



Firehouse Notes

February
2007

Welcome to New Commissioner

The Metropolitan Council has appointed J.C. Monte to the St. George Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners. J.C. comes from a well-recognized family of firefighters, having himself served 29 years (from 1965 to 1994) in the Baton Rouge Fire Department.

He also worked for St. George for seven and a half years during the mid-70's to early 80's. As J.C. put it, "when there were only three fire stations in service." J.C. has lived in the St. George District for 32 years. He has expressed his service springs from his desire to give back to the St. George community.

We welcome Mr. Monte to the Board and hope he finds working with his fellow commissioners and Chief Tarleton to help chart the Department's future to be a fulfilling experience.

In addition to appointing Mr. Monte, the Metropolitan Council also re-appointed Charles Heath for another two year term.

Graduation Set for Academy

The recruits who began their fire academy training last September are scheduled to be graduated as firefighters on March 1st. The ceremony is scheduled for 6:30PM on the evening of Thursday, March 1st at the Highland Road Campus of Healing Place Church. This is the facility that hosted our last graduation.

The Academy class of eleven cadets includes nine future St. George firefighters as well as one member each from the Baker and Zachary Fire Departments.

Among the honored guests attending graduation will be Mr. Walter Monsour, Chief Administrative Officer of the Office of the Mayor-President. Mr. Monsour will administer the oath of office to academy graduates.

The public, and certainly all members of the St. George family are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be a reception held immediately following the ceremony.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? ... Graduation, Wedding, or New Addition to The Family? ... Please Share It With Us.

Two New Positions Authorized by the Board

The Board of Commissioners has authorized the creation and filling of two new staff positions. One is for the Maintenance Officer and the other is to add a second Inspector to the Fire Prevention Bureau, headed by Chief of Fire Prevention Darian Williams.

The Maintenance Officer slot has been filled with the promotion of Captain Bart Deshotel to the position. Bart is an eight year veteran of the department. He brings a variety of specialized skills and knowledge to the position from his previous employment at Ferrara Fire Apparatus.

The Maintenance Officer will report directly to the Fire Chief but will work very closely with the Chiefs of Operations and Administration. The initial responsibility of the position is to take responsibility for physical plant, equipment, and fleet upkeep and maintenance.

The position of Fire Inspector was filled by the promotion of Captain Oray Johnson. Oray has ten years of service with St. George. He also serves as the Fire Chief of the Alsen-St. Irma Lee Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Inspector Johnson will report directly to Chief of Fire Prevention Darian Williams. The additional position is one that is needed to enable the Fire Prevention Bureau to keep up with the challenges posed by the rapid growth of our District in both residential and commercial development.

To fill the void created by these two promotions, Ralph "Andy" Ladnier has been promoted to Captain. Captain Ladnier is a ten year veteran of the Department.

Condolences to Chief Williams

We offer our condolences and ask that each of you keep Chief Darian Williams in your thoughts due to the recent unexpected death of his sister.