



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2012

Captain Scott Nipper Killed



Captain Jonathan Scott Nipper, 43, was killed on Wednesday, Dec. 21, in a traffic accident in Granville County.

His daughter Gracie Nipper, 10, was airlifted to Duke Medical Center and underwent surgery for her injuries.

Capt. Nipper was assigned to Engine 13 at Station 1 on "B" platoon. He joined the Raleigh Fire Department on January 8, 1996.



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Two Alarms on Christmas Morning



Two alarms were struck at 2647 New Hope Church Road early Sunday morning, Dec. 25. New Hope Engine 1 arrived and found flames showing through the roof of two of the townhome building's seven units.



After crews completed interior searches, defensive operations were started. Ladder 2 and Ladder 5 flowed in front of the building, and Ladder 1 deployed in the rear. Master streams and hose lines were also used outside the structure.

The 2:19 a.m. fire was controlled at 3:30 a.m. Fifteen families were displaced. The cause is undetermined, but started outside and spread to the roof. It's also the site of two prior two-alarm fires, in 2006 and 2010.

See more photos at www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org ■

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A visitation followed by a funeral service was held at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh on Dec. 28. About 400 people attended, including hundreds of fire department members. Capt. Nipper was remembered in stories told by family as well as firefighters who worked with him at Station 1. He was buried at Raleigh Memorial Park.



Capt. Nipper is survived by his children, Cody and Gracie, and their mother, Amy Nipper. A scholarship fund for the children is being established through the North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union. ❖



Firefighters Rescue Two Children

Two children were rescued at an apartment fire at 1536 Raleigh Boulevard on December 14, 2011. Dispatched at 4:25 a.m., Engine 7 and Rescue 2 were first on scene with heavy smoke and fire showing from the end unit of a two-story brick building. They were met by several residents who told them that children were still inside.

Lt. Kevin Laxton, the acting officer on Engine 7-A, immediately shifted their actions from establishing a water supply to rescue. First Class Firefighter Ivon Johnson, the acting driver-operator, prepared for pumping.

With First Class Firefighter Josh Pender on the nozzle, they entered the first floor. Rescue 7-A members Lt.

Jason Ramsey and First Class Firefighter Preston Guidry were right behind them.



They quickly knocked down the heavy fire in the kitchen, where the stairs were located. After ascending to the second floor, the four firefighters began searching each of the three bedrooms.

The infant and young boy were both found in a back bedroom. They were brought outside and medical treatment was started. The infant was suffering from respiratory distress and was resuscitated.



Both were transported to WakeMed, and then to the Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals. Two adults also escaped. The cause of the fire was determined as accidental due to unattended cooking.

The children are expected to fully recover. Their mother looks forward to bringing them to Fire Station 7, to meet the firefighters who saved their lives.

"Making a rescue is something very few firefighters get a chance to do," says Capt. Robert Mitchell, who was acting Battalion Chief and incident commander. "We train and train for it, but fortunately don't have to do it very often. This was an example of what we train for."

"Engine 7 and Rescue 2 worked together to get two children from the second floor," Mitchell adds. "What a sight it was, seeing them coming out with the kids."

See more photos at www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org. ■

Celebrating Our Centennial



1912 - 2012



The Raleigh Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary as a career fire department this year. Several special events are planned, including a birthday celebration in June and a fireman's ball in November.

Battalion Chiefs Alan Walters and Frank McLaurin are overseeing all event planning. Assistant Chiefs Danny Poole and Peter Brock, Asst. Fire Marshal Tim Henshaw, Battalion Chief Rob Johnson, Captain David Barefoot and Lieutenants John Rehbock and Chris Barrows are serving as planning committee members.

Retiree History Day – April 10

To celebrate our centennial year, the annual retiree luncheon will be held at the Raleigh Fire Museum, located at the Keeter Training Center. The crew of Station 26 will again prepare chicken and rice. Please see page 7 for more information.

Birthday Celebration – June 16

The first major event is a birthday celebration on Saturday, June 16. Activities for the all-day event will include a parade down Fayetteville Street, an apparatus muster, firefighter games, and a kid's zone. Most activities will be centered in the parking lots in front of the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

Fayetteville Street Parade

The parade will start at 9:00 a.m. and will be open to any fire department or private apparatus owner. An emphasis will be placed on antique fire engines. Unique or specialized apparatus will also be sought.

Fire Apparatus Muster

After the parade, antique fire apparatus owners will be invited to participate in both static displays and pumping demonstrations. Pumping will start at 11:30 a.m.

Firefighter Competitions

A series of competitive games will start at 1:00 p.m., with participants invited from fire departments across the region. Teams will compete in timed events.

Kids Zone / Information Booths

A special area for children will open after the parade and continue all day. Activities are planned based on the history of the fire service, such as bucket brigades and hand-operated pumps.

Nearby information booths will contain displays and materials for all ages, including fire safety materials and historical information.

Fireman's Ball – November 17

The second major anniversary event is a formal ball at the Raleigh Convention Center. The main ballroom has been reserved for Saturday evening, Nov. 17, 2012. This is a private event for current and retired Raleigh Fire Department personnel.

Tickets will be pre-sold and a cash bar will be available. Rooms at the nearby Marriott Hotel are available at the special rate of \$89 a night. Ask for the Fireman's Ball rate. This event is still being planned and more information will be announced.

Special Programs at Museum, Station 28



The Raleigh Fire Department Historical Society is planning several special programs throughout the year, both at the Raleigh Fire Museum and at Fire Station 28 on Forestville Road, where the fire department's antique apparatus is stored.

Fundraisers and Other Projects



Challenge Coins will continue to be sold as a fundraiser for anniversary activity expenses. The \$10 coins can be purchased online at www.RFD100.com.

Anniversary rings are being designed. They will be sold by a vendor as direct transactions to purchasers.

Citation bars for dress uniforms, work shirts with special logos, and decals for apparatus are also being designed.

A commemorative yearbook is planned to begin production in early 2012. The volume will include coverage of centennial activities. Publication is expected in 2013. ■

Learn more at www.RFD100.com.

Asst. Chief Frank Warner Retires

On January 1, 2012, Fire Marshal and Asst. Chief Frank Warner retired with 28.1 years of service. He joined the fire department in 1983 after a career as a professional baseball player.



After graduating from Wake Forest University on a full scholarship, he was drafted as a pitcher by the San Diego Padres national ball club.

He played in the Carolinas for a couple of years, until developing arm trouble. Using his education degree, he taught middle school in Asheboro for a few months as he began applying to fire departments.

Chief Warner was hired in December 1983, along with such veterans as Mike Clayton, Phil Harrington, Tommy Matthews, Buddy Scarboro, and David Stell.

That year, the city had appointed its first outside Fire Chief, Thomas T. Kuster, and Fire Station 17 was preparing to open in March of the following year.

Chief Warner was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1988, to the rank of Captain in 1991, to the rank of Battalion Chief in 1997, and to the rank of Division Chief in 2006.

He was appointed Asst. Chief of Operations in 2010, and moved to the Office of the Fire Marshal last year.

Some of the big fires Chief Warner remembers include Stone School Supply in 1984, Gorman Crossings Apartments in 1993, and Pine Knoll Townes in 2007, where he served as Incident Commander.

"We were inside on Gorman Street," he recalls of the Gorman Crossings apartment fire, "and it suddenly started getting hot. My crew got out, but I had to bail out a window. I felt the heat on my back as I went down the ladder head first."



What lessons would he share with those coming up in the ranks, such as his son Firefighter Walt Warner? "Become fully involved in the fire service. Live it, breathe it. You'll be better prepared

for your career, you'll provide better service, and you'll enjoy yourself more." ■

More Retirements

Capt. William B. Dillard retired Jan. 1 with 29.8 years of service.



Capt. Joel V. Harwell retired Jan. 1 with 25.3 years of service.



Capt. W. Dennis Holland retired Dec. 1 with 28 years of service.



Capt. Timothy N. Pearce retired Jan. 1 with 28.1 years of service.



Lt. Timothy A. Keeter retired Jan. 1 with 29.1 years of service.



Lt. Billy Neal Perry Jr. retired Dec. 1 with 30.7 years of service.



Lt. Cliff Richardson retired Jan. 1 with 25.3 years of service.



Lt. Bobby E. Smith Jr. retired Jan. 1 with 28.1 years of service.



Lt. Donnie M. Wall retired Jan. 1 with 26.4 years of service.



Garage Supervisor Richard J. Spangler retired Jan. 1 with 34.9 years of service.



Promotions & Appointments

December 3

Promoted to Lieutenant:

Firefighter Joshua J. Ellis

Firefighter David A. Stanton

January 1

Promoted to Assistant Chief:

Division Chief Peter J. Brock

January 14:

Promoted to Division Chief:

Bat. Chief W. Keith Tessinear

Promoted to Battalion Chief:

Capt. J. Allen Wilson

Promoted to Captain are Lieutenants:

Dennis C. Marshall

Jeffrey L. Harrison

Anthony J. Cantin

Sherrill I. Johnson

Kevin J. Ellsworth

Dwayne D. Whitaker

Promoted to Lieutenant are Firefighters:

Nicholas J. Rhodes

Charles E. Smith

Eric L. Ferguson

William R. Stricker

Gregory R. Monroe

Michelle L. Whitaker

Jonathan E. Morris

Donald R. Williams

Russell C. Scott

New Personnel

Hired on December 30 as Probationary Firefighters:

Alex A. Artze

Lewis D. Lovell

Charles L. Baker III

Donald E. Macon III

Donnie L. Brown II

Adam B. Marshburn

Grady P. Collins

Julio M. Mercado

Evan D. D'Meza

Joe N. Montague Jr.

Eric A. Godwin

Christopher M. Morales

Henry J. Grady III

Cassie L. Neugent

William J. Haliko

David B. Parsons-Foresi

Kempton L. Healey

Kasey Y. Randleman

Elijah E. Johnson

Sean P. Scanlon

Zachary N. Kahan

Jonathan Seagroves

Nicholas J. Lamotta

Andre J. Somme'

Sean O. Lavender

Aaron G. Stevens

Jason W. Lee

Harrison J. Todd

Marc A. Lockley

Response Changes to Fire Calls

With last year's adoption of the Fire Priority Dispatch System by the Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center, the fire department has gained the ability to more precisely control which units and companies are dispatched to certain call types. Effective Dec. 16, the following responses were changed:

Multi-Residential (Apartment, Condo, Townhome), Commercial, and Industrial Structure Fires – Two ladders are initially dispatched, replacing a single ladder company.

Structure Fires (Except High Rise)

– The fourth engine company—which functions as the Safety Company—is now initially dispatched, instead of as part of the working fire dispatch.



High-Rise Structure Fires – Ladder companies will be dispatched only on the first two alarms, for a total of four ladders. No ladders will be dispatched on third, fourth, or fifth alarms.

Structure Fire involving Hazardous Materials – One haz-mat company has been added to the standard structure fire response, which is based on building type.

Woods/Grass/Brush Fire Greater Than One Acre – Two engines, one mini pumper, and one Battalion Chief will be dispatched. Fires smaller than one acre will continue to receive one engine.

Vehicle Accidents with Confirmed Pinned Subjects

– One Battalion Chief has been added to the response. The response to overturned vehicles will remain one engine, one ladder, and one rescue.

Elevator Rescue – One ladder has been added to the response of one engine and one rescue.

Full Haz-Mat Response or Full USAR Response

– One Battalion Chief and One Division Chief replaces the prior response of two Battalion Chiefs.



Photo Gallery



The retirement of Garage Supervisor Richard Spangler was celebrated on Dec. 14 at the Support Services Center. He retired with 34.9 years of service.



Engine 14 assisted Carolina Air Care on Dec. 1. Tar Heel 2 landed at the state fairgrounds and the patient was transferred to nearby Rex Hospital.



Engine 4 and Ladder 1 prepared turkey, potatoes, and other fixings for Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 24.



The fire department Honor Guard and Engine 13 participated in the Raleigh Christmas parade in downtown Raleigh on Nov. 19.



Two alarms were struck on 1720 Canterbury Road on Nov. 16. Engine 6 was first on scene.



The annual retiree Christmas party was held at the Wake County Shrine Club on Saturday, Dec. 10. See more photos at www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org.

Recruit Academy Starts



Recruit Academy 37 started at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30. Twenty-nine future firefighters reported for duty at the Keeter Training Center.

The academy is 28 weeks long and the recruits will graduate on July 27 with 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 companies, engine and ladder company operations, and firefighter safety and survival.

See more photos at www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org. ❖

Where Are They Now?

Capt. **Wilbur Beasley** (ret. 1992) lives in Raleigh, has traveled some, but is lately staying at home due to health issues.

Firefighter **Richard Blalock** (ret. 1996) is enjoying "beach life" in Carolina Beach.

Capt. **Wayne Burton** (ret. 2003) lives in Garner and is a real estate broker.

Capt. **Homer Daniel** (ret. 1999) and his wife still live on the Daniel Farm on Highway 98 just a few miles east of Wake Forest. They have enjoyed taking cruises, and are really enjoying their grandchildren.

Lt. **Creighton Edwards** (ret. 1991) lives in Rolesville when he and his wife are not on the road. They spend January through March in south Florida, and June through September near Seven Devils, NC.

Firefighter **Phyllis Forte** (ret. 1988) is Pastor, and her

husband Lt. **Leotha Forte** (ret. 1989) is Associate Minister at Snow Hill Church of Christ in Wade, NC.

Lt. **Jimmy Franks** (ret. 2005) lives in Garner, works part-time for Garner Fire-Rescue, farms soybeans, and mows grass in the summer.

Asst. Chief **James Owens** (ret. 1990) is still in Raleigh, where he's lived for 40 years. Since injuries in a car accident, he's not able to travel extensively. He has a great grandson and spends a lot of time with him, his family, his friends, and his church.

Bat. Chief **Pat Pickard** (ret. 2008) is living in Wendell and working part-time for Raleigh Parks and Recreation.

Capt. **Jim Parker** (ret. 2001) and Fire Educator **Jan Parker** (ret. 2007) still live on the farm outside Wendell. Jim is the contact for RPFPA alumni if they have questions or concerns.

Lt. **Thomas Rich** (ret. 1991) lives in Garner. When he's not active with his lodge or the Amran Shriners, he's either at home or on road trips.

Where are you now? Please send your information to contact@RALEIGHFIREHISTORY.org to be featured in a future newsletter issue. ❖

RETIREE HISTORY DAY ON APRIL 10TH

To celebrate centennial year, the annual retiree luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at the Raleigh Fire Museum, located at the training center. The crew of Station 26 will again prepare chicken and rice.

- Portraits will be taken for the 2012 anniversary yearbook.
- The fire museum will be open. Retirees can bring artifacts for donation, or photos to have copied while they're there.
- Commemorative challenge coins will be available for sale.

Please save the date. More information is forthcoming. The luncheon will return to Station 26 next year. ■

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WINTER PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 222 W. HARGETT STREET

THURSDAY, JAN. 26

7:00 P.M.

RECEPTION FOLLOWS AT FIRE STATION 1

RETIREE HISTORY DAY

KEETER TRAINING CENTER, 105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE

TUESDAY, APR 10

12:00 P.M.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.

SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (C.A. LLOYD ORGANIZER)

FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (G. M. DAVIS ORGANIZER)

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT MUSEUM

105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE

SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT www.RALEIGHFIRENEWS.org. TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT www.raleigh-nc.org/fire.

New Live Fire Simulator



This 40-foot, mobile, live-fire, multi-training system was delivered in December to the Keeter Training Center. Instructors will be trained in the coming weeks. The system is equipped for live fire training as well as ventilation, forcible entry, standpipe, sprinkler, confined space, firefighter survival, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) skill stations.

The city received \$146,000 in federal funds for the purchase, awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as part of its Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The city matched \$29,500 for a total project cost of \$175,500. ■