



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

July 2013

SUMMER NEWS

Cobb Fire & Emergency Services played host to its second Department of Public Safety Education Block Party on Saturday, April 20 on Six Flags Drive. Food, music, fun, and life safety educational activities were the order of the day.

Designed as a public outreach program, several hundred local residents came out to the entrance of Parkview Apartments to partake in the festivities and meet personnel from Fire and Emergency Services, Police, Animal Control, 911, The Community Emergency Response Team, Austell Community Task Force, and the Neighborhood Safety Commission.



CONGRATULATIONS DEPUTY CHIEF TANKS!

Training Division Chief William Tanks was promoted to Deputy Chief over Preparedness on May 26.

Willie has been with CCFES nearly 22 years, rising through the ranks and has a wealth of experience within the Department. He has been assigned to Response, Training, and also spent six months as a Captain over Facilities Management, managing the construction of several of the newer stations. During his assignment in Training, two recruit academies graduated, and several new training programs were implemented. He chaired the very first MAFFC Conference in 2010, hosting 210 attendees. The most recent conference hosted nearly 700 attendees in May of this year. Willie is a founding member of the Metro Atlanta Firefighters Association and served as President de facto from September 2011 until May 2013. MAFOA has raised in excess of \$50,000 for firefighter training and related causes.

Chief Tanks is also a U.S. Navy Veteran, retiring at the rank of Chief Petty Officer from the Reserves in 2006. He has been deployed twice to the Persian Gulf and has over 20 years military experience in Logistics, Finance, Procurement, and Program Management. He holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Chattahoochee Technical College, and a Bachelors Degree in Management from Morris Brown College. Raised in Michigan, he and his family are longtime residents of South Cobb.



Deputy Chief W. L. Tanks

Pictured on Right:

On April 23, Cobb Commissioner Bob Ott, DPS Director Jack Forsythe, and Emergency Communications Manager Ann Flynn gained personal experience of what it's like to don firefighting gear and enter a burning building. CCFES Training hosted the trio at the Training Tower for an afternoon of hands-on firefighting experience. Thanks to the Fire Training staff for your hospitality! .



PERSONNEL NEWS

RECENT PROMOTIONS

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
William L. Tanks, Deputy Chief

Electronic copies are e-mailed to all CCFES employees and retirees, and uploaded to 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
Lynda Paradise
Kelly Bailey

**COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF
COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Tim Lee
Chairman

Helen Goreham
District 1 Commissioner
Bob Ott

District 2 Commissioner
JoAnn Birrell

District 3 Commissioner
Lisa Cupid

District 4 Commissioner
David Hankerson
County Manager

**GOT NEWS TO SHARE? PLEASE
FORWARD TO ELLEN BLACK AT
FIRE HEADQUARTERS**



Engineer Mike Cooksey to Lieutenant on March 17, 2013
Firefighter II Jacob Clark to Engineer on April 28, 2013
Firefighter II Jody Jordan to Engineer on May 12, 2013
Firefighter II Tim Ethridge to Firefighter III on May 12, 2013
Firefighter II Philip Finley to Firefighter III on May 26, 2013
Division Chief William Tanks to Deputy Chief on May 26, 2013
Firefighter II Melissa Larson to Firefighter III on April 28, 2013

RECENT PASSINGS

Retired Engineer Ronnie Prince in April 2013
Retired Firefighter Gerald Sluder in April 2013



RECENT RETIREMENTS

Battalion Chief Chuck Carter, 30 years service on June 28
DPS Department Representative Connie Holcombe, 30 years service on May 31
Engineer Chris Massengale, 29 years service on March 29
Engineer Donny Thackston, 30 years service on May 29
Battalion Chief Steve Tatum, 30 years service on May 29
Firefighter Victor Ayers, 30 years service on April 28
Engineer Richard Steed, 30 years service on April 30



Connie Holcombe is congratulated on her retirement by retired Deputy Chief Nancy Arrington.



Chuck Carter reminisces with retirees Mike Brewer and David Shelton at his reception.

GEORGIA EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services 2013 Awards Banquet was held on May 2 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

Cobb Fire’s own Larry Causby received the Georgia EMS Educator of the Year award at the event. This award is presented annually to the EMS Educator in who has, “gone far above and beyond the call of duty, whether in the direct delivery of patient care or in programs offered to the community that enhance the standing of EMS and/or the education of the public”.

Many thanks to Larry for the his exceptional service in the field of EMS education! Pictured at right is Larry With Deputy Chief Willie Tanks and Captain Chuck Baird.



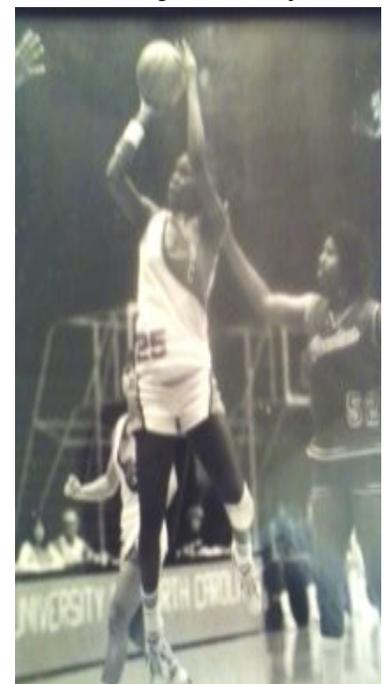
COBB FIRE HAS A HALL OF FAMER

On March 9, Firefighter Kathy Crawford (Station 2C) was inducted into the University of North Carolina’s Legends Hall of Fame. For those that may not know, Kathy was one of the first three African American women scholarship basketball players at UNC Chapel Hill back in 1979. She led the Lady Tarheels in scoring three out of her four years at UNC, and made the NWIC All-American team as a Freshman.

Other honors and records include being the first woman UNC player recognized by Kodak for the All-District III Team, most points scored (1,806), highest career field goal percentage, #4 in season field goal percentage, and as a Senior, ranked #6 in the Nation with a 62.6 field goal percentage. Out of seven women recruited to the 1979 squad, Kathy was the only one to graduate in 1983.

Kathy came to Cobb Fire in 2000, shortly after ending a successful 12-year professional basketball career in China and Europe. Her jersey now hangs in the Carmichael Auditorium on the UNC Campus.

Congratulations to Kathy on this long-awaited recognition!
(photo on far right courtesy of FanBase)



2013 BOOT DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you again for the hard work on this year’s “Give Burns The Boot” Drive! The \$67,533 collected during the boot drive goes to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, which supports the M. Still Burn Center in Augusta and the burn unit at Grady Memorial Hospital. Some of the proceeds are also designated for Camp Oo-U-La, the state’s camp for burn-injured children.



Once again, the top collecting crew is Battalion 4A for collecting over \$15,412. Lt. Tim McWilliams and his crew raised \$4,002, leading the way again. Again, many thanks to all!

OUR NEWEST FIREFIGHTERS



Congratulations to the 31 members of Cobb Fire's Recruit Class #42, which graduated on March 28. The ceremony was held at the new Senior Wellness Center on Powder Springs Road.



Sean Berzler
Ryan McCann
Alec Nichols
Aaron Salkill
Jamie Stewart
Henry Vargas
Todd Blandin
Nick Danz
Wes Garrett
Gino Iannelli
Mike Kovalsky

Seth Bice
Tommy McDonald
Kevin Peterson
Bryan Schroeder
Bryan Swan
Stan Ward
Ryan Budzinski
Raphael Flores
Blake Holton
John Inman

Mike Masselter
Shayne Newton
Nathan Sahlberg
Dominic Simone
Brian Torpy
Cliff Blair
Kevin Crowe
Mike Gallmeyer
Will Hutchinson
Corey King



METRO ATLANTA FIREFIGHTERS CONFERENCE

The fourth annual MAFFC was held over the weekend of May 17-19, and was a huge success! This year, over 700 firefighters from across the Nation were in attendance. Started as a grassroots effort by Cobb firefighters, the event has grown to national prominence, offering training at little or no cost to attendees. An Iron Firefighter contest was held in the Cumberland Mall parking lot as one of the events, promoting healthy competition among the entrants.

(photos courtesy of Kelly Bailey)



EAST COBB ROTARY CLUB HONORS MARK THURMOND

The East Cobb Rotary Club recently honored Firefighter Mark D. Thurmond (Station 14-B) by presenting him with their “Service Before Self” award.

Many in the Department don’t know of Mark’s many efforts in the area of child vehicle occupant safety. In 2009, Mark became a Child Protection System (CPS) instructor, and to date has certified over 80% of the Georgia State Patrol Troopers. He is the co-author of Georgia’s “The Offender Program”, currently being utilized in eleven Georgia and Florida counties. This program requires convicted DUI offenders to purchase a child safety seat to be given to a needy qualifying family. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is considering turning this initiative into a national program.

In 2011, Mark received a letter of appreciation from Governor Nathan Deal for teaching the very first all-Trooper CPS class in Georgia. He has been a board member since 2010 for the Georgia Association for Pupil Transportation/Special Needs Division. Part of this position led to Mark’s co-authoring the “Before The Crash” block of instruction. This class is now a requirement for all special needs bus drivers in Georgia, teaching drivers how to quickly and safely evacuate their buses. He has been certified as a GEMA school bus extrication instructor for several years, and last year was certified as a Georgia Fire Instructor. Mark has now taught several bus extrication classes in the state, including 2012 MAFFC.



All of the instruction Mark conducts in the areas of car seat and extrication classes is done off duty. He also regularly participates in car seat checks with law enforcement agencies across the state.

COBB FIRE HAS SIX 2013 RHEINHARDT GRADUATES

Six members of CCFES received their Bachelor of Arts degrees in Organizational Management and Leadership (OML) from Rheinhardt University in May.

This 120 credit hour undergraduate degree program provides the academic and practical knowledge needed for leadership within the public and private sectors.

Personnel who were awarded this degree were:

- Deputy Chief Randy Crider
- Division Chief Spencer Miller
- Captain Sean Bogess
- Lieutenant Chris Smith
- Firefighter Dan Colburn
- Apparatus Mechanic III Isaac Roller

Congratulations to you all on your higher education efforts!



Pictured above: Spencer Miller, Randy Crider, Sean Bogess, Dan Colburn, and Chris Smith. Not pictured: Isaac Roller.

DO YOU HAVE A RECENT EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT YOU WANT TO SHARE? SEND US PHOTOS AND INFORMATION SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE!



IT'S THE "LITTLE THINGS"

Too often, citizens complain about government services. So it's important that personnel are made aware of compliments and kudos that are received by Fire Headquarters staff. Some are as simple as a card, e-mail, letter, or phone call expressing appreciation for a job well done. Chief Heaton has kept up the annual tradition of the "Good News" book and the Awards and Promotions ceremony. Also, when possible, we would like crews and staff to know when we get a call from a grateful citizen.

One such call received in early June was just a call of general thanks from an elderly woman who resides within the Third Battalion. This woman lives in the Highland Point subdivision with her disabled husband. She stated she knows she has called 911 on several occasions requesting assistance in ambulating her invalid husband within the home. Her simple call of gratitude was to thank crews from Stations 12 and 14 for their response and understanding, going beyond their normal scope of duties. She did not remember names of individual personnel, but was grateful to all who have responded over the past year. You just never know whose life you made a positive impact on- so thanks to those crews for their compassionate customer service!

Other incidents of interest include CCFES crews recently delivering two babies within 48 hours of each other.

On May 21, Engine and Rescue 11 responded to a call of a woman in labor inside a vehicle in the Lowe's parking lot on North Cobb Parkway. The crews assisted in the rapid delivery of the newborn within a few short minutes of their arrival. The Mother and child were transported to Kennestone Hospital where they were reported doing very well. Thanks to Chris Bowlick, Blake Crisp, Tom Hudson, JM Kapish, and Matt Maselka!



On May 23, Engine 14 and Rescue 16 were dispatched to a similar call of a high-risk pregnancy on Canton Road near Liberty Hill Road. Upon their arrival, they found a woman in active labor while seated in a vehicle in a gas station parking lot. The woman was suffering from high blood pressure and heavy bleeding, already attempting to push the baby out. Once again, the crews assisted with the delivery and transport of the Mother and child to the hospital. Thanks to Michael Cunningham, Jason Hatten, Chris McDonald, Tim Rolader, and Ed Townsend for their skillful handling of the call!

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY UNUSUAL OR SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OF INTEREST YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE PUBLISHED, PLEASE SEND THE INFORMATION TO FIRE HEADQUARTERS!

JUST SO YOU KNOW:

Recently, we have experienced several incidents where citizens have been advised by station personnel that they can obtain Fire or EMS reports at the individual stations. Field personnel have also contacted Fire Headquarters advising they were having difficulty printing reports at the station to release to citizens who have come into the stations. Please remember that this is in violation of existing laws and department policy, Section 4-8.



Please refer all citizen requests for Fire or EMS reports to Fire Headquarters at 770-528-8000. Any questions CCFES personnel may have on the laws and policies regarding Open Records and requests for reports, please contact Ellen Black at 770-528-8306.

Requestors can also be directed to our website: www.cobbfire.org. On the left side of the homepage, just tell them to look for "Reports". Once that tab is clicked, it will direct them to boxes for Fire/EMS Reports, or Phase I Site Assessment Requests.

2013 ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION HEAD SHAVE

The annual St. Baldrick's Foundation Head Shave event on March 10 was a huge success! Keegan's Irish Pub in East Cobb hosted this year's event to fund children's cancer research. \$12,657 was raised, and 36 heads were shaved. The Guest of Honor was Malena, the beautiful little daughter of Cobb Firefighter Toto Singheimer (Station 17-A). We can report great news on Malena- she had had her final MRI in June, and has been cleared from her cancer treatments!

The Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund made a generous donation to the Foundation, and supported the event by bringing Engine 343 out to Keegan's for the day. We would like to recognize Shane Belden, Jason Hatten, Brett Reis, Scott White, Liz Wiggs, Kristen Maravalo, and Matt Babcock for volunteering their time in planning and hosting the event. Thanks to so many others who contributed by donating their time, money, and of course, shaving their heads. This truly was a labor of love by many for such a worthy family-oriented cause! *(Photos below courtesy of Brad Blakeney)*



2013 COBB FIRE FAMILY FUN DAY

The Fifth Annual Family Fun Day was held on May 31 at Al Bishop Softball Complex. Fun, food, games, and fellowship was enjoyed by personnel and their families. A one-pitch softball tournament, ultimate frisbee competition, kickball, bucket relays, dunk tank, and other activities were enjoyed by those in attendance. Many thanks to the committee members for hosting another great event, especially James O'Shields, Brittney Ingram, Kelly Bailey, Denell Boyd, and Shane Turner. *(photos courtesy of Kelly Bailey and Brittney Ingram)*



Wayman Jordan takes a shot at dunking Brittney Ingram.



Second Battalion was the winning softball team.



Janice Mosher trusts Kelly Bailey with the keys to her scooter. We will miss Janice as she moves to Texas to be with her family.

Spencer Miller supervises Doug Watkins on the grill.



Jan Brown takes a break between innings with Michelle Fernanders.

Dozens of CCFES personnel were recognized at the Region III EMS Awards Banquet on May 22. Held at Gwinnett Regional Medical Center in Lawrenceville, every person involved in a cardiac save within Region III was recognized for their efforts.

Founded by the Centers for Disease Control, Emory University Hospital and the American Heart Association, the CARES Award (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) is given to those who are involved in cases where a cardiac arrest victim was successfully resuscitated.

Pictured are those CCFES personnel in attendance at the event: Spencer Miller, Brad Blakeney, Rick Hilgen, Tom Hoban, Felicio McDowell, Casey Kreun, and Rick Garrett.

