



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Winter, 2005

STATION 11 GROUNDBREAKING

On December 6, 2004, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to officially kick off construction of Station 11. The facility, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2005, will be located at 4550 Cowan Road in Acworth.

The 8,040 square foot building will be situated on a 1.8 acre site near historic downtown Acworth. The design will be similar to many of the historic buildings already in existence in the area. Utilizing similar colors, roof



This is the artist's rendering of Station 11. The Howell Group, Inc. is the architectural firm for the project, and JTV is the general contractor for the facility.

pitches, red brick, and arched doorways, the building will blend in with existing structures in the historic district along Main Street. The facility will be a two-bay drive through with the capacity to house an

eight-person crew on each shift.

Station 11 will have the ability to accommodate community meetings with seating for 65 people, and parking for up to 40 vehicles. This community area will also have a lobby,

restrooms, and a kitchenette.

Attending the ceremony were Chairman Sam Olen, District 1 Commissioner Helen Goreham, District 4 past-Commissioner Woody Thompson, Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood, County Manager David Hankerson, Public Safety Director Mickey Lloyd, Fire Chief Becky Denlinger, and other dignitaries and fire personnel.

Chief Denlinger stated, "This is a tremendous opportunity to enhance our level of service to the area surrounding the North Cobb Parkway Corridor, and supports plans to add an additional station in that area in the near future. It also fills the need of a newer, more effective building for Station 11".



Personnel from Station 11 and Building Maintenance braved the inclement weather to join Chief Becky Denlinger and Deputy Chiefs Sam Heaton and Mike Ellington in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
1595 County Services Pkwy.
Marietta, GA 30080-4021

PERSONNEL CORNER

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
 1595 County Services Parkway
 Marietta, GA 30008-4021
 Phone: 770-528-8000
 Fax: 770-528-8323

Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Public Safety facilities, and placed under 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:

*Ellen Black
 Chief Rebecca Denlinger
 Mary Dowda
 Kim York*

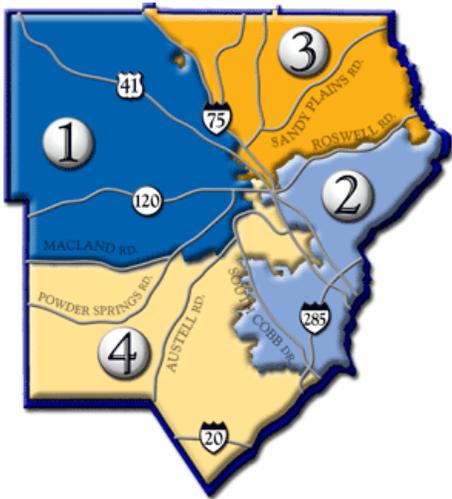
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*Craig Ford,
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Cobb County Print Shop

COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- David Hankerson, County Manager
- 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



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

The Cobb Chamber of Commerce held its annual Public Safety Recognition Awards Breakfast on October 4, 2004. *Capt. Rick Bennett* of Station 8A and *Eng. Chris Boggs* of Station 23A were nominees representing the fire department. Capt. Bennett was chosen from a list of distinguished candidates and named, "Public Safety Employee of the Year".

Firefighter John Reddy of Station 4-B received the Exemplary Service Award at the Atlanta 300 Club awards banquet held in October at the Cherokee Town Club. The 300 Club is a nonpartisan service organization that honors firefighters and police officers for acts of exceptional service, selflessness, and heroism.

Chief Becky Denlinger was presented the "President's Award" last fall by the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Georgia State Firefighters Association. This award for Distinguished Service was to recognize her commitment and dedication to the furtherance of the Fire Service in Georgia. She was also appointed in December by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council. The NIAC is comprised of over 2 dozen members appointed by the President from the private, academic, and government sectors. The Council provides the President with advice on the security of information systems for critical infrastructure such as banking, transportation, energy, manufacturing, and emergency services.

NEW PERSONNEL

In the past year and a half, CCFES has had 5 new employees join the Headquarters team. If you haven't taken a moment to welcome them, please do so when you see them!

LEE PROCTOR
Apparatus Maintenance Supervisor
 Prior to coming to CCFES in the fall of 2004, Lee was the Maintenance Supervisor for Paulding County. He brings with him many years of experience in vehicle maintenance and repair.

JEANETTE CARLILE
Mail Service Technician
 Jeannette will deliver mail and other supplies to the stations and other fire facilities. She was the Mail Service Technician for the Bartow County School System for many years.



Firefighter John Reddy and his wife, Deborah, at the 300 Club awards banquet.

2004 RETIREMENTS

A retirement reception was held on January 13 for eight dedicated employees who retired during 2004:

- Danny Campbell* 21 Years
- George Clark* 25 Years
- Danny Jordan* 27 Years
- Bill Goodson* 29 Years
- E. Lemuel Riley* 29 Years
- Richard Davis* 29 Years
- Perry Marcus* 30 Years
- Steven Barrett* 30 Years

Pictured at right: Capt. George Clark models his retirement cap at his reception at Station 21, and Lemuel Riley takes his own pictures at his retirement party.

NICK DAWE
Fire Protection Engineer
 Nick came to CCFES this past June and is assigned to the Fire Marshal's Office. He is a native of Canada, and holds a degree from Seneca College. Nick has an extensive background in sprinkler systems, and is also certified in forest firefighting.

SHERAL RACE
Hydrant Coordinator
 Sheral worked for almost 20 years in the Purchasing Department. She is assigned to the Fire Marshal's Office.

LEE ANN JEAN
Administrative Specialist II
 Lee Ann came to CCFES in February after being assigned to Cobb E-911 for four years as a dispatcher.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

The annual Service Anniversary Luncheon was held recently, honoring all Cobb County employees who have served Cobb County Government for at least 20 years. The following Cobb Fire personnel were recognized:

- Doug Appleby* 20 Years
- Stoney Bowles* 20 Years
- Mike Brewer* 25 Years
- Mike Carruth* 20 Years
- Taft Champion* 20 Years
- Hal Hall* 25 Years
- Gary Jolly* 30 Years
- Dart Kendall* 25 Years
- Drew Logothetis* 20 Years
- Perry Marcus* 30 Years
- Dwan Patterson* 20 Years
- Paul Prater* 20 Years
- Sheral Race* 20 Years
- Dick Skelton* 20 Years
- Ginger Stanfield* 25 Years
- Doug Watkins* 20 Years
- Norm Weber* 20 Years



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Lt. Jeff Moss (Station 23-A)

Thanks for the many questions that were submitted for this issue. I am happy to see this section serving its intended use. Several of the questions were similar in nature and have been combined to cover more items. I met with Deputy Chief Heaton for this issue. Thanks to Director Lloyd, Chief Denlinger, and Division Chief Baird for their input.

Can we expect to see someone address the problem of compression of pay among the ranks?

A review of the classification and compensation of county positions can only be undertaken at the direction of the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager. It is possible that this sort of review may be conducted in 2005. Adjustments to pay could be recommended for consideration as a result of a class and pay review, depending on what the review reveals. Additionally, Director Lloyd has implemented a formula for calculating promotion raises that will aid in reducing compression.

What is the purpose of having the ambulance companies announce their arrival on our radio frequency which is busy enough already?

This serves a twofold purpose from a management standpoint. First, it allows a more accurate tracking system for ALS responses. This can be used to provide valuable information at the State level to show our response times. ALS is documented as starting when the first ALS unit arrives, whether it is CCFES or an ambulance. Secondly, on larger incidents, it provides the Incident Commander with the information that a transport unit is on the scene. This information may not be known to the IC without an announcement. The large number of apparatus on a scene and limited accessibility can obscure the fact that the ambulance is staged.

What is the purpose of the signs in front of the officer's seat on the dash in the new apparatus?

The sign was placed there simply as a reminder to be careful. Its purpose was not meant to be demeaning to field personnel or officers. One question that seems to be repeated during Accident Review Board meetings is, "Where was the officer?" Management is confident in the ability of the field officers and only wants to provide "memory-joggers" to reduce

preventable accidents.

Can we expect to see more of the Command Staff in the field from time to time? We always have questions or concerns that we would like to discuss, but feel this Q & A is the forum for doing so.

Deputy Chief Heaton has scheduled to ride with one Battalion Chief once a month, which will cover each shift and battalion during the year. We will continue to periodically broadcast employee forums over TV990. Questions will be taken by telephone. A meeting is being discussed that all officers will be invited to attend. Chief Denlinger hopes the forums will occur in March and the officers' meeting in April.

Is the Management Staff aware of the problems with Dispatch, including more frequent mistakes, and is it being addressed?

Command Staff meets monthly with 911 supervisors and Marietta Fire to discuss dispatch problems and solutions. If you have a particular problem, you should send your complaint through the chain of command to be addressed.

Who submits nominations for Customer Service Awards?

Capt. Fagan is the CCFES representative on the subcommittee for these awards. To nominate someone you can get the form on the following path: CobbWeb>Forms>Customer Service Nomination. Send the completed form to Capt. Fagan and he will present it to the subcommittee for review.

What can be done when we feel that our ambulance personnel are not providing the same competent and professional care that is expected from us?

There is a form available that can be filled out and forwarded through the chain of command. It can be used for both compliments and complaints: Common>Forms>Misc.>EMS Transport Feedback Form

Where has our cost of living raise been over the last 4 years or so? The price of health insurance and the retirement program have continued to rise and take

significant amounts of any raises. We don't get enough of a raise to keep up with inflation.

The County's compensation policy provides for annual merit increases to be included in each year's budget. County employees have enjoyed merit increases of over 3% every year for many years now, though workers in many other sectors have not. Merit raises are not calculated to be cost-of-living adjustments.

Why do we not allow one of our front line engines to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Atlanta? Every Metro department is represented but us.

This department had no knowledge or invitation to the event. We have sent trucks to the Firefighter Recognition Day ceremonies and the Atlanta Apparatus Show and Muster the last several years. We also sent a truck for the Peach Bowl parade. We are willing to participate in special events whenever prior knowledge and acceptable staffing permits.

Are there any "Tactics" classes scheduled for this year?

It has been budgeted to hire an outside instructor to teach all Lieutenants a Strategy & Tactics class this year. Plans are now underway to finalize this in the near future.

Are we still using a pool of personnel to assist part time with the Training Division? I was told that only firefighters were now used to assist

due to budget constraints. Couldn't we use extra funds from the Fire Tax for this purpose rather than turning it over to the County to be used for whatever?

Money collected from the Fire Tax does not go back into the General Fund. It stays in the Fire Budget to be used by Fire. There are two categories used by the Training Division to get trained help-those who teach and those who assist. Capt. Weber reports that only officers are used to teach classes during recruit school, unless it involves specialty training such as hazmat or squad operations. However, due to budget issues, firefighters are preferred during the physical test for hiring. If you are trained as a Field Instructor, you should periodically reinstate your interest by sending an e-mail to Capt. Weber.

Would management consider overturning the rule about personnel not being allowed to work part-time jobs related to alcohol?

No. This is a DPS Code of Conduct rule and it applies to all DPS employees, not just Fire.

Can we get dress uniforms?

A large amount of money has been spent over the last few years on new jackets, duty shirts, and new emblems. We plan to look into the possibility of dress uniforms for all field personnel.

Q & A SECTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

IN MEMORIAM Richard J. ("Dick") Seyler 1940-2004

Retiree Dick Seyler passed away suddenly on September 16, 2004. Dick retired on December 31, 2003, after serving Cobb County for 30 years as a firefighter.

Dick was born and raised in Erie, PA. He was active in the Boy Scouts and the Milford baseball and football recreational programs for many years.

Dick was survived by his wife of 35 years, Barbara, a son, Richard III, and one granddaughter, Emily.



Diane Kinsey wishes good luck to Dick Seiler at his retirement party in December 2003.

Q & A Section

(continued from page 3)

What is the policy on how to handle Engine 10 on ALS Calls? Some Chiefs cancel and some advise for them to continue.

It's up to the OIC at the time. If the additional unit is not needed, then it should be cancelled like other calls. A policy is being examined at this time.

What can we do to get the County to reconsider our participation in the Social Security system we presently contribute to?

There are no plans for a review right now, but that could change in the future, of course.

Is the Med Ops truck in service?

It is in service, but hasn't been added to the dispatch array. It currently responds with HazMat and SWAT Teams.

Is there any consideration to creating a year-round burn ban?

There is significant interest in a year-round burning ban in some segments of the community. Chief Denlinger is very interested in such a ban and has already begun discussing this with key County Officials.

Would Management consider working out a program to turn all EMT-I's into Paramedics? We could give them a 2-week class on ACLS and protocols and they would qualify.

No. We are held to State standards and this is simply not possible.

Why don't we change to a tri-weekly pay cycle? Can we expand the times allowed to wear T-shirts?

That would involve a massive overhaul at the Finance level and would mean significantly more work for them. Also, everyone in the field would have to agree to it, and it's not advantageous for most people due to personal payment schedules.

Are we going to get pulse oximeters for all engines?

No. However, options are being studied for placing units on select trucks in the future. There is also a refurbishing program that is more cost effective which may be considered in the next couple of years.

Do you have to do a special project to get promoted above the level of Lieutenant?

It is not absolutely necessary. It does, however, give Management the opportunity to observe someone's ability to plan, organize, and implement ideas. So it is helpful in the promotional process.

Will there ever be a Special Operations Chief? And what happened to the idea of Divisional Chiefs?

Management is anticipating a review at some point this year. This consists of department heads from other agencies in the county performing a review of the fire department's management structure to determine if there is a need for the positions mentioned, among other things.

The Senior Staff is willing to discuss the issue.

Which station in the 4th Battalion is going to get the new rescue truck?

Station 11.

Will a second Squad be considered?

Plans are just beginning to move forward with relocating Station 14. As this project progresses through the proper channels, Senior Staff will request adding a small quint/basic squad truck to Station 14.



Mike Schutz accepts a certificate of recognition from Russell McDaniel of Rescue Air 1. Pictured with Mike is CCFES Battalion Chief Mike Brewer.

The EMS Division congratulates the following personnel for their recent nominations to the Region III EMS Awards Committee. Cobb Fire's EMS QA committee recommended:

Engineer Taft Champion for Paramedic of the Year
FF James O'Shields for EMT of the Year
FF Ryan Gillen for the Pediatric Award of Excellence

Engineer Mike Schutz was nominated for the Eagle Award, which is presented by Rescue Air 1 and Radio Station Eagle 106.7.

2004 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DAY

Marking the third anniversary of 9-11, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue held a public address at the Cobb County Fire & Police "Superstation" on Cobb Parkway. Several hundred citizens, Cobb Public Safety employees, elected officials, and other dignitaries attended the event. Various Fire, Law Enforcement, and other Emergency Services' displays were available for public viewing. Governor Perdue spoke to the crowd about the government's and the public's role in preparedness and Homeland Security.



Governor Perdue and his wife, Mary, pose with CCFES personnel.



County Manager David Hankerson and Commission Chairman Sam Olens share a moment with the Perdues before the Governor's public address.