



# THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Spring, 2011

## STATION 30 NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

It was no April Fool's Joke- on April 1, new Station 30 went fully operational with "A" Shift beginning their tour of duty by rolling out of the new facility located at 931 Windy Hill Road.

Designed with a similar footprint to the recently opened stations such as Station 9 and Station 11, the double drive-through bay has the capacity to house 9 crew members.



Presently, an Engine, Rescue, and Air Truck are assigned to the location. The 8,500 square foot brick building will also house the Air Lab with a new compressor. The facility is also equipped with an irrigation well for outdoor watering conservation.



### IN MEMORY OF HANK HOPKINS *09/28/57 - 04/01/11*

Cobb Fire lost another one of its own on April 1 with the sudden passing of Firefighter James Henry ("Hank") Hopkins (Station 30-B Shift). Hank was 53 years old, and was a 20-year veteran of CCFES.

He was a lifelong resident of Metro Atlanta, and had served honorably for four years in the U.S. Navy prior to his employment with Cobb Fire.

Many may not know that Hank received the Cobb Police Lifesaving Award in 1997 for his crew's quick actions in responding to the cardiac arrest of CCPD Lt. Harlan Sawaski. Hank was an avid motorcycle rider, and a large motorcycle contingent from CCFES honored him at his memorial service on April 4.

Hank is survived by his wife of 29 years, Sue, his father, and siblings. All at Cobb Fire will greatly miss Hank's trademark smile and his gentle demeanor.



# MORE PERSONNEL NEWS

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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](http://www.cobbfire.org)*

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*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

**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

G. Woody Thompson, Jr., District 4 Commissioner

David Hankerson, County Manager



**Fire Protection Engineer Nick Dawe** was sworn in as Captain and promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal in January. Nick's promotion fills the vacancy created when Jay Westbrook was promoted to Division Chief/Fire Marshal. Congratulations, Nick!



Pictured Left: Fire Marshal Jay Westbrook looks on as Chief Sam Heaton swears in Nick Dawe as Deputy Fire Marshal.

**Administrative Specialist II Kim York** and **Engineer Ed Vance** were two of the seven 4th Quarter winners of the Cobb County Customer Service Award. They were both honored at the Quarterly Customer Service Breakfast and the Board of Commissioners meeting in February.

Kim has consistently delivered exceptional customer service to her colleagues for many years. As a longtime employee of Cobb Fire, Kim has developed a reputation for being the type of person anyone can go to with a question or problem about any work-related subject. She is an outstanding document editor, and always demonstrates a high proficiency in office software applications and databases. As the workload of the Training Division has increased, Kim's level of performance has always risen accordingly. She always goes out of her way to assist new Fire employees, and regularly offers to pitch in on special assignments that do not even fall within her purview. Pictured at right is Kim after being surprised by County Manager David Hankerson and Training Division Chief Willie Tanks.



Presently assigned as a Fire Engineer at Station 22, Ed Vance also exemplifies the model of extra-mile performance. For anyone who knows Ed, he also possesses a servant nature and a calling to help others. One example cited was when Ed encountered a homeless woman who was new to the area. This event occurred on a very cold winter night, where Ed made numerous unsuccessful attempts to place the woman in local shelters. After exhausting all options, Ed personally paid out of his pocket for the woman to stay in a local hotel for the night. Ed is pictured at right with Captain Scott White, Chief Sam Heaton, and County Manager David Hankerson.



## 2011 BOOT DRIVE NEWS



The 2011 "Give Burns The Boot" campaign was again a success in Cobb County. As in previous years, CCFES participated in the annual Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation Boot Drive on May 6, 13, and 20 to cover all three shifts. A grand total of \$49,513.39 was collected. Thanks to Denell Boyd, April Alexander, and Kelly Bailey for their assistance in coordinating the effort and/or counting the collections. The results from the drive is listed below:

"A" Shift	"B" Shift	"C" Shift	Training
\$20,428.45	\$13,434.40	\$15,650.54	\$617.08

## NEWS FROM THE CCFES EVENT COMMITTEE

*By Lt. James O'Shields*

I would like to take an opportunity to thank all those who have been involved with the Events Committee in the past. When we started about three years ago, our task was to plan the first Family Fun Day. Since that time, we have expanded our mission to include the 9/11 Memorial Muster and the Cobb Fire Anniversary Gala. There are three more small events we are presently working on, and also assist other committees within the department.

The Events Committee will be seeking new members this year, with two primary areas for involvement. We would like members to attend our periodic meetings, and assistance with the logistical aspects of conducting these events that we host. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact me as soon as possible at james.o'shields@cobbcounty.org, or at Fire Training at 770-590-5663.

### **CHIEF SAM HEATON RECIEVES TOP COBB COUNTY HONORS!**

Chief Heaton was recently honored by Cobb County by receiving not just one, but two of the County's Top Honors.



In addition to Fire Chief, Sam has also assumed the position of Acting Public Safety Director since August 2010. Recognizing his consistent top-notch and consistent leadership, Sam was honored with both awards.

The Golden Goose Award is presented by the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners to a Department Manager who stands out above the others in leadership and commitment throughout the year.

The Silver Eagle Award is voted on by all Department Managers to their colleague whom they feel best demonstrates

teamwork and outstanding leadership. In light of the precarious budget times and filling two demanding roles, the Cobb Management Team overwhelmingly voted for Chief Heaton.

Chief Heaton was also selected as a finalist for the Cobb County Excel Alumni Martha Logue Award. Congratulations to Sam from all of us!

## WELCOME!

One of several newcomers to Cobb Fire is Shonda Bell. Shonda is an Administrative Specialist, assigned to the reception area of the Safety Village.

Relocating from Hampton Roads, Virginia, Shonda is new to the Metro Atlanta area. She has an 11-year old son, and spends much of her free time exploring the area with him. Shonda also has other family members located in and around Cobb County. Her hobbies include traveling, visiting museums, zoos, and taking in movies whenever possible. The next time you are in the area, stop by the Village and introduce yourself to Shonda!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Investigator Tim Hinkle is now also a Georgia POST certified Police officer. Having finished the 410-hour Basic Mandate Training last year at the Regional Academy in Macon, Tim now handles Internal Affairs investigations in addition to assisting with Background Investigations. Congratulations on your completion of the police academy training!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF CLASS #41!

On January 20, CCFES welcomed twenty newly graduated Fire Recruits into the ranks. Below are Cobb Fire's newest members in the field and their assignments. Please welcome them to the Cobb Fire family!

Jim Anderson 3-B  
Donny Brown 18-C  
Daniel Colburn 13-C  
Jeremy Curtis 26-B  
Mike Jacobs 23-A  
Shane Johnson 28-C  
Kyle Jost 15-C  
James Kapish 26-B  
John Kiker 23-C  
Jacob Kiser 20-B



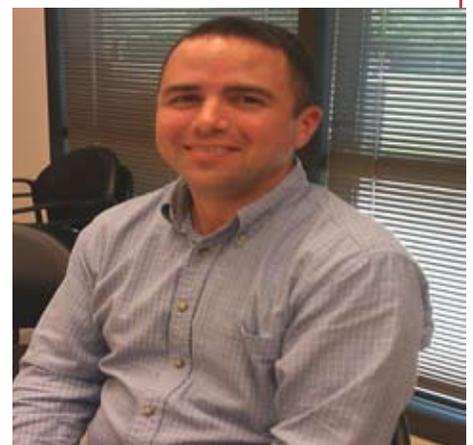
Wesley Newsome 8-A  
Steve Obermeyer 19-C  
Beau O'Dell 11-B  
Mike Parrish 5-C  
Justin Prather 4-C  
Wes Sheard 5-B  
Stacey Tillery 1-C  
Daniel Timmons 21-C  
Jamie Webb 26-B  
Scott White 12-C

## ANOTHER NEW EMPLOYEE WELCOME:

Josh Davis recently joined the Fire Marshals Office as a Fire Protection Analyst. Josh filled the vacancy created with the promotion of Nick Dawe, and will take over plan review and inspection duties.

Josh has extensive experience in this area, as he was previously employed in the same capacity with the City of Marietta Fire Department. He also performed similar functions in the private sector for Rolf Jensen and Associates.

An Iowa native, Josh holds a BS in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering from Oklahoma State University. Josh and his wife Anita have been married for ten years and reside in Kennesaw. He enjoys all sports, and plays Golf, Bowling, Softball, and Tennis.



# OTHER NEWS:

On May 2, a very special item was delivered to Cobb Fire. A 40-foot section of a twisted and charred steel beam from the World Trade Center was given to the Department. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey offered these artifacts free of charge to Public Safety agencies throughout the Nation.

The purpose of these artifacts is to remember the sacrifices made by emergency responders not just during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, but all sacrifices and heroic acts by those who are in the Police and Fire profession.

The artifact is a section from the South Tower of the WTC, and was delivered to CCFES by a generous offer by Federal Express to ship the item at no cost to Cobb County. The artifact will be displayed on County property for public viewing in the near future.



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Thanks goes to the Bethany Korean Presbyterian Church on Sandy Plains Road for their generous \$500 donation to the Cobb Fire Benevolent Fund. Community support of our assistance programs is very much appreciated!

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

On May 13, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed Senate Bill 88 into law. Spearheaded by Senator Jeff Mullis, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and Safe Kids of Georgia, the law now requires children to be restrained in a child passenger safety seat until they reach eight years old.

Exemptions to the statute are:

- The child is 4’9” tall; or
- A written physician statement describing a medical condition which prohibits the use of a car seat; or
- The child weighs over 40 pounds AND the existing lap and shoulder belts in the vehicle are being properly used to restrain other children present in the vehicle; or
- The child weighs over 40 pounds AND the vehicle is not equipped with BOTH lap and shoulder belts.

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# AND WELCOME TO ONE MORE NEW EMPLOYEE:

The last new employee to come on board this Spring is Anthony Caffey. Anthony is assigned to the Fire Marshals Office as a Fire Protection Analyst.

Raised in Connecticut, Anthony has lived in Metro Atlanta since 1999. He graduated from the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston in 1997 with a B.S. degree in Building Construction. He was previously employed by the Georgia State Department of Community Affairs as a State Building Code Consultant.

Anthony has been married to his wife, Kelly for 10 years, and has a 2 1/2 year old son, with another son due to be born in mid-June. His hobbies include barbecuing (yes, he is the master of his grill), and is also a 5k runner.

