



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Winter 2009

STATION 28 ADDED TO THE FAMILY!

The new Station 28 Open House was held on Saturday, November 15. Located on Kemp Ridge Road in Acworth (just off Cobb Parkway and Mars Hill Road), this facility meets service needs for northwest Cobb County.

The station is situated on 4.6 acres, and presently houses a 5-person crew, and has the capacity to accommodate double the number of personnel in the future. The 11,000 square foot building has a triple drive-through bay. The standing seam metal roof, brick veneer exterior, and commercial kitchen enhances the aesthetic appearance and long-term durability of the facility.

Along with Station 28 becoming a Battalion Chief's Station, a new Engine was also placed into service at the facility.

Station 28 is a unique partnership with the Cobb County Tag Office, as a satellite tag office is also located at the facility. This meets the needs of the residents in the northwest portion of the county, and is a cost savings to both departments when facilities can be shared under the same roof.



The curb appeal, functionality, and durability of new Station 28 demonstrates the Department's commitment of truly building for the future. The Cobb County Satellite Tag Office is located on the front right side and will open to the public in January 2009.



COBB COUNTY SAFETY VILLAGE UPDATE

Construction of the Cobb Safety Village is proceeding on schedule, with completion anticipated in March 2009, being fully operational in July.

After seeing this project from its inception, Lt. Scott Dodson was appointed Interim Coordinator until June 30.

Congratulations to Lt. Dodson and all those who have taken part in this unique and innovative public-private partnership! The citizens of Cobb County will benefit greatly from the Village.



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Emergency Services**
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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

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Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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

Samuel S. Olens, Commission Chairman
Helen Goreham, District 1 Commissioner
Bob Ott., District 2 Commissioner
Tim Lee, District 3 Commissioner
Woody Thompson, District 4 Commissioner
David Hankerson, County Manager



DAMON GENSEL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

One of Cobb Fire's own is very ill and needs the CCFES family to rally around him. In November, **Firefighter Damon Gensel** (Headquarters FIREHOUSE Administrator) was diagnosed with Acute Leukoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

Damon is undergoing chemotherapy at the Northside Hospital Cancer Center in Sandy Springs. He is a devoted employee and family man, married, and the father of two teenagers. In addition to the chemotherapy and other treatment regimens, he must undergo a bone marrow transplant in the near future. If you would like to assist Damon and his family, their immediate needs are addressed on the website: www.damongensel.com. That's where you might be able to truly make a life-saving difference!

First, Damon needs a steady supply of blood platelets. Platelet donation is very similar to donating blood. The entire process takes about 2 hours, during which time you watch a movie of your choice. Several CCFES personnel have donated, but much more is needed. You can inquire about the process or sign up for an appointment by calling Atlanta Blood Services (ABS) at either the Northside Hospital or Cobb Parkway location.

Second, you can sign up to be a bone marrow donor. If you donate platelets, the fee required for marrow testing and placement on the donor registry is waived.

All the information is listed below. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact Fire Headquarters. Look, we help save the lives of total strangers every day- now is our chance to help save the life of one of our own!

ABS Northside Hospital or ABS Marietta (220 N. Cobb Parkway Suite 100, just North of the Big Chicken). You can even make an appointment online:

<http://www.atlantabloodservices.com/appointment.php>
(404) 459-8744. Ask for Angela Howell (x1150) or Nekori Skinner (x1185).



OCTOBER 29 RECRUIT SCHOOL GRADUATION

On October 29 at the Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, 24 recruits graduated from the Academy. Their names and initial assignments are listed below:

Brian Arnold	8A	Kristen Maravolo	8A	Alison Steinmetz	24C
Donald Bell	15A	C.J. Milsap	26A	Joe Tumlin	26A
Matt Collins	5B	Mike Morris	21A	Liz Wiggs	2A
Chris Edmonds	4C	Stephen Parlatore	28B	Bo Wisdom	19A
Joey Feyerabend	14B	Jonathan Plowman	21C		
Daryl Fox	8C	Bobby Ramsey	15B		
Reed Garmon	24B	Tim Rioux	1B		
John Ikenroth	20A	Kory Russell	24A		
Keith Kling	14C	Joe Simone	12A		
Lee Maness	11C	Mike Smith	7C		



Ginger Newbern retired on January 31 after nearly 30 years at CCFES. As the second female to join Cobb Fire, she spent the past 10 years assigned to the Fire Marshal's Office, conducting nearly every type of inspection.

Firefighter Kit Fenley (Air 26) receives his retiree cap from Chief Heaton. Kit retired from CCFES on October 8, 2008, after 30 years of service with the Department.



We thank all the recent retirees, and wish them well in their future endeavors!

Jim Killcreas retired on December 31 after nearly 28 years of dedicated service to Cobb Fire. For the past 10 years, Jim was assigned to CEMA, and led that agency through the transition from Civil Defense to Emergency Management.

Jim loved all aspects of Emergency Management, and has been involved with many organizations that support this effort such as the Red Cross and the local Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). His pet project was the upgrading and maintenance of the County-wide emergency siren system. As Jim wound down his CCFES career, he was presented with the Emergency Management Association of Georgia's "Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award" at the December 2 EMAG Conference at Callaway Gardens.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS LEGAL BRIEF

By Rod Sanders, Fire Investigations Unit

What constitutes Arson? In the State of Georgia, we have 3 statutes that directly relate to the crime of Arson; Arson 1st Degree (16-7-60), Arson 2nd Degree (16-7-61) and Arson 3rd Degree (16-7-62) Basically, the main differences in the degrees of arson are as follows:

- (1) Arson in the 1st degree requires the element of endangered life or a financial interest.
- (2) Arson in the 2nd degree normally applies to property not covered by Arson 1st.
- (3) Arson in the 3rd degree relates to property over \$25.00.

A person can be charged with Arson if they knowingly cause or aid, abet, encourage, hire, counsel, or procure another person to damage by fire or explosive any of the following:

Dwellings, houses, buildings, structures, vehicles, watercrafts, railroad cars, whether they are occupied or unoccupied at the time.

Don't hesitate to call us anytime with any questions you might have!

The full text of these statutes can be found in the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated at:

<http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/htsearch>



OTHER CCFES EMPLOYEES IN THE NEWS

The 300 Club of Atlanta honored three CCFES personnel at their annual awards dinner on October 23 for valor and devotion to duty. *Lt. DeWayne Campbell, Lt. Josh Taylor, and Firefighter Stacey Boulware* were recognized for actions taken in February 2008 to extricate and rescue a 19 year old woman from an overturned vehicle from a rain-swollen creek on Callaway Road.

The Cobb County Chamber of Commerce recognized *Lt. Jeff Biddy* at their annual Public Safety breakfast in October. Jeff was awarded the Award of Merit for his life-saving actions performed off duty when a citizen collapsed into full cardiac arrest at a softball game at a local park. Jeff performed CPR and quick defibrillation, saving the victim's life.

Members of the CCFES Honor Guard pose for a photo with Marine Gunny Sgt. R. Lee Ermey at the annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Jennie T. Anderson Theatre this past fall. Ermey is best known for his role as the drill instructor in the movie, "Full Metal Jacket" and the TV show, "Mail Call".

