



# The Fire Wire

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Service

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**Surviving Breast Cancer**  
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## The Fire Wire

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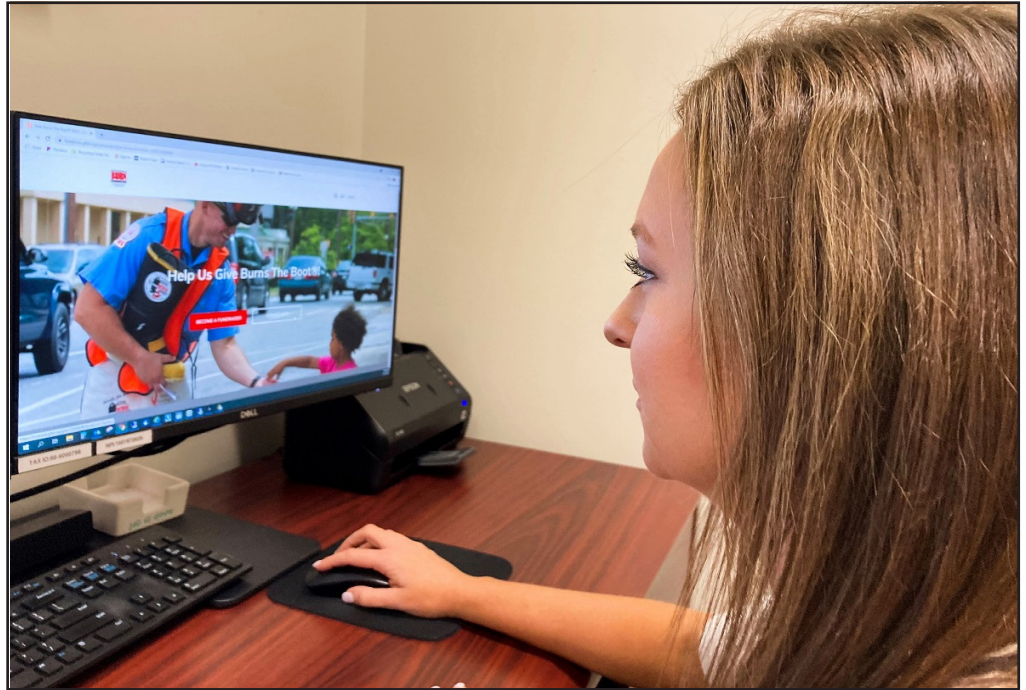
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8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
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### ABOUT THE COVER

Cherokee County firefighters help some of their own during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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# Give Burns the Virtual Boot This Year



*Lauren York goes on the Give Burns the Boot website to make her donation for Cherokee County.*

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services are asking residents of our county to Give Burns the Boot virtually this year.

Give Burns the Boot is an annual fundraising initiative, in which more than 100 fire departments throughout Georgia join together and collect funds to benefit the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation's mission and programs. Due to COVID-19, this year we're giving burns the "virtual" boot!

Support Cherokee County firefighters and the community by donating to our team. The process is fast, easy, and secure. Fire departments will receive 10% of the funds they raise to use towards fire safety and burn prevention programs in their communities. Giving to your local fire department means you are making fire education and prevention possible in your community! Through supporting our department, you are truly making a difference!

To donate, just go to this link:  
[www.giveburnstheboot.org](http://www.giveburnstheboot.org) .  
Please be sure to put "Cherokee County" in the box where it says "Would you like to credit this donation to a specific fundraiser or team (optional)?"



# Patriot Day Ceremony Held in Downtown Canton

Patriot's Day ceremonies were held on Friday morning, September 10th at the Public Safety Memorial, located next to the historic Cherokee County Courthouse. The event is held each year to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Tim Cavender, Public Information Officer for Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services, served as the Master of Ceremonies. The first speaker for the morning was Greg Elder, President of the Canton Rotary Club, who gave the morning's official welcome.

Special music was provided by the Cherokee Chorale who sang Song for the Unsung Hero followed by the invocation provided by Chaplain Mike Satterly.

The Cherokee County Multi-Agency Honor Guard came forward for the Presentation of Flags with the Cherokee High School Band of Warriors playing the National Anthem. Geoff Morton, Cherokee County Manager, came to the podium to lead a moment of silence. The Armed Forces Medley was performed as veterans were recognized when the band played the music of each branch of the service.



*Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, and Cherokee County Sheriff, Franks Reynolds, place a wreath at the Public Safety Memorial.*



*Sgt. Major Dan McNeal was this morning's keynote speaker.*

Ms. Katie Pearson of Northside Cherokee Hospital introduced Sgt. Major Dan McNeal as the keynote speaker. McNeal served his country in the military for 30 years. He began in the Navy and in 2006 he transferred to the Army and served as a Senior Noncommissioned Logistician. During his three decades of military service, he has had many domestic and overseas assignments. He has also been awarded 36 medals and ribbons during his service to our country.

After McNeal's speech, the Cherokee County High School Band of Warriors played God Bless the USA. After the music, Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather and Cherokee County Sheriff, Frank Reynolds came forward to place a wreath at the Cherokee County Public Safety Memorial. The family of Joe Burson, a Holly Springs Police Officer who died in the line of duty this past June, were recognized at the event.

Lt. Cheri Collett, with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services, played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes followed by the playing of taps by a member of the high school band.

Woodstock Police Chief, Calvin Moss, came forward with the closing remarks of the morning.

# Cherokee County Firefighters Help Some of Their Own Beat Breast Cancer

A ceremony was held on October 27th at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center in Holly Springs to present checks to three breast cancer survivors who are spouses of three Cherokee County firefighters.

Earlier this year, Captain Matt Richter with Station 24, put together a team to do a fundraiser for breast cancer victims by selling t-shirts and hoodies to firefighters and their families and friends.

Captain Richter came to the podium first to welcome everyone to the event and then asked Fire Chaplain, Dana McPherson, to lead everyone in a prayer. Richter then asked Fire Chief, Tim Prather, Deputy Chief of Support Services, Eddie Robinson and Shane West, Deputy Chief of Operations to say a few words to the attendees, too.



*Alicia Lanier, Charlotte Orr and Jackie Croft are breast cancer survivors.*

Captain Richter also spoke about the brotherhood and sisterhood within the fire department that took care of their own during a crisis. After Richter spoke, he then asked the three recipients to come forward to say a few words.

Charlotte Orr, wife of Division Chief Mark Orr, was the primary speaker for the group. “I want to say “thank you all” for caring enough for our families. I also want to thank God for what it means to be Christ-like and I have learned what it truly means to fully trust in God. I had moments during this time that I had to dig deep within my soul to find peace. During such turmoil, I heard God say to me that it wasn’t my job to worry about my family, but it was my job to worry about my relationship with him and that he would take care of my family,” stated Orr. Orr continued to speak about learning so much from this experience and she encouraged others to have a relationship with the Heavenly Father because there is so much peace and love and grace that you get from him during times like these.

Jackie Croft, wife of Lt. Nathan Croft, thanked everyone for their text messages by giving her tips and advice during this difficult time. Alicia Lanier, Division Chief Kevin Lanier’s wife, also came to the podium to say a few words. “I want to thank you, too. I’m doing good and you all mean so much to me,” stated Alicia.

Approximately, 30 thousand dollars was raised, and after deducting the cost of the shirts and hoodies and the printing, over \$15,000 was raised for the breast cancer survivors. Captain Richter returned to the podium and stated that each wife would receive a check for \$5,300 to assist them in any way that they needed.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the cause and for the many thoughts and prayers for these three special ladies who mean the world to all of us at Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services.

# Amicalola EMC Donates Check to Fire Explorers



*Todd Payne (right), CEO of Amicalola EMC, gives a check for \$7,000 to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather.*

The explorer program is a career-based learning opportunity and is open to young men and women ages 14 (and completed the 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of fire & emergency services.

Amicalola EMC has always been a supporter of the local fire departments in Cherokee County and have donated thousands of dollars to the fire stations in their service area when the stations were operated by volunteers

Todd Payne, Chief Executive Officer for Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), stopped by the headquarters' office of Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services on September 20th.

Payne presented a check in the amount of \$7,000 to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather. The money from the EMC is collected each month from their Operation Round-Up program. Each month, Amicalola EMC "round ups" the electric bill of participating members to the next highest dollar. Since the program began in 1999, the electric cooperative has been able to donate \$2.4 million dollars to individuals and charitable organizations within their service area.

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, stated that the funds will go into the Fire Explorer Program.

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## Subdivision Residents Support Firefighters

Representatives from Heron Pond subdivision, located off Highway 92 in Woodstock, visited Cherokee County Fire Station #7 on September 7th and presented them with a check for \$4,925.

Marge Fischman, a representative from the subdivision's Safety Committee, stated "We have the fire department come out every year to do a battery exchange in our smoke detectors. The neighbors are truly thankful to the fire department and we wanted to do something to give back to the department.

Cherokee County Fire Educator, Susan Filiberto said the money is actually going towards the department's annual Give Burns the Boot Campaign. The money is donated to the Georgia Burn Foundation and the funds go to the children's burn camps and 10% goes back to Cherokee County to purchase batteries and smoke alarms for those who are in need.



*The check was presented at Cherokee County Fire Station #7.*

# Cheri Collett Promoted to Battalion Chief

Fire Investigator, Cheri Collett, made history in Cherokee County when she was promoted on September 29th as the first female Battalion Chief for the county fire department.

Collett becomes a Battalion Chief Officer and will be serving as the Manager of the Business Intelligence Department. Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather stated that this is part of the department's re-organizational plan to implement the Business Intelligence Department. The department will be responsible for the systematic computational analysis of data or statistics to help the department with response times, purchasing and managing personnel.

"Chief Collett has been an outstanding employee in several of the disciplines of our department. She is a highly motivated employee and always willing to accept a challenge. She excels at about everything she is involved in whether it's leading ISO Evaluations, the pursuit of International Accreditation or simply being someone that has learned to play the "bagpipes" representing the department proudly! She is simply an amazing unique individual that never ceases to impress me on many levels. She is absolutely an asset to Cherokee County whom I thoroughly support and enjoy working with on our team. I truly believe she will continue to be a key player in

"raising the bar" for Cherokee County Fire," stated Prather.

Collett came to work for the department in 2007 as a Fire Safety Educator. Collett graduated from Fire Recruit School in 2011 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2015. That same year, Collett began the process of becoming a Certified Fire Investigator. In 2019, Collett was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Congratulations Cheri!

*PHOTO AT LEFT - Cheri Collett's husband, Ricky, places the Battalion Chief pins on his wife's collar.*



*Cheri Collett is congratulated by Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather.*



# Fifteen Cherokee County Firefighters Promoted

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services promoted 15 firefighters last week during two separate promotion ceremonies held at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center, located just south of Holly Springs.

On Wednesday evening, September 29th, nine firefighters were promoted at the training center. Zach Bennett, Danyell Chalk, Justin Dobson, Chris King, William Pflugrad and Brady Reed were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant were Kevin Fox, Joel Sciranko and Joseph Wigington.

On Thursday evening, September 30th, six firefighters were also promoted at the fire training center. Chris Ginn and Kristina Wigington were promoted to the rank of Captain. Promoted to Division Chief were Kevin Lanier, Ryan McElwee and Mark Orr. Cherokee County Fire Operations Chief, Shane West was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of the fire department.

Numerous firefighters, chiefs and family members attended the event. Congratulations to all the firefighters who were promoted.



*Promoted to sergeant were (front row - left to right) Danyell Chalk, Justin Dobson, Brady Reed, Zach Bennett, William Pflugrad and Chris King were promoted to Sergeant. Chiefs with the new Lieutenants are (back row – left to right) Tim Prather, Fire Chief, Lt. Kevin Fox, Lt. Joel Sciranko and Lt. Joseph Wigington, Eddie Robinson, Assistant Fire Chief and Shane West, Operations Chief.*



*Attending the promotion ceremony are (front row – left to right) Tim Prather, Fire Chief, Capt. Kristina Wigington, Shane West, Deputy Chief, and Capt. Chris Ginn. Also attending were (back row – left to right) Kevin Lanier, Division Chief, Ryan McElwee, Division Chief, Mark Orr, Division Chief and Eddie Robinson, Assistant Fire Chief.*

# Canton Moose Lodge Presents Public Safety Awards

The Canton Moose Lodge, located in Canton, Georgia, honored several firefighters and staff members with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services with their annual Public Safety Service Awards Banquet on Monday night, October 4th.

After an enjoyable meal, Cherokee County Sheriff, Frank Reynolds spoke to the crowd. Tim Cavender, Public Information Officer for Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services, announced the names of the award recipients as lodge president, R.J. Wylde, presented the plaques. Employees with Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services recognized this year were:



*Receiving their public safety awards were FAO Milton Zapeta, Paramedic of the Year, Richard Scales, Support Services Member of the Year, Tim Prather, Chief Fire Officer of the Year, FAO Nick Leslie, EMT of the Year, Jack Tuszynski, Special Operations Member of the Year, Lt. Craig Henderson, Fire Officer of the Year, Malcom Fox and Walter Snead, Volunteers of the Year. (Not pictured - Ryan Barker)*

**Chief Fire Officer of the Year** - Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather

**Fire Officer of the Year** - Lt. Craig Henderson

**Firefighter of the Year** - FAO Ryan Barker

**Paramedic of the Year** - FAO Milton Zapeta

**EMT of the Year** - FAO Nick Leslie

**Volunteer of the Year** - Walter Snead and Malcolm Fox

**Special Operations Member of the Year** - Jack Tuszynski, Cherokee County Dive Team

**Support Services Member of the Year** - Richard Scales

Congratulations to all of the recipients and our sincere thanks to the members of the Canton Moose Lodge for supporting public safety.

