

November 2013



Birthdays

- Israel Marcella 11/7
- Renard Brown 11/10
- Keith Elrod 11/10
- Jeremy Morris 11/12
- Rob Odom 11/14
- Carol Whitaker 11/14
- Tracy Summar 11/16
- Kaye Jernigan 11/21
- Michael Bartlett 11/22
- Paul Oliver 11/23
- Terrence Thomas 11/23
- Alvin Brandon 11/25
- Keith Bratcher 11/25

City Holidays

Fire Administration Offices will be closed for the following observances:

Monday, November 11, 2013

VETERANS DAY

Thursday, November 28, 2013

THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 29, 2013

If you need assistance, please contact MFRD Headquarters at 615-849-2661.

DECKER NAMED MURFREESBORO NOON EXCHANGE CLUB FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Captain Shift/Training Officer Bob Decker was named this year's Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year at the organization's annual Crime and Fire Prevention Awards Luncheon at Stones River Country Club on October 24.

With his family in attendance, Bob was presented a special plaque after the following bio was read:

"When you mention Bob Decker to anyone that works at Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department, they immediately smile. Bob's consistently positive attitude is hard to miss.

Bob was born in Lafayette, Indiana and moved to Tennessee in 1972. He and wife Ann have three children (Deann, Crystal, and Robbie) and seven grandchildren.

Bob began his career with MFRD in July 1987 as a Firefighter. He was promoted to Driver in 1990 and Captain in 1999. He was promoted to Captain/ Shift Training Officer in 2007, which is the position he holds today.

As Shift Training Officer, Bob wears many hats. He is not only responsible for all aspects of training all personnel on an assigned shift, but he also performs the duties of a safety officer and supervises fire personnel in the suppression of fires.

Bob's duties increased during a portion of the past year. He was not only the Training Officer for his assigned shift, but also subbed for the other two shifts for several months. During this time Bob maintained his positive attitude and never complained about taking on the extra duties.

Bob was also very instrumental in the planning and development of the department's Training Facility which is expected to be completed by 2014 or 2015.

Bob also volunteers a lot of his time to coaching the department's teams for both the Tennessee Ultimate Fire Fighting Challenge, and most recently the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge. Under his leadership, the teams have brought home several victories. In MFRD's first-ever Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge this year, the team placed fifth overall against twenty other departments throughout the southeastern region. The team also made it to the national competition this year.

To say that Bob has proven to be a valuable asset to the department may be an understatement. Though he is modest, he cannot hide the fact that he has had many accomplishments throughout his career at MFRD. He is invaluable and for this reason and more, he has been selected as our 2013 Firefighter of the Year."

Picture—Captain/Shift Training Officer Bob Decker and family (L to R): Daughter Deeann, wife Ann, Bob, son Robby, and daughter-in-law Dana.



(L to R): Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club President Linda Burt, Captain/Shift Training Officer Bob Decker, and Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club Member Frank Jennings.



TEN STUDENTS GRADUATE 11TH SESSION OF CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY

Ten students recently graduated Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's 11th Session of the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA).

The students completed a six-week course in which they were able to sample activities that MFRD personnel do on a daily basis. Students donned turnout gear, experienced climbing a 65' aerial, practiced extrication, conducted a search and rescue attempt, and much more.

Graduation was held October 29 at MFRD Headquarters. Each student received a certificate of completion, a class photo, and a CD with pictures and video from the experience.

During the graduation, student feedback was shared with those in attendance, including Chief Cumbey Gaines and department instructors for the class.

A few of the comments were:

"The information on how the fires travel and how hot they become really had my interest."

"The tower truck ride was my favorite event of the evening. Turnouts really do give a sense of the apparel weight and protection. All personnel have been great and are greatly appreciated."

"Extrication was an awesome experience. Enjoyed the entire evening and appreciate everyone who made it possible."

"I enjoyed climbing the 65' ladder. I also thought learning how to use the GPS was interesting."

"Learning how the department's EMTs and Rutherford County EMS work together was exciting!"

Administrative Assistant and CFA Coordinator Laurie Alsup commented on the class, "The feedback from this class made it even more clear that the CFA instructors are passionate about teaching others what they do in the fire service. This is just a small glimpse into the situations our personnel face, but we enjoy sharing this with our students."

The Citizens Fire Academy is held in the fall of each year. The CFA offers a small group of area residents the opportunity to view and participate in activities and services provided by MFRD. Information regarding upcoming classes is generally released each August. If you would like to know more about the Citizens Fire Academy visit the [Fire & Rescue](#) page on the City of Murfreesboro's website or contact MFRD at 615-893-1422.



CLASS OF 2013

**Front Row: (L to R)
Sandra Harris,
Shannon Logan, Cara
Slattery, and Mary Jo
Mitchell.**

**Back Row: (L to R)
Chief Cumbey Gaines,
German Yocotu, Mark
Jamison, Chase
Patterson, Shannon
McCann, Axl David,
Diane Demumbreum,
and Deputy Chief
Roger Toombs.**

PHOTO ALBUM: CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS



NEW FIREFIGHTER LUPO ALSO HONORED AT LUNCHEON

One of MFRD's newest Firefighters, Matthew Lupo, was also honored at the Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club's Annual Crime and Fire Prevention Awards Luncheon. He was nominated by Rutherford County Fire and Rescue as "Volunteer Firefighter of the Year."

Lupo's bio stated, "Throughout his entire career in Rutherford County, he has led by example and has always been someone willing to go above and beyond to get things done. It seems no matter what time of day or night the call comes out, you are almost always guaranteed that you will hear his voice on the radio checking 'en route.' It is this level of dedication and his commitment to training that has resulted in all of the firefighters at any level and at any station trusting him no matter what..."

(L to R): Ken Honeycutt (RCFR), Firefighter Matthew Lupo, and Larry Farley (RCFR).



More photos can be viewed in the [album](#) on MFRD's Facebook page.

MFRD WELCOMED FOUR NEW FIREFIGHTERS IN OCTOBER

MFRD welcome four new Firefighters this October: Allan Debowsky, Justin Lewis, Matthew Lupo, and Brent Stephens.

The Firefighters have a combined 16 years experience in the fire service. Lewis and Stephens are assigned to A-Shift, Lupo is on B-Shift, and Debowsky is on C-Shift.



BREWER & IRVIN RECEIVE FF OF THE MONTH NOV. 2013

Captain Jeff Irvin and Driver Bobby Brewer were both named Firefighter of the Month for November 2013. The two received the honor for overseeing and facilitating the painting of the engine room at Station 7. Irvin has been with the department since March 1999 and Brewer has been with MFRD since August 1999.



CHILD SHOWS OFF "FIREHOUSE" TO MFRD FIREFIGHTERS

After watching MFRD's fire prevention play "Dante's Dance" last month, this young man (Gavin) pulled actors Shandrea Womack and Chad Davis aside to share with them the firehouse that he designed and created.

FF Womack commented, "Gavin is such a sweet kid and his firehouse was awesome." She went on to say, "This is why I love my job!"

(L to R): Firefighter Shandrea Womack, Gavin Thayer, and Firefighter Chad Davis.



**ELIZABETH RYAN
MARTIN**

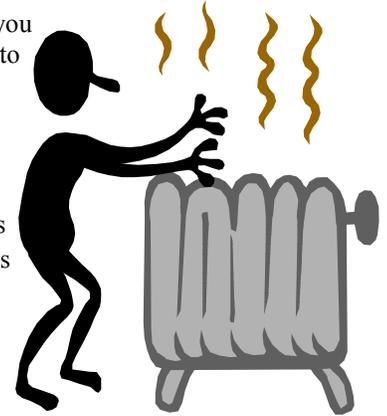
DAUGHTER OF CHASE AND
MEGAN

BORN: OCTOBER 30, 2013

AT 7 LBS / 8OZ
20.5" LONG

MFRD URGES THE COMMUNITY TO PRACTICE HEATING SAFETY

It's that time of year again, when we cringe because we have to turn on our heating systems. Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? MFRD wants to reduce the chances of it happening to you or your family!



Follow these simple steps to stay warm and safe during the cold seasons:

-  Keep anything that will burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment. This includes furnaces, fireplaces, wood burning stoves, and portable space heaters. Watch this video for [MFRD's Space Heater Safety Tips](#).
-  Have a three-foot "kid-free" zone around open fires and space heaters.
-  Never use your oven to heat your home.
-  Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
-  Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
-  Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
-  Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
-  Wood burning stoves should be installed using the manufacturer's instructions or by a professional. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
-  Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call the non-emergency number for Police/Fire Dispatch (615-893-1311).
-  Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

According to Assistant Fire Marshal Tracy Summar, "Kerosene heaters should be refilled outdoors and only when they have cooled completely." Summar said, "We have experienced many cases of fires that started due to improper refueling of kerosene heaters."

With these safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

MFRD also wants to make sure that your home is equipped with smoke alarms. The smoke alarms in your home should be tested monthly and batteries should be replaced at least every six months. If you aren't sure if you have working smoke alarms in your home or enough smoke alarms, contact MFRD at 615-893-1422 to take advantage of Project SAFE "Smoke Alarms for Everyone."

DANTE'S DANCE NOW AIRING ON CITYTV

The beloved Fire Prevention play "Dante's Dance" is now airing on CityTV (Channel 3). The schedule is as follows:

11/10 11:30 am and 8:30 pm
11/16 11:30 am
11/17 2:00 pm and 8:30 pm
11/26 8:00 pm
11/30 1:00 pm

You can also watch the [play](#) on YouTube!



THREE PERSONNEL RECEIVE COMMENDATION LETTERS

Three MFRD personnel received commendation letters October 7 during a special ceremony at Fire Administration.

Driver Joel Patnode and Firefighters Steve Ellison and Jeremy Spivey were presented commendation letters by Deputy Chief Toombs for their assistance with delivering a baby in the early morning hours on Labor Day, September 2.

The crew was dispatched to the home for a mother in labor. When they arrived on scene, the baby's head was already crowning and the crew quickly jumped into action. They assisted the mother, Brooke Dittman, with delivery and immediately began steps to take care of newborn Molly.

They continued to assist with care even after Rutherford County EMS arrived on scene. Coincidentally, Molly was the first baby born on Labor Day 2013.

Patnode, Ellison, and Spivey had just completed a refresher course the week before the incident on labor and delivery and pediatric emergencies; they did not know at the time how soon it would be they would be implementing that knowledge.



(L to R): Driver Joel Patnode, Chris and Molly Dittman, Luke and Brooke Dittman, Firefighter Steve Ellison, and Firefighter Jeremy Spivey.

Deputy Chief Toombs said, "It is not every day in our line of work that we encounter something like this. These three personnel helped to make sure the baby entered into this world safely and that the mother was taken care of as well." Toombs also commented on the commendation letters saying, "These letters signify your dedication to this department and to this community. Thank you for all you do. I'm proud that you are members of this department."

The three crew members were also reunited with baby Molly, parents Chris and Brooke Dittman, and big brother Luke for the first time since that evening. "We can't get over how much bigger Molly is in just five weeks," said Firefighter Spivey. "This was such a unique experience for us and something we will never forget." The Dittmans expressed their true appreciation for all the crew did that evening and were happy to be able to say "thank you" in person once again.

Watch the commendation ceremony [here](#).

UPCOMING CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTION STATION

MFRD, MPD, and RCSO
Child Safety Seat Inspection Station

Local public safety agencies will be conducting Child Safety Seat Inspections at GFS Marketplace (465 N. Thompson Ln) Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 12:00-3:00 pm. GFS will be providing snacks and drinks.

Child Safety Seat checks teach parents how to install car seats and booster seats safely!

Safe Kids Buckle Up

Safe Kids USA

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department, Murfreesboro Police Department, and Rutherford County Sheriff's Office will be working together to ensure the safety of the children in our community by conducting Child Safety Seat inspections.

The event will be from 12:00-3:00 pm on November 9, 2013 at GFS Marketplace located at 465 N. Thompson Lane.

Statistics show that four out of every five seats inspected at these stations are installed incorrectly. Help us reduce that statistic!

What to expect:

- Your child's safety seat will be checked for any recalls.
- If the child is with you, they will be weighed to determine if the seat is within regulation for your child's weight/age.
- A team of at least two child safety seat technicians will walk you through the proper steps of installing your child's safety seat.
- You will leave knowing that your child will be safe in his/her seat!

If you cannot make it Nov. 9, contact Fire Admin at 615-893-1422 to schedule an appointment.

MFRD AWARDED FEMA'S FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department was awarded \$28,000.00 in grant funds from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

The department plans to use the funds toward the purchase of a 26' enclosed trailer to be used by the Fire Marshal's Office for the purpose of fire investigations.

The unit will be climate controlled with capabilities of providing on-scene electricity, lighting, water, and tool storage. The unit will also provide a place for investigators to secure evidence, conduct interviews, and research or analyze fire scene conditions.

This trailer will allow the Fire Marshal's Office to investigate a fire scene safely and efficiently without tying up other valuable MFRD resources.

The trailer will be available for other departments within the Urban Area Security Initiative's District 5 including the Middle Tennessee counties of Cannon, Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Wilson, and Williamson.

The projected cost for the trailer is \$35,000.00. The grant mandates an 80/20 federal rate sharing percentage, with MFRD providing the match of \$7,000.00.

MFRD will also be responsible for purchasing tools and equipment to include computers, a printer, a portable generator, ventilation/cooling fans, and other items.

"I cannot express how happy we are to have received this grant," said Fire Chief Cumbey Gaines. "The department will benefit greatly from having our resources for fire investigations in one central location."

Planning and review of specs for the trailer and equipment has begun. The department expects to have the trailer by early 2014.

MFRD'S RECEIVES \$500 FIRE PREVENTION DONATION

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Marshal's Office accepted a \$500.00 donation October 17 from the McDonald's at 1706 Memorial Boulevard during the grand re-opening of the restaurant.

Assistant Fire Marshals Carl Peas and Tracy Summar were present to accept the donation, which will go in the department's Fire Prevention Fund. The Fire Prevention Fund is used to purchase equipment and other materials related to fire prevention and investigation.

"This money will definitely help us to enhance our fire prevention and education efforts in this community," said Peas. "We are very appreciative of the McDonald's corporation and staff."



Assistant Fire Marshals Carl Peas (far left) and Tracy Summar (holding check) accept a \$500 donation on behalf of the Fire Marshal's Office from McDonald's on October 17.

MFRD's Ladder 6 was also in attendance for the purpose of raising the restaurant's new American flag. More photos from the event can be viewed in the [album](#) on MFRD's Facebook page.



DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK NOVEMBER 3

It's fall y'all and time for that dreaded end to Daylight Saving Time. MFRD wants to remind the community that this is the perfect time each year to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and also test them for proper operation.

PROJECT SAFE "SMOKE ALARMS FOR EVERYONE"

If you live in the city limits of Murfreesboro and are in need of smoke detectors, MFRD has a program that can assist you. With Project SAFE, we offer free smoke detectors with free installation. We have dual detectors available as well as specialty alarms for the hearing and visually impaired. Contact MFRD Monday through Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm to set up an appointment.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

MFRD COMPETES IN NATIONAL COMBAT CHALLENGE

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Combat Challenge Team participated in the Scott Firefighter Combat Nationals October 11-12, 2013 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Under the direction of Coach Bob Decker, Chad Davis, Kevin Leonard, Brian Lowe, Josh Parsons, Ray Robinson, and Matt Young, qualified for the nationals in September after putting on quite the show in their first-ever regional competition in Lexington, Kentucky. The team placed fifth overall against 20 competitors.



(L to R): Captain/Shift Inspector Brian Lowe, Firefighter Kevin Leonard, Firefighter Joshua Parsons, Captain/Shift Training Officer Bob Decker, Firefighter Ray Robinson, and Firefighter Matt Young.

The Combat Challenge, which has been labeled by ESPN as the "Toughest two minutes in sports," is comprised of several physical tasks such as climbing a 5-story tower, hoisting, chopping, and dragging hoses, and rescuing a life-sized, 175 lb opponent against the clock.

Chad Davis did not participate in the national competition. Josh Parsons was tasked with climbing the 5-story tower, Matt Young hoisted the hose, Brian Lowe descended the stairs and hammered the keiser sled, Kevin Leonard ran through the serpentine and advanced the hose line to spray toward a target, and Ray Robinson was responsible for dragging the 175 lb "Rescue Randy" for 100 feet.

MFRD's team won their battle in the male team relay against Montgomery's "Firehouse 15" in the seeding round on Friday (MFRD 1:31.29, Firehouse 15 1:45.48).

On Saturday, MFRD's team was picked to compete in the first elimination round against the "Montgomery Medics." MFRD secured the winning time and moved on to the next round (MFRD 1:34.77, Montgomery Medics 2:00.80).

In the second elimination round, MFRD went up against one of Montgomery Fire Department's toughest teams, "Montgomery Red." Even with a few setbacks, MFRD hung in there, but lost the round by just over a second (Montgomery Red 1:33.06, MFRD 1:34.83).

Coach Bob Decker commented on the event, "Competing at this level of competition is still fairly new to us. This is only our second event." Decker went on to say, "The nationals have taught us what areas we need to work on. Our team is comprised of a group of very competitive individuals; the knowledge we've gained through this experience can only increase our ability to be true contenders in future events."

To see more photos from the event, check out the [album](#) on MFRD's Facebook page or watch the [video](#) on the City of Murfreesboro's YouTube Channel.



28 YEARS
Randy Rae

26 YEARS
John Avaritt
Mike Mitchell

25 YEARS
Kyle Cobb
Jeff Day
Kaye Jernigan
Carl Peas

18 YEARS
Hunter Fite
Jeremy McCullough
Tim Rowlett
Wade Williams

12 YEARS
Tim Corder

7 YEARS
Nathan Duncan

1 YEAR
Matthew Twomey

**WATCH FOR
PICTURES IN
NEXT MONTH'S
NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
AIRCRAFT AND
AIRFIELD
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
CLASS**