

Greensboro and Guilford County Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad History

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Sources

- Cited newspaper stories.
- Oral histories [OH].
- Greensboro Rescue History, legeros.com/blog/greensboro-rescue-history, blog post, May 2022

Pre-History

1906, circa - Greensboro Ambulance Association organized. May have been a woman's organization. [NR, 7/8/16]

1910 – The first ambulance operator was remembered as Ham Tatum, a livery stable owner, who answered city and county calls with a horse-drawn coach from 1910 to 1915. [GR, 8/9/68]

1915, circa – Tatum's horse-drawn coach sold to a group of young woman, who had it mounted on a truck body and donated to the fire department. It was stored at the fire station but only operated for one year, as “too frequently firemen were out fighting fires when emergency calls came in.” [GR, 8/9/68]

1916, Jul – Greensboro Ambulance Association placed an order for an automobile ambulance to replace the horse-drawn ambulance that had been used for years. [Was this the motor vehicle noted above, from a decades-later newspaper story? Could be.] [GDN, 7/8/16]

1918, Jan – First funeral home ambulance operating by this time, Poole & Blue advertisement in January 1918 newspaper. [NR, 1/6/18]

1937, Jul – Advertisement for Hanes Funeral Home in Greensboro and announcing a “luxurious new ambulance.” Also recently added a Davis Inhalator to their equipment. [GDN, 7/18/37]

1938, May – Advertisement for Reich Funeral Home and the addition of “another modern new ambulance.” They had two ambulances and both were equipped with “H & H Inhalators” for oxygen therapy. [GDN, 5/12/38]

1940 to 1949

1942, October – City-county civil defense rescue truck project underway. Would be maintained and operated by the fire department. The city already owned some rescue equipment but needed additional items as well as a truck. The county approved providing money to purchase more equipment and a vehicle from proceeds of a scrap metal collection campaign that was underway. [GR, 10/7/42]

1944, June – City-county civil defense organization purchased a used Army ambulance at Fort Bragg, for conversion into a rescue truck. Though some body work was done at the Ford Body Company, most of the conversion including repainting was performed by fire department members. [GR, 10/12/44]

1944, October – Greensboro FD placed their new rescue truck in service. Was housed at Central Fire Station and would be dispatched “in any case of emergency,” but not as an ambulance. Would be operated solely as a GFD unit and by firemen trained in rescue work. Equipment included an acetylene cutting torch, five hydraulic jacks, two stretchers, two gas masks, one inhaler, one 1500-watt portable generator and floodlights, portable electric hammer, electric saw, two pairs of 10,000-volt rubber gloves, assorted hand tools, pike poles, extension ladders, a rubber boat with oars, a boat carrier, and water rescue equipment. Plus an iron lung. [GR, 10/12/44]

1946, October – GFD rescue squad received an Emerson resuscitator, inhaler, and aspirator, donated by the Greensboro Junior Chamber of Commerce. They were also equipped with an iron lung, donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars when the squad was organized. The iron lung was “light enough to be taken to the scene.” [GR, 10/18/46]

1947, June – **Greensboro Life Saving and First Aid Crew** organized. The organization was also called **Greensboro Rescue Squad** in some newspaper accounts. The non-profit organization was chartered on June 24. The first organizational meeting was held on July 2 at Central Fire Station. The first crew captain was Greensboro Fire Chief C. W. Wyrick. [GDN, 6/25/47]

1947, August – GFD rescue truck ownership was transferred to the Greensboro Life Saving and First Aid Crew. There is also a provision that the title would revert to the city if requested. [GR, 8/6/47]

1947, August – The Life Saving Crew started operation on/around August 1. [GDN, 10/30/47]

1947, Oct – Snapshot. The Life Saving Crew had 25 members who completed an intensive training program. They had more than \$6000 in equipment and answered 18 calls during its first three months of operation. The longest call was a 600 man-hour search at Buffalo Lake for the bodies of two men who drowned while fishing. [GDN, 10/30/47]

1950 to 1959

1950, Jan – Snapshot. The Life Saving Crew answered more than 175 calls in the city during 1949. The crew captain was E. E. McDowell. Approximately \$6,000 were received for operating expenses from donations and fundraising efforts. [GDN, 1/13/50]

1950, Mar – New rescue truck purchased for Life Saving Crew. A panel van was bought with \$2,700 of \$5,000 raised during a fund drive. The new truck was operational by April 30, 1950. The squad had some 40 volunteer men. The rescue truck was also equipped with a boat trailer and two boats. [GR, 3/3/50]

1952, Jun – **High Point Rescue Squad**, first iteration, started training. Organized by the High Point Fishing Club, the organization was conceived last summer by one of the club's most active members, Gurney Cook, after his son drowned in Badin Lake. Members started soliciting the cooperation of local merchants, collected materials and equipment, and outfitted a rescue boat and trailer. The boat would be kept at Parks Garage on Thomasville Road until the club's clubhouse was completed. The squad would cover the lakes and waterways in the area. The club was two years old and had about 200 members. The squad had 16 members. [HPE, 5/25/52]

1954, Jan – By this time, HPRS had an iron lung and a transport truck. Housed at Fire Station 6. [GDN, 1/4/54]

1954, Feb – Among the funeral home ambulance services are Vaughn's Funeral Home in Stokesdale, mentioned in a news story about stolen ambulance seats. [GR, 2/12/54]

1956, Feb – Woman's Home Companion magazine published an evaluation of ambulance services in Greensboro. It noted that the city had:

- 12 fully-equipped regular ambulances
- 12 ambulance/hearse combinations ready for emergency use
- 35 ambulance drivers, 23 of whom had advanced first aid training certificates
- The Life Saving Crew with 45 members, including doctors and firemen, all with advanced first aid training certificates. They also have 15 members qualified to teach first aid and issue advanced certificates.

The article rated the city's ambulance services as "only fair" and based on a survey of 178 other cities and standards set by the American Municipal Association. [GDN, 1/19/56]

1956, Feb – City ambulance service operators and police officials began meeting, seeking to ways to reduce siren noise and ambulance speed. One particular problem was North Elm Street, where ambulances going to Cone Memorial Hospital frequently wake sleepers,

start dogs barking, and startle babies. They were asked to make a progress report on March 1. [GDN, 2/3/56]

1956 – Snapshot. The Life Saving Crew was dispatched 48 times during the year. [GR, 6/11/58]

1957, Jun – Snapshot. The Life Saving Crew had saved more than 100 city residents since it organized, reported squad captain D. C. Costner to the Greensboro Lions Club. [GDN, 6/18/57]

1957 – Snapshot. The Life Saving Crew was dispatched 52 times during the year. [GR, 6/11/58]

1958, Feb – High Point Rescue Squad faced disbandment due to needing \$67 to license its main vehicle, a large truck. They had appealed to the community to no avail and will ask the city for help. [WSJ, 2/7/58]

1958, Mar – GFD training officer R. L. Powell was named Chief of the **Guilford County Civil Defense Rescue Squad**. The rescue squad was charged with “free persons who have been trapped during an emergency.” Powell had completed training at the Federal Civil Defense School in Olney, MD. His role was directing “operations of fire department and Greensboro rescue squad personnel, first aid teams and operators of heavy industrial and demolition equipment during an emergency.” The rescue service also had participation from all companies in the city with heavy equipment. [GR, 4/9/58]

1958, June – By this time, the General Assembly had authorized the city to organize a rescue squad within the police or fire department and further authorized the county to participate in the cost of the service. [GR, 6/11/58]

1958, Jun – City council approved the city taking over the Life Saving Crew. The private volunteer organization had asked the city to take over its assets due to financial troubles. It had slightly more than \$7,500 of assets and an estimated \$1,350 of liabilities. The new city budget contained funding for the rescue service. [GDN, 6/25/58; 6/26/58]

1959, Feb - Hanes-Lineberry Funeral Home was now operating a rescue unit. Noted subsequent advertisements, they were the only ambulance service in the city affiliated with the International Rescue Association. [GDN, 2/1/59; 1/13/60]

1960 to 1969

1960, Jan – **Greensboro-Guilford County Rescue Squad** was the name lettered on a new rescue truck delivered for fire department use. The Chevrolet panel van replaced a vehicle

that was several years old. The squad was housed at and staffed by the fire department.
[GR, 8/10/60]

1960, Jan – GFD received second rescue truck. Lettered for city-county rescue squad. Station wagon with similar light rescue equipment as the first unit. Would “answer calls for all types of emergencies in homes, industrial plants, and vehicle accidents, as well as drowning reports.” Both rescue trucks would be on stand-by at all times, with the [new?] truck to answer drowning calls when needed. Captain D. C. Costner was chief of the GFD rescue squad. [GDN, 1/26/60]

1960, Jun – County approved GFD using \$2,500 of county money to buy a new rescue truck.
[GDN, 6/1/60]

1961 – Some 50 funeral home ambulance operators from Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, and Randolph counties met and agreed to end ambulance service on December 31, 1961. But before the year ended, the agreement was abandoned. [HPR, 6/2/66]

1961, Oct – Snapshot. Greensboro had eight funeral homes (four white-owned, four black-owned) and six of which would be happy to get out of the ambulance service business, as they’re losing money on the service. [GDN, 10/15/61]

1962, Nov – GFD received new rescue truck, a 1962 IHC/Boyerstown heavy rescue truck. Lettered for Civil Defense Rescue Service. It carried 100 pieces of rescue equipment. It was ordered on March 19 for \$11,214, and was housed at Central Fire Station. It was staffed by eight fireman on a rotating basis. [GR, 11/12/62; GDN, 11/13/62]

1963, Feb – Snapshot. Three rescue squads were now available in Greensboro for “light and heavy duty rescue service.” [GR, 2/9/63]

1964, Feb – GFD received new rescue truck, a two-ton 1963 Chevy panel van. Lettered for city-county rescue squad. It replaced an older station wagon and joined a 1960 Chevy panel van and a 1962 IHC/Boyerstown heavy rescue. [GDN, 2/6/64]

1964, May – Advertisement for **Cumby Mortuary** in High Point and their new ambulance.
[HPR, 5/5/64]

1964, Aug – Snapshot of GFD rescue units. Rescue 1, a panel van, had been moved from Central Fire Station to Station 5 on Friendly Road, and was cross-staffed by Station 5 personnel. It would operate mostly in a reserve capacity. Rescue 2, a panel van, was housed at Central Fire Station and would continue to answer the majority of calls. Rescue 3, the heavy rescue, was now housed at Station 4. [GDN, 8/9/64]

1965, Sep – **High Point Women’s Rescue Squad** cited in news story, possibly in context of a seeking members for prospective organization. [HPR, 9/16/65]

1966 – **Fryar Ambulance Service** started in Gibsonville by James Fryar and his wife Virginia. [NR, 7/25/85]

1966, Jun – Nineteen funeral homes in Greensboro, Guilford County, and High Point notified city and county officials that each planned to discontinue ambulance service no later than September 30. Other funeral homes in Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Orange, Person, Randolph, and Rockingham counties, and Thomasville, were taking similar steps. [HPR, 6/2/66]

1966, Jun – County officials planned working session to consider the future of ambulance service in Guilford County. [HPR, 6/7/66]

1966, Oct 1 – **Ambulance Service of Guilford County, Inc.**, started operating. Five ambulances were stationed at the Greensboro office at 822 N. Elm Street and three ambulances were stationed at the High Point office. New ambulances were arriving on November 1, in the meantime, the service was operating ambulances owned by the funeral homes. Rates were \$20 for a trip up to 10 miles, with 75 cents per additional mile. Only 20 percent of the calls were expected to be emergency calls. Ambulances would not sound sirens after midnight except on Fridays and Saturdays. The owner was R. A. Brandes of Charlotte. He had offices in Charlotte, Greensboro, High Point, Knoxville, TN, and Columbia, SC. [GR, 10/01/66, NR, 7/14/67, HPR, 8/18/67]

1966, Oct 25 – Newspaper reported that Evergreens [nursing home?] and Presbyterian Home were taking steps to acquire ambulances for convalescent transports of their residents to hospitals or doctor offices. [GR, 10/25/66]

1967, Jul – Charles Blackwell started managing the ambulance service company. He promised to address problems, such as “talking roughly to customers, dirty vehicles, poor patient handling, and improper driving.” Other problems included “ambulances have been known to take 25 to 35 minutes to arrive at accident scenes less than two miles from their home base.” Blackwell said such problems were a combination of “mismanagement, poor dispatching, and drivers being unfamiliar with the routes.” Also, the company had had four accidents since they started operating in Greensboro, with eleven people injured, including two seriously. He also said that ambulance drivers were no longer allowed to go through red lights without stopping and looking both ways and were not allowed to exceed the speed limit. He was also enforcing a policy of daily ambulance inspections. Blackwell had worked with the company’s Charlotte service for about a year and would live upstairs in the company’s temporary location at 822 N. Elm Street in Greensboro. [GDN, 7/14/67]

1967, Jul – ASGC had over \$45,000 of unpaid bills. They had gone to court to get payment from 24 people. [GR, 7/27/67]

1967, Aug – ASGC was facing an economic crisis and owner Roddy Brandes appealed to county commissioners for help. He had told the county that ASGC would be forced to cease operating at midnight, August 10. But that was averted after city and council officials agreed to meet in eight days, to discuss the problems of unpaid bills.

1967, Aug – ASGC signed a new contract with the county for two-years and included an \$18,000 loan to give the ambulance company “new financial life.” [HPR, 8/31/67]

1967, Oct – ASGC relocated its home base from 822 N. Elm Street to 1041 E. Lindsay Street. The former location did not meet zoning requirements for their operation and the company was given a one-year grace period to find a proper location. [NR, 10/1/67]

1968, Mar – County commissioner proposed that hospitals take over ambulance service in the county, as the current private system did not “appear to be satisfactory.” The opinion was based on a recent survey of doctors created by a Guilford County Medical Society committee. Also expressed was the opinion that a hospital intern should be riding on every emergency call. Also, the community needed to be educated on the proper use of ambulance services. They should be used only for absolute emergencies, that more diligent efforts should be made at collections, and the service not used for routine or unnecessary transports, including frequent calls from law officers for “picking up drunks.” [GDN, 3/13/68]

1968, Mar – Twenty drivers and attendants of ASOG threatened a walk out after the county medical society’s survey results were released.

1968, Aug – Snapshot. ASOG averaged about 413 calls a month in Greensboro but can’t collect payment on about 30 percent of the calls.

1968, Aug – County officials and ambulance officials of Guilford, Davidson, Randolph, and Forsyth counties met to discuss a “mutual assistance pact” for the areas surrounding High Point, to avoid conflicts over providing ambulance service. The pact was proposed earlier in the summer by a Guilford County commissioner after ASOG refused to answer a call for children injured at a school bus accident just inside Davidson County. Several of the injured children were transported by a Davidson County ambulance after an hour’s delay. [GDN, 8/27/68]

1968, Oct – Superior Ambulance Service planned to challenge the current county contract holder. The new company was owned by L. Herbin. [NR, 10/22/68]

1968, Dec 10 – ASOG personnel and supervisors went on strike over wages, working conditions, and poor conditions of the ambulances and equipment. Crews from the company's Charlotte and Hickory locations were called to Greensboro to work. [GDN, 12/12/68, 12/13/68]

1969, Jan – County manager recommended that the ambulance service be reorganized and operate as a county department, by September 1 or sooner. [GR, 1/6/69]

1969, Mar – **Guilford County Ambulance Service** started operation, with the county taking over operation of the private ASGC. They received 21 employees, and six ambulances used in Greensboro and High Point and other equipment. They also assumed the debt of the company. [NR, 3/18/69] That first year, they answered about 7,200 calls. [GDN, 10/28/99]

1969, Apr – County planned to buy four new ambulances, which would be delivered in September. They had already bought two new ambulances. GCAS had been experience equipment difficulties, and their service had been supplemented by “vehicles from the airport fire station and a Randolph County funeral home.” They had been operating three “small vans” formerly used by ASOG. One had been wrecked, had been repaired and was being repainted. Two others were being equipped with new engines. The new ambulances cost between \$9,500 and \$10,000 each. [GDN, 4/28/69]

1969, May – GCAS office in High Point planned to be relocated from Gatewood Avenue to the ground floor of the Guilford County Building on South Main Street, around July 1. [HPR, 5/17/69]

1969, Oct – County officials asked to authorize a new private convalescent ambulance service. The county ambulance service was often so busy that it referred non-emergency transport calls to a private ambulance service in Stokesdale. [GDN, 10/7/69] The request is vetoed in December. [GR, 12/15/69]

1969, Dec – By this time, county ambulance service was named **Guilford County Emergency Transportation Service**. The director was Jim Finison. [NR, 5/11/69]

1969, Dec – Snapshot. GCETS had five ambulances, two in Greensboro, two in High Point, and one in reserve, plus a personnel roster of 36. [NR, 12/5/69]

1970 to 1979

1970, Jul – Snapshot. GCETS had seven ambulances, with one added that month. One has been stationed at the county detection home on Clifton Road since June 1. [NR, 7/15/70]

1971 – **High Point Rescue Squad**, second iteration, created. Formed by members of the High Point CB Volunteer Patrol, which was organized in 1969. They originally operated three

surplus Army jeeps and a Dodge Van. One year later, the city allowed them to park their vehicles at Fire Station 6. [PTAR]

1971, Jul – Last newspaper reference to Greensboro Rescue Squad, which had been a function of the fire department for over a decade.

1971, Sep – Snapshot. GCETS had six ambulances operated by 39 full-time employees. Was one of only 12 county-operated ambulance services in the state. Most of the state's 100 counties used private ambulance services. Also, Guilford County still had two private ambulance operators, in Stokesdale and McLeansville. GCETS was primarily an emergency transport service and the private operators handled the “taxi functions.” [GDN, 9/29/71]

1971, Nov – Snapshot. GCETS had seven ambulances and five full-time crews. During FY70-71 they answered 8,798 calls and transported 8,260 patients. The service was supplemented by private operators in the Stokesdale-McLeansville area. [NR/11/6/71]

1973 – Bill Osborne was named chief of High Point Rescue Squad. His first year there, the squad answered 70 calls. He remained chief until his death at age 69 in 1999. [GDN, 3/31/99]

1973, Nov – Snapshot. GCETS had eight ambulances and five full-time crews. During FY72-73 they answered 10,507 and transported 9,467 patients. [NR, 11/25/73]

1975, Jan – **Brooke Funeral Home** in Stokesdale ceased ambulance service. [GDN, 4/8/75]

1975 – GCETS moved to the airport fire station, to cover the Summerfield and Stokesdale areas. [GDN, 8/3/79]

1975, Jun – Snapshot. High Point Rescue Squad had two ambulances, a “personnel carrier,” a crash truck, a lighting truck, and two boats. They had 25 members, each of whom had a radio that they constantly monitored. They did not charge for their services. [HPR, 6/15/75]

1977, May – GCETS had implemented a mobile intensive care program that included telemetry transmitting vital signs to hospitals. GCETS operated from four base stations and also received help from a private ambulance service in the McLeansville area and volunteer fire departments. [NR, 5/28/77]

1977, Dec – GFD placed three new rescue trucks in service. Called Quick Response Vehicles, and later named Squads, they replaced a 1962 heavy rescue and a 1963 light rescue panel van. The \$105,000 maxi-pumpers—each equipped with a pump, water, and foam—were placed in service on December 7 at Stations 5, 7, and 11. They also answered non-rescue calls, such as vehicle fires. [GR, 11/30/77]

1977, Dec – First Hurst tools in the city placed in service. Purchased for and added to the new rescue trucks. [GR, 11/30/77]

1978, Jan – Newspaper profile of GCETS and their Mobile Intensive Care Technicians. On each ambulance, at least one of the two medics was a MICT. Each had taken 500+ hours of special training. They could perform “life-saving functions formerly left to the emergency room physician. They could start IVs, administer a large variety of drugs, perform gastric suction, [and] even defibrillate a cardiac case.” Approximately 20 percent of their calls required intensive care that only a MICT can provide. They used Lifepak4G devices which are telemetry systems that communicate with emergency room physicians. Each MICT worked 24 on and 48 off. [GR, 1/10/78]

1978, Feb – Greensboro Coliseum planned to add EMTs and nurses at ACC tournament events starting March 1, with four people trained for medical emergencies and up to six trained Red Cross volunteers on site. This followed an incident in December where a man died of a heart attack during the Big Four Tournament, where coliseum medical personnel tried to revive the man as an ambulance “fought post-game traffic for 20 minutes before arriving.” [GDN, 2/9/78]

1978, May – Snapshot. The Mobile Intensive Care Program answered 1,200 calls each month in the county. Out of those, there were usually 15 to 20 cardiac calls. The “salvage rate” for those was 30 percent or higher. [GDN, 5/24/78]

1978, Jun – Snapshot. GCETS had 25 full-time and two part-time MICTs. There were four dispatchers, one of whom was a MICT. The units answered about 1,280 calls a month. Supervisors answer calls when needed, 30 to 60 a month. [GDN, 6/27/78]

1979 – High Point Rescue Squad added a Greensboro substation. [NR, 6/4/98]

1979, Feb – Snapshot. GCETS had nine ambulances, 52 employees, and a budget of \$960,000. Their base was located on Headquarters Drive. [NR, 2/13/79]

1979, May – County awarded \$60,000 to James Fryar, to buy an ambulance and upgrade **Fryar Ambulance Service**, which he operated in the eastern party of the county. Of the amount, \$38,000 would be used for a new ambulance, which would be returned to the county if his company went out of business. The remainder would cover several thousand dollars in unpaid ambulance bills and renovations of Fryar’s store into an ambulance base. Officials noted that it would cost \$150,000 for the county to perform the job that Fryar did. His company operated three ambulances, and would increase the fleet to four. [GDN, 5/4/79]

1979, Jun – GCETS was renamed **Guilford County Emergency Medical Services**, as part of consolidation of GCETS and fire marshal's office into new county emergency services department. [GR, 6/11/79]

1979, Jul – County commissioners adopted policy to refer most GCEMS non-emergency calls to private operators. By that time, one quarter of GCEMS calls were for non-emergencies. In March 1979, there were 919 emergency and 375 non-emergency calls. [GR, 7/25/79, GDN, 5/22/79]

1979, Aug – New quick-response unit created, a van called a Medic unit and housed at the Summerfield fire station. Staffed with a paramedic, it provided intensive medical care until the arrival of an ambulance. The unit's placement provided patients with treatment 10 to 15 minutes sooner than the past. [NR, 8/3/79]

1979, Aug – Snapshot. GCEMS had six ambulances and one medic unit, all with 24-hour staffing. Also, reported the news story, the ambulance at the airport would eventually be moved to the station at Wendover Avenue and Interstate 40. [NR, 8/3/79]

1979, Sep – High Point Rescue Squad hoped to have a new convalescent ambulance in service by October 1, to answer referred non-emergency calls from the county. The volunteer squad answered both emergency and non-emergency calls. The squad had agreed to move an ambulance to Greensboro. [GR, 9/19/79]

1979, fall? – High Point Rescue Squad opened a substation in Greensboro. [GDN, 6/4/98]

Fire Department Rescue Services During The 1970s

During the 1970s and before and after, county fire departments added rescue services.

Some notes:

- 10-A (55-80) - TBD
- Airport - Rescue added by early 70s, maybe even 1965?
- Alamance - Rescue added by 1980
- Battleground (54-02) - Rescue added in the 1970s
- Bessemer (42-57) - NO RESCUE?
- Climax - TBD
- Colfax (58-23) - TBD
- Deep River (59-05) - Rescue added by 1981
- Fire District 13 - Rescue added in 1976
- Fire District 14 (54-05) - TBD
- Fire District 28 - TBD

- Gibsonville - Rescue added by 1981
- Guilford College (46-01) - Rescue added by 1970
- Jamestown (50?-03) - TBD
- Julian - TBD
- McLeansville - TBD
- Mt. Hope - TBD
- Northeast - TBD
- Oak Grove (44-57) - NO RESCUE?
- Oak Ridge - Rescue added by 1981
- Oak View (55-60) - NO RESCUE?
- Pinecroft-Sedgefield - Rescue added by 1981
- Pleasant Garden - Rescue added by 1973
- Southeast - TBD
- Stokesdale - TBD
- Summerfield - Rescue added circa 1975 [?]
- Whitsett - TBD

1980 to 1989

1980 – HPRS moved into a new headquarters building at 901 S. Elm Street. [PTAR]

1980, May – Snapshot. GCEMS had six ambulances in service at all times, and with at least one paramedic on board. Plus, one quick-response vehicle also staffed with a paramedic. [GDN, 5/6/80]

1980, Jul – GCEMS now equipped with a “thumper,” a mechanical CPR device. It was carried in the paramedic supervisor’s car. It was one of two units purchased in the county about three weeks ago. [GDN, 7/10/80]

1980, Oct – GCEMS added a second Medic unit in the Four Oaks community. Housed at Southeast VFD, it was established after community members lobbied officials for the service. They also raised more than \$6,200 to help fund the unit. It was also equipped with one of the new mechanical CPR “thumpers.” [GR, 9/1/4] [NR, 10/20/80]

1982, Oct – New county emergency services headquarters dedicated at 1002 Meadowood Road. [NR, 10/29/82]

1982, Oct – Guilford County Rescue Emergency Action Team announced, new program of special response teams available for mass-casualty disasters anywhere in the state. [NR, 10/29/82]

1982, Nov – New quick-response vehicles activated in McLeansville and Jamestown. Both were funded by private contributions from the two communities. House in fire stations, the units were equipped with drugs, medical equipment, and medical monitoring equipment that allowed the paramedics to communicate with doctors. Each unit was staffed with one paramedic that worked 24 on and 48 off. [GR, 11/4/82]

1984, July – Fryar Ambulance Service ceased operation. The company had some financial problems and also couldn't afford the increased wages due to a new overtime law. [GDN, 7/25/85]

1987 – GCEMS added fifth medic unit at Northeast VFD in the Browns Summit community. [OH]

1990 to 1999

1994, Mar – GCEMS opened fifth ambulance base on Fernwood Drive. [NR, 3/24/94]

1994, Apr – GCEMS announced new bicycle response team, the first in the state. [NR, 4/1/93]

1998, Jun – High Point Rescue Squad renamed **Piedmont Triad Ambulance & Rescue, Inc.** The privately operated non-profit agency responded to mostly non-emergency calls and operated eight ambulances in Greensboro, three in High Point, and one in Asheboro. [NR, 6/4/98]

1999, May – GCEMS opened sixth ambulance base at 300 Concord Street. Construction started in August 1998. The facility would house a 24-hour unit and a peak-demand unit. It would also house two PTAR crews. It was the first public-private EMS venture for the county. It would be the third base for PTAR, which answered non-emergency and convalescent calls, and backed up GCEMS. [NR, 5/4/99]

1996, May - Snapshot. GCEMS had six bases: four in Greensboro, one in High Point, and one in Jamestown. They had about 27 medics on each shift, when staffing is full. They also had five QRV units with one paramedic and based at county fire stations. [NR, 5/4/99]

1999, Mar – Snapshot. PTAR had twelve ambulances stationed in Greensboro, High Point, and Asheboro. They answered about 14,000 calls a year. [NR, 3/31/99]

2000 to Present

2000 – GCEMS received national accreditation by the Commission of Accreditation of Ambulance Services. It was one of only 63 nationally accredited and only the second county-operated system accredited. [GDN, 7/26/20]

2001, Mar – New computer system connected High Point fire and police dispatchers with GCEMS dispatchers, and replaced the earlier method of telephone calls from the city to the county, to request EMS services. [GDN, 2/27/01]

2003, Jul – Additional GCEMS ambulance added to system and housed at High Point Fire Station 13. [NR, 12/7/03]

2005, Oct – PTAR sought city help build a new station to serve the north end of town. Sought annexation and rezoning of a two-acre parcel on Sandy Ridge Road. [NR, 10/8/05]

2010, Sep 14? – GCEMS ambulance overtook on NC 68 near West Market Street. The single-vehicle accident injured three medics, who were transported to the hospital with minor injuries. No patient was on board. [GDN, 9/15/10]