout the city, and numerous calls for assistance from stranded drivers. And from people who spotted cars in flood waters, and were unsure if they were occupied.

Raleigh Fire Department units answered 30 water rescue calls, included three outside the city. They rescued or removed at least 21 people, including a driver washed away in flood waters in Zebulon (below).



Courtesy WRAL-TV

Squad 7 and Squad 14 were expanded into two-piece companies, each operating their mini-pumper and boat trailer as a separate unit, with two or four firefighters. Each squad was then filled from Engine 17 and Ladder 3, Special Operations Command companies with specially trained firefighters.

Mutual aid was also provided by Apex and Chapel Hill fire departments, and South Orange Rescue Squad, for two water rescue incidents on Saturday night, on Old Stage Road in Garner and Rose Lane in Raleigh.

## USAR Teams Head East



Four days earlier on October 4, NC USAR Task Force

8 deployed a Type II Water Rescue team to New Bern, NC, for standby during Hurricane Matthew.

Fourteen members from Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill fire departments were deployed, including six from Raleigh.

Over the next nine days, the team was repositioned to Pamlico and then Pitt counties. They performed four missions, including evacuating people and pets, performing welfare checks, and assisting EMS.



Courtesy Durham Fire Department

A Type III water rescue team was also deployed, comprised of Chapel Hill firefighters and resources.

Task Force 8 communications assets were also deployed, and assisted the Eastern Branch of operations in Kinston for nine days. They provided such services as VoIP phones and internet at a base camp.

Also in Kinston, Raleigh firefighters provided responder and patient decontamination support as part of NC Haz-Mat Regional Response Team 4. They also assisted with early patient triage. Haz-Mat 4 was deployed October 11-19, with two personnel operating, and a total of six rotated through the deployment.



Local NC HART resources were also deployed: a State Highway Patrol helicopter with Raleigh Fire Department rescue technicians. They performed daily operations from October 9-15, and provided air support to the National Guard and other HART assets as needed. They performed rescues of five people. ■

## Retirements

Capt. **Dennis A. Gaither** (E20-A) retired on January 1 with 27.9 years of service. He started in 1989 with Academy 13. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 1992, to Lieutenant in 1995, and to Captain in 2003.



Capt. **Daniel H. Haines** (E20-A) retired on January 1 with 27.9 years of service. He also started in 1989 with Academy 13. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1992, to Lieutenant in 1995, and to Captain in 2003.



Capt. **Roy R. Ross Jr.** (L2-C) retired on January 1 with 28.9 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1991, to Lieutenant in 1992, and to Captain in 1996. He also served as a Deputy Fire Marshal from April 2004 to March 2016.



Lt. **Christopher K. Marshburn** (E20-A) retired on January 1 with 16.2 years of service. He started in 2000 with Academy 26. He was promoted to First Class FF in 2004, and to Lieutenant in 2011.



Senior FF **Carl B. Hardee** (E20-A) retired on January 1 with 30.3 years of service. He started in 1986 with Academy 11. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1990, and to Senior Firefighter in 1993. He also served as an instructor for the last three recruit academies.



Capt. **John D. Rehbock** (L9-A) retired on December 1 with 30.2 years of service. He also started in 1986 with Academy 11. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1991, to Lieutenant in 2001, and to Captain in 2013.



Capt. **William N. Parker** (L8-A) retired on December 1 with 28.8 years of service. He also started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1991, to Lieutenant in 1993, and to Captain in 2000.



Lt. **Wesley K. Boykin** (E26-A) retired on December 1 with 30.2 years of service. He started in 1986 as well with Academy 11. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1990, and to Lieutenant in 1995.



Lt. **Clyde M. Riddick** (E16-C) retired on December 1 with 30.2 years of service. He also started in 1986 with Academy 11. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1990, and to Lieutenant in 2005.

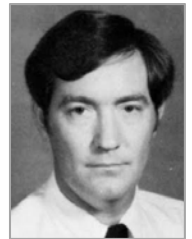


Lt. **Andrew M. Keil** (E20-A) retired on December 1 with 28.8 years of service. He started in 1988 with Academy 12. He was promoted to First Class FF in 1991, and to Lieutenant in 2005.



## Transitions

Capt. **L. Jack Hamilton**, 69, passed away in Willow Spring on October 16. He retired in 1985 with 17.5 years of service.



Lt. **Wayne M. Wortham**, 75, passed away in Fuquay-Varina on September 7. He retired in 2001 with 31.9 years of service.



*Editor's note: Lt. Wortham is the father of Capt. Alan W. Wortham.*

See page 5 for more transitions.

## Promotions & Appointments

### January 7

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Dena M. Ali	Lt. David H. Penny
Lt. Joshua J. Ellis	Lt. Terry W. Schlink
Lt. Patrick B. Marks	

Promoted to Lieutenant:

SFF Christopher T. Benvenuto	SFF Phillip M. Rogers
SFF Nathan C. Burgess	SFF Todd W. Saunders
SFF Ronald W. Hicks	SFF James J. Schwenk
SFF Joshua J. Mitchell	SFF Jeremy R. Skolozynski
SFF Chaz M. Moore	SFF Everette S. Wright

December 10

Promoted to Senior Firefighter:

FF Samuel T. Alston	FF Searcy R. Howard
FF Cedric L. Branch	FF Dwayne L. Massenburg
FF Kelly C. Burns	FF Dexter R. Pearce
FF William B. Dillard	FF James D. Poole
FF Kevin C. English	FF Bryan Prato
FF Daniel L. Ennis	FF Benjamin J. Sweet
FF David A. Grady	FF Luis A. Urbina
FF Christopher C. Hodges	FF Dawn Zimba

## New Recruit Academy

Recruit Academy 42 is planned to start on February 20. Led by Capt. Jamie Hill, some forty recruits will participate in a thirty-two week training program. They'll become state-certified firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians, and graduate as probationary Raleigh firefighters.

During this academy, the Training Division is planning to expand their use of video recording technology, to record and develop content for both recruitment and future training needs.

And in a change from prior academies, fire training will precede EMT training, instead of following it.

Recruitment started in September, and applications were accepted through early October. Later that month, three days of written and physical testing practice were conducted at the training center.

Of the 787 completed applications received, 748 were invited to the written aptitude test, and 252 passed the test. They were invited to the physical agility test, which was passed by 192 individuals. The tests were

conducted in October.

Upon completion of background investigations, ninety-nine candidates were interviewed in late November and early December. ❖

## More Training Updates

Capt. Stephen J. Corker has replaced Capt. Richard Siebel as Professional Development Coordinator. He started on January 1.

Recent facility improvements include the completion of HVAC system replacement in the fall, and the installation of a code control for the lower gate.

The bike team program, managed by the EMS Coordinator, has expanded to include foot patrols. These two-person teams will be utilized at special events and will carry medical supplies, including AEDs. ❖

## Raleigh Receives SAFER Grant

The City has been awarded \$1,277,340 from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fund 10 firefighters for a period of two years, including salary and benefits, which will supplement existing engine company staffing levels.

On March 17, 2016, the Grants Committee reviewed and authorized submission of the SAFER grant application. On August 26, 2016, the City received official award notification; no city match is required for this grant.

The City will be responsible for the ongoing cost of the additional personnel following the two-year performance period of this grant. ■

## More Transitions

Capt. **Charles E. Perry**, 76, passed away in Raleigh on December 28. He retired in 1992 with 21.6 years of service.



Lt. **Philip L. Harrington**, 67, passed away in Louisville, KY, on December 31. He retired in 2001 with 17.5 years of service.



## Photo Gallery



Deputy Fire Marshals Alan Holleman and Kyle Kohler at the Governor's Inauguration Ball on January 6. They provided support for the event, including monitoring occupancy limits and making sure exits remained clear.



On Thanksgiving Day, Station 1 on "B" platoon cooked turkey, ham, and all the trimmings for family members and downtown precinct Raleigh police officers.



Two alarms were struck on Tuesday, December 27, at a paper recycling facility at 1505 Blount Street. The slow-burning fire took hours to extinguish, and brought nearly every engine and ladder company to the scene over the course of the 20-hour operation.



Firefighters conduct ladder drills at the old Capital Inn on Capital Boulevard on September 10. The empty motel was scheduled for demolition.



Engine 8 and Squad 14 on "C" platoon battle a car fire on Grand Manor Court on December 3.



On Tuesday, December 6, retired members met at Angie's Restaurant in Garner for the annual breakfast, arranged by retired Capt. Donald Summers. Retirees also meet for breakfast at Pam's Restaurant on Western Boulevard on the second Tuesday of each month.

## Fire Education Expansion

In May 2016, the Raleigh Fire Department expanded its Fire and Life Safety Division with Senior Firefighters Roy Howard and Lemuel Hubbard transferred to the Office of the Fire Marshal. They serve as new Fire and Life Safety educators.

With this expansion, the Fire Education Team has made huge strides in providing more education programs to businesses, community groups, senior citizen groups, and schools.

Since July, the team has conducted grill safety and holiday safety events at Lowes Home Improvement, Ace Hardware, Walmart, and Home Depot. They have also reconnected with Wake County Safe Kids to help provide information to keep our young people safe.

They have also partnered with the city's Community Engagement Team to help provide fire and life safety information to all the communities in the city.

In December, the Raleigh Fire Department was awarded the Illumination Award for Best Presenter for the Raleigh Neighborhood College 2016 Fall Class.

They thank the "B" platoon crews that provided a real-life structure fire drill for the students at the training center.



*Hubbard (left) and Howard*

In 2017, the Fire Education Team will continue providing citizens with quality fire and life safety education programs. They're planning to continue some of the events and activities done over the years—such as FireWatch and Fire Prevention Week at Crabtree Valley Mall—as well as new activities and programs planned for the upcoming year. ❖

## Services Updates

Two Pierce Enforcer pumpers and a tractor-drawn aerial ladder (or tiller) have been ordered. Delivery is expected in late spring.

The ladder truck will be very similar to Ladder 9, delivered in 2015. The engines will incorporate some changes from Engine 29, also delivered in 2015, including ground ladders returning to the rear of the truck, and no onboard generator. All scene lighting will

be Pioneer 12 volt LED lights.

In June, the city received a \$151,155 grant from the federal government to install fire sprinklers as part of the renovation projects of Station 2 and Station 15.

Concrete repairs are underway on the aprons at Station 22 and Station 26. During the work, Ladder 5 will relocate from Station 22 to Station 25.

Roofs were replaced last fall at Station 8 and the modular classrooms at the training center.

Washers and dryers are being ordered for Stations 3, 7, and 10. They'll be used for cleaning uniform clothing.

Additional extractors, for removing smoke particle containments from personal protective equipment, are also being planned for more fire stations.

New reclining chairs are being installed in phases at fire stations. New kitchen/dining room chairs are being evaluated. ❖

## More Facility Updates

Work also continues on several other major fire station projects:

**Station 1** – South and Dawson streets – Programming for the multi-story fire station and fire department headquarters is underway. The \$24M project is spread over three budget years. Land for the project is being located in the area of the Convention Center.

**Station 3** – Rock Quarry Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – Land acquisition underway on Rock Quarry Road, on state property near the correction facilities. Funding for design and construction will be requested in the FY19 budget.

**Station 6 (rebuilding)** – 2601 Fairview Road – Engine 6 is planned to relocate to Station 5 in late January, and demolition of station to begin in March.

**Station 12** – Poole Road & Bus Way – Site preparation continues, with excess rock discovered and being removed. Structural work will start soon.

**Station 14** – Harden Road and Nancy Ann Drive – Demolition of the existing homes on the property is planned for January. Permitting process is ongoing.

**Station 30** – 1514 Ronald Drive – The 0.98 acre lot was purchased in September. Funding for design and construction will be requested in the FY19 budget. ■

Raleigh Fire Department  
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200  
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).

## The Great Scooter Brigade



On January 11, Raleigh firefighters received a motorized scooter that's travelling across five states to reach Battalion Chief David "Chico" Creasy of Richmond, VA.

He's battling cancer, and Richmond firefighter Roger Myers devised a plan to help. Myers' dad and Chief Creasy became friends as they both underwent treatments.

Myers' father passed away in December, and he wanted to honor his dad's wishes to help his friend in Richmond. Myers arranged a five-state "bucket brigade" to take his dad's motorized scooter from Florida to Chief Creasy.

Dozens of fire departments have participated. Raleigh received the scooter from Fayetteville, and carried it to the city of Wilson, for the next leg of the journey.

Learn more at [facebook.com/WeAreTeamChicoHeros](https://facebook.com/WeAreTeamChicoHeros). ■