



FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

For and About the Employees of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department



WFI Making the Rounds

Capt. Erika McManus officially launches the JFRD Wellness Fitness Initiative on May 1 with a biometric screening of Health and Safety Officer Capt. Tracy Hooten. McManus is a nurse practitioner and has a decade of clinical experience. The screenings will be conducted in the privacy of a modified rescue unit known as JFRD's "Wellness Unit."

When Capt. Tracy Hooten stepped into JFRD's "Wellness Unit," she helped launch a new era in the department's emphasis on health and wellness.

It was coincidental, yet appropriate, that JFRD's Health and Safety Officer was the first member to participate in the department's new Wellness Fitness Initiative (WFI) which began May 1. The program, which is endorsed by the IAFF, is administering annual spirometry testing and offering elective biometric screenings and elective physical fitness evaluations at every fire station.

The Wellness Unit, a modified rescue unit stocked with equipment and supplies to provide a variety of health screenings, is traveling to each station. The JFRD personnel staffing it will eventually offer JFRD members diagnostics comparable to LifeScan. The endeavor will make health screenings more convenient for field personnel.

For Division Chief of Training Gail Loput, the program's debut at Fire Station 30 was a proud moment.

"We've been talking about this for

Chief's Corner

When I first saw Capt. Davis Love, I didn't know who he was, and I wasn't even on the job yet.

He was riding Engine 30, headed to a call, and I spotted him in traffic for a second or two. What impressed me that day was the determination written all over Capt. Love's face. His expression sealed my decision to enter the fire service.

As I write my last column for this newsletter, and I close out 25 beautiful years with JFRD, I remain impressed by Capt. Love. He excelled at leadership, mentoring, and commanding respect. His house was in order. Capt. Love wouldn't stand for anything else, and people clearly understood that.

Those ingredients make us proud to be firefighters. We respect the mentors among us, and we benefit because they influence us by their example to pursue excellence. They remind us that we come to work to meet the expectations of the people we serve and to make a difference.

There is only one Capt. Love, but there are officers on this job who have the same philosophy about all things fire service. I know because I have worked amongst them and relied upon them. Now, as I am retiring from the fire service, I appreciate their sincerity even more because of the influence they will have on our department's future. It's kind of like the reassurance you experience when somebody looks you in the eye and tells you "I got this."

I did not spend my last day on the job at Headquarters. I chose to ride at 30 on my final day. It was absolutely the best choice. I remembered how much fun the job can be, and I remembered the man who influenced me to choose this job and how being a firefighter makes a difference.

Kurt Wilson
Chief of Department

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Station 2 Celebrates 110 Years



Photo by Capt. Eric Prosswimmer

Active duty and retired members who were assigned to Fire Station 2 during their careers gathered April 29 to celebrate the station's 110th year of continuous operations.

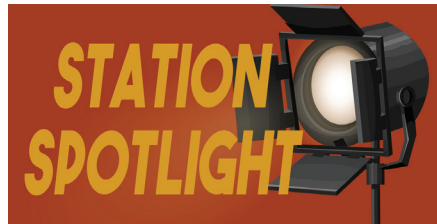
When city officials decided on Station 2's location in Springfield, they chose the right spot. The station has operated continuously at 1355 N. Main St. for 110 years. That's longer than any other JFRD station, and it's very likely a tenure that is unique statewide.

Fire Department Connection contacted the Florida State Fire College, the Museum of Florida History, and the state's Bureau of Historical Preservation and neither agency could provide information about any stations with a history like the Springfield Deuce.

Dr. Wayne Wood, a longtime member of the Jacksonville Historical Society and co-author of "The Great Fire of 1901," researched historical fire stations in Florida and could not find any older than JFRD's Station 2. Neither could Alex Vega who operates a fire museum in Key West.

In 1886, when the Jacksonville Fire Department formed, Fire Station 2's location was also on Main Street, but

between Church and Ashley streets, according to the "History of Jacksonville, Florida" by T. Frederick Davis. In 1898, Station 2 moved a few blocks north on Main between State and Orange streets. The Great Fire of 1901 consumed that structure, but it was rebuilt at the same location. Then it moved to its current location at Fourth and Main streets, becoming operational April 28, 1909.



A few days before Station 2 opened for service in Springfield, a headline in *The Florida Times-Union* declared "New Home of Station No. 2 Handsome In Construction and Architectural Design. The Latest Fire Apparatus and Appliances Will Be Installed – Comfortable Quarters for the Men."

By then, the department had six fire

stations, according to Davis. The structure that was Central Station (Number 1) still stands at Ocean and Adams streets. Old Fire Station 5 remains on Riverside Avenue. Station 3 was on Catherine Street, next to today's Police Memorial Building on Bay Street, before it moved to Metropolitan Park as the Fire Museum, and Station 4 was on the south side of Adams Street between Broad and Jefferson streets, according to Davis. Number 6 was on Florida Avenue between Union and Pippin streets, but it no longer exists.

Fast forward to April 2019, about 120 people attended Fire Station 2's 110th anniversary. The majority were assigned there during their time on the job. The crowd was a mix of retirees whose fire service careers date to the 1940s all the way to probationary firefighters with just a few months on the job. For several hours, they discussed their careers, friendships, and the living history of Fire Station 2.



(L-R) Ladder 30's Eng. Jason Nelson, Capt. Phillip Orelli, and Firefighter Michael Kes; Engine 28's Firefighter Allyson Mericle; Ladder 30's Firefighter Vincent Fenton-Bruno; Engine 28's Eng. Ryan Keeling, and Lt. Chad Jewels. Kes and Mericle are holding kittens that both crews rescued from the engine compartment of a small car whose driver heard meowing while commuting to work. Photo submitted by Lt. Chad Jewels.

Get 'Meow' of Here; E-28, L-30 to the Rescue

Usually when a car engine is purring, that's a good thing. But not exactly for a call that Engine 28 recently handled along with Ladder 30.

Engine 28's Lt. Chad Jewels, Eng. Ryan Keeling and Firefighter Allyson Mericle responded to an office complex on A.C. Skinner Parkway where they met a concerned woman

and her co-worker in the parking lot. The woman explained that during her 20-minute commute she heard a couple of meows that seemed to be coming from her vehicle's engine compartment. Jewels and his crew soon confirmed the woman's suspicion: two kittens stuck below the engine. The woman's car sat low to the ground,

so access was an issue. Jewels called Ladder 30, and once Capt. Phillip Orelli and his crew arrived, the firefighters used airbags to elevate the car and access the engine compartment. They quickly removed the kittens which were in good condition. Both women fell instantly for the kittens and they adopted both of them.

Engine 55 Crew Enters Drain to Reunite Family of Nine

Engine 55 recently responded to eight ducklings who couldn't have cared less if they got extricated from a drainage system in a neighborhood off of San Pablo Road.

As soon as Lt. John Larson entered the drain, the ducklings quickly swam away. Not to worry. Larson, along with Engineer Paul Brennan and Firefighter Joe Dineen, flowed water into

the drainage system to create a reverse current. They also borrowed a pool skimmer from a resident to collect the ducklings, and they used a rake to block the other side of the drain at the collection point. Things were going well with the retrieval, but two ducklings slipped by the rake. Fortunately, Engine 55 had already confirmed that the drain led to a nearby pond. Once Larson was out of the drain, his crew

reunited the mother duck with six of her offspring. Next, the firefighters coaxed the birds through a couple of backyards toward the pond. The crew spotted the two other ducklings in the pond, and soon after, mother duck was again watching over all eight of her flock. Larson said this was a first-of-a-kind call for him, or actually "my first through eighth duck rescue."

Wellness Fitness Initiative is Non-Punitive, Replaces LifeScan

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three years, and it's finally here," Loput said.

Those three years were more than talk. They involved research and development that included following the IAFF's Wellness Fitness Initiative guidelines and adhering to NFPA 1582. The result is JFRD's comprehensive program that ultimately will replace LifeScan. Other than an ultrasound and the cardiac stress test, which is pending the arrival of a special treadmill, JFRD's Wellness Program will offer the same array of medical screenings.

JFRD Medical Director Dr. Brad Elias, the Training Academy's Capt. Erika McManus and Capt. Brielle Barnhill will start with a variety of measurable goals and continue to build upon the program. In addition to their JFRD careers, McManus and Barnhill have each been practicing nurses at local hospitals for a decade, and McManus is also a nurse practitioner.

Over time, the data that McManus and Barnhill collect, and keep private, will chart an individual course of progress and offer early detection of potential health issues for each JFRD member. The only annual screenings not protected by federal privacy laws are the spirometry (PFT) and SCBA fit tests.

Tom Fonger, JFRD's fitness and wellness director, will coordinate the physical fitness screenings at fire stations using a team of peer fitness trainers, who are also JFRD members.

Through July, JFRD's Wellness Unit will visit fire stations that house a district chief, Loput said. She wants riding chiefs to experience the process first so they will be prepared to answer general questions about the program before it visits all fire stations.



Dr. Brad Elias, JFRD's Medical Director, says the department's Wellness Fitness Initiative is a positive for every member. "Identifying medical conditions early, before they can cause complications, is our goal," he said. "It is time that we take our clinical skills and begin to take care of ourselves."

The IAFF established its Wellness Fitness Initiative about 20 years ago, said Local 122's President, Chief Randy Wyse.

Local 122 fully endorses JFRD's new Wellness Program, and in February, the union provided financial assistance for McManus and Barnhill to travel to Austin, Texas to visit the city's Public Safety Wellness Center. The IAFF designated Austin as one of 10 task force cities during the early stages of developing the WFI. McManus and Barnhill learned from Austin's physician, nurses, exercise physiologists, psychologists and workers compensation staff.

Elias said the evolution of the WFI across the country and locally is evidence of the fire service embracing and valuing its workforce, and overcoming the stigma of what physicals can reveal.

"As a Department, we provide quality and compassionate care to the citizens of Jacksonville. Now it is time that we take our clinical knowledge and skills and begin to take care of ourselves," Elias said. "Medicine is evolving and there is greater emphasis on health and wellness. Identifying medical conditions early, before they can cause complications, is our goal. Initially, we will screen for conditions that are easy to detect such as hyperglycemia, hypertension, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides. If those diseases are addressed early through lifestyle changes and/or appropriate referral, hopefully we can prevent significant complications later in life. This health screening is voluntary and intended to offer a benefit to the JFRD member that is convenient and is easy to participate in. The interaction between the WFI team and the member is HIPAA protected."

Congratulations to JFRD Recruit Class 1-19



Chief of Department Kurt Wilson addresses the 36 members of Recruit Class 1-19 (listed below) during their April 25 graduation ceremony at the South Campus of Florida State College at Jacksonville. JFRD employs approximately 1,400 uniformed personnel and is the second largest department in Florida.

Firefighter/EMT Wallace R. Allen, Jr.

Firefighter/EMT Jonathan A. Battle

Firefighter/EMT Christopher C. Boteler

Firefighter/EMT Abdiel Jamian I. Cotto

Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew H. Davis

Firefighter/EMT Michael S. Davis

Firefighter/EMT Seth D. Dickenson

Firefighter/Paramedic Katherine A. Elias

Firefighter/EMT Brandon D. Estes

Firefighter/EMT Katherine R. Graef

Firefighter/EMT Derek N. Guyton, II

Firefighter/EMT Taylor J. Harris

Firefighter/EMT Tyler B. Justice

Firefighter/EMT Brandon J. Kirby

Firefighter/EMT Jacob A. Kirk

Firefighter/EMT Michael A. Klinger

Firefighter/EMT Benjamin N. Kuykendall

Firefighter/EMT Ezra J. Mathis

Firefighter/EMT Kevin M. Mattox, II

Firefighter/EMT Tyler J. Mercer

Firefighter/EMT Rebecca E. Moses

Firefighter/EMT Kyle F. O'Connor

Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle S. Paquette

Firefighter/EMT Errick L. Parker

Firefighter/EMT Jessie D. Parkin

Firefighter/EMT William E. Reed

Firefighter/EMT Daniel S. Settles

Firefighter/EMT Shawna R. Sulikowski

Firefighter/EMT Alyssa K. Sweat

Firefighter/EMT Antonio E. Syrakis

Firefighter/EMT Jacob M. Taylor

Firefighter/EMT William T. Trusttum

Firefighter/EMT Malachi H. Wallander

Firefighter/EMT Melissa F. Webb

Firefighter/EMT Katlin Z. Whited

Firefighter/EMT Hannah A. Yancey

Congratulations to JFRD's Firefighter Awards Recipients



Firefighter of the Year

Lt. Henry Carrow
with wife Renee.

Unit Citation of Valor

Capt. Jeremy Cooke
Lt. Austin Mays
Eng. Robert Dopson
Firefighter Robert Haddock
Firefighter Steve Smith
Firefighter Patrick Walden
Firefighter Edward Wallace

Joseph F. Stichway Award

Chief Sean Hatchett
Capt. Jeremy Cooke
Lt. Henry Carrow
Eng. Robert Dopson
Firefighter Edward Wallace

Award of Merit & Life Saving Medal

Jason A. Presson (son)
Jason N. Presson (father)
Cpl. James Pledger (JIA)
Officer Rod Nelson (JIA)
Director Mark Stevens (JIA)
Sam Lucero (*civilian*)
Jerry Robinson (*civilian*)
Shawn Hall (*civilian*)

Medal of Bravery

Eng. Patrick Schneider
Eng. James Estes
Firefighter Donald Murray
Firefighter Timothy Temples

Unit Commendation

Lt. Andrew Castleman
Eng. Ryan Eichelroth
Firefighter John Chesser
Capt. Jason Lutzen
Eng. Chad Nightingale
Firefighter Jacob Pickett
Firefighter Terry Young
Chief Michael Allen
Chief Michael Bilodeau
Capt. Mark Roberts
Firefighter Robert Moure
Capt. Ray Lutzen
Eng. Justin Smith
Eng. Richard Santos
Firefighter Donald Murray
Firefighter Jade Heidelberg
Firefighter Brad Judah
Capt. Colin Aguilar
Eng. Revis Coltrane
Firefighter Timothy Yonn
Firefighter Timothy Temples
Eng. James Estes
Capt. Steve Myers
Eng. Brady Acosta
Eng. Patrick Schneider
Lt. Brandon Greeley
Lt. William Watts
Eng. Bryan Regan
Lt. Joshua Dixon

Eng. Seth Blackstone
FRCO Dione Dawkins
FRCO Kelsie Forehand
FRCO Brandice Johnson
FRCO Kevin Perryman
FRCO Jessica Whidden
FRCO Richard Landess
Shift Supervisor
FRCO Amanda Richardson
Overlap Supervisor

Eng. Dennis C. Parrish
Lt. Sharon Pickering
Capt. Tyler Ring
Eng. Anthony Scott Sessions
Firefighter Justin Wilford
Capt. Gerald P. Hammett, Jr.
Eng. Ricky Hicks
Eng. Matthew McAlister

Eng. Joshua Cook
Capt. John Kvistad
Lt. Anthony Treadwell
Firefighter Lee Odom
Firefighter Adam Cardoza
Eng. Justin Pierce
Eng. John Hern
Firefighter Eric Johnson
Lt. James Sparks
Chief Terry Eaton

Lt. Richard Ray
Firefighter William Whitaker
Firefighter Joel Gauthier
Lt. Chad Palmer
Eng. Justin Smith
Firefighter Mark Schellinger

Congratulations to JFRD's Firefighter Awards Recipients

Eng. Lashawn Mitchell
Lt. Jason Jones
FF Adam Weinstein
Lt. Nicholas Vhrachoff
Eng. Scott Abell
Eng. Matthew Higginbotham
Firefighter Jarvis Manley

Certificate of Commendation

Chief Ashley Burkhalter
Eng. David Womack
Firefighter Tony Benso
Lt. Steve Piotrowski
Eng. Jammie Jennings
Firefighter James Misora
Chief Michael Allen
Eng. James Davis
Capt. Carlos Dawson
Firefighter Isaiah Anderson
Lt. Ryan Bayliss
Eng. Alexander Kimmel, III
Firefighter Tyler Brennan
Firefighter Dylan Evans
Chief Terry Eaton
Chief Gary Collins
Chief Ashley Burkhalter

Lt. Andy Graham Outstanding Service Award

Asst. Chief Mark Rowley
Christel Burgos
April Mitchell
David Foster

JFRD Award of Excellence Cindy Davis

Certificate of Appreciation

Chief Darrell Holsenbeck
Eng. Lamar Roberts
Eng. Jeremy Leonhard
Capt. Latorrence Norris
Eng. Dustin Richards
Chief Sean Hatchett
Lt. John Ledford
Eng. Scott Karpus
Lt. Tyson Bishop
Firefighter Matthew Hoff
Firefighter James Adkins
Capt. Mark Roberts
Eng. Zachary Washington
Firefighter Andrew Laine
Firefighter Landon Simmons
Chief James Snyder
Chief Susan Leddy
Capt. Justin Hager
Eng. Kevin Painter

Capt. Donald Hardin
Eng. Justin Buchanan
Lt. Craig Silcox
Eng. Ronald Pierre
Capt. James Rhoden
Eng. Benjamin Stein
Firefighter Richard Scott Hale
Eng. Darius Holsey
Firefighter Tyrone Wilkerson
Lt. Nnaemeka Ibeabuchi
Eng. Kevin Baker
Lt. Bernard Stewart
Eng. Landon Weeks
Eng. Richard Jarriel
Firefighter Scott Jaime
Firefighter William Dixon
Capt. Timothy Nguyen
Firefighter Dennis Parrish
Lt. Byron Mincey
Eng. Joshua Potts
FRCO Dione Dawkins
FRCO Kelsie Forehand
FRCO Tykeriha Graham
FRCO Kevin Perryman
FRCO Jessica Whidden
Lt. Richard Landess
Lt. Amanda Richardson
Lt. William Watts

During this year's JFRD Awards Program, the committee recognized members who worked the MCI at The Jacksonville Landing in late August.



Congratulations to JFRD's Firefighter Awards Recipients



District Chief Ashley Burkhalter was off duty, dining in a restaurant, when he saved a man's life by clearing the man's airway.



Members of Station 59 and Engine 58 saved a pediatric patient from drowning.



Assistant Chief Mark Rowley, Finance Manager April Mitchell and EMS Billing Manager Christel Burgos facilitated a \$3 million reimbursement to JFRD over a three-year period through a federal Medicaid supplemental repayment program.



Eng. Laurie Lecas, Chairwoman of the Awards Committee, with JFRD Procurement Manager Cindy Davis, who was recognized for her diligence in managing finances for FEMA during large scale events involving deployments and activations.



Marine 39's Firefighter James Misora and Lt. Steve Piotrowski came to aid of an individual in distress on the Fuller Warren Bridge.

Eng. David Womack and Firefighter Tony Benso were off duty, working out at a gym, when they rendered lifesaving aid to a man at the gym.

