



The Fire Wire

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Service
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Toys for Tots Drive a Tremendous Success
Story on page 4

The Fire Wire

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ABOUT THE COVER

Cherokee County Fire &
Emergency Services has
tremendous succes with
their Toys for Tots Campaign.
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Keep the Wreath Green Campaign Concludes



Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services concluded its annual Keep the Wreath Green campaign on January 1st. Beginning on December 1st, 2021, Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services participated in the "Keep the Wreath Green" campaign to remind citizens in Cherokee County to practice fire prevention during the holidays.

Wreaths were placed at Station 3 in Hickory Flat, Station 7 at Little River, Station 8 in Holly Springs, Fire Station 19 at Ridge Mill Court, Fire Station 22 on Bells Ferry Road and Fire Station 23 on Vaughan Road in Hickory Flat and Cherokee County Fire Headquarters. Wreaths were also placed at other locations including Northside Hospital Cherokee, Lowes in Canton, Bridgemill Subdivision, Cannon Park, Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce and the Cherokee County Parks and Recreation Center.

This year the county had 6 residential fires and 2 commercial fires in December. Causes of the fires included cooking/grease fire, electrical, chimney fire, smoking, heat lamp and a lightning strike. One of the fires is still under investigation.

Lt. Ice Retires from Fire Department



Stanley Ice was presented with his “bugle” award from Cherokee County Fire Chief Tim Prather.

Lt. Stan Ice, a firefighter with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services, was recognized On December 19th at a retirement ceremony held in his honor.

Fire Chief, Tim Prather, thanked Ice for his 31 years of service to the citizens of Cherokee County and presented him with a “bugle” award. The bugle or speaking trumpet is a reference to a megaphone like device that was used in the early days of the fire service.

Ice worked with the City of Smyrna as a firefighter from December 1991 until December 1998. He was also a Woodstock volunteer in December 1991. He was the Volunteer Fire Chief for Waleska for over 8 years. Ice has 30 years total of working as a firefighter. Ice has also been a part-time Cherokee County dispatcher for 24 years. For the past 7

years, Ice has been an advisor for the Cherokee County Fire Explorers.

Ice’s family are all firefighters. His wife, Michelle, recently retired from the Cobb County Fire Department with 27 years of service. His son, Denver, is a firefighter at Station 1 in Oak Grove and his daughter, Brooke, works at Station 2 in Ball Ground. We wish Lt. Ice many happy years of retirement!

Retirement Ceremony Held for Sgt. Vaughan

Sgt. Michael Vaughn, a firefighter with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services, was recognized on December 9th at a retirement ceremony held in his honor at the fire administrative offices in Canton.

Fire Chief, Tim Prather, thanked Vaughn for his 25 years of service to the citizens of Cherokee County and presented him with a “bugle” award. The bugle or speaking trumpet is a reference to a megaphone like device that was used in the early days of the fire service.

Vaughn came to work at the fire department when he was 21 years of age on November 29th, 1995 and retired on October 23rd, 2021. He began his career at Station 8 in Holly Springs

Sgt. Vaughn lives in Hickory Flat with his wife, Sarah, and four children Madison, Preston, Bryson, and Payton. We wish Sgt. Vaughn many happy years of retirement!



Sgt. Vaughn came to work with the fire department in 1995.

Congratulations to Both!

Thousands of Toys Collected for Toys for Tots This Year

Thousands of toys were collected this year in Cherokee County during the annual Toys for Tots campaign coordinated by Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services. More toys were collected this year than ever before and every Cherokee County Fire Station had collection boxes available for citizens to drop off toys for less fortunate children so they would have a Merry Christmas.

A truck with a 26-foot long trailer arrived this morning around 10 o'clock at Cherokee County Fire Logistics to pick up this year's toys. The truck was filled to capacity with boxes and bags filled with toys and, after delivering to toys to an area processing center, the truck returned to pick up more boxes and lots of new bicycles, too. It was estimated that this year's toy drive resulted in nearly 8 - 10,000 toys donated and 80+ bicycles had been donated.

Battalion Chief of Support Services, Marc Liscio, stated that numerous businesses, schools and local events assisted the fire department with their annual toy drive this year including Belnick, Chart Industries, IsoTech, Sarah Kendall with Edward Jones, Southeast Restoration, Ball Ground Elementary, Clark Creek Elementary, Holly Springs Elementary, Hickory Flat Elementary, The March of the Toys Parade that was held in Ball Ground and the Canton Christmas Parade.



Employees with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services stand in front of 80+ bicycles that were collected this year.



Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped us with the Toys for Tots campaign and for helping us make Christmas brighter for less fortunate children. Merry Christmas!



Cherokee County Marshal's Office Donates Money for Jacob Hicks



Representatives from the Cherokee County Marshal's Office included (back row – left to right) Animal Control Officer, Kalae Hubber, Probation Officer Enrique Marquina, Court Intake Clerk Jessica Ricketts, Probation Officer Penny Vaughan, Sgt. Matthew McMullen, Deputy Marshal First Class Dakota Smith, Deputy Marshal John Borse, Deputy Marshal First Class William King and Animal Control Officer Cain Taylor. Representatives on the front were Deputy Marshal First Class Eric Bastress and Deputy Marshal First Class Renae Coggans presenting the letter to Cherokee County Fire Chief Tim Prather.

Chief Prather that Cherokee County Probation, Animal Control and the Marshal's Office made a donation for \$1,050 to the LGE Credit Union trust fund for Jacob Hicks.

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, thanked the representatives from the Marshal's office for their kindness to the department and to the Hicks family during this difficult time.

PHOTO AT RIGHT - Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, thanks the members from the Cherokee Marshal's Office for their donation.

Representatives with the Cherokee County Marshal's Office came by the offices of Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services on December 6th to show their support for Jacob Hicks, the two-year-old son of Justin and Amber Hicks, who were tragically killed by a shooter last month. The Hick's two-year old son, Jacob, was also inside the house when the shooting occurred, but was found unharmed.

A letter from the Marshal's office was presented to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather and stated, "We cannot put into words how heavy our hearts are for the loss of Justin and Amber Hicks. Nothing we say or do would ease your pain but we wanted each of you to know that you have our support. The loss of two precious lives has changed our community forever."

Deputy Marshal First Class, Renae Goggans, said "In October of each year we make a donation to one charity or foundation in Cherokee County, but this year we were uncertain about where we wanted the money to go, so we held onto it. However, when this tragic incident took place, we all came together and decided the money should go to Jacob's trust fund."

The representatives from the Marshal's Office told



Firefighters and Dive Team Participate in Training

Cherokee County firefighters recently participated in a fire control class that was held at the Cherokee Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Plant, located on East Cherokee Drive, near Ball Ground.

Specials Operations Chief, Darrell Mitchell, stated that the fire department tries to do a training event at the plant every year. The 8-hour training course includes a tour of the facility and approximately 3 ½ hours of classroom training which shows the process of how natural gas is made. Plus, at the end of the day, the firefighters go to a fire training pit where liquid natural gas is put in a hole and set on fire. The firefighter put the fire out using fire extinguishers which is the tool of choice for handling and putting out these types of fires.



Cherokee County firefighters participate in a fire control class at the LNG Plant in Ball Ground.

Twenty-two firefighters went through the training course this year.



Instructors Capt. John Bennett and Chief Ricky Collett stand with the students going through the Open Water Certification Course and they are FAO Brandon Watkins, Lt. Philip Carlisle, FAO Drew Turner, Capt. Jeff Adamek, Sgt. Brad McDonald and Lt. Joe Ray.

The course also consisted of online learning and over 20 hours in-water skills. The pool and classroom portions of the class were conducted at the Cherokee County Aquatic Center. The final certification dives were completed in Williston Florida at the Blue Grotto Springs.

The Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES) Dive Team Open Water Certification Course, was held recently.

According to Dive Instructor Chief, Ricky Collett, "The Open Water Certification Course is the initial step in becoming a CCFES Public Safety Diver. This is the first time this course has been instructed in-house by fire department personnel. This new program will increase the number of trained divers available to respond to water emergencies."

Upon completion of the course, six CCFES personnel were certified as Scuba Diver International (SDI) Open Water Divers. The new divers are as follows: Capt. Jeff Adamek, FAO Brad McDonald, FAO Drew Turner, Lt. Joe Ray, FAO Brandon Watkins, and Lt. Philip Carlisle.

Cherokee Fire Training Center Helps With Training Other Fire Department



Johns Creek firefighters pull tools off their fire engine to begin training.

Firefighters with Johns Creek Fire Department, located in Fulton County, trained at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center back in November.

Cherokee County Fire Training Officer, Robbie Kennedy, stated that several fire departments around our area have come to train including the cities of Milton, Alpharetta, Marietta and Woodstock Fire Department. "Our fire department is so blessed to have this facility and are fortunate to let other departments come in and train when the facility is available," stated Kennedy.

Kennedy said that Johns Creek was there that week to do some hands-on training. Some of the training includes raising ladders, doing forcible entry, advancing hoses up and down stairs at the training tower and later this afternoon they will be doing live

fire training in the burn building. "They are basically reinforcing their practical skills," added Kennedy.

This is the first time Johns Creek has been here to train at the Cherokee County Training Center.

Firefighters from the City of Milton came to the Cherokee County Fire Training Center, at the end of November.

Mark Stephens, Deputy Chief of Operations for Milton, said the firefighters have been training at the training center for several days. "We are utilizing the burn building here because we have a small trailer with a tiny burn room and it doesn't simulate what a true burn building can give us. Plus, we have a lot of young firefighters that needed some live burn training" stated Stephens.

We have about 60 firefighters with the City of Milton and we are bringing a third of them to the training center each day for three days," added Stephens.

Stephens also said that Cherokee County was very fortunate to have something like this and Cherokee County Fire is very generous to allow us to come and train here.



We are blessed in Cherokee County to have this wonderful training facility and allowing other firefighters to come here and train is like brothers helping brothers.



Firefighters from the City of Milton get final instructions prior to their training.



Be Safe This Winter

Minimize travel during winter weather. If you can postpone your trip or if it is non-essential, stay in when the weather is really bad. If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

If You Must Drive:

- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- Keep an extra Ready kit in the trunk of your car. In addition to the basic essentials, consider adding a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, extra blanket, sand for traction and jumper cables.
- Follow directions from local officials about driving during snow and ice storms, and drive with caution.
- SLOW DOWN to at least half your normal speed and use a low gear as you drive.
- Don't stop going up a hill. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- Be mindful of road crews working to clear the snow and ice from the roadway.
- Motorists should not pass a dump truck spreading the salt/gravel mixture, as gravel may bounce up and could break windshields. Follow at least 100 feet behind all vehicles.
- If you come to a traffic signal that is not working, treat it as a four-way stop.
- Beware of black ice, especially on bridges, overpasses and shady areas. Four-wheel-drive may help your vehicle get going in the slushy stuff, but it's of no use when you're trying to steer or safely stop on a slippery road surface.
- Watch for fallen trees or power lines.
- If at any point during your trip you feel that the weather is too bad to continue driving, simply stay put.

Stopped Or Stalled?

- Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.
- Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm and to conserve your battery and gasoline. When the engine is running, open a downwind window slightly for ventilation and periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe. This will protect you from possible carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion.

Stay **Warm** and
be **Safe!**

