



# Firehouse Notes

March  
2007

## Academy Graduation Held March 1st

The St. George Fire Department has graduated its sixth fire academy class. In a ceremony held at Healing Place Church on Highland Road, eleven fire recruits graduated to join the area ranks of firefighters. Nine of the firefighters are from the St. George Fire Dept; while Baker and Zachary Fire each had one graduate.

The of family members, friends, and well-wishers heard addresses by St. George Fire Chief Jerry Tarleton, Baker Fire Chief Danny Edwards, Zachary Fire Chief Dan Wallis, and City-Parish Chief Administrative Officer Walter Monsour.

Each graduate was presented their badge by their respective fire chief and had that badge pinned on for the first time by a special person of their choosing. Mr. Monsour administered the oath of office to the class.

Kyle Shuford was selected by the recruits to deliver the class address. The Fire Academy valedictorian is Gina Guidry. She also earned honors as the EMT Class valedictorian. The Training Officers' Award for most perseverance was earned by Jason Landry.

Chief Tarleton repeated the words he had for each of the recruits in their job interviews; all that is expected of them is to do their job, protecting and serving the public.

Mr. Monsour echoed those sentiments adding that all the new firefighters had to do was follow the example of their chiefs and training officers. Mr. Monsour said, "I have known some of those men for 20 or 30 years, and I can tell you that they are as good men as God has made." He pledged his and Mayor Holden's support for first responders. Mr. Monsour added that his personal respect for the fire service stems partially from having needed to call for their assistance on more than one occasion. He stated his admiration for people who are called to serve the public as first responders.

Plaques of appreciation were presented by Chief Tarleton to Mr. Bill Gvoich, who served as the academy physical fitness instructor and to Mr. Chris

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

Browning on behalf of the LSU Fire and Emergency Training Institute. A plaque was also presented to Pastor Ken Spivey, who delivered the invocation and benediction, on behalf of Healing Place Church for their support in allowing the use of their facility.

The graduates are: (Baker) Ronald Brady; (Zachary) Justin Walker; (St. George) Jacob Crow, Gina Guidry, Jason Landry, Colin Murphy, Michael Pickett, Kyle Shuford, Matthew Talley, Corey Washington, and Samuel Williams.

## Chiefs Getting New Vehicles

The 2000-2001 Dodge pickups used by our on-duty chiefs are being replaced with new Ford Expeditions. The SUV's will offer more and more comfortable seating without giving up much, if any storage capacity.

The Ford's will remain white, like the pick up trucks, but will exhibit a new striping scheme using safety yellow vinyl. They will also be equipped with more modern emergency response lighting which will greatly increase their street level visibility.

## St. George Awarded Fire Act Grant

The Department has received notification that it has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$60,000

The grant money will be used to partially fund a mobile breathing air system. The system will allow for refilling air bottles on scene. The total cost of the breathing system is estimated to be approximately \$95,000. The remaining costs have been allocated to allow St. George to move forward with the project.

The mobile breathing air system, once in service, will contribute to a safer response environment.

The unit will be outfitted with an electrical generator to make it self-contained for field operations. This capability will also allow the unit to provide additional lighting in support of night-time operations.