



9/11 REMEMBRANCE

In conjunction with other Public Safety entities, CCFES hosted a tenth anniversary commemoration ceremony of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America.

The ceremony was held on Friday, September 6 at the Cobb County Safety Village, where the World Trade Center steel artifact received by Cobb Fire this past summer was unveiled and formally presented to Cobb County.

The artifact is a four foot long piece of steel weighing nearly 400 pounds from the WTC South Tower. The artifact now resides at the Safety Village and is encased in a display for viewing by the public. Through the generosity of the Port Authorities of New York and New Jersey and Federal Express, Cobb Fire was able to obtain the steel beam free of charge.

The keynote speaker of the emotional ceremony was retired NYPD Assistant Chief Mike Korsch. Chief Korsch now resides in Acworth, and now speaks to Fire and Police organizations about his involvement in the World Trade Center rescues.

As a survivor who was on site immediately following the collapse of the Towers, Mike lent a unique and personal perspective about the day and its aftermath. His testimony included his battle with tongue and throat cancer as a result of the rescue and recovery mission at the site, and his work in identifying and returning remains to loved ones for over a year following the attack. Mike is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Chapter of the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund.



TOUGHEST FIREFIGHTER RANKINGS

By Dale Hutson

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
1595 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4021
(770) 528-8000

www.cobbfire.org

Sam D. Heaton, Chief
Randy Crider, Deputy Chief
Jimmy Taylor, Deputy Chief

Electronic copies are e-mailed to all CCFES employees and retirees, placed in the Fire Administration Common Files and on the CCFES Resource Site under "Smoke Signal".

This issue will also be uploaded to our public website:
www.cobbfire.org

Editors:

Ellen Black
Chief Sam Heaton
Kim York

COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Helen Goreham
District 1 Commissioner

Bob Ott
District 2 Commissioner

JoAnn Birrell
District 3 Commissioner

G. Woody Thompson, Jr.
District 4 Commissioner

David Hankerson
County Manager

First, let me say thank you to each and every one of you for another very successful year in fitness testing. In a year where we have seen lots of things that could cause us to be not-so-positive, your attitudes about fitness testing were truly inspiring.

As interest over the competition end of our testing has grown, so have challenges. I will continue to listen to your opinions and try to develop the "Toughest" competition to make it fair and job-related. Having said that be on the look out for some changes to that portion of the test next year. If you have not already heard testing will begin in February for 2012.

Congratulations to Jacob Clark! Once again Jacob successfully defended his "Heisman Award" by being Number 1 on the fitness test. This makes his fifth straight fitness title, which is truly incredible! Jacob posted top 10 numbers in four of the six categories and was in the top 20 in the other two areas. Here is where Jacob placed in each test:

Steps #1	135	Bench #4	Test Time #14
Sit-ups #1	Treadmill #4	½ Bench #17	

I also want to mention another great individual accomplishment that took place this year. As some of you might know there is only one name consistently on our Top 10 Fitness plaques here at the Training Center and that is Scotty Pope.

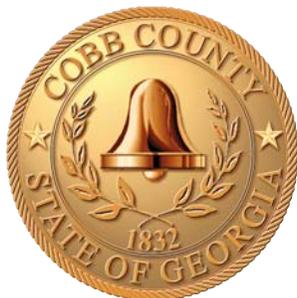
This year – at 41-years old – not only did Scotty make the top 10 for the 10th straight year, he finished #2 and even forced Jacob to have to come back and retest after tying him for #1 late in the testing process. Not bad for an "Old Guy". Way to go Scotty!

Please feel free to contact me for the Battalion/Station/Shift rankings!

BEEFING UP THE PARAMEDIC RANKS

The Cobb Fire Training Division is proud to announce the addition of five new Paramedics within the Department. These five individuals completed Paramedic School in October, and recently passed their National Registry Exams. This is a significant achievement, and will certainly enhance our ALS capabilities in the field!

- Firefighter Shane Turner, *Station 19-C*
- Firefighter Phillip Anderson, *Station 23-C*
- Firefighter Alison Steinmetz, *Station 16-C*
- Firefighter Jason Hatten, *Station 16-C*
- Firefighter Stephen Parlatore, *Station 5-C*



WELLSTAR KENNESTONE BECOMES LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER

In early November, the Georgia Department of Public Health designated Wellstar Kennestone Hospital as a Level II Trauma Center, making it the only Level II facility in the Wellstar five-county service area.

With the addition of Kennestone, there are now 19 designated Trauma Centers in Georgia. Kennestone will now offer 24/7 availability to attending surgeons in specialized fields such as neurosurgery, orthopedics, and oral maxillofacial. The only difference now between Wellstar Kennestone and a Level I facility is Kennestone will not offer training programs for surgical residents or fellows. CCFES congratulates Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, and we are excited about having a higher level of trauma care closer to home!



OFFERING REWARDS DOES WORK!

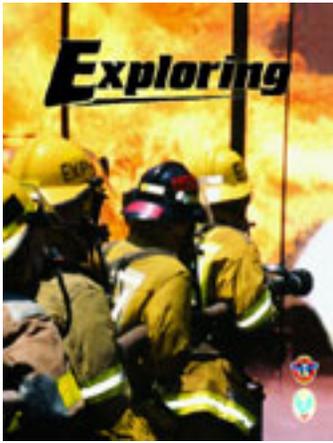
Recently, the CCFES Fire Investigations Unit was instrumental in the presentation of a reward to a young Cobb County student. In conjunction with Georgia Arson Control (GAC), a student at Hillgrove High School in West Cobb was presented with a reward check for information that she provided to investigators regarding a fire set by two teenage boys at Lost Mountain Middle School in late 2010. Pictured at right are Deputy Chiefs Randy Crider and Jimmy Taylor with representatives of the GAC.



A mobile classroom at Lost Mountain was destroyed by fire, along with extensive damage to windows in the main building. After several days with few leads, a student at Hillgrove High School came forward and reported she overheard 2 juvenile suspects admitting to causing the fire and associated damage. The information given was credible and consistent with the evidence, and resulted in the arrest of two juvenile suspects. The suspects have subsequently pled guilty to the crimes and have been sentenced.

CCFES Fire Investigator Leon Reece and Campus Officer Bill Dawson (retired CCFES Fire Investigator) were successful in their request to the GAC to have a reward presented to the young woman who had the courage to come forward with the critical information. The Georgia Arson Control Program, Inc. (GAC) was formed in January of 1979 by property and casualty insurers writing business in Georgia. GAC, with the cooperation of the Commissioner, Georgia Department of Insurance and Safety Fire, and state/local law enforcement agencies, established an Arson Hotline. A reward fund was initiated from which monetary rewards are given to individuals who come forward with information that results in the arrest and conviction of arsonists.

COBB FIRE EXPLORER PROGRAM NEWS



Cobb Fire is extending an invitation to young people between the ages of 14 and 20 to join The Cobb Fire Explorer Post #33. The program is being offered in conjunction with Chattahoochee Technical College, with meetings to be held on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the classroom next to the Fire Training Tower on Valor Drive.

The mission of the Cobb County Fire Explorer Program is to provide a safe learning environment where youth can become responsible individuals by teaching diversity, positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential. The Explorer Program is a win-win for the Department and the students, and can be a useful recruiting tool for those interested in the Emergency Services profession.



The program is endorsed by International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Volunteer Fire Council, U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Academy, and local fire authorities. Posts are organized around interests in Fire/Emergency Services, Civil Defense, First Aid/Ambulance Corps, Firefighting, Rescue Services, Paramedic, EMT, and Volunteer Firefighting. In odd-numbered years, the National Fire/Emergency Services Exploring committee conducts an Explorers conference, which is open to all Fire/Emergency Services Explorers and Post Advisors.

Interested candidates can contact Training at 770-590-5661, or e-mail: cobbfireexplorers@gmail.com.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church on Shallowford Road recently donated an original painting to Fire Headquarters. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, local artist Alan Carlson was commissioned by the church to do the artwork as a gift to our Department.

The painting is titled, "Hurt, Heroes, and Hope", and was presented to CCFES in appreciation for sacrifices made every day by public safety employees.

Pictured at right is Chief Sam Heaton with Deputy Chiefs Jimmy Taylor and Randy Crider accepting the painting from Alan Carlson and Pastor Daniel Bondow. We thank them for their generosity!

