



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Winter 2013

YEAR IN REVIEW

Cobb Fire & Emergency Services had another busy year, as evidenced in all areas of operation. This issue will not only cover recent events since our last issue, but offer a very brief snapshot of where we are as a Department as defined by events and statistical information compiled over the past calendar year and into January 2013. Also shown are upward trends in several key areas over the past several years.

In 2012, the CCFES Fire and Life Safety Education Division delivered instruction to 59,245 child and adult students in 1,858 classes. Broken down by grade and type of class:

Kindergarten:	465 Classes/7,543 Students	2nd Grade:	515 Classes/9,781 Students
4th Grade:	464 Classes/9,491 Students	Pre-K:	149 Classes/2,245 Students
Senior Safety:	22 Classes/313 Students	Summer Camps:	13 Classes/195 Students
Corporate Cobb:	198 Classes/29,677 Students	Special Events Attended:	32
Smoke Alarms Distributed:	505	Smoke Alarms Installed:	23

We continue to grow in total calls for service:

2009- 44,290	2010- 46,031	2011- 47,339	2012- 48,005
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Open Records requests:

2009- 680	2010- 952	2011- 965	2012- 1,079
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2012 also brought several apparatus replacements through the SPLOST Program:

SPLOST funds have also been designated for selected facilities, such as:

- Station bay door replacements
- Roof replacements
- Station sprinklers
- Lot repaving

Three Engines, placed into service at Stations 1, 2, and 8. The new Engine 8 is a Pierce PUC (Pierce Ultimate Configuration) Model, equipped with a Husly 12 “pump and roll” foam system. This particular model allows the operator to switch from water to foam with the touch of one button, and is designed to handle structure, wildland, automobile, and small Class B fires. Deployment of this model to Station 8 enhances suppression capabilities when responding to incidents at adjacent McCollum Airport. Engine 8 is capable of pumping 250 gallons of water or foam per minute.

Two ladder trucks, placed into service at Stations 4 and 22

Two Air Trucks, placed into service at Stations 27 and 30



Pictured left:
Ladder 22



Pictured right:
Engine 8

PERSONNEL NEWS

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
Jimmy Taylor, Deputy Chief

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

Editors:

Ellen Black
Chief Sam Heaton
Kim York

**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



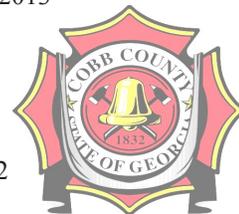
The following Cobb Fire employees were honored on November 8 at the annual **Cobb County Government Service Anniversary Luncheon**, held at the Kennesaw Embassy Suites Hotel:

Lt. John Brady	30 Years	Engineer Jeff Fricks	30 Years
Firefighter John Cunningham	25 Years	Captain Mike Flowers	25 Years
		Lieutenant John Goebel	25 Years

Thanks to each of you for your dedication and service to Cobb County!

PROMOTIONS

Captain Wayman Jordan, Jr. to Battalion Chief on February 17, 2013
 Lieutenant Jack Sorrells to Captain on February 17, 2013
 Firefighter Joel Danner to Engineer on February 17, 2013
 Inspector I Randy Bennett to Inspector II on February 17, 2013
 Firefighter Bill Beyer to Engineer on February 17, 2013
 Firefighter Aaron Joiner to Engineer on February 17, 2013
 Firefighter Ryan McKay to Engineer on February 17, 2013
 Engineer Kyle Miller to Lieutenant on February 17, 2013



PASSINGS

Retired Engineer Ronnie McPherson on January 28, 2012
 Retired Engineer John Kelly on August 27, 2012
 Retired Chief Horace Nixon on April 5, 2012
 Retired DPS Director Robert Hightower on August 21, 2012
 Retired Engineer Earl Moss on October 2, 2012
 Firefighter II Ronnie Nichols on February 16, 2013
 Retired Lieutenant John D. Riley on April 1, 2012

RETIREMENTS

Tony Thompson, 29 years service on January 31, 2013 (17 years as a Firefighter and 12 years with Information Services)
 Engineer Benny Parker, 22+ years service, January 17, 2013
 Battalion Chief George Lehner, 29+ years service, December 31, 2012
 Firefighter II Angelo Hunter, 21 years service, November 28, 2012.
 Engineer Ed Pittman, 32 years service, December 20, 2013
 Engineer Mark McCravy, 32 years service, February 1, 2012
 Mechanic Walter Ethridge, 25 years service, July 28, 2012
 Engineer Stacey Dearborn, 23+ years service, August 25, 2012
 Firefighter III Barry Lewis, 25+ years service, August 29, 2012
 Firefighter III Drew Logothetis, 28 years service, August 31, 2012
 Engineer Jeff Fricks, 30 years service, September 27, 2012

KYLE SMITH IS PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!

Lt. Kyle Smith (Station 19-A) was honored in October as the Cobb Chamber's Public Safety Employee of the Year. The award was presented in front of nearly 600 attendees at the 18th Annual Public Safety Appreciation Breakfast. Pictured at the right is Kyle accepting his award from Chief Sam Heaton and Chamber member Lance LoRusso.



Along with Engineer Sean Gray, Kyle was recognized by the Cobb Board of Commissioners in July as two of the Quarterly Customer Service Award Winners.

Kyle's interest in the Fire Service began at an early age, first serving for the Auburn Fire Department while a chemistry major at Auburn University. He later moved to the Austell Fire Department in 1999, and settled in at CCFES less than two years later.

Just a few of his notable accomplishments include assisting in the creation of and instruction at the Metro Atlanta Firefighters Conference, and being a featured instructor at the Fire Rescue International Conference. Kyle also traveled to Ekiti, Nigeria last year to help in the establishment of a local fire department. Congratulations, Kyle!

UNDERWRITERS LABS ATTIC FIRE STUDY

Engineer Sean Gray (Station 19-A) has accepted an invitation from Underwriters Laboratories to be a member on an advisory panel studying the topic, "Residential Attic Fire Mitigation Tactics and Exterior Fire Spread Hazards on Firefighter Safety".

Starting in February and lasting 18 months, Sean will travel to Northbrook, Illinois for several sessions to design and test experiments in an effort to increase firefighter safety. The USFA estimates there are over 10,000 residential attic fires in the United States, and are a unique challenge to response personnel.

The goal of the study is to assist in the development of strategies, tactics, new materials and design for building code changes.

Project Partners



We look forward to having Sean report back with the findings of the panel!

WELCOME TO COMMISSIONER CUPID!



Newly elected Cobb District Four Commissioner Lisa Cupid sworn into office on January 4th, replacing outgoing Commissioner Woody Thompson.

Ms. Cupid is a graduate of Georgia Tech, and has worked for the Eastman Kodak Company, the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and other nonprofit agencies in the Metro Atlanta area.

She serves as an advisory member for the Marietta-Cobb New Markets, and is an active member of the Cobb Chamber, South Cobb Rotary, Cobb NAACP, and the Georgia Association of Black Woman Attorneys.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



CCFES Hydrant Coordinator Sheral Race made a difference in the lives of several senior citizens by raising \$360 at Fire Headquarters for the Cobb Senior Services Senior Santa Program.

Inspired by the death of her own Mother several years ago, Sheral began donating clothing and other items to residents of local nursing homes during the holiday season. This year, she decided to spearhead an effort to collect money from Headquarters personnel to contribute to the Senior Services program. The funds collected by Sheral were used to assist several Cobb County homebound seniors with needed items such as new eyeglasses and a refrigerator. Thanks to Sheral and those who contributed for helping the Holidays be a little merrier for those in need!

COBB FIRE'S MASTER CHEFS



Pictured left:

Battalion Chief Stoney Bowles, Lieutenant Ian Martin, Firefighter Ryan McKay, Lieutenant Adam Storey, and Lieutenant Brian Dougherty take home the prize for winning the SafePath Children's Advocacy Center Culinary Competition on August 23 at the Cobb Galleria.

Patterned after popular television cooking shows like "Iron Chef", the 5-member team from Cobb Fire faced off against three other public safety teams in the 45-minute challenge. There were two secret ingredients that the teams were required to incorporate

into their dishes; Parmesean Cheese and Hot and Sweet Pepper Sauce. The teams had to produce two dishes, but the CCFES Team whipped up four! Their offering to the judges were: Mexican Jicama Citrus Salad, Open Faced Chicken Sandwich, Malaysian Street Food with Spicy Peanut Sauce, and S'more Rice Krispy Treats.

To accompany the cook-out, a silent auction was also held during the event. Proceeds from the fundraiser for the local SafePath's Child Advocacy Center.

SafePath is a nonprofit organization which provides a neutral, warm, and child-friendly environment where doctors, counselors, and family members can work together to deal with cases of child abuse. The Cobb County facility is located at 736 Whitlock Avenue in Marietta, and is always in need of donations, volunteers, and fundraising opportunities. If you would like more information on SafePath, please contact them at 770-801-3465 or look them up on the web at www.safepath.org.



SAFETY VILLAGE NEWS



If you have not visited the Safety Village lately, you have missed an opportunity to see significant additions to the exterior landscape! There have been a number of new partnerships established which have resulted in the addition of several new outbuildings on the campus.

The generosity of our external partnerships and private sponsors have made it possible to expand the Safety Village footprint and the programs offered to citizens of Cobb County. We would like to recognize the following sponsors for their time, talents, and generosity- we hope we didn't forget anyone!

Advanced Disposal
 Atlanta Beat
 Butch Thompson Construction
 Cobb EMC
 Color Spot
 CW Matthews Construction
 Firehouse Subs
 Groover Fence
 Jordan Jones Goulding
 Lindsey Tippins Construction
 Metro Atlanta Ambulance
 Moreland Altobelli
 PBS & J
 Success For All Students
 Trail of Wheels Bicycles
 Wellstar Health System

Allstar Lighting
 Atlanta Road Body Shop
 CAT Recovery
 Colonial Pipeline
 Comcast
 Dan Evans, P.E.
 Georgia Power
 Integrity Fire Extinguishers
 Junior League
 Lockheed Martin
 Mimms Enterprise
 NAPA Auto Parts
 Parsons-Jacobs Associates
 Smyrna Public Safety Foundation
 Turner Construction
 UPS Corporation

Arcadis
 Brown & Caldwell
 Cobb-Douglas Board of Health
 Cobb-Marietta Coliseum Authority
 Croy Engineering
 Deluxe Athletics
 Gaskins Survey
 Georgia Northeastern Railroad
 Kennesaw Police Department
 Marietta Kiwanis
 Mopdog
 Motorola-Diversified Electronics
 S.A. White
 Smallwood, Reynolds, Steward & Steward
 W.E. English Construction

Pictured at right: Chief Sam Heaton participates in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Metro Atlanta Ambulance pavilion at the Safety Village with County Manager David Hankerson, Cobb Commissioners Helen Goreham and JoAnne Birrell, Metro Atlanta Ambulance President-CEO Pete Quinones, and Commission Chairman Tim Lee.



WELCOME PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR JACK FORSYTHE

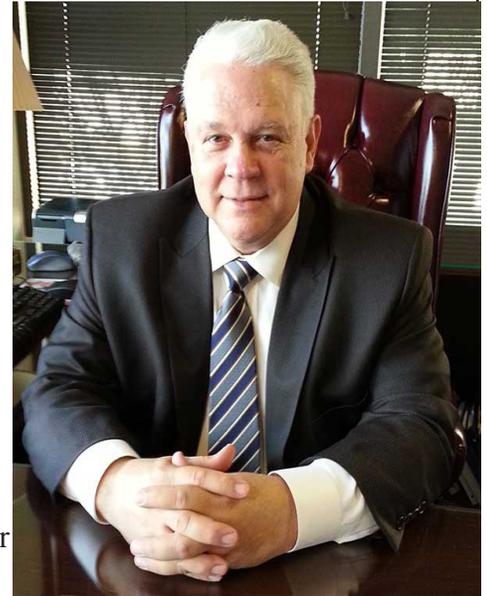
In January, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager announced the appointment of Jack Forsythe as the new Director of Public Safety. Mr. Forsythe will oversee Police, Fire & Emergency Services, 911, and Animal Control. He comes to Cobb with over 30 years of experience in public safety, at both the local and federal levels as well as the private sector.

Born in Washington D.C., Director Forsythe grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland where he became a police officer, working his way up the ranks and retiring as a Major after 27 years of service. During his career there, he was appointed Director of Public Safety Communications, and was responsible for integrating three separate public safety organizations into one stand-alone agency. This move resulted in a cost savings of several million dollars.

From 2003 until 2011, Mr. Forsythe was responsible for public safety functions for NASA, serving his last three years as Head of the Protective Services Organization. In that position, he was responsible for the public safety functions at 14 centers in the U.S. and over 1,000 sworn officers and 100 federal agents.

His career has also included time at FEMA and the FCC. Before moving to Cobb, Director Forsythe was self-employed as a public safety consultant.

Director Forsythe holds a Master's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science from The Johns Hopkins University Executive Police Leadership Program in Baltimore, and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Maryland in Management Studies. He is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He and his wife Susan have one son.



COBB FIRE WINS THE 2012 HEALTHIEST LOSER CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the CCFES "It Takes A Village" Team for their victory in the 2012 Cobb County Government *Healthiest Loser Challenge*. The team from the Cobb County Safety Village swept the cash award for not only the entire team (\$1,000), but Scott Dodson and Melissa Crider took home \$500 each for the individual weight loss awards! Their fellow teammates were: Todd Redman, Dennis Rucker, Mark Casteel, and Lisa Gaddist-Brown.

Scott, Melissa, and the entire team were all recognized with a proclamation from the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and County Manager David Hankerson at the December 11 Commission meeting.



The eight- week Challenge took shape this past fall with the Cobb County Wellness Committee issuing a challenge to all employees to focus on their individual physical health and general well-being. With the assistance of Kaiser Permanente, lunch and learn sessions were held, with scales and pedometers issued to each team. Weekly weigh-ins were conducted with those results sent to the Committee by each Team Captain.

As the overall male and female winners, Scott lost a total of 48.3 pounds, and Melissa lost 34.6 pounds. Both competitive by nature, they liked the encouragement and accountability of the team concept. In addition to the weight loss, they both also lowered their overall cholesterol.

Congratulations to "It Takes A Village" and all who participated!

NEW FACES AT COBB FIRE

Cobb Fire welcomed three new employees this past fall. The Fire Marshal's Office selected ***Carla Millwood*** to fill the open Administrative Specialist II position in September. Carla comes to CCFES after serving over three years as a Detention Specialist with the Cobb County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that position, she worked as a Parole Investigator for the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and a secretary with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Debbie Baker also came on board with CCFES in September, and is assigned to the Safety Village as an Administrative Specialist I. Debbie has 14 years of receptionist experience, having a long tenure with various King County government agencies in Seattle, Washington.

William "Billy" Caldwell may be a familiar face to many in Cobb County; he is an 18-year veteran with Cobb Police. Billy was selected in October to fill the Fire Investigator Technician position. He has vast experience in law enforcement, working his way up the CCPD ranks from the Uniform Division to the Crimes Against Persons as a Homicide Detective. He was also a member of the Cobb SWAT Team, and a Field Training Officer.



Pictured Left to Right:

Carla Millwood

Debbie Baker

Billy Caldwell

HELPING ANOTHER DEPARTMENT IN NEED

On February 6, Cobb Fire turned over Reserve Engine 34 to representatives of the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund to be donated to the West Hamilton Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Having an ongoing partnership with the Fund, Cobb Fire was contacted in December by the Fund regarding the dire need of multiple fire departments in the Northeast that were devastated during Hurricane Sandy in October. Located in the Borough of Queens, New York, the West Hamilton Beach Volunteer Fire Department is a 25-member agency that lost their station, engine, and all equipment in the superstorm.

With unanimous approval of the County Manager and Board of Commissioners, CCFES proudly came to the rescue and donated the 1992 Pierce Arrow, already slated for an upcoming surplus auction. To date, the Roswell Fire Department is one other local agency which has donated an engine to another volunteer department in the same area of Queens.

The Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund was established in memory of Terry Farrell, a decorated member of Rescue 4 / FDNY and Chief of the Dix Hills Volunteer Fire Department who perished with 342 of his fellow firefighters on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center attack. The Fund, operated by firefighters and friends who donate their time (including a group from CCFES), exists to support the firefighters and their departments that serve their communities.

Pictured at right turning over Engine 34 and the title are: County Manager David Hankerson, Chief Sam Heaton, Sean Gray and Kevin Lewis (representing the Fund), Commission Chairman Tim Lee, Commissioner Bob Ott, and Public Safety Director Jack Forsythe.



.....A FEW LAST WORDS.....

Just a few last-minute items that came in at press time:

Cobb Fire wishes to welcome two more newcomers to its ranks. Information Services has assigned Tom Ford to CCFES as Client Support Analyst II. After nearly 13 years as the computer support designee for the court system and police department, Tom has now been moved to Fire Headquarters to replace recently retired Tony Thompson.

Before coming to Cobb County, Tom worked as a network administrator for a computer software development company. He has been married for 20 years, and has one daughter who will be graduating high school this year and heading off to the University of Georgia. Please welcome Tom if you see him at the stations or at Headquarters!

In December, Scott Jennings joined the crew at CCFES Apparatus Maintenance. Raised in Cobb County, Scott graduated from Osborne High School and now resides in Paulding County. He has worked extensively in the apparatus industry since 1999. Scott recently became engaged to be married, and enjoys dirt track racing in his spare time.

In other news: Captain Chris Sobieski is moving from Station 19 B-Shift to become the Fire Liaison to the Director of Public Safety, effective March 3. This move will not only enhance the communication flow between Fire and DPS, but also provide Director Forsythe with a subject matter expert on many areas of Fire, Emergency Medical, and other related disciplines. The field vacancy will be filled with the transfer of Captain Chuck Baird from Training. Future plans may include refilling the Captain's position back at Training.



Tom Ford



Scott Jennings

RANDOM IMAGES FROM RECENT EVENTS:



*LEFT:
George Lehner is
congratulated by retired
Battalion Chiefs Gary Jolly
and Bill Duffy at George's
retirement reception on
December 31.*

*Wayman Jordan, Jr.
receives his Battalion
Chief's helmet from
Fire Chief Sam Heaton
on February 17.*

