

May 2015

# The Extinguisher

"Putting out the news"

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



## Birthdays

Sam Benford 5/1  
Ashley McGriff 5/3  
Ray Robinson 5/4  
Allan Debowsky 5/5  
Jacob Follis 5/5  
Josh Oliver 5/6  
Steve Melton 5/7  
Chris Mikolon 5/8  
Kyle Winnett 5/9  
Doug Rivait 5/13  
Jeff Day 5/19  
Ronnie Nobles 5/20  
Kenneth Richmond 5/23  
Al Jakes 5/24  
Bo Jones 5/25  
Justin Lewis 5/25  
Troy Tayse 5/25  
Nell Spradling 5/26  
Brent Stephens 5/27  
Collins Harrelson 5/30  
Eddie Mitchell 5/30

## City Holiday

MFRD's Administrative Office  
will be closed on  
**Monday, May 25, 2015**  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.

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

## MFRD FIRE CHIEF CUMBEY GAINES ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Chief CumbeY Gaines recently announced his plans to retire after 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Murfreesboro. Gaines' retirement will be effective August 13, 2015.

"Chief Gaines served Murfreesboro with distinction for 35 years," said City Manager Rob Lyons. "His achievements are many and have led to the expansion of services, such as technical rescue and basic life support as well as the planning stages of new fire stations to meet the needs of a growing city. It is important to also recognize he was a trailblazer as the first African American to serve in numerous leadership positions, including Chief. The City is grateful for his service."

In his tenure as Chief, Gaines has been instrumental in developing the technical rescue aspect of the department, including the addition of water, confined space, and rope rescue. The name of the department was changed in July 2011 to reflect the addition of these services and the Murfreesboro Fire Department became Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department. Under Gaines' leadership, the department added Child Safety Seat Technicians, a Special Events Team, and enhanced the department's Honor Guard by creating a national award-winning competition team. The department also progressed from providing first responder level medical services to basic life support services.

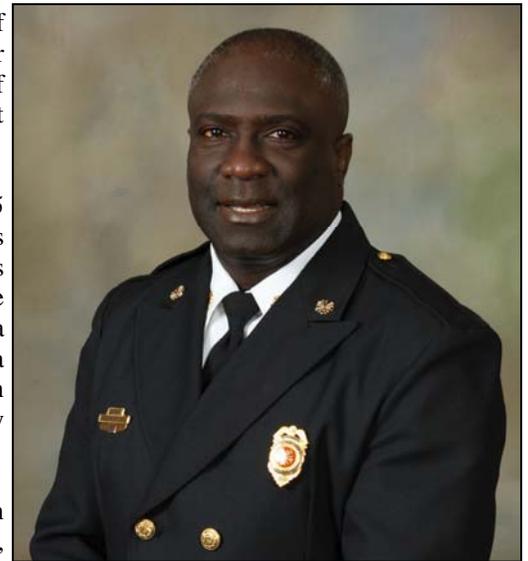
"I was fortunate that our former and current city leaders supported the direction of this department," Gaines commented. "When I reflect on my career, I think of the men and women that have helped MFRD achieve these accomplishments," said Gaines. "I am proud to have been able to serve in this capacity among people I now consider family."

Gaines sadly said his fire family has become a little smaller now. "Many of my co-workers have passed on, but each of them left a special piece of themselves with me to help me carry on in this career," he said. "I will never forget them and their influence in my life."

Starting his career at MFD as a Firefighter, Gaines was promoted to Driver in 1986, Inspector in 1988, Captain in 2000, Shift Commander in 2002, and Deputy Chief in 2007. He officially assumed the Chief's position in 2008. He was the first African American Inspector, Shift Commander, Deputy Chief, and Chief at MFRD.

Retirement will allow Gaines to spend more time with his wife of 37 years, Cynthia, and two daughters, Kimberly and Lauren.

"I spent a lot of time looking outward and giving back to the community," said Gaines, "now it's time to give myself back to my family."



## NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK CELEBRATED

The Murfreesboro Police Department's Communication Center honored local public safety Telecommunicators, the "first" first responders, in April in honor of National Telecommunicators Week. National Emergency Telecommunications Week was started in 1981 to put a special focus on public safety telecommunications professionals for their contributions to the safety and security of communities around the world.

To honor the Department's Telecommunicators, the Murfreesboro Police Department and Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department held a ceremony in the MPD/MFRD Communications Center. Mayor Shane McFarland and Councilmember Madelyn Scales Harris presented a proclamation to Police and Fire officials. Mayor McFarland stated: "You're the front line in getting people help when they call 911. You get police and emergency responders where they need to go in a calm manner. I am proud of all the 'first' first responders."



City Manager Rob Lyons, Chief Cumbey Gaines, Telecommunicator of the Year Lindsay Callahan, Mayor Shane McFarland, and Councilmember Madelyn Scales Harris.

Chief of Police Glenn Chrisman stated: "This Communications Center answered over 44,000 9-1-1 calls in 2014, making this the busiest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Rutherford County. Furthermore, Dispatchers answered 247,982 telephone calls, dispatching Police Officers or Firefighters to a call over 100,000 times. We are very proud of the work they do here every day."

Communications Supervisor Lindsay Callahan was also recognized at the ceremony for being awarded the "Dispatcher of the Year Award."

Callahan was chosen in part because "she does a wonderful job at anticipating the unexpected and takes a great amount of pride in her work, serving as a role model for others." She was also recognized at the annual Telecommunicator of the Year awards ceremony hosted by the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District.

Watch the City's ceremony [here](#).



Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Chief Cumbey Gaines, Public Information Officer Ashley McDonald, Telecommunicator of the Year Lindsay Callahan, Assistant Chief Allen Swader, and Assistant Chief Kim Lawson.

*Callahan was also honored at Rutherford County 9-1-1 Communications Center's annual Telecommunicators' Luncheon at Embassy Suites on April 17.*

## COOKING WITH MFRD PARTNERS WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF RUTHERFORD

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's "Cooking with MFRD" partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rutherford County for the Spring episode of the show. Three club members, one from the Murfreesboro club and two from Smyrna, assisted Host Ashley McDonald with preparing some tasty treats.

Recipes for this episode include: Chicken Burrito Dip, Cucumber Feta Rolls, and PB Treats.

This show not only features easy recipes, but also highlights the positive influence the clubs have had on the teens.

Catch it on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) or at [www.murfreesborotn.gov/cookingwithmfrd](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/cookingwithmfrd).



## "COOKING WITH FIRE" TEAM WINS FIRST RESPONDER DIVISION OF BACKYARD BBQ FESTIVAL

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's *Cooking with Fire* "smoked" the competition at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Backyard BBQ Festival" on Saturday at Cannonsburgh Village. The team placed first in the First Responder Division and took 13<sup>th</sup> overall out of thirty professional and amateur competitors.

The event, sponsored by the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club (MBRC), was one of the featured events at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneer Days.

Team leaders, Captain/Shift Inspector Nora Smith and Firefighter Sean Wheeler, received assistance from Firefighters John Flynt and James Jones. This was the first competition for the team members, who are all stationed at MFRD Headquarters on A-Shift.



*Cooking with Fire* submitted entries in both the rib and chicken competition. They placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the chicken event and 15<sup>th</sup> in ribs.

"This was an awesome experience," said Wheeler. "We are actually looking to build a team for future events."

The team received an award for winning the First Responder Division and a grill donated by Councilmember and MBRC Board Member Madelyn Scales Harris.



## MFRD PARTICIPATES IN MOCK DRILL AT RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt Lifelight, Rutherford County EMS and SORT, Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, and Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department participated in a mock vehicle crash at Riverdale High School March 26. The scenario featured a dramatization of the aftermath of a crash caused by a distracted driver.



May  
Anniversaries

**27 YEARS**  
Lee Douglas

**19 YEARS**  
Thomas McAdoo  
Terry Smith

**18 YEARS**  
Richard Crick

**17 YEARS**  
Greg Burt

**14 YEARS**  
Randy Shaw

**7 YEARS**  
Kernie Cothran  
Bill Durkin  
Zach Fleenor  
Jonathan Gaither  
Jeremy Morris  
Jason Norris  
Rob Odom  
Jonathan Parsons  
Joshua Parsons  
Sean Wheeler

**1 YEAR**  
Kim Lawson

## DIAWARA NAMED FF OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2015

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department Firefighter Paul Diawara was named Firefighter of the Month for May 2015. He was nominated by a fellow employee at his station who witnessed him perform a true act of kindness. The email from his co-worker stated the following:

“We were out flowing hydrants in Kroger parking lot when Paul noticed a lady driving a handicapped scooter with a basket full of groceries. Paul offered to help the lady load her groceries and to take the cart back for her. She was parked very far away, and I am sure this helped her a lot. It was very evident that she could use some assistance. She thanked Paul, and he went on back to work like nothing had happened. I am very proud to work with someone of his caliber. He truly believes that the citizens come first and takes great pride in his job.”

Paul has been with the department since August 2000.

