New Recruits Begin Training
Story on page 4
Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services added another squad on Sunday morning, May 17th, to their fleet of ambulances. Squad 5 was put into service at Fire Station #5 which is located in the Macedonia community.

According the EMS Chief, Nate Sullivan, “The hard work of our Training Division and all the personnel involved in our paramedic program has paid off again. The paramedics that recently graduated have provided enough paramedics to be able to staff this additional squad.”

Squad 5 will be the county’s 16th squad and will reduce response times and increase the level of service to citizens in the eastern portion of the Cherokee County.
Six Firefighters Promoted During Two Separate Ceremonies

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services promoted six firefighter Wednesday night, June 17th, during two separate ceremonies that held at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center located on Highway 5, just south of Holly Springs.

According to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, the fire department decided to have two separate ceremonies due to the recent outbreak of the Covid 19 virus. “Governor Kemp signed an Executive order effective June 16, regarding gatherings of more than fifty people which are banned unless there is at least six feet between each person. Because of this, we had a promotion ceremony at 6PM and 7:30PM to help in keeping attendees separated,” added Prather.

During the 6 PM promotion ceremony, Fire Apparatus Operator (FAO), Justin Sanders was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Appointed to the rank of Lieutenant was Chris Martin and Brady Cornelison was promoted to the rank of Captain.

The next ceremony, which began at 7:30, saw FAO Cody Caviness promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Drew Champion and Chance Conley were both promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Refreshments were served after the ceremony as friends, family and coworkers congratulated all of those who were promoted.

Participating in the first promotion ceremony on June 17th were (left to right): Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fire Chief, Lt. Chris Martin, Capt. Brady Cornelison, Sgt. Justin Sanders, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson and Field Operations Chief, Shane West.

Attending the second promotion ceremony on June 17th were: Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fire Chief, Lt. Chance Conley, Lt. Drew Champion, Sgt. Cody Caviness, Eddie Robinson, Assistant Fire Chief and Shane West, Field Operations Chief.
Thirty new recruits are beginning their fire training on June 15th at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center.

Fire Instructor, Jim Laughlin, said that the students will go through orientation today. Half of the students will be going to EMT school, while the other half will go through fire training. After the 20 weeks of training, the students will switch to the other component of the course for an additional 20 weeks of training. After the 40 weeks of training, the students will then become certified firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Students who will go through firefighter training will have comprehensive classroom instruction, which includes training in firefighting techniques and equipment use.

The EMT class will learn assessing the patient’s condition, performing CPR, dealing with blood loss, administering bandages, managing respiratory problems, first response treatment for common injuries and emergency childbirth.

At the first meeting, the students heard from Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson and Field Operations Chief, Shane West, who welcomed them to the department. Members of the training division were also on hand to go over the different aspects of the training.


The students who will begin their EMS training are Nathan Foye, Hunter Patterson, Andrew Davenport, Brody Miller, Trevor Gobbel, Anna Bowyer, George Mason, David Beasley, Wilfred Acosta, Roderick Chumbley, Jacob Franklin, Nicholas Cozzo, Darrion Cook, Steven Stancil and Denver Ice.
Pellitier Receives Distinguished Paramedic Award

The Northside Cherokee Hospital Emergency Department (ED) presented their first Distinguished Paramedic/EMT award to a Cherokee County Firefighter on May 22nd during EMS Week.

According to Sarah Putzer, Manager of Emergency Services, “Northside Cherokee ED started this award to recognize our outstanding EMS partners. Each year during EMS week, we will celebrate both the accomplishments and excellent care provided by our EMS partners. They will have the chance to nominate each other for the distinguished Paramedic/EMT award, which will be voted on by members of our staff.”

This year’s winner is Nathan Pellitier, who is a paramedic with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services. Nathan was nominated by two of his peers for excellent assessment skills and dedication to his job. Both peers acknowledge his work ethic and his ability to inspire and educate others. “He was nominated for a save on a 30-year-old cardiac arrest at Planet Fitness. While leaving Northside Hospital after transporting a patient, he heard another squad dispatched to the cardiac arrest. Knowing he was closer to Planet Fitness, he picked up the call and arrived on scene to a female in full arrest. He used quick assessment skills to resuscitate her and stabilized her for transport to Northside. The attending physician, Dr. Todd Albinger, complimented him (Pellitier) on his quick thinking and “clear, detailed handoff to staff,” added Putzer.

Cherokee County EMS Chief, Nate Sullivan, said that he is proud of the work that Nathan, and all of our EMT’s, Paramedics, and communications officers do every day. In this instance, Nathan’s initiative and the hard work of the rest of the team literally saved a life.

“I’m very appreciative of all the teachers and mentors that have assisted in training me and that continue to train me for higher acuity incidents such as this,” commented Pellitier. “I also want to thank Northside Hospital Cherokee that provided the commendations and venue for the ceremony," he added.

The plaque will be placed in the EMS lounge at the hospital. Congratulations to Nathan Pellitier for a job well done!
According to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, “This will be a “brand new” replacement station that will relocate the current Mica Fire Station that was built back in the 1970s.” The current station was built years ago by the volunteers and now it is in need of extensive repair. “I have decided to route the funding that was earmarked for renovation to relocate and construct a new station. It will be located at the corner of Yellow Creek Road and Conns Creek Road. Those old volunteer stations were never built to be lived in and we would have had to modify that station several times to accommodate career personnel,” added Prather.

The fire department has been looking for land for approximately a year and a half. Once the closing is complete, the fire department will move into the design phase and hope to start moving dirt sometime during the 4th quarter of 2020.

After Cherokee County citizens approved the referendum to implement the fire tax in 1998, many of the old stations have been modified to accommodate living quarters for career firefighters that are still being used today.

“The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners and County Manager, Jerry Cooper, continue to be very supportive on preparing for the future of Cherokee County Fire. I am very grateful to have the support of the Board of Commissioners and approving the purchase of this land and hopefully soon, the construction of the new station,” stated Prather.
The Command Staff of Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services prepared breakfast for these soldiers on the morning of June 23rd at the Canton National Guard Armory.

The Command Staff with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services traveled to the National Guard Armory in Canton on June 23rd to honor the soldiers of the Blackfoot Troop & 1-108th Calvary.

During the past several weeks, the Blackfoot Troop & 1-108th Calvary, has traveled to numerous senior care facilities in Cherokee and neighboring counties, to re-sanitize their buildings in an effort to help “flatten the curve” during Covid-19.

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, Field Operations Chief, Shane West, Community Risk Reduction Division Chief, Dean Floyd, EMS Chief, Nate Sullivan and Battalion Chief of Support Services, Marc Liscio traveled to the armory to show their appreciation and to prepare breakfast for the soldiers. Fire Chief, Tim Prather, said “This was a small token of our appreciation for their assistance that was provided to us during this Covid-19 Pandemic. As you may or may not know, a few weeks ago they de-contaminated some of our fire stations and fire equipment.”

At the conclusion of the breakfast, Capt. David Rice, Commander of the Blackfoot Troop, presented Chief Prather with a Certificate of Appreciation to the fire department for their support and help in ensuring that their soldiers were successful in protecting our community.

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services is honored to assist these soldiers in their efforts to keep our community safe.

Field Operations Chief, Shane West, Fire Chief Tim Prather, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson and EMS Chief, Nate Sullivan, prepare breakfast for the soldiers at the Canton National Guard Armory.
Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services received six new fire engines from Fireline, Incorporated, of Winder, Georgia, on June 24th.

According to Cherokee County Division Chief, Dean Floyd, the six new engines will be stationed at Station 1 at 100 Old Bascomb Court, Station 8 in Holly Springs, Station 9 in North Canton, Station 19 located at 100 Ridge Mill Court, Station 20 at 6724 Bells Ferry Road and Station 22 located at 9550 Bells Ferry Road. The new engines, which were ordered in March of 2019, will feature a new lighting package that is more advanced and new sirens which will be heard better, too. “We had a truck committee that suggested that we add additional petitions in the hose bed and we put in a bigger EMS compartment in the engines to assist us with the demand for emergency medical calls” added Floyd.

Hopefully, the new engines will be put in service on August 3rd. Until that time, additional equipment will have to be mounted on the engines including the hoses and radios will be installed, too. Plus, the EMS inspections have to be done on the engines so they will be certified to operate through the state.