

Birthdays

Cumbey Gaines 12/05

Charles Powell 12/05

Shan Womack 12/06

Jeff Bratcher 12/08

Kurt McMahan 12/08

Carl Peas 12/08

Sean Wheeler 12/08

Mike Black 12/09

Adam Brown 12/10

Ronald Jones 12/12

Melvin Holmes 12/13

Jonathan Proby 12/13

Matt Welcome 12/14

Marco King 12/20

Craig McBride 12/20

Dale Maynard 12/21

Bob Decker 12/24

Nicole Miller 12/24

Jason Norris 12/24

Lee Douglas 12/25

David Frost 12/27

Josh Jackson 12/29

Adam Petrig 12/29

MFD WINS \$5,125 SAFE NEIGHBORS GRANT

BY: LAURIE ALSUP

State Farm Insurance Companies has announced that the Murfreesboro Fire Department has won a \$5,125 Safe Neighbors Grant. The grant will be used to support disaster preparedness and recovery services.

From left on back row are Firefighter Zack Flenor, Captain Mike Adams, Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Assistant Chief Gary Farley, Drivers Clay Estes and Chris Ayers and Firefighter Al Jakes.

From left in front are Driver Scott Duncan, Department Coordinator Laurie Alsup, Chief David Baxter, State Farm Public Affairs Assistant Leslie Eatherly and Firefighter Bo Jones.



A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO A FIRE CHIEF

The "Retirement Countdown Calendar" has been relieved of its duties...Chief David Baxter's last day was Monday, December 1st. Prior to his last day, the Chief had two retirement receptions, one with fire personnel and retirees, and one with other city employees and colleagues. The two receptions were a great success, as many people attended to wish Chief Baxter the best in his retirement. During 31 years of service, 20 as Fire Chief, Chief Baxter has made many friends. This was evident at the receptions. As a department, we wish Chief Baxter the very best life retirement has to offer and hope he will not become a stranger. Thank you for 31 years of your time and dedication, you will truly be missed.

All reception pictures were made by administrative staff. The photo below was a professional photo taken for the Murfreesboro Fire Department Annual.



1. Chief showing off his cake.
2. The Honor Guard presents Chief Baxter with a gift as the new Chief, Cumbey Gaines, looks on.
3. Retirees come to say goodbye: Left to right, Retired Deputy Chief Jimmy Francis, Retired Commander Jim Coe, Retired Captain Jim Elrod, Chief Baxter, Retired Assistant Chief Jerry McCullough, and Retired Firefighter Joe Finney.
4. Captain/Inspector Lee Douglas, Firefighter Jeremy Spivey, and Firefighter Taylor Lasseter look at old fire department photos.
5. Firefighter Lucas Dearden, Firefighter Marco King, and Firefighter Bill Durkin pose for a picture.



REPORT ON SWIFT WATER LEVEL II

BY: DRIVER JAMIE BIGELOW

In October, Drivers Jamie Bigelow and Bobby Brewer and Firefighter Raleigh Marlin attended Swift Water Level II in Reliance, TN. The class consisted of three days on the Hiwassee River.

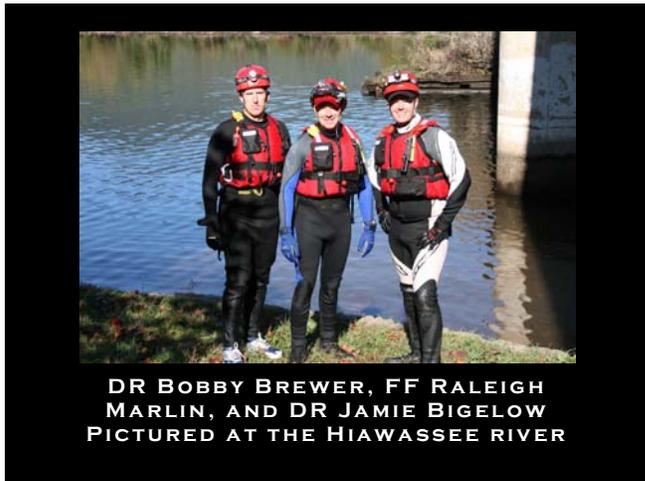
The class began on Friday, October 17th. Waivers were signed and the three gentlemen entered the 50 degree water for a brief refresher course in Swift Water Level I.

On Saturday, October 18th, the class began at 8:00 am. The outside temperature was 42 degrees as the students navigated a raft down the swift moving water to a place in the river known for its Class II rapids. The students then pulled their rafts ashore to enter the water for rescued swims. The tethered swimmers consisted of a group of students located upriver, jumping into the water, using the proper swift water entry method. As the student victim floated down the river, the student rescue swimmer jumped into the rapids and swam to the "victim." The rescue swimmer was tethered to a rescue rope being held by students on the shore. This evolution had quite an audience from by-standers not participating in the class. They were very intrigued by students jumping into the freezing cold rapids. The rest of the day consisted of more technical water rescues. After a short break, the class reassembled for night operations.

Under the pitch black night sky, the students entered the rapids with zero visibility, swimming out and away from the shore. Students floated down the river in the survival position. Next, the soaking wet students hiked approximately one mile up a railway. By this time the temperature had dropped to 33 degrees. At a railway tuffle, the students hiked down a 50 foot embankment where they simulated rescuing a victim who was caught in a foot entrapment. This evolution had the students in waist-to-chest deep water performing mostly rope rescue from one side of the river to the other; river right and river left. The next task was hiking back down the railway to a place where the students lowered their rafts down a steep embankment using a 3-to-1 pulley system. Once the rafts were in the water, the students navigated down the rapids to an exit point. The final evolution of the class was a simulated rescue call, which included missing rafters. The details provided by "dispatch" were: A raft with six rafters came down river and entered some rapids, capsizing the raft. Four rafters were located, but two were missing. Once on the scene, students gathered information from eye witnesses. The students used the information gathered to zero in on their search area; the victims were stranded on an island. One victim was injured and unconscious and the other, her friend, became hysterical upon their arrival to the island. The students log rolled the injured patient onto a spine board and loaded her onto the raft while dealing with the victim that was uninjured but remained very combative. The students navigated the raft back to shore with the patient and victim. Night operations disassembled at 1:30 in the morning.

Sunday, October 19th, was the last day of training. Class began at 8:00 am with each student performing a capsized recovery. The final portion of the class was dedicated to a race. Students were placed in groups of five and given a raft. The objective of the race was to navigate the raft through a slalom course. Once students reached the far side of the course, they jumped into the water, flipped the raft over, recapsized it and re-entered the raft to paddle straight to the finish line. The Murfreesboro Fire Department students had the winning raft and were several minutes ahead of the competing rafts.

The students enjoyed the course, and even though it was *COLD*, they learned a lot and had a great time.



DR BOBBY BREWER, FF RALEIGH MARLIN, AND DR JAMIE BIGELOW PICTURED AT THE HIWASSEE RIVER

RETIRED CHIEF NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH



David Baxter has been named Firefighter of the Month for November 2008. He received this honor in recognition of his recent retirement from the department after 31 years of service. 21 of those years were as Fire Chief.

**DO NOT FOLLOW
WHERE THE
PATH MAY LEAD.
GO INSTEAD
WHERE THERE
IS NO PATH AND
LEAVE A TRAIL.**

**-MURIEL
STRODE**



December Anniversaries

28 YEARS

Tommy Underwood

24 YEARS

James O'Brien

23 YEARS

Kenneth Richmond

21 YEARS

Vular Anderson
Roger Toombs

17 YEARS

Terrell Ellis
Leon Isaac
Doug Rivait

11 YEARS

Jamie Bigelow
Brian Creager
Jeff Harris

8 YEARS

David Cranford
Scott Duncan
Mike Keith
Tim Lampitt
Raleigh Marlin
Paul Oliver
Adam Petrig
Lester Vance

2 YEARS

Troy Tayse

1 YEAR

Britt Gammon
Kevin Leonard
Dustin Liddell
Brandon Powers
Wesley Slager

