



Firehouse Notes

November
2005

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? You Have to Share It for Us to Print It.

Nothing of your personal lives will be shared without your permission and approval. So, if there is a new addition to your family you'd like to introduce to your associates at St. George; or a special family event, graduation or wedding; please pass it on to the PIO in person, by phone or via email. We'll be happy to put your news in our next issue. But, we can't print what you don't share with us.

Website Revamped - Really!

The St. George Fire Department's website really has been redesigned. Really. I know we told you this last month, but our problems posting to the web host seem to have all been worked out.

Within 24 hours of launch of the new version we were constrained by server security issues regarding our web host. This resulted in the "new" website either not being accessible or consisting of only the old home page with no links or new material for the better part of a week. Needless to say, we got a number of interesting and, for the most part, constructive and amusing emails regarding the "new and improved stgeorgefire.com."

Anyway, it IS out there for your review and comments. If there is anything you would like to see added to www.stgeorgefire.com call or email Eldon Ledoux with your suggestions. And, to those who offered to lend some expertise to the project, you WILL be hearing from me. I welcome your advice and look forward to learning a few tricks of the trade, so to speak.

St. George Family Offers Condolences

All of us in the St. George family join in offering our condolences to Chief of Operations Boyd Westbrook upon the loss of his mother. Mrs. Geraldine "Jerry" Westbrook lost her prolonged battle with cancer on October 24th. Funeral services and burial took place on October 28th.

Ground Breaking Held for Station 64

Construction has officially begun on St. George's eighth fire station. Station 64 will be located at 17575 Hoo Shoo Too Rd, near the intersection of Jefferson Hwy. Ground breaking for the new station was held at 10:00 Thursday, October 20, 2005.

The ceremony was simple and brief. Following an invocation by St. George Fire Department Chaplain, Reverend Deborah Drash, Fire Chief Jerry Tarleton spoke briefly. He thanked the taxpayers of the district for their support of the Department and pledged to continue serving the public's fire safety and emergency response needs to the best of the Department's ability.

Next, Mayor-President Holden expressed his appreciation and admiration for the job St. George has done and continues to do in providing emergency services to a rapidly growing portion of the parish. Mayor Pro-Tempore Joe Greco, and Councilman Darrell Ourso – in whose council district the station lies – echoed the mayors sentiments.

The Board of Commissioners of the St. George Fire Protection District (President Johnny Suchy, and members Lucius Butts, Frank Collura, Gary Durham, and Charles Heath) were then joined by Chief Tarleton, Mayor Holden, and Councilmen Greco and Ourso in the ceremonial ground breaking.

The building was designed by the architectural firm of Crump Wilson and Associates and is being built by Burns Construction. These same firms did the work on Station 68. They will also do the renovation of Station 66. Both projects should be finished by mid-June 2006.

The \$783,000 construction and \$365,000 renovation projects are funded from the proceeds of a 1.5 mil Capital Improvements assessment passed by the voters of the District in 2002. This is the second new fire station built and the third station renovated as part of that program.

When completed, Station 64 will house an engine company and a tanker truck. The station will be manned 24 hours per day by a minimum crew of three firefighter / EMT's. It will also serve as the administrative headquarters for Chief 605 one of the two District Chiefs on duty at all times.