

# The Command Post

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November 2014

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## Save the Date

Thanksgiving  
Thursday, November 27, 2014 -  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
CLOSED

Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade  
Saturday, December 6, 2014

## From the Chief's Desk

### **"I am you, you are me – What it means to be a public servant"**



The general definition of a public servant is to serve the public, but that is only the surface view. As I reflect on my years of service, I have noticed that there are two types of people: people that are of service to self and people that are of service to others. To be of service to others you must possess a great sense of selflessness and have a propensity towards sacrifice. In the profession of public service, both selflessness and sacrifice are required to perform necessary duties.

It takes a great amount of courage and tolerance to not only serve as a steward, but also as a firefighter. You must sacrifice time with family and friends, sleep, and certain wants/needs. You must also tolerate individuals who may not have an understanding of the responsibility of fire personnel. In my 31.5 years working for this department and this city, I have had the privilege to know many men and women within this dynamic organization that exemplify these traits.

"I am you, you are me" is a testament to the responsibility we share for one another and the citizens we serve. To be what we are we must co-exist, placing ourselves and our personal beliefs aside for the greater good of those that we serve for and those that we serve with.

## Angels for Allen



Allen Wayne, Equipment Repair Technician for the Fire Department, has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. In May, Wayne took a leave of absence to receive medical treatment at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. A GoFundMe account has been established for him to help cover the cost of medical expenses while he is being treated. Mr. Wayne is a sweet, kind-hearted person who is always positive. He is also a loyal, long-time employee of the department, having served as a Firefighter and Engineer for 24 years before becoming an Equipment Repair Technician. To donate, or to simply give words of encouragement to Allen Wayne and his family, please visit [GoFundMe.com](http://GoFundMe.com) and search for 'Angels for Allen.' You can also follow the link <http://www.gofundme.com/angelsforallen>.

## 2014 Promotions



**Jeff West**  
Promoted to Battalion  
Chief on April 1, 2014



**Davbrom Flowers**  
Promoted to Captain  
on January 16, 2014



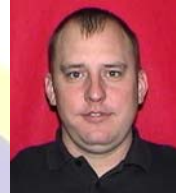
**Richard Hudson**  
Promoted to Captain  
on February 27, 2014



**Mark Cravens**  
Promoted to Captain  
on February 28, 2014



**Ralph Nelson**  
Promoted to Captain  
on April 1, 2014



**Patrick Pitts**  
Promoted to Captain  
on August 2, 2014



**Landon Engleman**  
Promoted to Captain  
on August 27, 2014



**B. Darnell Whitley**  
Promoted to Captain  
on September 3, 2014



**Brandon Butler**  
Promoted to Captain  
on November 3, 2014



**Gary Stoll**  
Promoted to Captain  
on November 6, 2014



**Eric Bell**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on January 28, 2014



**Antwain Vernon**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on February 27, 2014



**Jennifer Winchell**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on March 30, 2014



**Korey Isbell**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on April 1, 2014



**Andre' Value**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on June 25, 2014

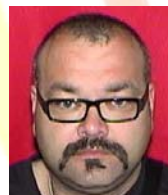


**Nathan Collie**  
Promoted to Engineer  
on July 17, 2014

## 2014 Retirements



**Captain  
Paul Raney**  
Retired on  
January 31, 2014  
After 33 Years of Service



**Captain  
Michael Walker**  
Retired on  
March 1, 2014  
After 22 Years of Service



**Captain  
Reginald Powell**  
Retired on  
April 1, 2014  
After 28 Years of Service



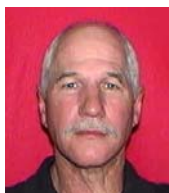
**Battalion Chief  
Brian Harlan**  
Retired on  
April 1, 2014  
After 31 Years of Service



**Engineer  
Frank Scott**  
Retired on  
June 26, 2014  
After 30 Years of Service



**Captain  
Ryan Kurosaki**  
Retired on  
July 17, 2014  
After 32 Years of Service



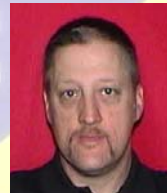
**Captain  
Michael Lampkin**  
Retired on  
August 2, 2014  
After 38 Years of Service



**Captain  
Terry P Henson**  
Retired on  
August 27, 2014  
After 17 Years of Service



**Captain  
Arthur Preller**  
Retired on  
September 3, 2014  
After 26 Years of Service



**Captain  
Richard Brewer**  
Retired on  
October 31, 2014  
After 27 Years of Service



**Captain  
Dennis McCann**  
Retired on  
October 31, 2014  
After 31 Years of Service



## Administrative Assistant Mildred Ragsdill Retires After 28 Years

Contributed by Tabitha Cooke



Mildred Ragsdill, employed in the City of Little Rock Fire Department as an Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief since 1998, retired September 12, 2014. Her record with the City of Little Rock dates back to 1986, when she began working as an Administrative Secretary in the City Manager's Office.

Department in 2010 and was honored for 20 years of service to the City of Little Rock in 2006.

On September 9th, her loyalty, trustworthiness, dedication and service of 28 years to City Hall and the Fire Department was recognized by several of her colleagues. A surprise retirement party was held for her at the Fire Training Center at 7000 Murray Street. Upon Mildred's retirement, she stated that she had no plans for retirement except to just RETIRE. She recalled with pleasure, her favorite memory of working for the city to be her association with the Little Rock Fire Department.

Among her accomplishments, Mildred was honored employee of the year by the Little Rock Fire

### LRFF Foundation

Contributed by Tabitha Cooke

"Motown at the Mansion" was the theme for the Little Rock Firefighters Foundation to celebrate and honor the service of Little Rock Firefighters. On October 9th, the Governor's Mansion was the setting for a reception and dinner where 12 Little Rock Firefighter's children, who are currently attending college, received \$500 scholarships from the Foundation.

- Kelsey Bradley (Chief Don Bradley)
- Holly Etheridge (Chief Edwin Etheridge)
- Darius Ford (Engineer Kelvin Ford)
- Brannon Kotch (Captain Steve Kotch)
- Jalyn Lewis (Captain Jeffery Lewis)
- Christen McCann (Captain Dennis McCann)
- Lillian Percy (Captain Calvin Percy)
- Jackie Rankin (Captain Jackie Rankin)
- Sandra Rappold (Engineer George Rappold)
- Drew Steinbeck (Engineer Jeffery Steinbeck)
- Caylon Summers (Chief Gregory Summers)
- Julie Watson (Captain William Watson)

### Practice What You Preach

Contributed by FF Bo Hagar

#### Change Your Clocks/Change Your Batteries

It's that time of year again! Change the clocks back, gain an extra hour of sleep, and lose daylight. It is also when we campaign "change your smoke detector batteries." However, while we look to others to take our precautionary advice, it is imperative that we also ensure the safety of our own. Take the time at home to change the batteries in your own detectors. We often become too lax, complacent, busy, and even invincible, but we know in this profession that tragedy strikes anywhere, any time. If you have older children at home, you can consider teaching them how to install a detector, test it, and change the batteries. Task them with testing it every month, and changing the batteries twice a year when we adjust our clocks. This is something that I teach when working with teens and young adults. This is a great responsibility and easy task for this age group. Regardless of your method for accomplishing this, the message here is don't forget about what is most important to you, and ensure the safety of yourself and your family. Change your smoke detector batteries.

## New Employees

### Meet Tabitha Cooke



Tabitha Cooke is the new Administrative Assistant to Fire Chief Gregory Summers. She joins the Little Rock Fire Department after working four years at City Hall. She started working for the City of Little Rock as a part-time Video Pro-

duction Technician for the City's Government Access Channel in 2010. After two years, she shifted from Radio and Television to Administration to work as a full time Office Assistant III in the City Manager's Office from 2012-2014. Tabitha holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio and Television. She has a busy schedule outside of her full-time job. She works at Dillard's as a part-time Camera Operator as well as a fashion consultant and blogger for her website called *Tabs Trendy Twist*.

### Meet Jaz James



Jaz James is an intern at the Central Fire Station and she is a junior at Little Rock Central High School. She was placed at Central Fire Station through the City of Little Rock Summer Youth Program from June through August 2014. After the Summer Youth

Program, she applied for a work release class so that she could continue working at Central Fire Station. Jaz is a highly enthusiastic student who takes initiative in wanting to gain hands-on knowledge about the operation of the Fire Department. She is an active listener, a fast learner, and a dependable worker in this organization. Jaz has learned a lot about firefighters, why they respond first on the scene and things they have to do in order to become a firefighter. Jaz has made a whole new family while working here. Ecstatically, she states that working for the Little Rock Fire Department is her best first job ever. Outside of school and work, Jaz loves reading books and she is actively involved in Volleyball.

### Meet Bridget McLemore



Bridget McLemore began working as the new Administrative Assistant for the front desk at Central Station in August of this year. She began her tenure with the City in September 2012 working at the front desk in HR. Bridget is an avid reader—especially of sci-fi and fantasy—and a student at UALR, majoring in English with a Creative Writing emphasis. She shares her apartment with two cats, a gerbil, and a betta.

Strategically Planned To Become Accredited

Contributed by FF Bo Hagar

At this time I hope everyone has had the opportunity to view the 2015 – 2020 Strategic Plan. This document will help set the direction of the Little Rock Fire Department over the course of the next few years. The Strategic Plan is not “all-inclusive”, but provides us with a start for correcting or implementing tasks that will inevitably provide better services to our City.

Currently, the Department is working towards completing two documents required through accreditation. A Standards of Cover will define the way our department operates based on the many characteristics of the City. A team of firefighters are working through the process of identifying and classifying all of the risks we are faced with within the city.

Secondly the Self-Assessment will show our department's strengths, and expose its weaknesses. Various subject matter experts from across our department are writing the Self-Assessment for their respective expertise.

As these documents are completed, they will be available to all of our members. If all goes according to plan, the Little Rock Fire Department will be looking at becoming an accredited department in middle to late 2015.



## Firefighter Profile



**Name:** Ronnie Hudson  
**Rank:** Captain  
**Station-Shift:** 21-A  
**Years of Service:** 42

**Q:** What has surprised you the most about working as a Firefighter?

**A:** The gratification and self-satisfaction you feel by helping the citizens of Little Rock with anything from saving a life, to helping someone that has fallen and has no one to help them, to helping their pets out of dangerous situations or anyone that needs our help.

**Q:** What do you find most challenging about the fire service?

**A:** Keeping up with the new incident command, sector command, and new communication system, also with educating myself and my crew on the everyday hazards of modern day combustibles and chemicals.

**Q:** What do you wish other people knew about the Little Rock Fire Department?

**A:** I wish the citizens of Little Rock actually knew how much the firefighters study and train and prepare long before we have an incident and the importance of having newer fire apparatuses and the latest safety equipment.

**Q:** When your family and friends find out that you are a firefighter, what do they say or ask?

**A:** My family understands the FD way by growing up with it. My wife grew up with it. Her father, Capt. Bob Nordman and uncles, Chief Hoover, Capt. Lester Nordman, and Capt. Ed Lauderdale were all 20 yr. veteran. My friends think a firefighter is a special person and that I should know

everything about most situations and will call on me for advice especially on injuries and safety around the house.

**Q:** Tell us about someone who has influenced your decision to work with the Little Rock Fire Department.

**A:** Capt. Bob Nordman first talked to me about becoming a firefighter when I was 21. He said I would make a good one. Being a 42 year veteran and a 32 year Captain, I would have to give credit first to the old heads that I came up with: Chief Charlie Burks, Chief G.W. Mahan, the Davis Chiefs (Jack, Curtis, Al), Capt. Bob Nordman, Capt. Brewczynski and Capt. Whaley. These are the ones that laid the foundation that I live by.

**Q:** What do you think will change about the LRFD over the next five (5) years?

**A:** I feel with the young minds of our young officers and their ability with computers and newest technology there is no limit how far the LRFD can advance. What does concern me is as bad as it is to say-money is the solution to most of our problems. Without a special tax for the fire department we have little hope. I think everyone is in agreement from city hall and FD administration that we have to come up with a plan for supporting the LRFD. The sad part of the next 5 years; I will probably retire and leave the job I love. The high part, my son will be the youngest captain while I will be the oldest on the LRFD when he is promoted.

**Q:** If you were not a firefighter, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like?

**A:** If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be in a career that would not be as rewarding as I am now. I would have never felt the satisfaction and rewarding feeling that every firefighter feels every day they go to work for LRFD, just being able to protect and serve the citizens of Little Rock.

## The King of Little Rock and Roll

Contributed by FF Bo Hagar

The conspiracy behind the death of Elvis Presley has finally been foiled. The King is alive and well right here in Little Rock. If you listen closely, you may just hear him belting out some “Burn’n Love” through the acoustics of the Central Fire Station. And by “the King” I mean Firefighter Jason Fuller, whose knack for entertaining jokingly landed him in the role of Elvis.

What started as a song-a-gram (singing telegram) service, where Fuller serenades your person of choice, dressed as the King himself, has now landed him full set gigs. Most recently to note, Fuller opened for Color Me Bad at the State Fair, where he has received grand reviews from department members that had the opportunity to catch the live show.

I had the opportunity to talk with Firefighter Fuller, and he told me a great story about how he became “the King” and what it means to him. Fuller’s grandmother and his Aunt Barbra Fuller were big “Elvis” fans. Growing up, he spent a lot of time with them listening to their “Elvis” records. His Aunt Barbra (who lost her battle with cancer) taught Fuller to dance like Elvis.

Fuller, reminiscing about singing and dancing to Elvis while camping in Montana, told me that he started out dressing as Elvis for Halloween. He and his daughter always “Trick or Treat” in the Hillcrest area. The neighborhood has come to love him and looks forward to seeing Elvis every year. “My daughter gets the treat, and I give the Trick!” Fuller exclaimed with a huge grin on his face. “One year someone else dressed as Elvis and

trick or treated the same neighborhood. We crossed paths at one house, and had a duel! I would sing a verse, and then he would sing a verse. We started feeding off of each other’s energy! It was great and very funny”.

Fuller, a Serviceman himself, does a lot of volunteer work at the VFW Post 9095. It was here that he began performing. “It was karaoke, and everyone had to sing something,” he said. “I got up there and sang, and everyone said I was pretty good so I kept practicing. It’s not about the singing, it’s about the attitude”. “I love making people happy! I catch a lot of flak from the job!” he said laughingly. Fuller talked to me about his love for our veterans and his love for his brothers and sisters in this department. “I have no blood family here. The fire department is my family.

What I love about the department is no matter who you are, we all have a place on this job!”

In 2013, Fuller signed up for the Susan G. Komen Firefighter Calendar. He sang, and did a photo shoot dressed as Elvis in bunker gear. “Firefighter Elvis came from the photo shoot!” “Funny thing is I was the oldest, fattest person in the calendar!” Fuller said jokingly. Now he serenades peoples loved ones as a singing telegram for his business “All Shook Up Telegrams”. “This came about after singing for MO (Melissa Peabody).” He gets business by word of mouth, and currently takes generous donations as payment. He recommends Frances Flower Shop on West Capitol Avenue in Downtown Little Rock to get an arrangement to go along with Elvis.





## Twenty-Three is Green (And We Have An Award to Prove It)

Contributed by Bridget McLemore

You read that correctly. Station #23 is the first fire station in Arkansas to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. There are many requirements for this certification. In cooperation with Viridian, a consulting firm specializing in LEED Consulting and other green building projects, the City of Little Rock was able to build Station #23 to meet the exacting standards of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Completed in 2012, Station #23 meets LEED requirements for habitat, open space, energy and green power, construction waste and recycled and regional content, low-emitting and alternative transportation, and water use reduction and storm water:

- Habitat – 56.1% of the project area uses native or adaptive vegetation;
- Open Space – 74.72% of the site area is dedicated open space;
- Energy and Green Power - the predicted annual energy consumption for the building is 154,895 kWh and 10,648 therms of natural gas;
- Construction Waste and Recycled and Regional

Content – 87% of total waste generated during construction was diverted from landfills while 13% of the materials used in construction contained recycled content and 31.1% of the total building materials were found within 500 miles of the site;

- Low-Emitting and Alternative Transportation – interior paints and adhesives used contained low to no VOCs (Volatile Organic Compound) while low-emitting and fuel efficient vehicles have preferred parking spaces;

- Water Use Reduction and Stormwater – potable water use has been reduced by 35% and 90% of stormwater runoff is captured and treated to remove 80% of post-development TSS (Total Suspended Solids).



In April of 2013 Station #23 was awarded LEED Certification. This certification was recognized at the Third Green Tie Awards Dinner, which was held on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at the Clinton Presidential Center. Among those in attendance were City Manager Bruce Moore, Mayor Mark Stodola, Chief Gregory Summers, Chief Douglas Coney, Paula Patterson, Sharon Forrester, Brittany Gyce, and Tabitha Cooke.

## Giving Thanks

As the year draws towards a close, we should take some time to reflect back on the blessings that have been bestowed upon us this year. Thanksgiving is not only a time to gather and fellowship with food, family and friends but it reminds us to share our time and talents with other people who could use our help. From the Fire Administration and Command Post Staff, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and joyous season.



# Hot Shots

