



Firehouse Notes

MAY
2005

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share?

Is there a new addition you'd like to introduce to your associates at St. George? A special family event, graduation or wedding? If so, pass it on to the PIO in person, by phone or via E-mail. We'll be happy to put your news in our next issue.

"Hello" from the "New" PIO

Since re-joining the St. George Fire Department last November as your Public Information Officer, after having served on the Board of Commissioners in the early to mid nineties, I've tried to meet and visit with each of you. To anyone I've missed I'd like to say, "Hello. I'm really happy to be a member of this team. I promise to each of you to do just what you do every day: to do my job in a professional manner in service to the public and to the members of this Department."

New Addition to the Family

Firefighter Jimmy "Trey" Jackson (C - 66) and his wife Brandi have welcomed their first child, Grace Lynn Jackson, to their family. She was born at 2 PM on March 31st. "Gracie" weighed 7 pounds 8.6 ounces at birth. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

Training Officer Tom Davies Returns to Work Following Surgery

Training Officer Tom Davies (A - 607) is back at work following successful surgery for an abdominal hernia. Welcome back, Tom.

Chief Maintains an Open Door Policy

Fire Chief Jerry Tarleton wishes to stress that any St. George Fire Department member who wishes to speak with him may do so. If you have any questions or concerns that have not been resolved through the chain of command, or if you just want to "hear it from the Fire Chief," Chief Tarleton is accessible. He can't guarantee that you'll always agree with his answers, but he welcomes the chance to personally address your concerns.

Don Kelly Leaves St George Board

The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council has appointed Charles Heath to the SGFPD Board of Commissioners. He replaces Don Kelly, who has served on the Board since February of 1992. Don's service goes back to the Department's volunteer days. His service in a number of capacities was instrumental in the growth of the St. George Fire Department into what it is today.

At the April Board meeting, Don was presented a plaque as a token of gratitude for his many years of loyal service to the citizens of the SGFPD.

Is There a Need for a St. George Firefighter's Association ?

There have been some informal and very preliminary conversations held over the last few weeks about whether there is sufficient interest to attempt the formation (or maybe the resurrection) of a benevolent society made up of and serving the members of the St. George Fire Department. This is NOT something the administration is trying to force on the employees. Any such organization would have to be employee-funded and employee-run and totally voluntary. The members of the association would have to elect a governing board that would be totally responsible for setting up appropriate by-laws and operating guidelines, including eligibility criteria for anyone needing the group's assistance.

If there is interest in the operation of such an organization, the Department could perhaps be of assistance in the incorporation effort and could probably also help by collecting dues/contributions as a voluntary payroll deduction. To move beyond the talking phase will require a commitment from people on each shift and, ideally, from each station. A group of people will have to step forward who are committed to making this happen, not just who want to see it happen. If there is not sufficient interest, or if there is not a sufficient commitment to make such an organization work, then the idea will die a natural death.

If you have the time to dedicate to this idea or have some thoughts to share about it, please E-mail or call Eldon Ledoux (erledoux@stgeorgefire.com or 389-8600 or 279-1493).