MFRD Training Coordinator Named Noon Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year

Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department (MFRD) proudly announces that Training Coordinator Jeff Wright was named “Firefighter of the Year” at the Noon Exchange Club of Murfreesboro’s Annual Crime and Fire Prevention Awards Luncheon October 12 at Five Senses restaurant.

Wright received the honor for the numerous contributions he has made throughout his 15-year career with MFRD. Soon after joining MFRD in 2002, Wright, a Paramedic, helped to achieve the department’s goal of responding as Emergency Medical Responders. This included the training of personnel, equipping apparatus, and developing policies and guidelines. Wright served as program coordinator and instructor for the first responder program which started in 2004.

In 2015, Wright joined the Medical Services Division as the Medical Training Coordinator. With Wright’s coordination of many training hours, equipment purchases, and protocol development, MFRD was able to transition to an even higher level of medical response, Advanced-Emergency Medical Technician (A-EMT).

On June 30, 2017, MFRD began responding at the advanced life support (ALS) level to medical calls. This enabled cross-trained firefighter/paramedics to be housed at four of the busiest stations in the city. These stations respond to approximately 75% of all medical related calls in Murfreesboro.

In addition to providing the skills and training necessary to make this transition, Wright was also instrumental in the purchase of equipment such as: 12 Zoll cardiac monitors (which can quickly identify a heart attack or other arrhythmias through a 12-lead EKG), advanced airway tubes, and frontline medications to treat life-threatening cardiac events, allergic reactions, and diabetic/insulin shock situations.

“Jeff’s commitment and contributions to emergency medical services has enabled Murfreesboro Fire Rescue employees to make life-saving differences every day,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. “We are very proud to have him serve our department and our citizens.”

(L to R): Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Assistant Chief Kim Lawson, Training Coordinator Jeff Wright, and Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks.
MFRD would like to take a moment to thank all of our service men and women. You proudly served our country and now you proudly serve our community.
MFRD Unveils Restored Steam Engine and New 100’ Aerial

Murfreesboro Fire Rescue unveiled a restored steam fire engine along with a brand new 100’ aerial apparatus on October 25 at the historic Oaklands Mansion.

**STEAM ENGINE**

The 1892 Ahrens steam fire engine was the City’s first piece of firefighting equipment. For years, it was stored in one of the sheds at Cannonsburgh Village.

MFRD wanted to have the historic engine restored for use as an educational tool, but also to be displayed at parades and other community events. Due to its fragile condition, the engine had to be lifted by a crane and transported via a flatbed wrecker to Mid-South Emergency Equipment to undergo the restoration process.

Many laborious hours were spent welding, restoring and fabricating metals, painting, repairing the pump, wood working, brass polishing, etc.

**100’ MID-MOUNT AERIAL**

Funds were allocated in the 2016 CIP for replacement of MFRD’s 1977 Snorkel truck with equipment. With City Council’s approval, MFRD selected Sutphen to build the custom 100’ mid-mount aerial after completing the bid process. The apparatus will be the frontline engine for the future Station 4, but will be housed at MFRD’s Special Ops station (Station 7 located on N Thompson Lane) until new the station is built. This apparatus will enhance aerial coverage for the City and help the department maintain its ISO 2 rating.

“It was exciting to see these two pieces of equipment on display for our city leaders, members of our department, and the community,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. “To have these two apparatus side-by-side at the historic Oaklands Mansion was truly a sight to see!”

(In order of appearance): Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks poses in front of the new 100’ aerial with son Evan and wife Pam. Captains Joe Bell, David Cranford, and Matt Welcome stand in front of their new unit. Councilmember Madelyn Scales-Harris waving from the Engineer’s seat of Engine 4. Sergeant John Levi of Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office leading the team of horses pulling the restored steam fire engine.
Middle Tennessee Fire Agencies Hosted Hands-On Training Exercises in Murfreesboro

Several Middle Tennessee fire agencies hosted hands-on training (HOT) exercises in Murfreesboro two days in October as part of the Firehouse Expo 2017 National Conference.

The exercises, including live burns, took place at the future home of the City of Murfreesboro’s Doug Young Public Safety Training Facility.

Instructors and students traveled from all over the United States to attend, with approximately 200 in attendance each day.

MFRD also had a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Music City Center during the Expo. Many people stopped by and commented on the professionalism of the department.

Pictured with the booth are Captains Paul Oliver and Brian Lowe.
Firefighters of the Month November/December

Engineer Mitchell Whittenburg, and Firefighters Logan Gill, Brent Stephens, and Davis Sanders have been named Firefighters of the Month for November/December 2017. The crew was nominated by Captain Raleigh Marlin. District 9 responded to a call for a two-year-old boy with his leg trapped in a baby crib.

According to Marlin, Stephens and Sanders (Ladder 9) did a great job of assessing the boy and keeping him and his mother calm as they developed a plan to free his leg from the crib.

They both started to disassemble the crib while Marlin held the young boy. They continued to talk the boy and his mother through the process. Whittenburg and Gill (Rescue 9) arrived and began assisting. All four worked together to spread the rails apart with tools from the rescue to extricate the boy from the crib.

Marlin said, “I believe these guys need to be recognized for their outstanding work and their ability to perform a quick rescue and kept a small child from being afraid. Their skills and professionalism provided a positive outcome for the mother and her child.

Whittenburg has been with MFRD since June 2003, Gill since August 2005, Stephens since October 13, and Sanders since July 16.
MFRD Reminds You to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries”

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 a.m. As you change your clock to “Fall Back,” Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department would like to remind you that this is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

“Because batteries should be changed approximately every six months, the time change is the perfect way to remember this very important task,” said Fire Marshal Carl Peas.

If you need assistance with changing your batteries or need additional smoke alarms in your home, contact MFRD Fire Administration Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm at 615-893-1422. MFRD offers free smoke alarms/installation to the citizens of Murfreesboro, even specialty alarms for the hearing or visually impaired.

Remember, you should have smoke alarms on every level of your home including the basement, in every bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. Smoke alarms should also be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly.

“Having working smoke alarms can cut your risk of fire death in half,” said Peas.

Here’s a public service announcement from the City of Murfreesboro to remind you to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries”: http://youtu.be/gL14O7DQNsY.

Five-year-old Thomas Baker Named “Chief for a Day”

Five-year-old Thomas A. Baker was "Chief for a Day" at MFRD on October 9. He received the opportunity as a gift from his grandmother who won the bid at a silent auction for Relay for Life of Rutherford County.

Thomas reported for work at 8:30 am and met with his predecessor, Chief Mark Foulks. He approved his assistant’s time card, met the City Manager (his big boss), and met all his other employees at Fire Administration.

He then went to Dispatch to make sure the first line of response was working properly. A tour of Station 1 and demo of the equipment was next on the list. Thomas was even able to hook a hose to the engine!

The young Chief made a quick trip to check on the progress of the Public Safety Training Facility before visiting his personnel at Station 6 on Memorial. While there, he checked out the brush truck.

A busy Chief works up an appetite and Chick-Fil-A nuggets hit the spot! After lunch, Thomas went to Station 7 on Thompson Lane to check out the water rescue equipment.

At the end of his long day, Chief Thomas returned to Admin where he was greeted by his staff. After giving everyone a "time out," he paged them over the intercom to report to the training room. There, he received a certificate from Chief Foulks and resumed his role as a kiddo again!
Murfreesboro Fire Rescue’s
2nd Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony

December 11, 2017
6:00 PM
Patterson Park Community Center Theater
Special Additions to the MFRD Family

Several additions were made to the MFRD family since the last newsletter was printed (between July and October). We would like to congratulate the parents and grandparents on these bundles of joy!

1) **Corley Vance McDonald**, son of Ashley (MFRD) and Greg. Born 7/7/17.

2) **Maddox William Irvin**, grandson of Jeff (MFRD) and Susan. Born 7/22/17.

3) **Rosie Grace Grandowicz**, daughter of Sean (MFRD) and Katie. Born 9/12/17.

4) **Huxton Kohn Morris**, son of Jeremy (MFRD) and Brooke. Born 10/1/17.

5) **Oliver Wade McCulley**, grandson of Troy (MFRD) and Rachel Tayse. Born 10/2/17.