



# THE SECOND ALARM

## A Department Without Limits

SEPTEMBER 2019  
THE SECOND ALARM

### CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH



I recently had the opportunity to speak to a group of Community Xccelerator Program members. The purpose was to share a personal journey and philosophy as they relate to the program's three D's: Drive, Dedication, and Determination. This experience offered an opportunity for me to also reflect on our own organization and the direction we are going.

**Drive-** What keeps us as an organization driving forward? What is the reason we continue to strive for excellence? Valdosta Fire Department has a rich culture in delivering the best service possible to the community we serve. Drive is the forward momentum that we continue to maintain. As an individual, I personally get my drive from the members of our organization. Many do not realize how encouraging it is when they express gratitude for something we have been able to provide whether it be training, equipment, or just support. Kindness to each other and positive attitudes motivate the masses and are the foundation of an organization's drive.

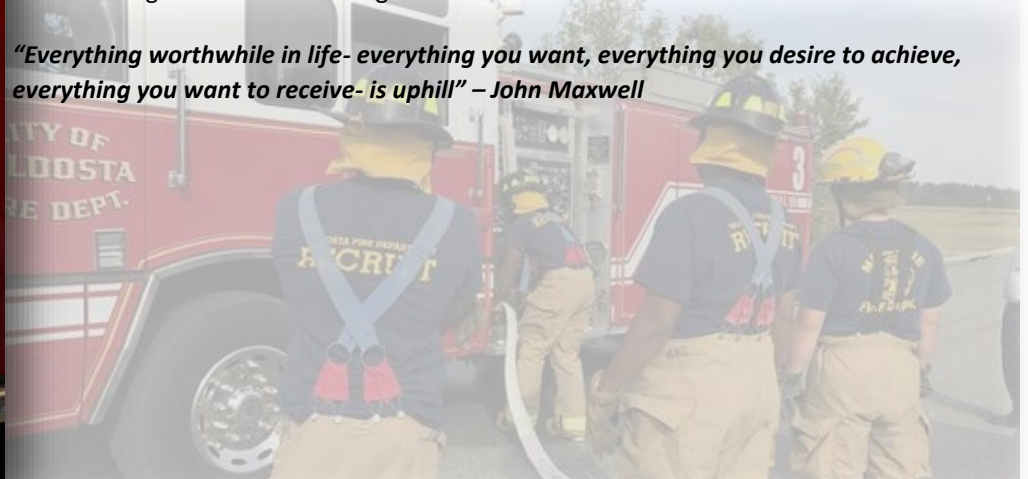
**Dedication-**The idea of being dedicated to the city, the department, your shift, and your company can be clouded by distractions. Every day we wake up is an opportunity to make a difference. Each of us joined the fire service with the intent of making a difference. We have countless members that have shown random acts of kindness to neighbors, friends, and even strangers in need. Dedication to making a difference is what gives us the ability to recognize someone in need both on and off the job. My dedication is to you, as members of the Valdosta Fire Department; to listen with an open mind, make decisions for the betterment of the organization, and to provide you with the tools and skills you need to provide the best level of service possible for our community.

**Determination-**What are your goals? Goals should be set and backed up with objective that lead to achieving your overall goal. Goals should be set for your personal and professional lives. One goal we share and achieved as members of Valdosta Fire Department was to become a member of the organization. There is not one member here that was handed their position. All of us had to endure challenges to achieve the goal and be accepted as a member of the department. It was determination that got all of us through the challenges we faced.

So where do we go from here? What is the next goal we have set for ourselves? Once we stop setting goals, we have then settled for mediocrity and complacency. Goals are not related to rank. A goal may be to achieve the next level in a rank structure but that goal should be reinforced with intent. Just pinning on another badge should never be a goal.



*Brian Boutwell*



***"Everything worthwhile in life- everything you want, everything you desire to achieve, everything you want to receive- is uphill" – John Maxwell***



## THE SECOND ALARM

### Open Letters to the Fire Dept.

TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL,

ON SUNDAY MORNING, 26 MAY,  
ABOUT 1030 I HAD THE MISFORTUNE  
OF MY TRUCK BREAKING DOWN, THIS  
OCCURED AT THE INTERSECTION RIGHT  
OUTSIDE YOUR FACILITY. WHILE WAITING  
FOR TOW ASSISTANCE, THE PERSONNEL  
OFFERED ME WATER, THE USE OF THE  
BATHROOM AND PLACED A CHAIR INSIDE  
THE HALLWAY SO I COULD BE OUT OF  
THE HEAT. AS I HAD TO WAIT ABOUT  
AN HOUR AND A HALF DURING A HOT  
MORNING, THIS MEANT A LOT TO ME AND  
ALSO KEPT ME COMFORTABLE. THE INDIVIDUALS  
AT THIS STATION WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO  
MAKE THIS HAPPEN. I WANTED TO PASS ALONG  
MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL THE FIRE  
PERSONNEL AT THIS STATION.

THANKS!!

THANKS!!

THANKS!!

THANKS!!

THANKS!!

THANKS!!





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Members of the Valdosta Fire Department participated in an Air Consumption Drill last month. The drill is designed to allow members to do a self-evaluation on how well they conserve air while performing tasks. The drill affords the opportunity for members to continue to improve on their performance through recreating similar drills as a company.



Lieutenant Tyler Shoemake, Sergeant Josh McBride, and Firefighter Louis Audain responded to the report of a puppy stuck in a storm culvert during a storm. They were able to rescue the trapped puppy to its owner.



**National Night Out at Valdosta State University**



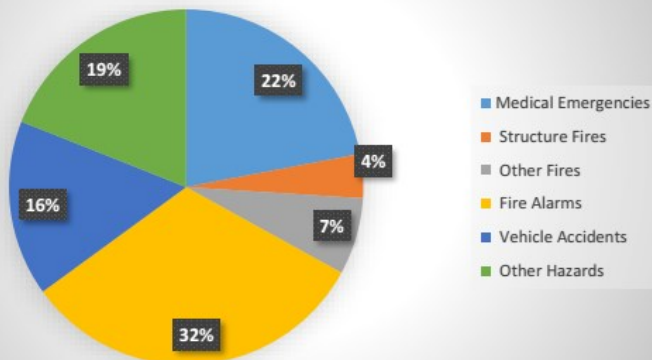


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Valdosta Fire Department participated in "Public Safety Day" at Valdosta Mall. The event was hosted by Georgia State Patrol in an effort to boost recruitment.

## 342 Incidents in August



## Birthday Bulletin

James Clinkscales	09/02
Michael Neihanke	09/11
Isaac Harris	09/13
Berrian Lamar	09/14
Travarus Sanders	09/27
Frank McMillan	09/29

**Happy Birthday !**

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submission to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel Free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter.





# CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, Issue 9 September 2019

## CFAA Reminders / Upcoming Events:

- ◆ CFAA General Meeting  
Tuesday, September 17 @ Fire Station 1  
Conference Room (6:00 p.m.)

Events must be presented at general meetings and approved to be added to the calendar or by special request through the Chief and the VFD.

## Our Mission

*"Our mission is to contribute to the functions of the Valdosta Fire Department while supporting service projects and fostering positive relationships among the community."*



### Valdosta Fire Department Citizens Fire Academy Schedule Class 6



- 08.27.19 **Orientation** Valdosta Regional Training Center—VRTC (137 Blanchard St.)  
Presented by Brian Boutwell, Fire Chief
- 09.03.19 **Introduction to Valdosta Fire Department** (Fire Station 1, 106 S. Oak St.)
- 09.10.19 **Communications** Field trip to 911 dispatch call center  
Present by Mrs. Tonya Davis
- 09.17.19 **Fire Prevention**  
Presented by Battalion Chief James Clinkscales, Fire Marshal
- 09.24.19 **Personal Protective Equipment—PPE/Search and Rescue**  
Presented by Tangela Rowe and Training Division
- 10.01.19 **Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) & Extrication**  
Presented by Chief Boutwell & Training Division
- 10.08.19 **CPR & First Aid**  
TBA
- 10.15.19 **Live Burn & Firefighter Rehabilitation**  
Presented by the Training Division
- 10.22.19 **Final Review and Graduation** (VRTC 1st and then Fire Station 1, 106 S. Oak St.)
- All classes will be held from 6 - 9 pm at the Valdosta Regional Training Center unless otherwise noted.



CFA Class #6 has begun!!!

Thank you again for all who helped provide dinner for the new class. Check out the course schedule.

If you wish to attend any of the sessions email Tangela directly at: [trowe@valdostacity.com](mailto:trowe@valdostacity.com)



### Need the 411?

If you are not receiving updates and emails or if your contact

information has change, make sure to send an email

to: [cfaavaldosta@gmail.com](mailto:cfaavaldosta@gmail.com)  
Include your name, your contact information and CFA Class #.

You can also sign up for Remind 101 and receive text reminders by:

Texting this message  
@vfdc  
To this number:  
81010

Also, if you have not connected on Facebook, visit here: [https://](https://www.facebook.com/valdostacity)

If you missed the last CFAA newsletter, check the Group Facebook Page or send an email to: [cfaavaldosta@gmail.com](mailto:cfaavaldosta@gmail.com)

The Citizens Fire Academy Alumni (CFAA) are citizens whom have completed the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) through the Valdosta Fire Department. If you are interested in signing up for the next CFA course, please email Tangela Rowe with the Valdosta Fire Department at: [TROWE@VALDOSTACITY.COM](mailto:TROWE@VALDOSTACITY.COM)

If you have completed a CFA course and would like to receive more information on the alumni, email: [CFAAVALDOSTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CFAAVALDOSTA@GMAIL.COM)

# CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, Issue 6 June 2019

## Highlights on Community Outreach Initiatives



MDA Fill The Boot Campaign—August 29, 30 and 31st

