



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Spring, 2007

STATION 14 OPEN HOUSE

On November 18, Station 14 held its Open House for the public. Local elected and appointed officials attended, as well as several hundred citizens. Several demonstrations and other forms of public outreach activities were conducted to entertain and educate those in attendance.

To officially declare the station open for business, local dignitaries were asked to participate in "charging" the fire hose (flowing water through the hose). The turnout and enthusiasm of the local community and County leaders was evident throughout the day.

The new facility at 2905 Library Lane (directly behind old Station 14 in the Mountain View Complex) is nearly identical to Station 11. The design is intended to accommodate more personnel, vehicles, and apparatus. The functionality of the fire and rescue service was considered in detail. The 3rd Battalion Chief has also been relocated to this facility. Situated on 2.5 acres, Station 14 is a one-story building with three drive-through bays, space for a 10-person crew, and parking for 29 vehicles.

From planning through cleanup, the administrative specialists played a huge role in making the event enjoyable. Next time you are at Fire Headquarters, please tell the administrative specialists and members of the specialized units such as the Life Safety and Education Division how much we all appreciate their efforts!



Pictured above: Firefighter Russell Clay instructs a young boy in the proper fire extinguisher techniques, using the newly acquired BullEx Intelligent Fire Extinguisher Training System. Hundreds of students can be trained in a significantly shorter period of time than with the traditional kerosene pan method (with just one tank of propane).

Left: Pictured in the ceremonial hose charging are Commission Chairman Sam Olen, County Manager David Hankerson, Commissioners Tim Lee, Helen Goreham, and Joe Lee Thompson, and Public Safety Director Mickey Lloyd.



Left: Diane Kinsey and Kelly Bailey serve soft drinks to the crowd.



Above: James O'Shields distributed fire education materials and answered questions from the public.



Above: Hot dogs and other food preparations were handled by Sheral Race, Kelly Bailey, and Sharron Garner.

PERSONNEL CORNER

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Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Public Safety facilities, and placed in the Fire Administration Common Files under "Smoke Signal".

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

The Smoke Signal is for employees and friends of Cobb Fire. If you would like to see a subject covered in future issues or would like to submit items for possible future publication, please forward to Ellen Black at Fire Headquarters.

Editors:

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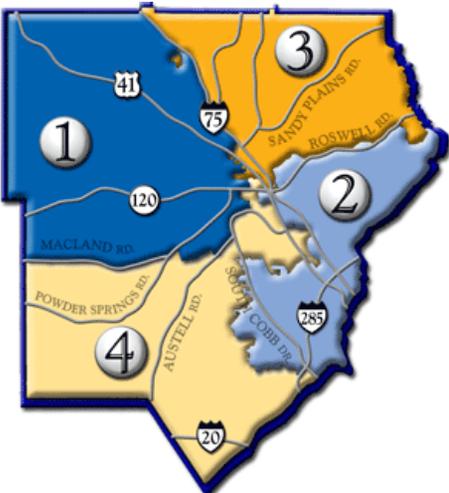
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Ron Watson
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COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Samuel S. Olens, Commission Chairman
 Helen Goreham, District 1 Commissioner
 Joe L. Thompson, District 2 Commissioner
 Tim Lee, District 3 Commissioner
 Annette Kesting, District 4 Commissioner
 David Hankerson, County Manager



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

On January 29, a retirement reception was held for Firefighter III Ron Darby at Station 21. Ron retired with over 22 years of service with CCFES. Pictured at left is Ron receiving his retirement hat from Deputy Chief Sam Heaton as Mike Carruth looks on. Ron will certainly be missed!

Below: Ron tries not to get too emotional with Phillip Hankinson, David Frost, and Mike Carruth.



2006 SERVICE AWARDS

Bryan Armbrister	20 Years
John Bennett	20 Years
David Blount	20 Years
Ricky Carroll	20 Years
Greg Cloer	20 Years
Jesse Costa	20 Years
Garry Cox	20 Years
Robert Croft	30 Years
Jim Dunn	30 Years
Mike Ellington	20 Years
Timothy Ethridge	20 Years
Robert Gibson	25 Years
Jolene Hagan	20 Years
Bill Hayes	25 Years
James Helton	20 Years
Chris Hilton	20 Years
David Honea	20 Years
Jim Killcreas	25 Years
Barry Lewis	20 Years
Mark Magill	20 Years
Gary McCrary	25 Years
Darnell Musgrove	20 Years
Roger Priest	20 Years
Jon Redwine	20 Years
Scott Starnes	25 Years
Ronny Stroud	25 Years
Jerry Stuckey	20 Years
Geoff Thomas	25 Years
Frank Woodall	20 Years
Tate Young	20 Years
Tony Zadro	20 Years

RETIREMENTS IN 2006

Richard McLean <i>Lieutenant</i>	32 Years 6 Months
Gary Jolly <i>Battalion Chief</i>	32 Years 1 Month
Gary Bogumill <i>Engineer</i>	27 Years 10 Months
Dick Skelton <i>Inspector II</i>	22 Years 3 Months
Mary Dowda <i>Administrative Specialist III</i>	19 Years 6 Months
Bob Boyd <i>Inspector II</i>	17 Years 7 Months



Mary Dowda receives her plaque at the January 9 retirement reception from Chief Becky Denlinger and Deputy Chiefs Sam Heaton and Randy Crider.

RECENT AND UPCOMING COLLEGE GRADUATIONS



Michael Cunningham
 Firefighter II
Master of Business Administration
Kennesaw State University

Aaron Lasenyik
 Firefighter II
Bachelor of Fire Science
Columbia Southern University

2006 BOOT DRIVE RESULTS

On February 6, personnel from CCFES attended the annual Firefighter's Recognition Day Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at Georgia State University.

CCFES placed 4th out of 82 agencies in Georgia participating in the 2006 Boot Drive. Cobb Fire collected \$48,514.25, contributing to the overall State total of \$757,008.

Pictured below is the trophy awarded to CCFES. Thanks to all those who made the Boot Drive a success!



On March 1, Firefighter III Denell Boyd was one of seven Cobb County employees awarded the quarterly Customer Service Award by County Manager David Hankerson. Looking on are Chief Denlinger, Customer Service Council President Joan Baker, and Firefighter Jason Gallups.

2006 PROMOTIONS/DESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

FIRE ENGINEER

Justin Green
Jason Jones
Jeremiah Lewis
Jason Miller
James O'Shields
Jason Vail
Eric Werl
Phillip Wilbur

FIRE LIEUTENANT

Joseph Bryant
Russ Burnett
Shane Roland

FIRE CAPTAIN

Dwan Patterson

FIRE BATTALION CHIEF

David Blount

FIRE DEPUTY CHIEF

Randy Crider

Thanks so much to all of the CCFES personnel who helped make Diane Kinsey's retirement celebration on April 20 a success!



Q & A SECTION (continued from Page 4)

Q: Why was the "Essentials" book removed from the study material list?

A: We assume that by the time someone is testing for Engineer or Lieutenant, the individual is well versed in the basics of firefighting contained in the "Essentials" book. This also serves to decrease the amount of study material for the candidates.

Q: Will a 5th Battalion be created soon?

A: Not within the next 2 years.

Q: Will District Chiefs positions be created?

A: There is no specific time table or plans at this time, but they will most likely become reality prior to the 5th Battalion being created.

Q: Will the existing bunker gear be retrofitted with the new built in drag system that the newest rookie bunker gear contains?

A: No. NFPA now requires the new system, but does not require any retrofitting. All new bunker gear issued from this point forward will contain the new system. Be careful to study how the straps are installed in the case that your gear has to be washed in the extractor. It is somewhat difficult to get them back in the proper operating position.



Joseph Bryant accepts his promotion to Fire Lieutenant from Chief Denlinger on October 8, 2006. Looking on are Lt. Jeff Bidy and Firefighter Jenny Williams.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS by Jeff Moss

Thanks again for a great set of questions for this issue. I submitted them to Deputy Chief Heaton for answers; input was also solicited from Chief Denlinger, Deputy Chief Crider, Division Chief Martin, and Tony Thompson. If you would like to submit questions to me, please feel free to send them to me at Station 23, A Shift.

Q: Could we cut back checking hydrants to just once a year and performing hose test/change to three times a year so that we have more time to do company level training?

A: The twice a year hydrant maintenance schedule is a requirement to maintain our ISO rating of 3 and cannot be changed. As far as the hose testing, NFPA recommendations state that a “best” practice is to rotate hose once a month and test once a quarter. This standard pertains to rubber-lined hose in specific which we no longer carry. The manufacturer of our hose has no specific recommendations. Therefore the procedure which we have always followed will continue to be used until more product specific information is issued by NFPA or the manufacturer.

The time factor should not be that much of a burden to the company as testing hose should only require a half day of work and the schedule rotates between shifts.

Q: Would upper management consider creating a policy in regards to rotating hydrant territory every season or at least every year?

This has been discussed but at the time it is more beneficial to stay with the system we have. The transition between Aunt Bee, Hansen, and now Firehouse has been complicated and time consuming and management doesn’t want to throw too many changes out at once. This concept could become reality in the future when the transitions have been completed and everyone becomes comfortable with them.

Q: Why is it that a PD member can transfer into our department, be a rookie with our department, and have more seniority than many of his/her coworkers? Shouldn’t seniority for annual leave picks start on the hire date for the fire recruit?

A: No. Time accumulated with any other department in the service of this county is credited, in accordance with the county's annual leave policy.

Q: Why do we have to put so much more information into Firehouse when Aunt Bee covered everything that needed to be in a Fire report?

A: The fire incident program that we used in Aunt Bee met the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) requirements of the time (early 1990's). The current version is NFIRS 5, and CCFES has elected to meet this reporting standard, as requested and recommended by the United States Fire Administration. Use of the NFIRS 5 version ensures that CCFES remains eligible for consideration when applying for federal grants, as well.

Q: Portable radios are being damaged by falling/rolling around in the engines. Maintenance will not drill any holes in the trucks to make a way to secure them. Is there anything that can be done to prevent this?

A: Each person is “assigned” a portable at the beginning of their shift. If there is a portable that is not being used and is prone to this type of damage, it should be secured at the station.

Q: Is there such a thing as an “excused” tardy anymore?

A: There have been cases of excused tardiness that included a major thoroughfare being shutdown due to an accident or natural disaster. Also, stopping to help at an accident is excused as long as it can be verified. Chief Heaton reviews each case and will make the decision after an investigation.

Q: Will the department ever allow firefighters to have Class A uniforms?

A: The survey taken this year showed a low priority among field personnel in regards to Class A uniforms. Field personnel placed higher priority on items including stations, equipment and gear. The budget therefore reflects those priorities. It has been determined that the cost would be around a half million dollars to outfit the department and the funds are not available at this time due to other capital improvement projects currently underway.

Q: Why are provisions (positions in the office) made for some with “disabilities or issues” and not for others (made to use sick leave for 6 months)?

A: Any CCFES employee who faces a limitation to his or her ability to perform assigned duties is eligible for consideration of assignment to restricted duty, provided that meaningful work exists that the employee is capable of performing. In order to be considered for restricted duty work, the affected employee must first bring a restricted duty form to Headquarters that has been signed by the employee's physician. Next, available work is evaluated and consideration is given to the employee's physical restrictions (as identified by the physician), work abilities (if we need a bridge built, does this employee know how to build a bridge?), and the desires of the employee (we need a pile of dirt measured, but the employee would rather stay home on sick leave rather than measure dirt). The six month limitation to restricted duty assignment is per injury/illness and is DPS policy. In fact, this policy is administered at DPS, not Fire Headquarters.

Q: Why is such a tremendous amount of value placed on "John Norman's Handbook of Tactics" when it seems to contradict many of our standard procedures and tactics we are taught to use in Cobb County? Is there a more appropriate manual or book we could use?

A: The only known contradictions to the book are the fact that we don’t typically have houses with cellars and we don’t routinely use vertical ventilation. Note: cellars can be encountered in some cases and in particular when responding with Marietta. The rest of the information in the book is considered to be a resource to be learned and applied in situation- appropriate circumstances. There is no other published book that contains more specific information to our region. In fact, the information in Norman’s book can be applied to most situations encountered throughout the U.S.

Q: What will happen with the radio traffic in regards to the mutual aid agreements?

A: As of this time there will be no changes.