

THE SECOND ALARM

BRINGING VALUABLE RESOURCES & NEWS
ONE ALARM AT A TIME

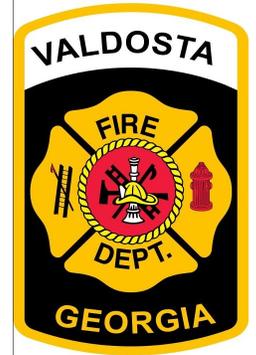
JULY 2014

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2



VALDOSTA FIRE
DEPARTMENT

A Department Without Limits



BIRTHDAYS:

**LT CAROLYN
MCMILLAN** 7/08

**SGT WADE
BRIGGS** 7/14

**LT EDGAR
TOOLEY** 7/15

**SGT CHARLES
TATCH** 7/26

LT JUSTIN PLY 7/28

**FF TANGELA
ROWE** 7/29

**CAPT BRIAN
BOUTWELL** 7/30

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submissions to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel free to submit photos with your submissions
- Interested in helping with the newsletter—contact Sgt. Shelley Miller, Editor

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

I was reading one of my daily motivational readings, when I read the following quote, “At a time when unity is so desperately needed it is significantly lacking. Misunderstandings about basic philosophical differences place people on opposite poles. Unity does not mean we will all believe in or do the same thing. It means we will agree to do something without battling over how and why.”—Iyanla Vanzant.

I decided to discuss “unity” as this month’s topic. I will not echo the quote above but it reveals the challenges our department is facing. With the exception of operating on the fire scene, we are lacking unity as a department. This is not about individuals, this is about

the profession we love, the community we serve and the Valdosta Fire Department. With one finger you can drag a piece of paper across the floor, with four fingers you can drag and/or push the paper further; however, with your hand you can pick the paper up and carry it anywhere. Each of our fingers and thumb represents each of our five divisions; however, we (our hand) can’t operate effectively or in unison without our palm. Our palm represents the Valdosta Fire Department, at the end of the day it is our unison that defines who we are, what we do and how we do it. We are the leaders that will lead the de-



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief

partment into the future; however, it is our unison that will strengthen and guide us to be “A Department without Limits.” Thanks for all the support and dedication.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We have three additions coming to our Valdosta Fire Department Family. Congratulations to all of you and we welcome your future spouses with open arms.

Sgt. Keith Neihanke became engaged to Melonie Whiddon of Thomasville on Mother’s Day.

Their wedding is planned for Saturday, August 30th.

Lt. Justin Ply became engaged to Kayla Barnes of Lowndes County on May 25th. A wedding date has not been set yet.

FF Ken Taylor became engaged to Sheila Hunter of Lakeland on

May 31st. Their wedding is planned for September 13th in the mountains of north Georgia.

Please don’t forget to send me your wedding, engagement, and birth announcements to:

smiller@valdostacity.com

ATTA BOY—DONE DID GOOD

During the final days of May, Ursula Williams left a great impression on Valdosta Community Day organizers, Victoria and Clint, who were so impressed with Ursula's politeness and professionalism that they felt compelled to write to Chief Broome about it.

High praise for going "above and beyond the call of duty" for Engine 6 crew, Sgt. Robert Mercer, FF Jimmie Bacon, and FF Lloyd Cummings from Michelle Musgrove. Our intrepid firefighters helped staunch the flow of fuel from a leaking car and assisted Michelle with expedited wrecker service during a call in mid-May. In her own words our guys were "help and comfort" during a "very serious situation".

Linsee Jones, daughter of Chuck & Stacy Jones. Recently took 2nd place in the Banks Lake Art Contest, which is held for all students 3rd through 5th grades. Linsee also won 1st place for the most fish caught (45) during this year's fishing derby held at banks lake, which was

hosted by Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

Fire Chief Lee Y. Lamar Jr. of the Auburn Public Safety/Fire Division sends his thanks to Chief Broome and the Valdosta Fire Department for the assistance of Lt. Ronald Roe in their Lieutenant Promotional Assessment. Chief Lamar was "impressed by Lt. Roe's professionalism and fairness during the assessment process."

Off duty but always on the job, Sgt. Robert Mercer witnessed a lightning strike start a brush fire at the intersection of Mt. Zion and Jaycee Shack Rd while on his way home on May 29th. According to Gene Murphy, Sgt. Mercer "immediately stopped to render assistance... while ensuring the safety of on-lookers. With a borrowed hose, Sgt. Mercer "battled the 10-15' flames" and "worked the fire successfully until the county was able to respond."

A heartfelt thanks to Engine 4 and Lt. Carolyn McMillan from Silas Hrobar, Chief Appraiser for the Lowndes

County Board of Assessors. Mr. Hrobar's "directionally challenged" mother had planned to meet him at the City Hall parking lot to follow him to his new house to stay over for Mother's Day when she became lost and ended up at the Norman Drive WalMart without a cell phone. There she spotted Engine 4 and asked for assistance. Lt. McMillan let Mr. Hrobar's mother use her cell phone but Mr. Hrobar had left his cell phone at home. Mr. Hrobar writes, "...they led my mother back to the parking lot [at McKey St.]... A lot of folks would have just sent her on her way with more directions." Mr. Hrobar concludes, "The funniest part was, the fire station they were from is on Gornito and Jerry Jones, about ¼ miles from my house. Truly a comedy of errors."

Mike Johnson of the Elks Club sends thanks for the participation of the Valdosta Fire Department Honor Guard and Pipes and Drum Corps for the Flag Day ceremony. Mr. Johnson notes that "they always do such an impressive job".



Linsee Jones, daughter of Sgt. Chuck & Stacy Jones, the 2nd place Banks Lake Art Contest winner and 1st place winner of most fish caught.



FF Theotis Johnson (on the left) poses with BC Tom Robinson as they represented the Valdosta Fire Department at Camp Oo-U-La, the Georgia Firefighter Burn Foundation sponsored summer camp for burn survivors this past June in Winder, GA. FF Johnson lost a bet to a camper that hit a 4" target at 30' for the first time... with his last arrow. This was the second time FF Johnson wore a dress at camp.

EVENTS—HAPPENINGS AND GOINGS-ON

30 June—Station 1, Capt. Wisenbaker's Retirement Celebration 1800hrs

04 July—The Fourth of July & First Friday, Downtown Valdosta

05 July—Downtown Valdosta Farm Days

18 July—Art After Dark, Downtown Valdosta

19 July—Downtown Valdosta Farm Days

31 July—American Red Cross Guns and Hoses Challenge, Firefighters vs. Cops in a blood donation challenge

Of Note

The Valdosta Fire Department was the recipient of the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation 2014 Chesney Fallen Firefighters Memorial Grant Award to support fire safety/burn prevention efforts in our community.

EMPOWERING BUGLES—NOTES ON LEADERSHIP

Is your leadership presence a true reflection of who you really are?

By [Jennifer V. Miller](#) on April 8th, 2014

How do others experience you as a leader? According to psychologist Kathryn Cramer, every leader has a “signature presence,” a set of leadership assets that are as unique as your handwritten signature. Just as your autograph telegraphs who you are, so, too, do the daily actions that comprise your leadership presence.

Think about your signature for a moment: how has it morphed over time? As a young girl, my signature was a near carbon-copy of what I’d learned from my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Durr — a replica of what I’d been taught was the “correct” way to form the letters that comprised my name. As the years wore on, my signature began to reflect more of my personality and life’s experiences. No doubt, yours has as well.

“...it’s imperative that leaders use a combination of personal reflection and asking for feedback.”

Our handwriting also shows tell-tale signs of stress or distraction: just look at a document that was signed during a hospital stay or in a time of crisis. And, in much the same way that the act of writing is largely unconscious as we scrawl our name at the bottom of a credit card receipt, as leaders, we can be unaware of the messages we send to colleagues.

In her book [“Lead Positive: What Highly Effective Leaders See, Say, and Do,”](#) Cramer writes about the

difficulties of seeing ourselves as we really are. As difficult as this self-awareness may be, she says it’s imperative that leaders use a combination of personal reflection and asking for feedback. Cramer explains that when you understand the positive qualities that comprise your signature presence, you can then allow them to “shine through in all that you do.”

Here are five questions you can ask yourself and others to help determine those distinctive qualities that define your leadership.

“All leaders have unique gifts they bring to bear in the workplace.”

When I’m at my best, how would I describe myself?
When I receive compliments, what specifically do people praise? Is there a theme to the praise?

In what types of situations do I easily slip into “the zone” — meaning, with confidence and fluidity?
Ask a colleague, “In what ways have I been a help to you?”

Ask three people you know well: “Name five things about me that you can count on me to do.”

Is your leadership presence a true representation of the person you really are? All leaders have unique gifts they bring to bear in the workplace. Use these five questions to help you understand the person that others see so that you can lead with your own distinctive flair.

Bibliography

Miller, J. V. (2014, April 8). *SMartBlog on Leadership*.

Retrieved 12 2014, June, from <http://smartblogs.com/leadership/2014/04/08/is-your-leadership-presence-a-true-reflection-of-who-you-really-are/>

RUMOR MILL—HAPPENINGS AND GOINGS-ON?

No one reviews the employee suggestion box. False, the employee suggestion box is reviewed at least once a week and has resulted in increasing manning on the aerials, new chain saws and a transfer request form. Additional suggestions being reviewed are uniforms, cell phone policies and a new driver’s relief program.

The department is inquiring about educational degrees to disqualify certain individuals from the promotional process. False, Fire Administration is working on a proposal that would pay all certified firefighters an educational incentive for an Associate or Bachelor’s degree. This is the same educa-

tional incentive that VPD currently offers.

We are no longer participating in the CPIE program. False, however there were a few modifications:

- Only Engine companies will participate

- We will no longer participate in Field Days

- We will only participate one day a week (Mondays from 9:00 to 10:00 AM)