

ANSWERING THE CALL



Barrow County Emergency Services Newsletter

October 2016



Photo Credit— Nelson Sanders Photography

Chief's Message

October brings a new budget year to us and once again we are exciting to execute our budget plan for FY17! As we have done in the past, we have a new set of goals and objectives that as a team we will accomplish together.

More importantly, you all will see a cost of living raise this month that is well deserved by all! We will be getting the information on the market adjustment portion within the next couple of weeks as well, which is more positive news for BCES!

Currently, we are working with CVIOG regarding the new employee performance appraisals that will begin later in the budget year after some additional training. This will be a great performance system as we move forward and I am looking forward to its implementation!

In addition to the above, we will also see some operational staff changes, new equipment items, updating and placing an additional service truck in service, and the phase II completion of our burn building just to mention a few positives! Many great items are coming with this budget year that will continue to enhance the service we provide to our community as well as our department! With that said, be looking for the date for the upcoming officer's meeting where detailed information for our upcoming year will be released. Packets will be put together for each of you to hopefully make it easier for you all pass along the information to all staff!

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for the hard work and dedication given this past budget year. Together we were able to accomplish so much to enhance our services. This would not have been possible without each of you and the support from county management! As we begin to work on our new budget year, I would like to leave you with a quote from the one and only – "There are three things we can't have. We can't have complacency, we can't have selfishness, and we can't lose our accountability." – Nick Saban - **Roll Tide Roll !!!!**

Stay safe, and keep up the great work.

John



Words of Wisdom from the Deputy Chief

Folks,

Summer is done and fall is here. Fire Prevention Month starts October 1st and Captain Dakin has a schedule ready for BCES to participate in Barrow County Schools with our fire safety message. Although our message is fire safety and it is focused on during October, our responsibility is to focus year round on fire prevention. Whether we are conducting public relations events, visiting businesses, or talking to small group of citizens it is our mission to prevent fires and to educate the public about fire safety. I know that each of you take this challenge of educating the public serious and will do your best.

On another note I am proud to see each battalion (shift) using the training building to conduct all types of important training which will certainly improve the knowledge of each of us at BCES. I am seeing folks use the building from starting with the basic level to some advanced training. Keep it up!

A personal note here, I have been humbled and honored over the last month, from joining local folks to celebrate 9-11 at several different ceremonies across Barrow County “so we never forget”, to seeing a local 10 year old boy celebrated and recognized as a Hero and becoming an honorary firefighter for BCES. We have responded to several horrific auto accidents and to an industrial type fire that was very tough to fight. All this proved to me that whatever the call BCES; from Dispatchers to Fire/Rescue to EMS, we are ready to respond and we are the very best professionals in the business.

You may have noticed that I always close the article with a note that says “As always I am honored the serve” after this last month believe me I am honored and I am proud to be a part of BCES and proud of each of you! Remember it’s all about **Actions, Attitudes and Accountability!**

As always I am honored to serve

Alan



Employee Spotlights



Firefighter John Vangotum has been with Barrow County Emergency Services since May 2006. He is a Firefighter EMT at Station 3 A-Shift. John is a self-motivator and also helps motivate others. He has the whole crew doing physical fitness after completing daily chores. He always takes initiative to complete assigned tasks and chores without prompting from his Lieutenant. John also has taken on being a mentor to a new firefighter on his crew constantly working with him and going over the equipment on the engine and what it is used for. He trains others on the job of firefighter and driver operator. John has also filled in numerous times as an Acting Officer. John also loves spending time with his family and attending rodeos.



Lieutenant Michael Barnes is a 13 year veteran of BCES. Lieutenant Barnes is a FF/Paramedic and serves as a S.W.A.T. Medic for BCSO. He also served in the United States Army. Since being promoted to Lieutenant in 2010, Lieutenant Barnes has continued to train and to be a mentor and leader for his crew and shift. Lieutenant Barnes lives in Jackson County with his wife, Kristie and there kids, Jackson and Brooklyn



Captain Carignan started with our department in April of 2005 as a firefighter EMT. Captain Carignan worked his way thru paramedic school to better serve the citizens of Barrow. In 2008 Captain Carignan was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Captain Carignan has completed and is a active member of GSAR . He has completed numerous Fire and Rescue training classes many of them on his own time. He has also received his Associate Degree and is currently working towards his Bachelor's. In 2016 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and is assigned to C-shift at station 7. Captain Carignan is always the first to step up and take on new projects because he likes the challenge. He is always finding new training programs to take so he can teach the shift and department so they can better serve the citizens . Captain Carignan is always there to lend a helping hand to anyone that needs it and would do anything to help his fellow firefighting brother or sister. Captain Carignan is a true asset to this department and county.



On September 13th, employees at the Barrow County Courthouse dedicated benches at the flag pole in memory of Diane Hale. Diane was a longtime employee of the District Attorney's Office who passed away suddenly last year.

September 11th Observances

Numerous activities took place throughout the County in observance of the September 11th Remembrance and Observance.

Home Depot washed apparatus and fed lunch to crews.

Schools throughout the County observed the day in various manners including:

Kennedy Elementary had Community Helper Day

Bramlett Elementary held a Patriotic Fun Run

County Line Elementary conducted a Hero Walk

Bear Creek Middle School held a September 11th Remembrance Ceremony and served lunch to Emergency Responders in attendance.

Thanks to all of the community members who showed their appreciation to BCES personnel by sending cards, providing goodies and meals to personnel and other acts of kindness shown towards personnel. Special thanks to Smith Funeral home for providing lunch to all 3 shifts at each station.



Bear Creek Middle School



Kennedy Elementary School



County Line Elementary



Bramlett Elementary



Auburn Elementary



Home Depot



Honorary Firefighter

On September 11th, members of Barrow County Emergency Services traveled to the Sheppard Clinic in Atlanta to honor a hero and name him as an honorary firefighter. "It was fitting that on September 11th we took time to honor a young boy who stepped up in an emergency and saved a life," stated Chief John Skinner. "It was a great way to mark the 15th anniversary of September 11th and what that means to all Americans."

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in August, Jason Dills was enjoying some relaxing times with family and friends, at a friend's house in Bethlehem. He dove into the pool and hit his chin on the bottom of the pool. Jason immediately lost all movement in his body. His girlfriend, Tracy Snipes was also there with their 6 year old daughter and 10 year old step son. Ten year old Jonathan Snipes Jr was playing beside the pool and noticed Jason laying at the bottom of the pool not moving.

Jonathan immediately jumped into the pool and went to the bottom to pull Jason out. Tracy and a family friend met Jonathon at the steps of the pool and helped pull him out of the water. Gwinnett County Firefighter Kevin Powers was at the cookout and assessed Jason's injuries. He was conscious and alert but had no feeling from the chest down. 911 was called and an ambulance from Barrow County Emergency Services responded and transported Jason to Gwinnett Medical Center.

Jason is now at Sheppard Clinic recovering from the injury he received that day. However, had it not been for the quick action of Jonathan, jumping in and pulling Jason out, the injury could have led to the death of Jason. "In an emergency it is common to see people panic and not be able to assist the people in need," stated Chief Skinner. "To see a ten year old boy stay calm and dive in to rescue him is incredible and he deserves to be recognized."

Chief John Skinner, Deputy Chief Alan Shuman, Captain Scott Dakin, Fire Medic Tim Towe (who was the paramedic that treated Jason) and Fire EMT Nic Bouchier attended the ceremony in Atlanta. Friends and family of Jason and Jonathon also attended.

"On that Saturday in August, Jonathan was by definition a true hero and saved his step fathers life," stated Chief Skinner. "It is an honor to name him as a Honorary Firefighter for his actions that day. He is a humble young boy that does not want to be recognized but is very deserving."

Jonathan received a certificate from the department recognizing his life saving efforts. Businesses from the community that heard about what Jonathan did also stepped up and donated to him. This included Akins Ford who donated an autographed Mark Richt Bulldogs football when they heard Jonathan was a big Bulldog fan. The Bethlehem Chik-Fil-A, Longhorns and Top Dawg also donated gift certificates to Jonathon for his courageous act. "I thank these business for helping us recognize Jonathan," stated Chief Skinner. "It was an honor for us to recognize Jonathan and give him the praise he deserves."



Training Highlights

Captain Glen Cain and FF/Paramedic Joseph Rinke completed the NPQ1 Arson Investigator Course in September. This course is a 2 week long intensive training class.

Congratulations Captain Cain and FF/Paramedic Rinke on achieving this certification

Advanced Extrication Train The Trainer Class was held on September 28-30th. This class is State funded through the "Super Speeder" fines.

There were 18 participants in the class from agencies throughout the State.

Participants from BCES were Captain Scott Dakin, Captain Richie Carignan Lt. T.J.Gower, Lt. Jeremy Thayer, Lt. Keith Jarrett, FF/Paramedic Jason Stanley, FF/EMT Sean Gluth, and FF/EMT Michael Mackendree

Instructor for the class is Brock Archer from Advanced Extrication.com. Captain Bryan Bullock assisted with instruction.

Five members of the department received training from MSA certifying them to compete minor repairs and preventative maintenance on the new SCBA that the department recently received.

Completing the training were: Battalion Chief Jonathan Franklin, Battalion Chief Rob Nowakowski, Captain Heath Williams, FF/Paramedic Lee Simmons and FF/EMT Bob Stewart.



Upcoming Training at BCES

- ◆ October 5, 6, 7 - Live Fire Instructor Training
- ◆ October 14, 15 - East Metro Firefighters Training Weekend
- ◆ October 25, 26, 27 - Stroke Care, BRMC will be conducting training (on shift in-service training)



Captain's Corner

As many of you are aware, October is Fire Prevention month and a time we spend countless hours at schools, daycares, and other locations providing public safety education to children of many ages, teachers, and other adults that are present in the locations where we teach.

We would like to extend an encouraging word to not take this time lightly as prevention is the absolute most important opportunity we have to prevent many fires from occurring due to the education we provide to the students and families of Barrow County. Not only are we preventing fires, we are likely preventing injuries or fatalities as well because if no fire begins in the first place, the loss of life or property will not occur either.

We have to take the few opportunities we have to exercise our knowledge about the power of prevention and education and make it our very best and that begins with you! When you are going to the schools, please be punctual, please be well mannered, appropriately dressed, and give your presentations with the thought in your mind that you are there to make a difference because you are.

We appreciate you, all that you are doing, and all that you have done. We are moving forward one day at a time and so much of that is because of you and the efforts you expend daily. As always, keep up the great work, stay safe, and keep training!



Congratulations to Lieutenant Jeremy Thayer on his recent promotion to Lieutenant.

Lt. Thayer is currently assigned to Station 3 on B-shift.

Fire Prevention Division

Projects underway in Barrow County:

- ◆ I-Hop Restaurant - Grading phase
- ◆ Carvanna car dealership - Grading phase
- ◆ Rosetti's Italian Restaurant - 80% completion
- ◆ Chinese Restaurant in Statham - 50% renovation
- ◆ Fajitas Mexican Restaurant, Statham - complete
- ◆ Received plans for a new worship center for Bethlehem Church
- ◆ Harmony Grove Church in Auburn will be undergoing renovations
- ◆ Bethlehem Church has entered into a partnership with Bethabra Church in CountyLine to open a Pre-K school.
- ◆ Several other projects are on the horizon..... Stay tuned.

Helping out one of our own



As you all know, **Gary Little** (former longtime BCES employee and father of FF/EMT Jeremy Little) was diagnosed with Stage 4 esophageal cancer in June. Gary has been without medical insurance until this month when he became eligible for Medicare. With the chemotherapy and other medical treatments, medical bills have accumulated.

Several benefits have been planned by Gary's family and friends to assist him with these.

- ◆ Yeti cooler raffle - tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. See Jeremy Little or Penny Clack in Headquarters for tickets. Drawing will be October 31st.
- ◆ October 14th benefit at the Statham American Legion. Southfire band will be playing. Barbecue plates will be sold for \$5.00 each and a raffle for a Ruger .380 tickets \$5.00 each.

Thank you for your consideration of helping out one of our own.



Hat's Off To.....



On August 17th, A-shift personnel {Capt. Scott Dakin, Lt. Keith Jarrett, Lt. Jeremy Thayer, FF/Medic Lee Simmons, FF/EMT Jennifer Wages and FF/EMT Mark Siegel} responded to a cardiac arrest call. Bystander CPR was initiated prior to BCES arrival. Upon arrival of the engine crew, cardiac arrest was confirmed and CPR continued. The med crew arrived on scene and defibrillated once and converted the patient into a normal heart rhythm. The patient was transported to the hospital and turned over to Emergency Room staff without any further incidents.

Each of the involved BCES staff members will be receiving a CPR pin for their actions on this call.

Great job by all involved!

On June 9th A-shift personnel {Captain Scott Dakin, Lt. Kevin Locke, FF/Paramedic Lee Simmons, FF/EMT Teddy Brown, and FF/EMT Matt Harmon} responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hwy 211NW. Recently a letter was received from Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NEGMC) commending BCES staff on the care provided to the patient.

The patient was a 30 year old female who was 16 weeks pregnant. The patient was transported to NEGMC as a trauma activation which allowed from quick response by Emergency Room Staff upon arrival. The patient was later admitted to the Intensive Care Unit with numerous internal injuries and broken bones. The patient was discharged home on June 22nd in stable condition.

The high quality of pre-hospital patient care provided to this patient was instrumental in the positive outcome and prognosis for this individual.

Thanks for a job well done!

The CERT Team recently received a letter of thanks from the City of Winder for their participation in the Jug Tavern Festival.

The letter reads as follows "On behalf of the City of Winder and the Jug Tavern Festival, I would like to thank you for your hard work and support of this year's festival. The walking first-aid, welcome tent and the booth-all helped make the JTF a success, and as always, I enjoyed working with each of you! Everyone from CERT is amazing! I know I don't tell you enough, but I appreciate you very much. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you again soon. Your support and love of our community does not go unnoticed." Sincerely, April Plank, City Clerk, City of Winder



The first annual ABC Golf Tournament was held on September 19th at the Providence Club. Nine teams participated in the tournament (although it is a small number, we were told by the staff at Providence Club that this is a great turnout for a new tournament).

1st Place Team = Guns & Hoses [John Skinner, Jud Smith, Chris Cagle and Kurt Cooper]

2nd Place Team = Bill Ritter Insurance [Bill Ritter, Ken Dean, Kevin Little and Brad Batchelor]

3rd Place Team = Fireline [Jimmy McDonel, Billy McDonel, Matt Whiting and Vince Sparacello]

Longest Drive = Chris Owens

Closest to the Pin = Kevin Little

This was a great event benefiting 3 groups affiliated with the department; Amvets, Barrow Fire Foundation and CERT.

Special Thanks to all of the tournament sponsors and the many businesses who donated items for the tournament.



The lighter side.....



We work together closely



Winding sirens and selling TVs !!!



Ariel and Flounder



Man, that was a rough shift.



Look out everyone; they let Scott drive!!



We are ready for winter





Eric Lee	October 5
Jason Masters	October 8
Chris Newman	October 9
Logan Owensby	October 10
John Skinner	October 13
Lisa Park	October 16
Jeremy Thayer	October 17
Ernie Weant	October 20
Robert Solomon	October 22
Mike Libbin	October 25
Patrick Harbin	October 30

“Excellence is not a destination; it’s a continuous journey that never ends”



<u>Employee</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u># Years</u>
Ernie Weant	10-10	19
Scott Edling (PT)	10-19	16
Blair Darst	10-7	13
Andrew Stoops (PT)	10-1	9
Brian Caudle	10-5	7
Mandy Wallace	10-24	5
Justin Bowen	10-11	5
Shelly Hale	10-2	1