



Firehouse Notes

November
December
2007

Santa Parades The Best Ever

The Santa Parades over the first two weekends of December were a big success. Our partners, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and Christmas for Challenged Children report record donations.

Two years ago, we collected 4,500 pounds of food. Last year our total was 7,200 pounds. This year, after the first weekend, we had collected 4,800 pounds of food and the preliminary estimate by the Food Bank is 10,300 pounds. The amount will grow, as members of the public continue to drop off food and toy donations to the stations. The Food Bank barrels will be picked up from the stations on December 21st. The final numbers won't be available until after Christmas. When we get them, we'll pass them along.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Department for your part in these parades. Special thanks go out to those crews who worked with me on the media ride-alongs. I know we slowed your efforts, but we've gotten some very good press as a result.

Voters Renewed 6 Mill Property Tax

On October 20, the voters of the District renewed our six (6.0) mill property tax first approved by the voters in 1998. The monies generated by the tax will be used for the general operation, staffing and maintenance of the Department. This will account for almost 40% of the Department's projected revenue in the 2007-2008 budget.

It is important to remember that this is not "new money" but rather the ability to keep what we have in terms of assessed millages. Had the renewal failed, it would have been devastating to the Department.

The measure passed 21,327 to 5,987. That's a 78.1% positive vote. The renewal passed in every precinct of the District. Even though we have grown accustomed to such high levels of public support, we all know that such a high level of support has been earned by years of conscientious public service.

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

St. George Promotions Announced

On November 9th, Chief Tarleton announced the promotions of District Chief Chad Roberson to Assistant Fire Chief, Captain James Newman to District Chief and Firefighter/Operator Jeremy Hurst to Captain. Chief Roberson has been assigned to C Shift, Chief 602. Chief Newman is on A Shift, Chief 604. Captain Hurst was assigned to A Shift, Engine 623. Congratulations to each of these gentlemen.

To accommodate the above promotions, District Chief Frank Sanford was transferred to C Shift, Chief 604.

Six New Engines Expected Between Christmas and New Year

We expect to take delivery on six Ferrara pumpers shortly after Christmas. They will be placed into service one at a time as radios and other equipment need to be transferred from the Freightliners as they are retired. At last word, the new ladder will be ready for delivery in some time in February.

"Freddie the Fire Truck" Added to the St. George Fleet

Thanks to a grant of \$9937 from Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services and Fireman's Fund Insurance, we have purchased an exciting new public education tool. The robotic fire truck will bring a new dimension to our childhood fire safety education efforts.

"Freddie" just arrived, so the procedures for his use are being formulated. The radio controlled truck will allow personal interaction with the kids. He is capable of delivering a mix of pre-recorded and live fire safety messages. You'll be hearing more about "Freddie" later.