

GAINESVILLE FIRE RESCUE

2012 Annual Report



GFR'S FIRST CITIZENS' FIRE ACADEMY JUNE 2012

*Gainesville Fire Rescue will be recognized as the model of excellence
by the provision of our services.*

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

2012 was a year of self-assessment for Gainesville Fire Rescue. Many members of the department participated in the preparation of nearly 250 performance indicators developed by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). These measures help departments evaluate the policies and practices of the organization for effectiveness. The self-assessment is one of three cornerstones of the fire service accreditation process. GFR also updated its department Strategic Plan and developed its first Standards of Cover, which were both adopted by the Gainesville City Commission in November 2012. We are looking forward to a site visit by a peer assessor team of fire service professionals in July 2013.

GFR Mission Statement

To protect and serve through community involvement, education, prevention, and rapid intervention by professionals committed to excellence.

Department Vision

Gainesville Fire Rescue will be recognized as the model of excellence by the provision of our services.

CFAI Self-Assessment Categories Department Organization

- I: Governance and Administration
- II: Assessment and Planning
- III: Goals and Objectives
- IV: Financial Resources
- V: Programs
- VI: Physical Resources
- VII: Human Resources
- VIII: Training and Competency
- IX: Essential Resources
- X: External Systems Relationships



*GFR's First Citizens' Fire Academy
June 2012*

Administration 1025 NE 13th Street 334-5078

Office of the Fire Chief
Special Operations
Information Mangement

Emergency Operations 1025 NE 13th Street 334-5078

Fire Station 1 427 S Main Street
Fire Station 2 2210 SW Archer Road
Fire Station 3 900 NE Waldo Road
Fire Station 4 10 SW 36th Street
Fire Station 5 1244 NW 30th Avenue
Fire Station 6 3681 NE 47th Avenue (Airport)
Fire Station 7 5601 NW 43rd Street
Fire Station 8 3223 NW 42nd Avenue

Risk Reduction Bureau 1025 NE 13th Street 334-5065

Fire Safety Inspection
Fire Investigative Services
Public Education

Support Services Bureau 1026 NE 14th Street 334-5075

Training
Recruitment
Community Instruction



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90th Percentile Performance by GFR and ACFR Inside the City Limits for 2012

Confirmed Building Fires All Units Turnout = 1:05
 Confirmed Building Fires First Unit Travel = 6:39
 All EMS Calls First Unit Turnout = 1:20
 All EMS Calls First Unit Travel = 7:00

PERFORMANCE



How We Measure Performance

Jurisdiction

Gainesville Fire Rescue's primary service area is contained inside the city limits of Gainesville. GFR units also respond to a limited area around the city limits under the guidelines of an automatic aid agreement with Alachua County. Units from Alachua County Fire Rescue also respond inside the city limits under this agreement. When measuring performance for accreditation, GFR evaluates the performance of both GFR and ACFR unit responses on calls inside the city limits. To report activity for Gainesville Fire Rescue as a department, GFR evaluates the information for all calls that any GFR units responded to whether inside or outside the city limits.

Calls vs. Responses

When considering statistics and evaluating performance, it is important to remember that one *call* may include several unit *responses*, particularly on calls for automatic alarms and building fires.

Turnout and Travel

Every unit response will have a *turnout* time indicating how long it took for the personnel to get the apparatus rolling after receiving the dispatch of a call. Another important measure is the amount of time it takes the first arriving unit to *travel* to the scene of an incident once it is rolling. GFR monitors these times on a monthly basis. Using the 90th percentile method tells us how close we are to meeting the benchmarks established in the GFR Standards of Cover.

Total Activity for GFR Units in both the City of Gainesville and in the Fire Services Assistance Area of Alachua County for 2012

Calls for Service by Type		
	2011	2012
EMS	12,388	12,663
Alarms	1,589	1,464
Fires	1,189	1,123
Hazmat	526	549
Other	181	172
Total	15,873	15,971

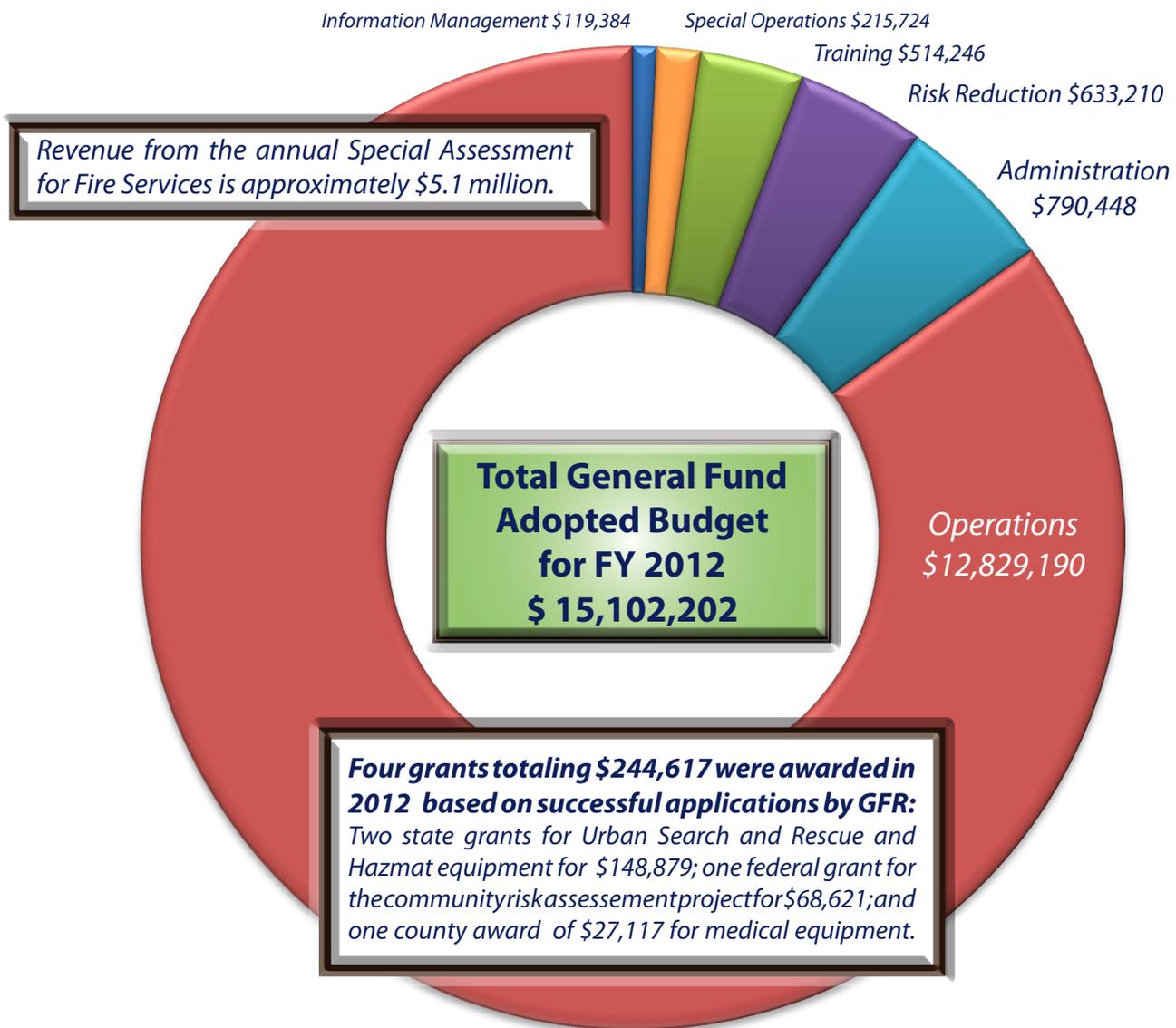
Unit Responses					
Engine 1	1,658	Tower 1	1,250	Squad 1	2,981
Engine 2	2,586	Tower 2	1,309	Hazmat 2	285
Engine 3	2,735	Quint 8	1,477	Crash 61	28
Engine 4	1,818			Crash 63	30
Engine 5	2,182			District 1	573
Engine 7	1,580	Total	20,842	District 2	350

When GFR apparatus are out of service for repairs or maintenance, reserve apparatus are activated to respond in their place; for example, if Tower 2 is out of service, another unit will be activated and will be called by another name, such as Truck 2 or Quint 2. The responses for these reserve units are included in the totals above.



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BUDGET AND PROGRAMS



- ▀ Information Management \$119,384
- ▀ Special Operations: Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue \$215,724
- ▀ Training & Support Services \$514,246
- ▀ Risk Reduction & Public Education \$633,210
- ▀ Administration \$790,448
- ▀ Operations: Fire Suppression and EMS \$12,829,190



2012 has been a year of discovery for GFR!

ADMINISTRATION

With the decision in October 2011 to seek accreditation status through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, 2012 was a year filled with conducting an agency-wide self-assessment, developing a standards of cover, and performing a detailed community risk assessment.

The self-assessment process involved addressing 253 performance indicators (PI) which included 82 core competences and 43 different criteria. The participation of members from all ranks was outstanding. The knowledge gained through this experience about our community, our organization, and our department has been well worth the journey. In a few short months we will move from applicant status to a candidate for accreditation. When we become a candidate agency, a team of peer (fire service) assessors will come to Gainesville and evaluate our department based on our self-assessment, risk assessment, and standards of cover documents to make a recommendation on whether we should be granted accredited status. Kathy Driggers has been serving as our Accreditation Manager throughout this process. Her guidance and diligence on this project have been invaluable in developing and reviewing all the documents that were created, as well as meeting our timeline.



Fire Chief
Gene Prince

In June 2012, 20 citizens participated in the first annual GFR Citizen's Fire Academy that was held in partnership with IAFF Local 2157. This partnership allowed GFR to develop and conduct hands-on, day in the life of a firefighter experience for the participants, including City Commissioner Susan Bottcher. Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez and the team developed four evolutions that included hose deployment, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, and a cardiac arrest scenario. The instructors and facilitators did a superb job making it a fun and informative experience for our citizens with the assistance of Local 2157 who also provided lunch.

2012 was a year of change for GFR with the filling of a vacancy created when Chief Hayes moved from Risk Reduction to Operations and the resignation of Chief Randolph. District Chiefs JoAnne Rice and Jeff Lane were promoted to Assistant Chief to lead the Risk Reduction and Support Service Bureaus, respectively. I look forward to serving with them in their new leadership roles.

The City Manager launched a Customer Service Excellence Program with the goal of going from good to great as an organization. The Service Excellence Philosophy revolves includes the 4C's of customer service, which are: Committed, Competent, Conscientious, and Communicate. This program fits right into the GFR vision of being the Model of Excellence for the fire service.

On a sad note, we lost one of the pioneers of firefighter minimum standards training and an advocate of firefighter safety when former GFR Battalion Chief Junior James passed away. Chief James influenced the lives and careers of thousands of young firefighters throughout the State of Florida with his wit and wisdom during his years as an instructor at the Florida State Fire College. He continued to be force in the fire service and a mentor up until his last day. He will be missed.

2013 will be a year of challenge with our quest to be become an accredited department through CFAI coming to fruition and to meet the ever-evolving service needs of our customers. I am confident we will meet each of the challenges we face because of the dedication to our mission and values.

The City of Gainesville's 4Cs Service Excellence Philosophy

We are **committed** to...each other, our work, and our customers.

We are **competent** by...exceeding expectations, getting results, and seeking to continuously improve.

We are **conscientious** by...being fiscally responsible, ensuring the safety of our employees, the public, and the environment.

We **communicate** by...being accessible and actively listening; being honest, open, knowledgeable and respectful; seeking engagement; providing accurate information, and educating the public.



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

OPERATIONS

Fire suppression is accomplished on a daily basis with a minimum staffing level of 36 Operations employees including Firefighters, Driver Operators, Lieutenants, and District Chiefs. These individuals staff six engine companies, three truck companies, one squad, two command vehicles and the airport firefighting station.



**Deputy Chief
Tim Hayes**

The fire suppression program is supported by many behind-the-scenes project areas supervised by six District Chiefs, including Water Supply, Communications, Apparatus and Equipment, Facilities, Health and Safety, Physical Fitness, and Airport Rescue and Firefighting.

Delivering services to our community is GFR's primary responsibility and to maintain the level of excellence our customers deserve requires a lot of teamwork in the project areas to ensure that personnel and equipment are ready to serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Examples of some of the project assignments that occur throughout the year include annual testing of all apparatus water pumps and hose; hydrant testing; maintenance and repairs at all eight fire station facilities; ladder testing; maintenance of extrication equipment, cleaning and replacement of bunker gear, inspection and repair of personal protective equipment such as face masks; and inspections of fire station facilities for firefighter safety and wellness.

Keeping GFR's fleet of apparatus and vehicles ready for service is a year-long endeavor. Not only does GFR need to maintain its front-line units, we also need to keep reserve apparatus ready for activation as replacement or additional units. This allows GFR to ensure that every station has an available unit even when their primary apparatus are out of service for maintenance or repairs. One of GFR's District Chiefs works closely with the City's Fleet Manager to oversee this project area. During 2012 the City replaced one of the District Chief's command vehicles with a Chevrolet Suburban and the Special Operations Chief's vehicle with a Ford Fusion. Four replacements are being scheduled for 2013 for Fire Safety Inspectors, the Investigative Services Officer, and the Communications Technician.



B-Shift Extrication Training



Fleet Officer District Chief Pat Lewis Gets Under the Hood



New Air and Light Truck AT1

*Bailout Training
July 2012*



*Ready to Serve
are Conrade Irving,
Chris Whitney, Dallas
Baker, and Alex Lopez*



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Risk Reduction Bureau is comprised of Assistant Fire Chief JoAnne Rice, Fire Safety Inspectors Keith Collingwood, Kelly Derasmo and Steve Hesson, Investigative Services Officer Sandy Ellison, and Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez.

RISK REDUCTION

Risk Reduction Bureau (RRB) staff are committed to enhancing the quality of life in the Gainesville community through fire prevention. RRB staff members worked diligently in 2012 to complete 3,560 total fire prevention activities including fire inspections, plans reviews, night inspections of public assemblies, investigations, issuance of burn permits, fire watches, complaint investigations, follow-ups, and public education activities.

Fire Safety Inspections identify fire safety violations that pose a risk to life and property which require correction. Fire Inspectors Collingwood, Derasmo and Hesson conduct routine inspections on approximately one third of the commercial, institutional, and educational properties with-in the city of Gainesville, to ensure a safe environment for our citizens, students, visitors, and professionals. During this year in addition to conducting routine annual inspections we focused on conducting inspections on many of our higher target hazard properties such as Gainesville Regional Airport, North Florida Regional Medical Center, Deer Haven Power Plant and Griffis Lumber.

Fire Investigations are conducted by ISO Ellison and Inspector Derasmo. During 2012 they conducted 71 cause and origin investigations, resulting in five arrests for arson and other illegal activities and eight sworn complaints for juveniles who were referred to the Juvenile Fire Setter Program.

Public Education efforts are led by Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez. During 2012, with the assistance of numerous Operations personnel, RRS Gonzalez provided 230 public education programs to over 20,800 citizens. These programs included 75 fire company visits, 41 fire station tours, 20 Safety City programs, 35 public presentations to neighborhood associations and other organizations, 12 Operation Safe Club presentations and several other safety programs such as Touch a Truck, Screaming for Safety, the Junior Fire Academy and the first ever Citizens' Fire Academy.

Operation Safe Club expanded from focusing on nightclubs to including all public assemblies with an occupant load over 50, such as restaurants, churches and theatres. In addition to providing training to over 380 Crowd Managers, we also conducted 164 night inspections to ensure compliance with the Crowd Manager requirements. Through the enforcement efforts of RRB staff and members of the Gainesville Police Department we have been successful in limiting overcrowding and creating a safer environment in our public assemblies.

RRB staff continues to coordinate efforts with the Alachua County False Alarm Reduction Unit to reduce the frequency of false alarms in area businesses. Through the efforts of both agencies, calls for false fire alarms have gone down significantly over the past couple of years from over 1600 in 2010 to 737 in 2012. This program highlights the importance of providing information and solutions to our property owners with frequent false alarms and the impact it can have in reducing unnecessary responses. The false alarm reduction program generated over \$33,800 of revenue.



Assistant Chief
JoAnne Rice

In June, GFR and the Professional Firefighters of Gainesville Local 2157 co-hosted the first ever Citizens' Fire Academy. Twenty participants ranging in age from 19 to 67 rotated through four hands-on evolutions.

"It gives you an appreciation for people who put themselves in life-threatening positions," said City of Gainesville Commissioner Susan Bottcher. "I challenge anybody to go through this and think their tax dollars aren't well spent." Ron Ozbun, a 67 year old retiree from the University of Florida, said, "This was fun and exciting. Without having these actual hands on experiences, I wouldn't understand the expertise it requires to complete these jobs."



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SUPPORT SERVICES



Assistant Chief
Michael Randolph
1/1/12 - 9/9/12

Chief Randolph led the Support Services Bureau for six years from September 11, 2006 until September 9, 2012. During his tenure, his position was elevated in rank and responsibilities to the Assistant Chief level and aligned with the expanding and increased mission of supporting the Department's special operations while maintaining the traditional roles of training, development, and testing, as well as managing the recruitment, selection, and orientation of new hires.



Interim Assistant Chief
Don Sessions
9/10/12 - 11/29/12

Chief Sessions was appointed the interim Assistant Chief in September 2012 and was responsible for successfully administering the biennial Fire Lieutenant promotional process that established a list of 15 qualified candidates who, by their success, are identified as the future leaders of the Department. Chief Sessions continued his expertise with special operations and accomplishments in securing significant funding through grants which greatly enhanced GFR's service delivery.

Chief Lane was promoted on November 30, 2012 and assumed the leadership role starting with a process of evaluation of the training functions. A component of the evaluation was the re-establishment of an advisory committee with a goal to develop a biennial training plan that will focus on assuring the fire companies receive adequate training and resources to meet standards and improve their performance and accountability.

Training Bureau Philosophy

1. Assure services are delivered to support the Department Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals.
2. Embrace Diversity and give all members equal opportunity, respect, and fairness.
3. Ensure an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and the exchange of ideas.
4. Align programs, resources, and delivery of services to the users' needs.
5. Provide training that is up-to-date and reflects best practices.

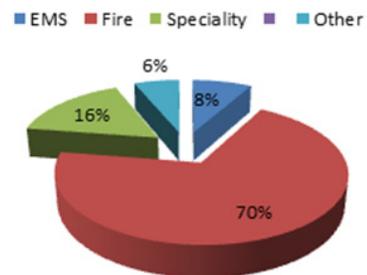


Assistant Chief
Jeff Lane
11/30/12 - Present

GFR provided significant training opportunities, averaging 60 hours per member in 2012. Collectively, over 10,000 hours of training was conducted in 2012.

Estimated distribution of the significant hours of training that were provided in all areas of emergency response including Fire, Medical, Hazardous Materials, and Technical Rescue such as high-angle and collapse.

2012 Training Exceeded 10,000hrs





SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Special Operations Division manages GFR's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program, the Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) program, and the Technical Rescue (TRT) program.

EMS incidents generate approximately 75% to 80% of the calls for service that GFR responds to. All Operations personnel are certified to provide EMS services and over half are certified as paramedics and can provide Advanced Life Support Services. This ensures that every apparatus dispatched to a medical incident will have at least one certified paramedic on board. During 2012 GFR provided EMS services to over 9,200 patients. High priority incidents, such as cardiac arrests, are automatically reviewed by the Support Services Bureau EMS Captain who functions as the Quality Assurance Officer. The EMS Captain and Special Operations Chief work closely with the department's contracted Medical Director to review EMS training and equipment needs to ensure that GFR's personnel can deliver excellent quality medical care.



Special Operations Chief Don Sessions

HAZMAT responses can range from the cleanup of small spills and leaks to the mitigation of significant chemical, radiological or biological exposures or releases. In 2012, GFR units, including members of the Hazmat Team, responded to over 500 calls for service to mitigate spills, leaks or releases of potentially harmful materials. The GFR Hazmat Team consists of 34 technicians, one Hazmat Training Captain, and the Special Operations District Chief. The team are trained and certified to cover an 8,000 square mile region as the technical core of the Local Emergency Planning Council's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. Technicians must complete an initial training program of 160 hours and must maintain competency through additional training every three weeks. Training for hazardous materials mitigation is very detailed and consists of topics and terms such as air monitoring, corrosivity, volatility, toxicity, asphyxiants, background radiation, scintillation devices, explosive limits, flammability, gas migration, hazard control zones, and decontamination just to name a few.

Technical Rescue is a program that prepares first responders to work as a team to perform complex rescues under extraordinary conditions. GFR's Light Technical Rescue Team (LTRT) has been in place for several years and is supervised by one Training Captain and the Special Operations Chief. Unique situations may present the need for rope rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse search and rescue, trench collapse rescue, and heavy vehicle and machinery rescue. GFR's LTRT has also been a member of the North Central Florida Disaster Task Force, serving on USAR team Task Force 8. In past years, this team has responded both inside and out of Florida to assist with post-hurricane search and rescue efforts. The team train monthly on topics such as mechanical advantage systems, rappelling and climbing, structural evaluation, collapse patterns, cutting and breaching operations, lifting and moving heavy objects, soil analysis, and optimal canine resource utilization.



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PUBLIC EDUCATION



Public Education continues to be a top priority for Gainesville Fire Rescue. GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist reaches members of our community with fire and life safety information through a variety of programs.

Coordinating program delivery is a daily job for Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez. Whether scheduling tours at fire stations or lining up GFR personnel to provide instruction for the annual GFR Citizens' Fire Academy, Krista works closely with GFR's Operations, Risk Reduction, and Support Services personnel, as well as many other community partners to make our community safer.

Although it may be difficult to measure the value of prevention programs since we cannot know for sure if our efforts may have prevented a tragedy from occurring, GFR is committed to education as an essential strategy to reduce and eliminate death, injury, and property loss from fire and other risks.

Programs include organizing and/or participating in activities and events such as the Junior Fire Academy, Screaming for Safety, Project Get-Alerted, Bike and Pedestrian Safety, Car Seat Safety, Fire Station visits, Neighborhood Meetings, and the Juvenile Firesetter Program Operation Extinguish, just to name a few.

Year after year, GFR delivers these quality programs and looks for new innovative ways to work with our community partners to make Gainesville as safe as possible for our residents and visitors.



Firefighter Jamal Hafiz shares his experiences as a firefighter with children and parents at the 6th Annual Screaming for Safety event.



Driver Operator Martie Moore helps students in the Junior Fire Academy experience dressing in the firefighters' bunker gear.



Firefighters Leah Cornwell and Kyle Preus show a group of students the extrication tools on Quint 8.



GFR Christmas Carolers volunteered to spread cheer at several local facilities with limited mobility residents and patients.



City of Gainesville Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator Dekova Batey teaches a group of Cub Scouts the rules of the road for bike safety at Kiwanis' Safety City.



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Lt. Tracey Higdon shares information during the GFR Citizens' Fire Academy

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Strategic Plan was formally adopted by the Gainesville City Commission along with the Standards of Cover in November 2012. Both documents are accessible to the public on the department's website at www.gfr.org. The documents work together to provide the business plan for providing services to our customers.

Accomplishing the delivery of services with a consistent level of excellence requires significant planning to ensure that the personnel, facilities, equipment, training, relationships, resources, and programs are in place and planned for well in advance. As the city continues to grow in size and population, service delivery can be impacted from a variety of community characteristics such as population density, traffic patterns, multi-story commercial and residential construction, road network changes, number of buildings requiring inspections, concentrations of limited mobility residents, and more. GFR's current plan contains 12 Goals which help the department track specific objectives and critical tasks that should be completed to meet those goals.

GFR's Goal 9 is to "Achieve and maintain accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International." The GFR team worked throughout 2012 and into 2013 on this effort with the goal of becoming an accredited agency before our Insurance Services Office inspection scheduled for 2014. The work included the development of the GFR Standards of Cover, a department self-assessment, the update of the GFR Strategic Plan and a community risk assessment. In 2012, grant funding was secured to hire several temporary employees who will go out into the community to visit commercial, multi-family residential, and institutional properties to learn more about the probably and consequences of fire events occurring in those buildings. Criteria that can influence the overall risk assessment of a building may include whether it has an active sprinkler system, how many occupants it may have, and what the building is used for as well as many other factors.

Strategic planning Goal 6 requires the department to continually evaluate the distribution of services in relation to our stations and facilities and with regard to the resources of our automatic aid partner, Alachua County Fire Rescue. Both fire chiefs work together to evaluate master planning recommendations and identify the need for station and apparatus changes. Currently, the City of Gainesville is developing plans to replace Fire Station 1, which was built in 1961.



Serving Our Community
Rocky's Toy Drive



Citizens' Fire Academy



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HEALTH & SAFETY PHYSICAL FITNESS



Health and Safety Summary

The Health and Safety Committee met three times during 2012 to evaluate on the job injuries, safety equipment needs, and environmental safety needs for firefighters. They reviewed injury reports and determined that 31 of 57 incidents occurred while responding to or returning from calls for service; only three injuries occurred during training; and the remainder were issues discovered during health testing or were unrelated to training or calls for service activities. During August, 136 personnel completed annual health assessments and 18 completed their five-year physicals. The Health and Safety program also ensures that safety equipment, such as flashlights, boots, bunker gear, helmets, gloves, and other items are regularly inspected, repaired, and replaced.



Firefighters preparing to train at the old Gainesville Police Department building. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes helmets, bunker gear, gloves, boots, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), radios, and personal alerting devices to use if they are trapped or injured.

Physical Fitness Summary

The Physical Fitness Committee also met three times during 2012. Their efforts are guided by the International Association of Firefighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs Wellness Initiative. This initiative is recognized nationwide as a framework for departments to promote activities and practices that help firefighters develop and maintain personal wellness in an effort to combat health risks from both the work environment and daily lifestyle choices. The program utilizes department personnel who are trained and certified as peer fitness trainers (PFTs) who provide classroom instructions on all aspects of fitness, including exercise and nutrition. PFTs may also work one-on-one with department employees to help them target specific areas of fitness efforts.



A Rehab Station set up with medical monitoring equipment, nutritional replacement, and liquids for hydration. Rehab Stations can be used during firefighting and other activities to prevent illness and injury.



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Station 2 2210 SW Archer Road

FACILITIES

Our fire stations are showing their age, but if we do our part to keep them clean and report problems we can further their longevity. Here are the upgrades performed in 2012:

- Station 1 had all the carpet replaced downstairs with tile allowing employees to work in a more sanitary environment. The back ramp was reconstructed due to multiple areas of cracking and cave-ins.
- Station 2 received a new A/C unit. All the carpet was replaced with tile. The front room was converted into a classroom with new audio and visual equipment. The patio area on was enclosed and furniture added. A new drain system was installed underneath the bays. New blinds were installed in the dining area and cubicle doors were added to sleeping quarters.
- Station 3 is in line to have the entire kitchen area restored, the bids process is complete. We are faced with one roadblock: funding. We have identified about \$10,000 that we can use for this project; this still leaves us about \$6,300 short. Hopefully, with some creative thinking on Gary Cothren's part, we can find the additional funds to complete the project. Lt. Hinton and his crew constructed a new computer desk in the bunk room. The drill tower got a new coat of paint.
- Station 4 carpet was replaced with tile. C-Shift employees at station 4 revitalized the day room area with new paint and a newly constructed entertainment center. New lighting was added to the exterior of the station.
- Station 5 needs its kitchen restored. Once the funds become available, it's up next for an upgrade. The carpet was replaced in the gym area with rubber flooring. There are future plans for an addition to the sleeping quarters.
- Station 6 had minimal changes during this past year. The back cubicles did get doors installed to provide for more privacy.
- Station 7 had no significant needs.
- Station 8 is the newest of all stations, but still had work done. A much needed intercom system was installed. F/F Massicotte installed a Forcible Entry Door Prop on the second level of the apparatus bay. The south entrance to the apparatus bay was reconstructed due to concrete deterioration.
- All stations had their mattresses replaced during 2012.

Everyone's efforts on a daily basis to help keep the stations functioning well make a difference and are truly appreciated.

District Chief Richard Saulsberry

Station 1
427 South
Main Street



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology supports nearly every aspect of service for Gainesville Fire Rescue. During 2012, GFR worked on upgrading mobile laptops from Windows XP, which will no longer be supported, to Windows 7; updating the department's Training Database; developing video-conferencing capabilities for training and meetings; creating the database for the community risk assessment project; aiding with testing of the on-going Naztec traffic software project which will integrate with the computer aided dispatch system to allow the changing of traffic signals to open up travel corridors for responding units; and, developing parameters and setting up an automated scheduling and employee notification system. Several of these projects will extend into 2013 and are just an example of the many assignments carried out by Artie Chestnut, GFR's Technical Analyst, Sr., throughout the year.



Station 5 1244 NW 30th Avenue



Station 6 Gainesville Regional Airport



*Deputy Chief of Operations
Tim Hayes works to reduce
fuel costs by holding staff
meetings over the computer
network.*



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PROGRAM APPRAISALS

*Training at the old
Gainesville Police
Department
building.*



GFR Command Staff prepare and review appraisals annually to evaluate the effectiveness of each service program. Detailed reports look at performance, training, resources, accomplishments, and sustainability needs.

Fire Suppression

During 2012, GFR and ACFR units responded to 425 fire-related incidents inside the city limits of Gainesville. Of the 425, units actively engaged in fire suppression operations on 215 incidents, including 41 out of 72 building fires. The total response time from 911 call to arrival of the first unit on those building fires was better than 7:47 minutes on 90% of the responses. The fire suppression program is supported by several key components including communications, water supply, facilities, apparatus, equipment, training, health and safety, and physical fitness. Recommendations from those areas for 2013 included the replacement of the command center module for one District Chief's vehicle; the purchase of additional thermal imagers, replacement of several old mobile computers in apparatus; additional funding to increase the half-time communications technical position to full-time; renovation of several items in fire stations; and funding to coordinate hydrant painting with GRU, just to name a few.

Fire Prevention

Fire inspection activities for 2012 included the completion of 954 building inspections totaling nearly 11,500,000 square feet. The agency continues to be challenged by staffing needs in trying to meet its annual goal of completing 1800 inspections annually. GFR also improved the safety of our patrons through 164 night inspections during the year which identified 71 violations needing correction.

Emergency Medical Services

GFR personnel made contact with over 9,200 patients in 2012. The total response time from 911 call to arrival of the first unit on all types of EMS calls was 10:38 minutes or better 90% of the time; for significant priority calls, it was 9:19 minutes or better 90% of the time.

Hazardous Materials

GFR's Hazmat Team responds locally and regionally. On-duty personnel were paged out to 343 incidents in both the City and the automatic aid area in 2012 and remained onscene for 172 incidents. The team, along with one GFR District Chief, provided mutual aid support to Gilchrist County in June 2012 for a natural gas line that had been cut and ignited. The team was able to successfully access and shutoff the source of the gas.

Aviation Firefighting and Rescue

GFR staffs the airport fire station 24 hours every day and works closely with Gainesville Regional Airport staff to meet requirements established by the Federal Aviation Administration. Units were dispatched to 10 standby incidents in 2012 to ensure rescue and fire suppression services were onsite if needed.

Fire Investigation

GFR's Investigative Services Officer and back-up ISO provided follow-up on 71 cause and origin investigations, including one civilian death and three injuries. Over 70% of the incidents were determined to be accidental. Less than 19% were incendiary in nature and resulted in the filing of eight sworn complaints and five arrests.

Public Education

GFR's public education program used a variety of methods to share safety and prevention information and reached the equivalent of 17% of the City's population during the year. Activities included 75 visits from fire station companies to local educational, daycare, and other settings, 41 station tours, 12 crowd manager training sessions, three child safety seat events, and over 50 public presentations and educational events.

Technical Rescue

Gainesville's Light Technical Rescue Team #310 responds locally and regionally for rescues requiring specialized training for confined spaces, high angles, machinery, and similar scenarios. Fortunately, in 2012, the GFR LTRT was not activated for any rescues although on-duty team members used their skills throughout the year on more routine rescues such as those from vehicles and elevators. The team engaged in monthly training and worked closely with Gainesville Regional Utilities on confined space and high-angle rescue training. Program recommendations include equipment and supplies needed to maintain State Type II Team requirements and training for at least three personnel in the master trainer program.



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District Chiefs James Lovvorn and Rusty Barrett

A-SHIFT

A-Shift saw quite a few personnel changes this year. Firefighter Sharon Jones retired in November after serving 20 years with GFR; we will miss her and wish her well in her new adventures. Two new firefighters, Dustin Shreiner and Scott Robinson, joined the A-Shift team.

Driver Operator Betty Braun was promoted to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Curtis Crawford moved from the Airport Fire Station 6 to Station 7 and Lieutenant Mike Sanders relocated to Station 6. Driver Operator Jamel Cheesborough and Driver Operator Wendy Anderson completed Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training in South Carolina and have been cleared to work at Station 6.

Congratulations also go out to D/O Ron Thomas, D/O Jeff Schumacher, D/O Wendy Anderson, D/O Jamel Cheesborough and D/O Eugene Dugan for their successful completion of the Lieutenant's promotional process.

A-shift, along with the rest of the department, worked very hard on accreditation, and continues to prepare for the upcoming site visit.

A-Shift organized and completed some live fire training at the Florida State Fire College on their day off on a Saturday. The effort was coordinated with FSFC to use their facility, and involved many of the live fire instructors employed by GFR that also work at FSFC. They created live fire training scenarios involving search and rescue, fire behavior, and self-rescue techniques. By all accounts the training was very beneficial to all.



District Chiefs Jeff Lane and Michael Cowart

B-SHIFT

B-shift said goodbye to District Chief Jeff Lane who was promoted to Assistant Chief of Support Services in 2012. District Chief Mike Cowart kept his team busy working on physical fitness and health and safety initiatives throughout the year. Driver Operator Alexis Delisle and Firefighter Andy Pearce



contributed in a big way to the accreditation process by working on the Standards of Cover and Self-Assessment. B-shift was proud to recognize two of their members, Lieutenant Mike Tringali and Firefighter John Dowling, when they received the Medal of Valor at the March 2013 ceremony.



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

C-SHIFT

District Chiefs Pat Lewis and Richard Saulsberry

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. During the past year many good things were accomplished at Gainesville Fire Rescue. C-Shift would like to share some information on the areas we feel are very important to GFR. Lieutenants assigned to truck companies have dedicated themselves to training the newer employees the ins and outs of truck company operations.

We saw a need to deliver this type of training during the probationary period; too many times they are rotated to different engine companies with little exposure to truck operations. What we found was they were very interested in the functions that are associated with truck operations, but did not get the opportunities during the probationary period to train in this area.

We identified employees with an interest and scheduled them to be a part of Truck Company Operations on Fridays and Saturdays. Some of the areas we focused on were the understanding of the inside and outside crew, Ground Ladder Deployment, Aerial Set-up, Extrication, Search and Rescue, Ventilation (horizontal, vertical, positive pressure, natural), use of hand tools, Sawsall, and Aerial Ladder Climbing.

The employees that participated were very pleased with the opportunity to gain the needed knowledge to be able to perform as a truck company member. They also came away understanding that there's a big difference between the functions of an engine vs. a truck. By training these employees on these functions, we have allowed chief officers that prepare the riding schedule with the ability to be flexible during scheduling. Now, when these employees are needed to serve on a truck company, they will have the necessary tools to be confident and efficient. This is a practice we will continue in the future as new employees are assigned to C-Shift.

SCBA

GFR's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus remains in good standings. D/O Brown and Lt. Jackson developed a very good working relationship with SCOTT air pack reps over the years. When we needed parts, warranty work or any other assistance, they readily provided it. D/O Brown conducted the POSI CHEK Process; this process assures that regulators are functioning properly. SCOTT air packs have served us well here at GFR: The packs are roughly 8-years old and are reaching their limits although they are not quite unusable. GFR tries to replace equipment before it reaches the unusable limits. Until then we need to continue to take care of our packs by storing them properly and cleaning them when they are soiled. The plan is to purchase new ones in the year 2014 or 2015.

The Annual Mask Fit Test was a success. I would like to thank each of you for your patience during this process. I have gotten bids to obtain our own Mask Fit Testing equipment, like other items, we are working on identifying funding.

Remember, if the packs need servicing fill out the service tag with what's wrong, date, and who turned it in to be serviced.

C-Shifters Accomplishments

Allen Siorek promoted to District Chief

Don Campbell completed the District Chief's Process

Calvert Brown, Nick Gonzalez, Conrade Irving, Jeremy Massicotte,

and Sean Withers completed the Lieutenant's Process



BE SAFE*BE RESPONSIBLE*BE OPEN MINDED*TRAIN HARD*HELP OTHERS*
STAY FIT MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY*STAY TRUE TO EACH OTHER



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GFR's Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony for achievements in 2012 was held March 14, 2013 at the Gainesville-Alachua County Senior Center.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Medal of Valor Lt. Mike Tringali and Firefighter John Dowling

Distinguished Service Medal Driver Operator Wes Breeden

Donald J. King Mentorship Award Lieutenant Parnell Jones

GFR Employee of the Year Awards

Chief Officer of the Year
 Company Officer of the Year
 Driver Operator of the Year
 Firefighter of the Year
 EMS Provider of the Year
 Inspector of the Year
 Instructor of the Year
 Athlete of the Year
 Dispatcher of the Year
 Administrative Employee

District Chief Mike Cowart
 Lieutenant Sean Campbell
 Driver Operator Jason Powell
 Firefighter Chad Belger
 Firefighter David Sutton
 Fire Inspector Steve Hesson
 Firefighter Joey Gonzalez
 Firefighter Wlises Mejia
 Fire Dispatcher Scott Shelman
 Kathy Driggers

Once again, GFR and City Leaders were proud to present the Medal of Valor, GFR's highest award.

Lieutenant Mike Tringali and Firefighter John Dowling were recognized for their heroic efforts to rescue a patient after an explosion in his apartment.

GFR also honored retirees Bill Blair and Sharron Jones for their years of dedicated service.



Medical Director's Award for EMS Excellence
 Firefighter Andrew Marsh

Service Appreciation Awards
 Driver Operator Calvert Brown
 Firefighter Jeremy Massicotte
 Firefighter Adam Whitehead

Community Service Award
 Firefighter Conrade Irving
 Lieutenant Mike Tringali
 Firefighter Wes McQueen
 Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Gonzalez

Chief's Award of Excellence
 District Chief Allen Siorek
 GPD Corporal Gary Henagan
 Lieutenant Steve Mueller
 Driver Operator Scotty Taylor
 Firefighter Brett Thomas
 Firefighter Sean Withers
 Supply and Equipment Specialist James Petty

Paramedic Certification
 Alex Cowart
 Jamal Hafiz
 Derek Joseph
 Wes McQueen
 Joe Morris
 Erick Pena
 Scott Robinson

Continuing Education
 Greg Fenn
 Chad Heinz
 Mike MacKendree
 Jamal Hafiz
 Alex Lopez
 Alix Thony



Ceremony photos by Keith Collingwood



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GFR PERSONNEL 2012

Man is the only creature that dares to light a fire and live with it. The reason? Because he alone has learned to put it out. -- Henry Jackson Vandyke, Jr.

Fire Chief	Gene Prince	Driver Operator	Scott Dillon	Firefighter	Kristopher Keen
Deputy Chief	Timothy Hayes	Driver Operator	Alan DuBose	Firefighter	George Keyzer
Assistant Chief	JoAnne Rice	Driver Operator	Eugene Dugan	Firefighter	Reginald Kinsey, III
Assistant Chief	Jeffrey Lane	Driver Operator	Edward Evans	Firefighter	Joseph Lewis
District Chief	Rusty Barrett	Driver Operator	Gregory Fenn	Firefighter	Alex Lopez
District Chief	Michael Cowart	Driver Operator	Randy Gaskins	Firefighter	Michael Lowery
District Chief	Pat Lewis	Driver Operator	Nicolas Gonzalez	Firefighter	Michael MacKendree
District Chief	James Lovvorn	Driver Operator	Reshard Hodges	Firefighter	Andrew Marsh
District Chief	Richard Saulsberry	Driver Operator	Stephanie Hornbuckle	Firefighter	Robert Mason
District Chief	Don Sessions	Driver Operator	Amanda James	Firefighter	Jeremy Massicotte
District Chief	Allen Siorek	Driver Operator	Leslie Lane	Firefighter	Wes McQueen
Captain	Shawn Hillhouse	Driver Operator	Jody Markwich	Firefighter	Wlises Mejia
Captain	Bill McCrea	Driver Operator	Byron McGriff	Firefighter	Joseph Morris
Captain	Daniel Smith	Driver Operator	Martie Moore	Firefighter	Andrew Pearce
		Driver Operator	Wallace O'Neal, Jr.	Firefighter	Richard Pena
Lieutenant	Dallas Baker	Driver Operator	Eric Pace	Firefighter	Erick Pena
Lieutenant	Kim Berryman-Dages	Driver Operator	Bradley Paquette	Firefighter	Matthew Pfoft
Lieutenant	Erle Biggs	Driver Operator	JD Perryman	Firefighter	Caleb Polhill
Lieutenant	Timothy Bowen	Driver Operator	Jason Powell	Firefighter	Kyle Preus
Lieutenant	Betty Braun	Driver Operator	Lynn Scheibly	Firefighter	Melinda Quinn
Lieutenant	William Bristow	Driver Operator	Jeffrey Schuhmacher	Firefighter	Joshua Roberts
Lieutenant	Sean Campbell	Driver Operator	Daniel Sivyer	Firefighter	Noah Roberts
Lieutenant	Don Campbell, Jr.	Driver Operator	Scotty Taylor	Firefighter	Scott Robinson
Lieutenant	Curtis Crawford	Driver Operator	Corey Thomas	Firefighter	Josh Rodgers
Lieutenant	Franklin Diaz	Driver Operator	Ronald Thomas, Jr	Firefighter	Sims Rogers, Jr
Lieutenant	Todd Ellis	Driver Operator	Joseph Walker	Firefighter	Kevin Schoneck
Lieutenant	Daniel Godfrey	Firefighter	Ernesto Acuna	Firefighter	Dustin Shreiner
Lieutenant	Tracey Higdon	Firefighter	Preston Attebery	Firefighter	Christopher Silcox
Lieutenant	Daniel Hinton	Firefighter	John Barker	Firefighter	Michael Steele, Jr.
Lieutenant	John Jackson	Firefighter	Chad Belger	Firefighter	Mark Sturks
Lieutenant	Kenneth Johnson	Firefighter	Matthew Browder	Firefighter	David Sutton
Lieutenant	Parnell Jones	Firefighter	James Brown	Firefighter	Brett Thomas
Lieutenant	Gary Law	Firefighter	Thomas Burgett	Firefighter	Alix Thony
Lieutenant	Terry McCarthy	Firefighter	Sean Canady	Firefighter	Elijah Virgin
Lieutenant	David McIntire	Firefighter	Harold Clary	Firefighter	Paul West
Lieutenant	Steven Mueller	Firefighter	Leah Cornwell	Firefighter	Adam Whitehead
Lieutenant	Christopher Nelson	Firefighter	Brian Cote	Firefighter	Christopher Whitney
Lieutenant	Chase Prince	Firefighter	Alexander Cowart	Firefighter	Eric Williams
Lieutenant	Michael Sanders	Firefighter	Stephen Decker	Firefighter	Cary Williams
Lieutenant	Ace Saulsberry	Firefighter	John Dowling	Firefighter	Todd Willoughby
Lieutenant	Keith Saunders	Firefighter	Herbert Ennis, III	Firefighter	Sean Withers
Lieutenant	Michael Tringali	Firefighter	Joey Gonzalez	Investigative Svcs Officer	Sandy Ellison
Lieutenant	Bradley Tschorn	Firefighter	Joel Graves	Fire Inspector	Keith Collingwood
Lieutenant	Pat West	Firefighter	Kevin Gutierrez	Fire Inspector	Kelly DeRasmo
Lieutenant	Derrick West	Firefighter	Jamal Hafiz	Fire Inspector	Stephen Hesson
Driver Operator	Wendy Anderson	Firefighter	Drew Halvorson	Tech Systems Analyst, Sr	Artie Chestnut
Driver Operator	Ernie Benjamin	Firefighter	Thomas Hand	Risk Reduction Specialist	Krista Gonzalez
Driver Operator	Bill Blair	Firefighter	Matthew Harrison	Executive Assistant, Sr.	Kathlene Driggers
Driver Operator	Mark Boals	Firefighter	Pat Hartley	Account Clerk, Sr.	Marjorie Houston
Driver Operator	Wesley Breeden	Firefighter	Chad Heinz	Staff Specialist	Adrienne Baker
Driver Operator	Calvert Brown	Firefighter	Jason Hendricks	Staff Specialist	Lisa Julseth
Driver Operator	Paula Buckholz	Firefighter	Amanda Howard	Staff Assistant	Sheri Sheehan
Driver Operator	Julie Butterfield	Firefighter	Keith Hughes	Radio/Comm Tech.	Kenneth Habicht
Driver Operator	Jamel Cheesborough	Firefighter	Aaron Hunt	Supply-Equip Specialist	James Petty
Driver Operator	Jonathan Cicio	Firefighter	Conrade Irving		
Driver Operator	Alexis Delisle	Firefighter	Jeffrey Jamison		
		Firefighter	Sharron Jones		
		Firefighter	Derek Joseph		



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GFR PERSONNEL 2012



Retirees in 2012

Bill B. Blair
Driver Operator
May 1, 2012

Lee "Pat" Harley, Jr.
Firefighter
March 1, 2012

Sharron F. Jones
Firefighter
October 31, 2012



We Will Always Remember...

John "Junior" James and Donald Holder
May 22, 2012 August 10, 2012

The Fire Service lost one of its most honored professionals in 2012.

Chief John "Junior" James began working at GFR on February 10, 1947 and served the department for 31 years, retiring as a Battalion Chief.

Chief James continued to serve those in the Florida Fire Service in his new career at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala. His legacy lives on today in the lives saved by those he trained during more than five decades of service.



RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED

GAINESVILLE FIRE RESCUE 2012

ART in PUBLIC PLACES

In 2012, a competitive field of 13 artists responded to a "Call for Artists" to submit projects for GFR's newest station, Fire Station 8, and the GFR Administration Headquarters. After reviewing all of the excellent submissions, the panel, including Fire Chief Gene Prince, selected three projects and added a new location, Fire Station 1 located in Downton Gainesville.



*Jenn Garrett's
Into The Smoke
(Shown at night)
Fire Station 1
427 S Main Street*

*Tom Virgin's Tribute to Firefighters
and those lost on September 11, 2001
Fire Station 8
3223 NW 42nd Avenue*



*Charles Partin's
Memorial Monument
to Fire Services
Fire Administration
and Support Services
1026 NE 14th Street*



*The GORUCK
Challenge
August 2012
Westside Park*

*Remembering the Fallen
September 11, 2012 at Station 1*



GFR continues to make significant time and financial contributions to the City of Gainesville's Annual program "Gainesville's Little Ones" affectionately known as GLO. With Lt. Terry McCarthy at the helm, GFR's members have helped to brighten the holidays of dozens of children with new bicycles each year.

This year, Forest Meadows dedicated a fund-raising fish fry to support GFR's "Project Get Alarmed." Over \$700 were raised to help the Risk Reduction Bureau purchase smoke detectors that firefighters install in the homes of local residents who qualify for the program.



All GFR Stations are designated as Safe Place and Safe Haven locations

Every year Gainesville Firefighters join forces with the Muscular Dystrophy Association to improve the lives of others. The GFR Team raised over \$10,500 with their Fill-the-Boot efforts in 2012.



Published June 2013

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTABLE PROFESSIONAL INNOVATIVE DEDICATED