



## Chief's Corner

### Always "On Duty"

Greetings all and welcome to the September edition of the Chief's Corner. I hope you are enjoying the remainder of the summer and this great weather we have been having over the last several weeks. Soon the leaves will start to turn and Fall is just around the corner. I know I am ready for some football and I hope your favorite team has a good season.

This month I want to talk about a subject we can all identify with: it is the "fact" that as Fire Department members, we are always "on duty" in the public's eye. Let's discuss it and I hope you will see what I mean.

As most of you know, the Fire Department is held in high regard by the general public and the citizens of Lynchburg. We always rate well on any survey and receive a great deal of support for our special projects. I believe this is due to the excellent service we provide and our involvement in the community. However, along with this high regard comes high expectations and we must be constantly aware of how we are perceived by our citizens. One of the consequences of this is the perception by the public, that we are always "on duty." It does not matter if we are at work or not, if we are recognized as a member of the Fire Department then we will be held to the "higher standard."

When we identify ourselves with the department in any way then the expectation will be there. When we are out in the public with a Local shirt on or wearing LFD apparel, the public "sees" us as members of the department and treats us as if we are working. When we put license plates on our vehicles that identify us as Lynchburg Fire Department employees then we must expect our actions to be scrutinized. Let me cite a recent example.

Several weeks ago I received a telephone call from a citizen who was irate because he was at a local grocery store and a member of our department was parked in the fire lane, in their personal vehicle. The vehicle had professional firefighter tags on it that identified them as a member of the Lynchburg Fire Department. It did not matter to the citizen that this LFD member was off-duty, he only saw a fire department member acting in what he thought was an inappropriate manner.

Upon further investigation, I determined that the fire department member was actually sitting in the vehicle waiting for their spouse and did not leave the vehicle unattended. Once their spouse emerged from the store they left the fire lane and the area. When I called the citizen back to explain the situation, it didn't matter. They only saw a LFD employee acting in what

they felt was an inappropriate manner. The citizen didn't care if the employee was on-duty or not. This same situation applies to our family members. When our wives or husbands drive our personal vehicles with LFD plates or wear t-shirts identifying them as members of the department, people expect them to act in a professional manner. It does not matter if they actually work for the department or not, the expectation is there.

Now, I am not saying that this is fair and that we should be "judged" by our actions when we are away from work. However, it is what happens. When you are identified as a member of this department, your actions will be judged by the public, whether they are good or bad. Let me give you another example.

Several years ago there was a retired firefighter who got into some trouble and was charged with a crime. When the original story was published in the newspaper the headlines read: "retired firefighter charged with xyz." The story went on to give the details of the situation and explain the charges, but it referred several times to the fact that the accused was a retired City of Lynchburg firefighter. The fact that the individual involved was retired from LFD had nothing to do with anything; however, the media played up this aspect. Its just another incident where your association with the department is considered relevant by the public.

So, what's the take-away from all of this? When you belong to the Fire Department, your actions, whether they be good or bad, will be judged by the public and they will reflect on both. Remember this when you are getting ready to do something that might be considered "questionable" by others and act accordingly. It does not matter if you are on duty or not, you will be held responsible by the citizens we serve. Be forewarned, you are "always on-duty".

Well, that wraps it up for this month's Chief's Corner. I know this subject is a little touchy in some respects and I understand that, but, it's a fact of life and we need to be aware of how department members are perceived by the public.

Until next month, keep up the great work and stay on your toes. You never know who is watching. Take care and enjoy the remainder of the warm weather. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift."

Chief

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Chief's Corner
- Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service
- Upcoming Events
- Over The Edge
- 2016 Cancer Awareness Campaign
- Certifications
- Guns and Hoses
- Promotions
- After The Fire Program
- 60 Second Safety
- Congratulations
- Recruits Graduate
- Partners In Education



## Annual Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Service

The Annual Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Fireman's Fountain in Miller Park. This year, the wreaths will be placed by Retired Master Firefighter Charlie Cox and his son, current Firefighter Sean Riley.



This event is held annually to honor the 22 Lynchburg firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Also remembered are three members of area volunteer departments who died in the line of duty, two of which were also members of the Lynchburg Fire Department.

## Upcoming Events

### 9/11 Memorial Stairclimb

Date: September 11, 2016  
Time: Registration begins at 7:30 a.m./Event at 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Bank of the James Building

### Employee Tailgate Event

Date: September 16, 2016  
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Place: City Stadium

Enjoy hotdogs with fixings, chips, do it yourself s'mores kits, water, and lemonade! Wear your favorite team apparel!

### Annual Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Ceremony

Date: October 2, 2016  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Fireman's Fountain/Miller Park

### MDA Fill the Boot

The 2016 MDA Fill the Boot Campaign will take place from October 3-9, 2016. More details are forthcoming.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

Date: October 8-9, 2016  
Place: Emmitsburg, Maryland  
For details, visit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation website at <http://www.firehero.org/events/memorial-weekend>

## Over the Edge

By: Deputy Chief Greg Wormser



Over the Edge will be held at the Bank of the James Building on September 17. This event is a large fundraiser for HumanKind (formerly The Presbyterian Home) where participants raise money to "Go Over the Edge." Those raising \$1,000 or more are eligible to "over

the edge" at the Bank of the James Building rappelling down almost 20 stories!

Over the Edge has raised more than \$33 million worldwide with events like this one. Many local community leaders and public figures will be going "over the edge" and the Lynchburg Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team will provide support as part of our commitment to give back to the community.

If you would like to participate either by raising money or staff support the day of the event, please contact Deputy Chief Wormser or visit <http://www.humankind.org/over-the-edge/>

## 2016 Cancer Awareness Campaign

Once again, the Lynchburg Fire Department and the Fire Foundation are conducting a Cancer Awareness Campaign by selling specially designed t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts with all proceeds benefiting the Centra Foundation's Mammograms Annually A Must (MAAM) and the Alan B. Pearson Regional Cancer Center Patient Support Program.



Back design of shirt

MAAM is a volunteer group that helps fund and organize free mammography screening and diagnostic treatment in the community. The Patient Support Program was designed to provide financial assistance and ensure patients have access to support services and therapies. All contributions stay within Lynchburg and the surrounding community.

Pre-orders for the t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts began on September 1 and will continue through September 26. After pre-orders are filled, the shirts will be sold on a first-come basis while supplies last. To order, visit the Foundation's website at [www.lynchburgfirefoundation.org](http://www.lynchburgfirefoundation.org).

Lynchburg Fire Department members will wear the special edition shirts the week of October 9-15.

## Certifications

### NFPA – Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

Adam Morton

### NFA - Analytical Tools for Decision Making

### NFA - Applications of Community Risk Reduction

### NFA - Contemporary Training Concepts for Fire and EMS

### NFA - Transitional Safety Leadership

Matt Millner

## Guns and Hoses

By: Deputy Chief Greg Wormser

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Guns and Hoses game was held on August 14, 2016. This year the victory went to the Guns with a final score of Guns:17 — Hoses:14.

There was some great defense on the Fire Department side of the field, especially from our two rookie players Ashley Howard and Beau Kincaid, just not nearly enough offense to counter the swift bats at the police department.

Unfortunately, ticket sales were down this year with the total amount raised being \$1,275 for both the Muscular Dystrophy Association and The Special Olympics. We are looking forward to next year and ways to increase ticket sales.



## Promotions

Congratulations to the following department members, who were promoted effective September 7, 2016.



### Captains



Captain  
Nathan Chapman



Captain  
Scott Kelly



### Master Firefighters



Master Firefighter  
Zachary Foster



Master Firefighter  
Patrick Madigan



Master Firefighter  
Jamie Maxwell



Master Firefighter  
Joshua Phillips

## After The Fire Program

By: Jennifer Mayberry

The Lynchburg Fire Department is taking the Operation Smoke Alarm Program to a new level with the "After the Fire Program." The goal of Operation Smoke Alarm is to ensure that there are working smoke detectors in the homes of all Lynchburg City residents. This has previously been accomplished when the residents called the Fire Marshal's Office stating they are in need of smoke alarms or if the fire department responds to fire or medical calls and notice there aren't any smoke alarms in the residence. This concept is staying the same; however, we're taking it a step further.

It's "After The Fire" when citizens see the tragedy on the news or hear about it through other neighbors that they start calling Fire Administration requesting smoke alarms and asking questions about safety and prevention. Reality has hit home to them! That's where we as a fire department come in. After a structure fire has occurred, the available surrounding stations will go door to door for a two block radius around the incident site and talk to the residents about fire safety, prevention, and to ensure they have working smoke alarms. This relationship building and positive interaction will engage the public and provide valuable information after seeing the incident first hand.

Each fire station has been equipped with a tool box consisting of tools and smoke detectors to complete this project. Literature to distribute will be forthcoming soon. A huge thank you to The Fire Foundation and Lowes (Timberlake Road), for their donations of smoke alarms for this program.

## 60 Second Safety

### Improved Protection

By: Nathan Chapman, Health & Safety Officer

Of all of the protective elements worn as part of the firefighter's ensemble, the least appreciated is the protective hood. The hood covers the exposed areas of the head and neck that are not covered by the coat collar, SCBA face piece, or the helmet.

There have been advances, released this year, in the level of protection provided to include vapor and particulate barriers. There are several brands offering this level of protection and in an effort to choose the best available option, the Lynchburg Fire Department has been field testing the following brands: Majestic's Halo, Stansfield's Life liner, and Firedex's Interceptor.

These newly developed hoods will block approximately 92 percent more particulates than our current hoods. These hoods would offer us better protection from absorbing the harmful byproducts of combustion. These hoods are currently being tested on Rescue 1 and both truck companies. Feel free to ask questions about them! We will continue to seek ways to improve our PPE and strive for the next level of protection.

## Congratulations

- Congratulations to Greg and Janeil Pyton on the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Grace. She was born August 5<sup>th</sup> and weighed 9 lbs. 14 ozs.
- Congratulations Nathan and Leanna Sheppard on the birth of their son, Jacob Alexander. He was born August 14<sup>th</sup> and weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz.

## Recruits Graduate

By: Battalion Chief Jonathan Wright

Congratulations to Recruit Academy #15 members who graduated on August 23, 2016, at the Parks and Recreation Miller Center. Special thanks to all those members who provided assistance and instruction in Recruit Academy #15.

In keeping with tradition, the recruits were assigned an icon during recruit school, which they refurbished and presented to Chief Ferguson during their graduation ceremony. The icon, an "Out-of-Service Indicator Box," was a wooden box with lights utilized to track units prior to modern communications systems.

The Training Division staff congratulates our newest members and wishes them the very best for a safe and rewarding career with the department. Now having graduated the academy, the recruits received their new assignments as follows:

<b>Recruit</b>	<b>Station Assignment</b>
Thomas Rothwell	Station 1 — A Shift
Chaz Smith	Station 1 — B Shift
Brian Summers	Station 3 — B Shift
Brennen Lawson	Station 5 — Power Shift
Dylan Alvis	Station 6 — B Shift



**Recruit Academy #15**

(L-R): Dylan Alvis, Brennen Lawson, Thomas Rothwell, Chaz Smith, Brian Summers

## Partners In Education

The Fire Department has partnered with Lynchburg City Schools, local private schools, and various pre-schools in a collaborative effort to increase safety and preparedness of young people in our community, while building important relationships that can last for many years. To help achieve this, great effort has gone into pairing Lynchburg Fire Department fire stations/shifts with schools across the City.

Below is a list of the station/school pairings for the Partners In Education program.

STATION 1	STATION 2	STATION 3	STATION 4
A SHIFT Dunbar Middle	A SHIFT R.S. Payne Elementary	A SHIFT Perrymont Elementary	A SHIFT Randolph College Early Learning
B SHIFT Dunbar Middle	B SHIFT Bass Elementary	B SHIFT Sandusky Elementary	B SHIFT 1st Presbyterian Day School
C SHIFT Dunbar Middle	C SHIFT Carl B. Hutcherson Early Learning Center	C SHIFT Sandusky Middle	C SHIFT St. John's Day School
STATION 5	STATION 6	STATION 7	STATION 8
A SHIFT Paul Munro Elementary	A SHIFT Dearington Elementary	A SHIFT Linkhorne Elementary	A SHIFT Heritage Elementary
B SHIFT James River Day School	B SHIFT T. C. Miller Elementary	B SHIFT Laurel Regional School	B SHIFT Sheffield Elementary
C SHIFT Bedford Hills Elementary	C SHIFT E. C. Glass High	C SHIFT Linkhorne Middle	C SHIFT Heritage High

Deputy Chief Campbell met with representatives of the Partners in Education Program and outlined expectations for both the department and the school system.

The Fire Marshal's office is ready to assist in any way possible to make this partnership a success. Stations should contact Jennie Mayberry to obtain necessary supplies or materials.