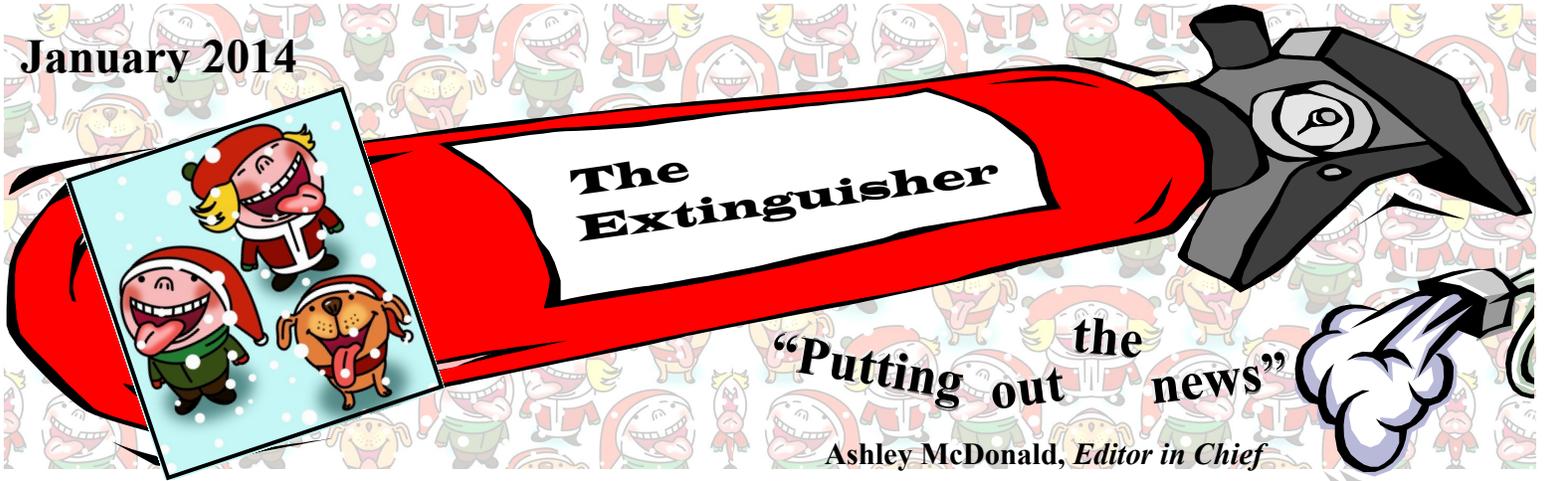


January 2014



The Extinguisher

“Putting out the news”

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



## Birthdays

Dwajuan Howse 1/10

Wade Williams 1/13

Julia Pitt 1/14

Mary Madding 1/15

James Bryant 1/20

Gary Hutchinson 1/20

Mitchell Whittenburg 1/21

Jeff Harris 1/22

Chase Martin 1/25

David Sloan 1/26

Nathan Duncan 1/28

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS



Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Administration Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Wednesday, January 1, 2014 (New Year's Day)

Monday, January 20, 2014 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

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



## RETIRED MFRD DRIVER MIKE BLANTON PASSES AWAY AFTER EXTENDED BATTLE WITH CANCER

Michael Dean Blanton, age 57, born September 8, 1956, concluded an almost three year fight against stage four non-small cell lung cancer at home in the arms of his loving wife, Amy, on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. They would have celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary on December 30.



Mike was a native and lifelong resident of Rutherford County and retired in 2005 with almost 25 years of service with Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department. He was a member of the Westvue Church of Christ. Mike was active in Bonsai Organizations, showing both nationally and internationally. He was a member of the Rutherford County Master Gardeners and local and state pond organizations.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Truman L. Blanton Sr; brothers, Truman L. Blanton, Jr. (Junior) and Donnie Blanton and sister, Christine Blanton Horton.

He is survived by his wife, Amy Harding Blanton; his mother, Gladys Barrett Blanton; brother, Gene Blanton; nieces and nephews; father and mother-in-law, Hal and Novella Busey Harding and the special children who Amy and Mike were privileged to love and share as their own.

Mike was laid to rest on December 21 at Roselawn Cemetery with full fire service honors.



HOPE ANN CLEMENTI

DAUGHTER OF JEFF & LARA

BORN: DECEMBER 18, 2013

AT 8 LBS / 2oz

20" LONG

## FOUR MFRD FIREFIGHTERS PROMOTED TO DRIVER

Four Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department Firefighters were recently promoted to Driver. Adam Brown, Karl Daigle, David Frost, and Jim White were promoted on December 14.

Adam Brown has been with the department since January 2005. He has obtained the following certifications: Firefighter I, Journeyman Firefighter, Pumper Driver Operator, Fire Apparatus Operator, Instructor I, and Officer I. He is a certified Hazardous Materials Technician, Child Safety Seat Technician, and an EMT-IV. He also has an Associate's Degree in Fire Science. Adam serves on the department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) Committee and assists two other personnel with the review of all fire and medical reports.

Karl Daigle has been with the department since January 2004. He has obtained the following certifications: Firefighter I, Journeyman Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Operator, and Instructor I. He is certified as a Hazardous Materials Technician, EMT-IV, and CPR Instructor. He has also completed Swiftwater I and II. Karl served in the U.S. Navy as a Firefighter for four years.

David Frost has been with the department since September 2006. He has obtained the following certifications: Firefighter I, Journeyman Firefighter, Pumper Driver Operator, Fire Apparatus Operator, Officer I, and Instructor I. He is a certified Hazardous Materials Technician and Rope Technician. David has a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technologies and is a TARS Instructor I for Extrication, EVOC, and Vanessa K. Free training. David also serves on the department's Grant and ISO committees and is skilled in the repair and maintenance of the department's Holmatro extrication tools. He was very instrumental in the development of the department's pre-planning program and created a document that has been placed on each aerial apparatus that shows how high an aerial will reach depending on its distance to a building. David, who was named Firefighter of the Year in 2011, is also very involved in the Fire Prevention Play *Dante's Dance*, as he is the one of the main characters, "Sparky."

Jim White has been with the department since June 2003. He has obtained the following certifications: Firefighter I, Journeyman Firefighter, Pumper Driver Operator, Fire Apparatus Operator, Aerial Apparatus Driver Operator, Officer I and II, and Instructor I. He is a Hazardous Materials Technician, Rope Technician, Structural Collapse Technician, and an EMT-IV. Jim has also completed Swiftwater I and II and has assisted with the department's water and rope awareness programs.

"These gentlemen are all outstanding, dedicated employees," said Deputy Chief Roger Toombs. "We believe that their training and experience will make them great Drivers for the department."

## COOKING WITH MFRD "HEALTHY EDITION"

The latest episode of "Cooking with MFRD" will begin airing in January on CityTV and will run through the end of March. For this episode, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department partnered with the City of Murfreesboro's Human Resources Department to provide health tips along with easy, health-conscious recipes.

The cooking segment features Chipotle Chicken Corn Soup and Strawberry Avocado Salsa with Cinnamon Chips. The recipes were obtained from [www.myinteractivehealth.com](http://www.myinteractivehealth.com), part of the City of Murfreesboro's BOROFIT health initiative for employees.

This episode also discusses services offered to the community at city facilities such as Patterson Park Community Center, Sports\* Com, and Barfield Park.

You can also check out the show on YouTube and all recipes are available on MFRD's website.



# RETIRED MURFREESBORO POLICE OFFICER DONATES FOUR PET RESCUE KITS TO MFRD

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department recently received a donation from Retired Murfreesboro Police Officer Joanna Medlen that will assist Firefighters with the rescue of pets at a house fire or on other emergency incidents.

Medlen donated a total of four “Wag’n O2 Fur Life” pet mask oxygen kits, which will be placed on each of MFRD’s rescue trucks.

Medlen, a self-proclaimed pet lover, said that she got the idea when her own dog, Sophie, passed away after a battle with cancer. The loss of her beloved Sophie was so devastating, she began wondering what she could do to keep others from knowing what it felt like to lose a pet. “I thought of people that lose their homes to fires, and just could not imagine losing a pet in a house fire,” said Medlen. “This got me thinking about the rescue kits. You can replace a home, but not a pet.”

The pet rescue kits each contain three oxygen masks in various sizes, three oxygen air tubes, a carry bag, instruction sheet, kennel lead, and an instructional DVD. The various sizes will allow Firefighters to assist a wide range of animals from a very small animal to a very large one.

“We are very appreciative of Ms. Medlen’s donation to the department,” said Deputy Chief Roger Toombs. “It’s nice to know that there are people out there willing to provide local fire departments with life-saving equipment for pets, as many people view them as members of the family.”

Wag’n O2 Fur Life Program is a nationwide campaign to help first responders acquire the necessary equipment to effectively mitigate emergencies and save pet lives. Since its inception in 2008, the program has provided pet oxygen masks kits to more than 1,730 fire and emergency medical services departments in the United States. With the help of generous individuals and corporate partners, it is estimated that up to 3,400 fire departments and 600 emergency medical services departments have now obtained at least one kit. To learn more about the kits, visit [www.petoxygenmasks.org](http://www.petoxygenmasks.org).

As for Medlen, she’s not stopping with the pet rescue kits. “I’m currently researching other ways to help our local first responders,” she said. “They do a lot for this community. I want to give back to them.”

## RELAY FOR LIFE

Firefighters Julia Pitt and Ashley Welcome have volunteered to be MFRD’s Team Captains for the 2014 “Relay for Life” efforts.

The main event will be the 12-hour walk at Siegel High School on May 30-31. The department will have a tent set up with “goodies” for event-goers. This will also be a place for our walkers to rest in between relays. There are no “relay police,” but we would like to have at least one person from the team on the track at all times.

A few personnel have already signed up, but there is still time, please email [Julia](mailto:Julia) or [Ashley](mailto:Ashley) if you are interested in participating.



Photo courtesy of Larry Flowers, WSMV

Retired Murfreesboro Police Officer Joanna Medlen and MFRD Driver Adam Petrig shake hands after Medlen presented the department with four pet rescue kits.

# NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2014

Firefighter John Flynt has been named Firefighter of the Month for January 2014. He received the honor for his assistance with the training exercises at Old Fort Park. According to Captain/Shift Training Officer Terry Smith, FF Flynt used his previous job experience as a Dispatcher to make the training as realistic as possible for MFRD personnel.

Flynt has been with the department since September 2008. Congratulations FF Flynt!



## MFRD'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH (2013)

### January Anniversaries

**36 YEARS**  
Wayne Reed

**14 YEARS**  
David Simms

**9 YEARS**  
Adam P. Brown  
Ben Honeycutt  
Clay Malone  
Lance Sutton  
Ben Thorpe  
Matt Welcome

**4 YEARS**  
David Branch

**2 YEARS**  
John Fisher  
Ashley Johnson  
Duane O'Donnell

