



# Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2013

## Recruit Academy Starting



*Applicants practice for the physical agility test on October 13, 2012.*

Twenty-seven firefighter recruits will report for duty at the Keeter Training Center on January 31, 2013. During their twenty-six week academy, they'll receive state certifications as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials Operations.

They'll also receive training on technical rescue, fire-ground procedures, high-rise operations, rapid intervention teams (RIT), accountability systems, safety compa-

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## Two Alarms at Hibernian Pub



Two alarms were struck at a popular Glenwood South restaurant on Wednesday, December 26. Dispatched at 10:21 a.m., arriving units found smoke showing from the roof and the eaves of the one-story structure.

Crews entered with hand lines, while other firefighters carried their saws to the roof to begin ventilation. They also worked to protect the exposures, a two-story office building behind the pub.



As structural conditions worsened, the firefighters were withdrawn and defensive operations were started. Three aerial streams, a deluge gun, and portable monitors poured water into the building.

The fire was controlled about an hour later. The adjacent office building suffered only smoke damage. Units remained on scene through the afternoon and evening. See more photos at [www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org](http://www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org). ■

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nies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival.

Hiring for Recruit Academy 38 started in the fall. There were nearly 1,000 applicants, of which 320 completed and passed the physical agility and written testing in October. Eighty-five candidates were interviewed in December.

Captains Kevin Coppage, Wayne Motley, and Lowell Smith; Lt. Frankie Beasley, and Senior Firefighter Chris Holcomb have been assigned to the training center, to assist with the academy. The twenty-seven recruits will graduate in the first part of August. ❖

## Recruit Academy Numbering



Academy 3 graduation on December 8, 1978.

When was the first recruit academy? And how did the numbering start? Let's answer the second question first. In 2006, Historian Mike Legeros conducted research on earlier fire academies.

Through a combination of records and oral histories, he compiled the details and rosters of academies going back to 1978.

"That was, we thought, the first year that recruits were required to become certified as EMTs," notes Legeros. "So that seemed a good starting point for numbering the academies."



Academy 13 at Governor's Mansion, 1989.

Asst. Chief of Training Tommie Ann Styons reviewed the research, and agreed with the numbering convention that Legeros proposed. The first group of firefight-

ers hired on February 1, 1978, and who graduated on April 11, were retroactively named Recruit Academy 1.

"Since the time of that research, I've learned a few more things. The eight recruits hired on April 4, 1977, also had EMT training. It was a last-minute addition to their training," he adds.

"And there were prior groups of new firefighters hired in large enough numbers that they also warrant being labeled a 'class'. Eight members hired in November 1976, for example. And twenty-four firefighters hired in June 1974.



Academy 26 in 2000.

How will recruit classes before 1978 be retroactively numbered?

Legeros has an idea. "At some time in the future, we'll resume the research. And maybe we'll work backwards, using letters. The 1977 class might be Recruit Academy A. The one before that might be Academy B."

To answer the original question, when was the very first recruit academy? To be determined. ■

## Recruit Academies

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 - 1978 #1 | 14 - 1990    | 27 - 2001    |
| 2 - 1978 #2 | 15 - 1991    | 28 - 2002 #1 |
| 3 - 1978 #3 | 16 - 1992    | 29 - 2002 #2 |
| 4 - 1979    | 17 - 1993    | 30 - 2004 #1 |
| 5 - 1980    | 18 - 1994    | 31 - 2004 #2 |
| 6 - 1981    | 19 - 1996    | 32 - 2005    |
| 7 - 1982 #1 | 20 - 1997 #1 | 33 - 2006    |
| 8 - 1982 #2 | 21 - 1997 #2 | 34 - 2008    |
| 9 - 1983    | 22 - 1998    | 35 - 2008    |
| 10 - 1985   | 23 - 1999    | 36 - 2010    |
| 11 - 1986   | 24 - 2000 #1 | 37 - 2012    |
| 12 - 1988   | 25 - 2000 #2 | 38 - 2013    |
| 13 - 1989   | 26 - 2000 #3 |              |

## Operations News

One of the largest transfers in the fire department's history was made in December and January, in preparation for the creation of the heavy rescue and squad companies. A total of 148 personnel were moved.

Effective at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5, the following changes will be made to apparatus and units:

- Rescue 1 moved to Station 21, placed in service as a five-person rescue company.
- Engine 14 renamed Squad 14.
- Engine 15 renamed Squad 15.
- Battalion 5 placed in service at Station 9.

## Heavy Rescue Company

The consolidation of the three two-man rescue units will begin on Thursday, January 31. Rescue 2 (at Station 7) and Rescue 3 (at Station 14) will be removed from service. Rescue 1 will be moved to Station 21 and continue operating a 2007 Pierce Lance rescue truck. The apparatus has been modified with additional rear seating.

## Squad Companies

Squad 14 and Squad 15 will be equipped as rescue engines, with special-trained personnel and equipment for technical rescues. They're operating 2004 American LaFrance Eagle pumpers. They'll receive custom-designed Pierce rescue pumpers later this year.

## Response Changes

Among the response changes effective February 5 at 8:00 a.m., is the division of the city into thirds for single-family dwelling structure fires. Either Rescue 1 or a squad will be dispatched.

For multi-family, commercial, and high-rise structure fires, both Rescue 1 and a squad will be dispatched. At high-rise fires, the squad company will operate as an engine unless directed otherwise by command.

Vehicle accidents with a pin-in will receive Rescue 1 plus the closet squad, as well as an engine and a ladder. For overturned vehicles with injuries, only an engine and ladder will be dispatched.

Squads will be added as part of the standard response to such call types as MVA bus/train and water rescue. Two squads will be dispatched for confined space and high-level rescue calls.

## Fifth Battalion

Battalion 5 will supervise personnel at five fire stations in the center of the city: Stations 4, 6, 9, 11, and 16.

"Adding a fifth battalion chief on each platoon improves our span of command and control," notes Asst. Chief of Operations Danny Poole. "It also ensures the availability of a chief officer when there are multiple working fires."

As part of the changes, Battalion 1 will be later moved from Station 15 to Station 19. Construction starts on their new office space on February 1.

The reorganization of the battalions is the first since 2004, when a fourth battalion was created. The third battalion was created in 1977. The original two-battalion system was created in 1971, when the position was named District Chief. ❖

Battalion	Location	Stations
One	Station 15	15, 19, 22, 25, 27, 28
Two	Station 12	3, 7, 10, 12, 21, 26
Three	Station 8	1, 2, 5, 8, 14, 20
Four	Station 23	17, 18, 23, 24, 29
Five	Station 9	4, 6, 9, 11, 16

## Planning News

The architect has been named for the Station 12 replacement project. Stewart-Cooper-Newell will design the new fire station, to be located at the corner of Poole Road and Bus Way. The property is already owned by the city. The facility is planned as a two-story station with five double-deep, drive-through bays and seventeen bedrooms to accommodate three companies (engine, ladder, rescue), a Battalion Chief, and a Division Chief.

Station 12 is currently located at 3409 Poole Road. The two-bay facility was built in 1973 and houses an engine company and a Battalion Chief. "The need for a considerably larger facility has been identified for some time," notes Staff Planner Adam Perry, "and to house an aerial ladder in that territory."

The fire department is also planning to replace Station 14 on Lake Boone Trail, with a similarly designed facility with four bays and twelve bedrooms. ■



## Asst. Chief Bert Richards Retires

On December 1, 2012, Asst. Chief of Services Samuel Albert "Bert" Richards retired with 30 years of service. He entered the department in November 1982, leaving a job at a cardboard box company on Atlantic Avenue.



He was hired alongside other veterans, including Marshall Baker, Jim Barnes, Kent Jackson, Glenn Jones, Tim Keeter, Mikkey Martin, Frank McLaurin, Mark Randall, and Robert Spence.

That year, the Keeter Training Center was completed, the last Mack pumpers were purchased, and the phone number 911 replaced 829-1911 county-wide.

Chief Richards was promoted to the rank of First Class Firefighter in 1982 and to Lieutenant in 1988. He first drove for Capt. Titus Brown at Station 4 on Wake Forest Road. He was promoted to Captain on Engine 11 in 1992, to the rank of Battalion Chief in 1999, and to the rank of Division Chief in 2008.



*Apartment fire on Edwards Mill Road, April 1, 2011.*

He remembers many major fires over the years, including Meserve Hall at Shaw University in 1991, Wakestone Gardens on Lassiter Mill Road in 1994, and Scramble Dog Inn on Western Boulevard in 1998.

But it was his appointment to Asst. Chief of Services in September 2010 that took

him away from the lights and sirens. "You miss the excitement of the call," he admits. "I miss it every day."

In Services, he learned about "the amount of effort it takes to run this department on a daily basis." He notes that for every item at a station, "someone had to research it, order it, receive it, pay for it, and deliver it. Five sets of eyes on everything, five different times."

His plans for retirement? He'll spend six months doing absolutely nothing. "We'll see how that goes. If I like it, I'll do six more months."

He'll also be flying his new plane. Chief Richards has been getting his pilot's license in recent months. "It's the hardest thing I have ever done," he admits.

He's almost done, with a night cross-country flight, two day cross-country flights, and ten more hours of solo practice before his check ride with the FAA examiner.

Chief Richards is also part-owner of a Piper Cherokee 180, a four-seat, low-wing plane bought in June in partnership with retired Capt. David Stell and retired Captain and Safety Officer Sammy McIntyre.



*Steamer crew at Station 28, June 6, 2012, left to right: Capt. Gary Amato, Lt. Pat Murphy, Chief Richards, Capt. Mike Ezzell.*

And what advice does Chief Richards pass along to the younger crowd? "Study. Get your education. It's going to become the new norm." He adds, "if you want to climb the ladder, learn about the business end of the fire service. We'll teach you the hands-on stuff." ❖

## History Book Production Finishes

Production is nearly complete on the Raleigh Fire Department Centennial History Book. Over 2,000 photos will be published, including portraits of all active members and every retiree, living or deceased. Each fire station was photographed, and each crew on each platoon submitted a group photo. The written history of the fire department was also expanded and updated. The order deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 8. Place your order at [www.RFD100.com](http://www.RFD100.com). Delivery is expected in March. ■



# Promotions & Appointments

## January 12

Promoted to Battalion Chief:

Capt. Robert L. Mitchell      Capt. Ian S. Toms  
Capt. Brian L. Sherrill

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Benjamin J. Averette      Lt. John D. Rehbock  
Lt. Douglas B. Campbell      Lt. Terrent D. Wiggins  
Lt. W. Preston Gaster      Lt. Alan W. Wortham  
Lt. Patrick T. Overton

Promoted to Lieutenant:

FF Leonard A. Epps      FF Mark W. Mitro  
FF Adam C. Ferguson

## December 1

Appointed to Assistant Chief of Services:

DC Garry G. Spain

Appointed to Division Chief:

BC Ronny D. Mizell

Promoted to Battalion Chief:

Capt. Donald L. Deyo

Promoted to Captain:

Lt. Randall C. Scott

Promoted to Lieutenant:

FF Michael J. Barnes      FF Maria A. Peterson  
FF Clinton H. Earp      FF David A. Stanton  
FF Joshua J. Ellis      FF Matthew D. Taylor

*Editor's note: We forgot to mention in the Spring 2012 issue that Travis Menges was promoted to Garage Supervisor on Jan. 14, 2012. Congratulations, Travis! We also missed the addition of G. Brian Dillard, a Fire Equipment Mechanic hired on February 20, 2012.*

## More Retirements

Senior Staff Support Specialist Denise M. Smith retired Jan. 1 with 32.2 years of service.



Captain Gary G. Amato retired Jan. 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Lt. Gregory C. Buxton retired Jan. 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Lt. Michael L. Hawkins retired Jan. 1 with 26.3 years of service.



Senior Firefighter Leroy McRae Jr. retired Jan. 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Lt. E. Timothy Beasley retired Dec. 1 with 30 years of service.

*Editor: Tim Beasley is the son of retired Capt. Ellis Beasley (1960 to 1990).*



Lt. Daren D. Nolan retired Dec. 1 with 19.8 years of service.



Lt. Joel T. Rieves retired Dec. 1 with 22.8 years of service.



## Deaths

Retired Capt. Wayne L. Burton, 64, died in Raleigh on Jan. 19. He retired in 2003 with 28.2 years of service.



Retired Capt. J. Ray Driver, 69, died in Raleigh on Jan. 18. He retired in 1995 with 29 years of service.



Retired Capt. Gardner C. Hodge, 82, died in Knightdale on Nov. 26, 2012. He retired in 1983 with 26.9 years of service.





## Photo Gallery



The annual retiree Christmas party was held at the Barbecue Lodge in Raleigh on Friday, Dec. 7.



On Nov. 29, the platoon Deputy Fire Marshal (Car 40) was moved to Station 16. The unit was relocated from Station 21 in preparation for relocating Rescue 1.



Battalion Chief Mike Hayes (B3-C) conducted an incident review at Station 8 on Dec. 15. These critiques, called a "hot wash," are performed at the station or sometimes on scene. They help personnel of all ranks learn from their experiences.



Ladder 2 operates at an apartment fire at 4608 Brockton Drive on Nov. 26. Engine 19 was first on scene with heavy fire in a rear apartment.



Engine 17-B and Ladder 3-B shared Thanksgiving dinner at Station 17 on Thursday, Nov. 22.



Raleigh Fire Explorer Post 108 held their annual banquet on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the training center. The event included a demonstration at the drill tower by the explorers, and a changing of the chief ceremony.

See more photos at [www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org](http://www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org).



## Scenes from the Fireman's Ball



The closing event of the Raleigh Fire Department's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year was an old-fashioned fireman's ball at the convention center on Saturday, November 17. A pre-reception on the second-floor lobby opened the evening.



Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums led a procession when the doors to the ballroom were opened at 7:00 p.m.



Retired Battalion Chief Alan Walters, who led the planning of the ball, opened the evening with remarks. The committee consisted of Walters, Battalion Chief Mike Hayes, and Capt. David Barefoot. They were assisted by Sr. Staff Support Specialist Ann Marie Cadman, Asst. Fire Marshal Tim Henshaw, and Mike Legeros.



A dessert bar opened after dinner. Music was played by a deejay, and a dance floor stayed crowded through the night.



Over 560 tickets were sold to the Raleigh Fireman's Ball. It was attended by spouses, family, friends, city officials, city employees, and other emergency services personnel.



Among the special guests were members of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. They recognized the Raleigh Fire Department's work in promoting safety after the 2009 tiller accident, and Fire Chief John McGrath for over a decade of service to the Foundation.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.  
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

### RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE  
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.



*HOUSE FIRE ON OLD DEER TRAIL ON NOV. 18, 2012.*

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## Hand Hose Reel Restored



The Raleigh Fire Museum unveiled a restored nineteenth century hand hose reel at the fireman's ball on November 17. The reel had been in storage, including in the basement of Station 8, for decades. This fall, the museum paid for the wheels to be repaired by Amish craftsmen in Pennsylvania. The reel was then restored by Captain Tim Duke, Captain Nick Murray, Senior Firefighter Phillip Rogers, First Class Firefighter C. W. Langston, and Junior Allen. They donated their time and materials. The reel is displayed at the fire museum. ■