

Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2007

Welcome

This is the first issue of the *Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter*, a new quarterly publication for personnel, retirees, and citizens. See page four for editorial and contact information.

Retiree Day Well-Attended

The Raleigh Fire Department's first Retiree and Media Day on May 19 was a great success. The half-day event at the Keeter Training Center was attended by over 100 retirees, retiree widows, and family members. Shuttled from an off-site parking location, they were treated to lunch and fellowship, and given photo ID cards created on scene. Apparatus and equipment was displayed on both the upper drill pad and the lower parking lot. The drill tower was open, as was the new Field Communications Unit.

Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) equipment was displayed, and two pieces of antique apparatus were present. Wake County EMS also participated and showed their new Major Operations Unit. A barbecue lunch was served in the downstairs classroom. The upstairs classroom fea-

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New Rescue Units

Two 2007 Pierce Enforcer rescue units have been placed in service as Rescue 14 and Rescue 19. They also mark the end of 53 years of ambulance-body rescue units in the Raleigh Fire Department.



Each is equipped with a 9000-pound winch that can be mounted off the front, rear, or either side. Two hydraulic reels are located in the rear compartment. The driver's side rear compartment has air and electrical reels, and a Night-Scan remote-controlled light tower is mounted on the roof. Photos of the new trucks are available at www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos. ❖

Station 28 Dedicated

The Raleigh Fire Department's newest facility at 3500 Forestville Road was dedicated on June 4 at 2:00 p.m. Raleigh Fire Chief **John McGrath**, Raleigh Mayor **Charles Meeker**, Raleigh City Manager **Russell Allen**, and other officials pushed the engine into its quarters as part of the ceremonies.

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tured a history room with posters, slideshows, and even old color movies. Photos of the event from Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros are available at www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos. ❖



Golf Tournament Raises Big Bucks

The first annual Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament in Raleigh raised approximately \$17,000. The June 14 event was conducted at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. The 140 players included sponsors, area public safety personnel, and active and retired Raleigh Fire Department members. The all-day event also featured a putting contest and concluded with an awards ceremony. Prizes included a Callaway Driver, free golf rounds, restaurant gift cards, and first-through third-place plaques in each flight.

Over two dozen volunteers assisted leading up to the event, and fifteen were present the day of the event. The family of fallen Eastern Wake firefighter Todd

Blanchard also participated. Next year's tournament is scheduled for June 12, 2008. For more information see www.fallenfirefightergolf.info, or contact Division Chief Rusty Styons (rusty.styons@ci.raleigh.nc.us, 919-233-2136). Photos are available at www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos. ❖



Charleston Memorial Service

Captains **Kevin Coppage**, **Lloyd Johnson**, **Mitch Johnson**, and **Stephen Page** attended the June 22 memorial service for the fallen Charleston firefighters. They took two city vehicles and attended several functions over three days. Several off-duty members also attended the Friday service. The Raleigh Fire Department extends its deepest sympathies and support to both the families of the fallen firefighters and the members of the Charleston Fire Department. ❖

Change of Command

Pursuant with the Raleigh Fire Department's commitment to leadership growth, the following command changes took effect on July 2:

Assistant Chief **Larry Stanford** assumed command of Training.

Assistant Chief **Tommie Styons** assumed command of Fire Prevention.

Assistant Chief **Bryant Woodall** assumed command of Services.

Assistant Chief **Phil Woodlief** assumed command of Operations. ❖

Staff Additions

Ronald Campbell, Fire Inspector/Educator, 6/18/07.

Full-Time Fire Investigators and Other Budget Notes

The approved 2008 fiscal year city budget includes funding for three full-time fire investigators. This vital addition to the fire department's services will enhance the city's ability to combat the threat of arson. Fire investigations are presently conducted by six engine company personnel, two per shift. The new full-time investigators will work a 24-hour shift each day, be dispatched directly to fires, and work under the supervision of the Fire Marshall.

Also approved in the budget year are five mobile data terminals for line chief officers. This equipment will help Battalion and Division Chiefs access property data such as building layouts, contact and occupancy information, and hazardous-materials storage.

Not approved in the budget was an eighth ladder company, another mechanic, aides for Battalion Chiefs, and funding for Station 29. ❖

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD
August 14, 7:30 a.m.
Second Tuesday of every month.

2007 NC STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION / NC ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WINSTON-SALEM
August 23-25
More information at www.ncsfa.com.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD
SEPTEMBER 11, 7:30 A.M.
Second Tuesday of every month.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD
OCTOBER 9, 7:30 A.M.
Second Tuesday of every month.

RETIREE CHRISTMAS PARTY

WAKE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB, 6015 LEAD MINE ROAD
December 4, 6:00 p.m.
Contact Charles A. Lloyd, 919-570-0909.

The three-bay, nearly 10,000-square foot fire station houses a single engine company. The fire department's fleet of antique apparatus has also been relocated to the facility and includes a 1905 American La-France horse-drawn steamer, a 1926 American La-France pumper, and a 1950 Mack pumper.



For pictures of the new station and the dedication ceremony, see www.legeros.com/rawake/photos. ❖

Recent Incidents

The largest haz-mat response of the year took place on June 28 at an industrial plant at 8801 Capital Boulevard. Approximately 15,000 gallons of sulfuric acid were released at about 7:30 a.m. The spill was contained primarily to a concrete containment area. Due to the potential for rain, which could have caused a vapor cloud if introduced into the spill, an approximate half-mile evacuation was implemented. Clean-up lasted about 11 hours. Raleigh Fire Department personnel, including several recalled haz-mat team members, were on scene through the evening. ❖

Back in the Day

In **May 1982**, the Keeter Training Center at 105 West Hoke Street opened. The \$446,068.69 building was dedicated for former Fire Chief and former Mayor Pro Tem Jack B. Keeter. In **July 1957**, the department's second FWD pumper was placed in service as Engine 4. The first was delivered in 1950. In **August 1932**, construction was completed on Memorial Auditorium. A new Station 2 was located in the rear basement. In **June 1907**, Fire Chief Frank B. Simpson was appointed to lead the volunteer Raleigh Fire Department. ❖

RETIREMENTS

Nancy J. Parker, Fire Inspector/Educator, 3/1/07, 27 years

Charles B. Scarboro, Jr., Captain, 3/1/07, 23 years

Basil Vassilion, Captain, 4/1/07, 26 years

Thomas H. Matthews, Captain, 5/1/07, 23 years

Horace L. Tant, Captain, 5/1/07, 28 years

Chester L. Sampson, Captain/Fire Inspector, 6/1/07, 25 years

RETIREE NEWS

As noted in the Calendar of Events, the monthly retiree breakfast is held on the second Tuesday of the month at Pam's Farmhouse Restaurant at 5111 Western Boulevard. Breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m., and early coffee drinkers arrive by 7:00 a.m. All retired and active firefighters are welcome to attend.

C.A. Lloyd – Chairman

Dennis Hughes – Co-Chairman

Alonzo Moore – Secretary/Treasurer

B.T. Fowler – Chaplain

Raleigh Fire Department
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Join the Fire Department

Applications for firefighters are being accepted from June 28 to July 25, 2007. The next 26-week Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy is expected to start in early January 2008. To learn more about becoming a Raleigh firefighter, see the new RFD recruitment web site. It is linked from www.raleigh-nc.org/fire. Click the **Join RFD** button. ❖

About this Newsletter

The Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter is a quarterly publication for personnel, retirees, and citizens. This issue was produced by Mike Legeros, RFD Historian. You can reach him at mikey@legeros.com or 919-786-0110. Comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome. Photos are by Legeros and Lee Wilson, RFD Photo Unit.

For more information about the Raleigh Fire Department, visit www.raleigh-nc.org/fire. To learn about the history of the Raleigh Fire Department, visit www.legeros.com/history. ■

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