Salute City Workers

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The Sunday News & Press

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, [illegible]

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

County rescue unit saves lives

By Jo Anne Efird
Lifestyles Editor

The Rescue Unit of Stanly County, or rescue squad as it is commonly known, began in 1955 as a service of the city of Albemarle Fire Department and the city's Civil Defense.

Soon they began to get calls from all over the county. This was taking firefighters, who were city employees, outside the city. So the unit was restructured as a volunteer unit to allow members from all parts of the county, according to Unit Capt. Calvin Deese.

In 1978 they were incorporated as the Rescue Unit of Stanly County. At that time they mainly responded to motor vehicle accidents, helping to free victims trapped inside cars. They used what is called Cecil's Rig, which is four steel beams with chains and hoists to more or less rip the car apart.

In the 1990s, the local fire departments started helping to do vehicle extrication so they moved into more specialized areas of rescue.

They are now training to be more experienced in high angle rescue. With so much new construction in the county, they see the need for this training and equipment.

The rescue unit gains access to patients for medical personnel. The unit does not transport patients to the hospitals.

With 35 current volunteers, they average 75 calls per year.

Many members have a different combination of certifications such as medical responder, EMT, Emergency Rescue Technician and Public Safety Diver. They meet and train on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month and some go to a variety of schools around the state during the year.

Their base is on Arlington Avenue in Albemarle and they cover three-fourths of Stanly County. They also have responded and will respond to any fire or rescue department outside the county that may request them. They provide support to all the departments in the county by responding their mobile air truck to any fire department that may need it.

They answer up to 100 calls per year. They conduct one fund-raiser a year, a photo sale. They also are a member agency of United Way. Other funds come from donations.

Whether it's on the lakes and rivers, above, or on the roadways of Stanly County, the rescue units is ready to help.

Their equipment includes a primary 1993 Ford heavy rescue truck, a 1985 heavy rescue back up and specialty truck; and a 1983 Chevrolet water rescue truck. They have three rescue boats that they keep around the county in Badin and New London fire departments to enable them to get to the water quicker and with a faster response time.

Calvin Deese is present chief and Robert Wilhoit is assistant chief. Chris Crawley is captain. Lieutenants are Darrell Burgess, Scotty Burgess, Benny Gray and Frank Leonard.

In 2005, they started a dive team to respond to all water-related accidents. There are 10 active divers who work and train under their captain, David Lamb. They are Brian Hardman, Phil Lawing, Chris Crawley, Bob Webb, Kim Webb. Micheal Willis, Joe Bracket, Chris Haigler and Dale Honeycutt.

The divers have two sets of underwater communication equipment so they can communicate with the command on land.

In January of this year, they purchased an underwater remote-operated vehicle for use in any kind of water.

It can be used to search for almost anything underwater and is available for use to any agency in the county that may request it.

They also are training to get more experience in high angle rescue. With so much new construction in the county and surrounding area, they saw the need for this training and equipment.

The Rescue Unit of Stanly County supports the fire departments in the county by doing vehicle extrication at motor vehicle accidents.

They also provide Haz-Mat equipment in addition to high angle rescue equipment.

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Southside builds from ground up

By Jay Almond
Staff Writer

Without question, the most significant project facing the Southside Volunteer Fire Department right now is construction of its new station.

The department broke ground on the new 8,000 square foot, all inclusive, structure in July of last year and is aiming for a January completion date.

The modern station, which sits on Avery Drive off N.C. 138 between Aquadale and southern Albemarle, will be more functional than both the current 40-year-old stations combined.

For one, it will allow Southside firefighters to consolidate equipment and expand capabilities, including use of a functional water supply hydrant on the property.

It also has a decontamination room, a full backup generator, and a progressive energy efficient bay heating system operated by piping hot water through the concrete floor pad.

With its planned accommodations, the station can also serve as a refuge for homeowners in the event of residential evacuation.

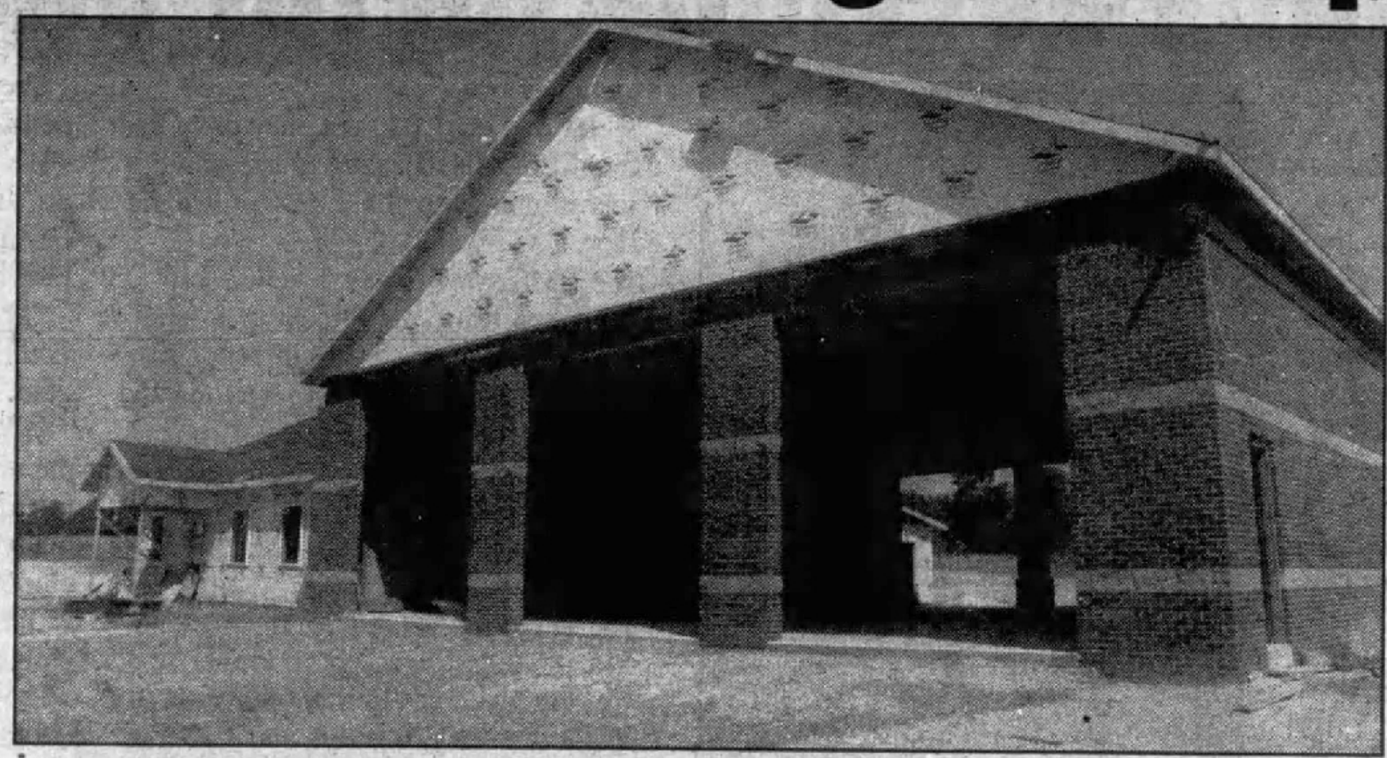
"This will be a whole lot better for the department but also an asset for the community," the department's assistant chief and chaplain Tim Pinkston said.

By locating centrally in the Southside Fire District, firefighters will improve response times and accommodate community functions.

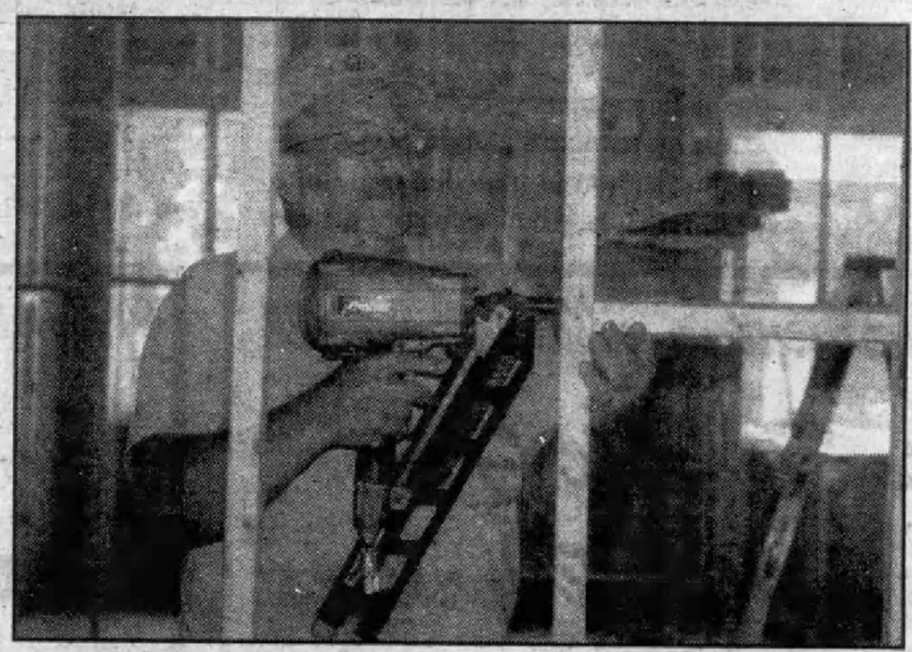
It seems "volunteer" refers to Southside firefighters in more ways than one.

Members of the department are helping save money on the project by putting in their own work hours to move construction along.

Brian Whitley took a short break from his task of marking measurements, where he would later nail in support beams, to talk about how unifying the work is.



The new Southside Volunteer Fire Station is being built on Avery Drive, above, while Tim Pinkston, below, works on the interior.



"You can see there is a lot of pride in this department," he said.

"I think working on the station is pulling everybody even closer together.

"It's a good feeling to know when we look at it later we can say 'I helped build this station.'"

As they work, the rooms and sections of the future firehouse become more and more defined.

In fact, many weren't sure the structure would be as big as it is, Whitley said.

Another member, Bo Adair, even had a few family members out to help move work along.

They primarily swept, but also moved supplies to where they were needed. At times the helpers were a little hard to see through all the interior wall braces.

Neither of the two current stations has training space or classrooms, but the new one will have both under one roof.

It will also have a large bay area, a major improvement, the volunteers said.

Three, 14-foot bay doorways, already visible from N.C. 138, will be a dominant feature of the building's facade and will house a primary tool of the department.

While much of the space is sorely needed, the bay will be a particularly important aspect as the department's fire trucks barely fit into their current spaces.

The January wrap-up date will be extended if necessary to maintain a practice paramount to one of Southside's main goals - community assistance.

"One thing we're trying diligently to do is spend our construction money here at home," Pinkston said.

"If you spend your dollar here it gets spent nine times over and that's important to us."

By the time contractors pay employees, buy materials and fuel equipment, then employees buy goods and services, not to mention contribute their slice of tax revenue, the money covers a lot of ground, he said.

All major systems and installations in the station, such as heat and air, sheetrock and painting, will also be bid out locally.

Some features set the department up for future expansion and transformation, most notably, the bunkhouse and extra washroom space.

That section is designed for conversion into living quarters if needed.

In the event the department's future includes becoming a combination department, a volunteer department with a few paid full time members, the bunkhouse is ready.

Firemen's association unifies county departments

The Stanly County Firemen's Association was incorporated as a non-profit organization Oct. 1, 1971.

Its membership includes all fire departments within Stanly County and their members, approximately 450 to 500 people.

The non-profit/non-emergency response agency covers all of Stanly County.

Over the years the organization has supported the operations of all fire service agencies as well as promoted the overall areas of training, public fire and safety education, general operations and other fire and emergency services areas.

The association has worked with other groups and agencies to secure a fire safety house that is used in teaching fire safety education to students as well as others from across the county. Its goal is to use the safe house to educate not only the children but the general public as well on the various issues concerning fire safety before they actually experience the devastation of a fire emergency, as well as to promote the primary goal of preventing fires before they start.

The association also sponsors the annual Metrolina Fire and Rescue School where emergency response personnel can attend classes to sharpen and review their skills or learn new practices concerning their response to emergency incidents as well as the day-to-day

■ See GROUP, 12

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Emergency services up for challenge

By Jo Anne Efird
Lifestyles Editor

The present-day Stanly County Emergency Services evolved from the old Civil Defense program of the days of World War II and the Cold War.

Today it no longer consists of air raid wardens with hard hats patrolling the neighborhoods during air raid drills or providing instructions on building underground A-bomb shelters.

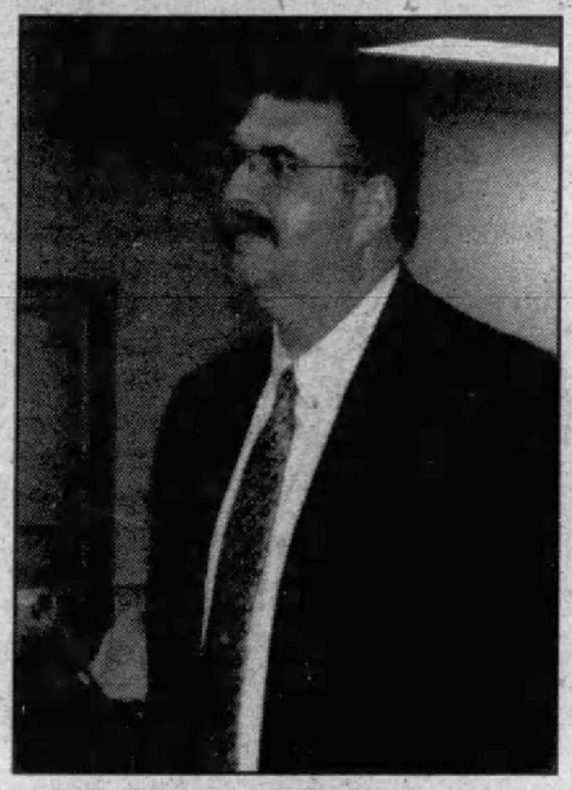
It is a complex system that provides a variety of services to the citizens of Stanly County.

It is the umbrella agency that houses EMS, the fire marshal's office and Emergency Management. "We are one department but have three divisions," said Stanly County Emergency Services Director David Montague.

EMS provides pre-hospital emergency care and ambulance billing.

The fire marshal's office handle fire inspections, investigations and preventive education.

Emergency Management is basically the resource manager.



DAVID MONTAGUE

"We do response and preparedness and mitigation of tragedies. All three work together when there is a disaster," Montague said.

So far this year, he said, they have had a building collapse, several hazardous material incidents, three drownings and a search.

The EMS system was developed in 1989 when it was first taken over by the county. It consisted of three ambulances. It has grown to four stations and five full-time 24-hour trucks.

Stations are at Bethany Road and U.S. 52, New London at U.S. 52, Red Cross on N.C. 24-27 and U.S. 52 near Norwood.

The biggest concerns, Montague said, are remaining progressive and responsive to the changes in Stanly County. "We have to be pro active and make sure we can provide the kind of response to take care of our citizens.

"All of our divisions have evolved because times have changed. The county has changed as the industry base has changed."

With the closing of the mills, much of the industrial base is gone.

There are more modern day incidents.

We have lots of traffic now so there are automobile accidents. There are hazards of severe weather and protection for winter wether.

"The way we look at the things that could happen has changed," Montague said.

EMS works three shifts with 11 people on each shift full time. There is a full-time director, one full-time fire marshal and two assistants, 40 full-time employees and 30 part time.

"We respond to approximately 8,000 calls a year," he said

The fire marshal's office responds to about 100 fires a year. Each fire marshal has a personal vehicle.

"We work closely with 911 but it is not our department," Montague said, "but a very important part of our department as are all the volunteer fire departments."

■ See **EMERGENCY,** 9

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

October important month at Endy

By Jay Almond
Staff Writer

October seems to be the month when Endy Volunteer Fire Department really spreads its wings.

The department was formed 50 years ago, current members moved into a new station behind Endy Elementary School two years ago, and both milestones took place in – you guessed it – October.

From its humble beginnings in 1956, Endy VFD has grown and specialized to better serve local residents.

While the department's coverage area is specifically noted as five square miles, the call to duty extends to wherever help is needed.

The original department of about 20 members has since expanded into a 43 member force that includes men and women firefighters as well as first responders.

A volunteer auxiliary group of members was organized three years ago that spearheads fundraisers and special events.

Endy's unit outgrew its old hall over time and was delighted to move into a new 10,000 square foot station two years ago.

"We can have more people in and around the station comfortably now with so much more room," Luther said.

"And there is an even bigger sense of pride in the department now."

Some of the new station's benefits include four offices, dispatch, training, decontamination and dining rooms, a full kitchen two showers and two restrooms and space for eight emergency vehicles.

The new digs also double as an emergency shelter for the Endy community and the elementary school.

That means there is still a little elbow room in the garage as the department employs the use of five official vehicles.

Primary vehicles are a 2001 Ford Responder Unit, a 1997 Freightliner pumper, a 1986 GMC tanker, and two 1978 models; one Ford pumper and one Chevrolet brush truck.

However, the garage will seem a little smaller soon, maybe this month as the department awaits delivery of its new tanker.

Endy Volunteer Fire Department members will celebrate the department's 50th anniversary this month.

All members at Endy VFD pride themselves on providing the best care and prevention in medical emergencies and fire protection as possible.

"It's harder at some calls in this type of community because you know the people involved," Luther said.

"There is a lot of family around in this area."

A community so tight-knit joins the local VFD members at least twice a year for barbecue cookouts, in March and October, and again for the annual golf tournament in September.

Sure, the events are also fundraisers, but the atmosphere is relaxed and smiles typically rule the day.

This month's barbecue pork and chicken cookout will be a particularly big one with the 50th anniversary.

Several special events, such as a medevac helicopter landing, tours of the first responder and fire truck areas, the children's fire safety house, face painting, balloons and inflatable play equipment for the kids, will be on hand.

"Our anniversary has brought people closer together," Luther said, "and it's tightening membership bonds in the department."

For fire or medical assistance immediately call 911. To contact Endy VFD call (704) 982-6800 or send emails to endyvfd@ctc.net.

Fire Chief – Barry Luther
Asst. Chief – Dean Scott
Captains:
Ryan Huneycutt
Corey Burleson
Tommy Shields
1st Responders:
Capt. – Chad Hatley
Asst. Capt. – Tommy Shields
Secretary – Vanessa Shields
Board of Directors:
Chairman – Chad Hatley
Co-Chair – Tommy Shields
Treasurer – Julie Souther
Secretary – Jennifer Hatley
Remaining members:
Justin Kimery
Oron Huneycutt
Ronny Hinson
Jeff Burleson
Ronny Hinson
Thomas Burgess
Sarah Eudy
Barry Luther
Julie Souther
Dale Burleson
Avera Whitley
Jerry Burleson
Donnie Howell
Junior Huneycutt
Lenny Bessone
Jody Morris
Sylvia Shields
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Brandon Burris
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East Side VFD covers 36 square miles

The East Side Fire Protection District (population 2,684) is a rural community of 36 square miles of rolling farmland, hilly woodlands and residential areas that borders the city of Albemarle on the west and Lake Tillery on the East.

It includes river properties, Stone Mountain, and Morrow Mountain State Park and, in the last decade, has seen the addition of large residential structures, including many two- and three-story homes.

A number of these structures, many as large as 5,000 square feet, have been built and landscaped into the surrounding vegetation creating a substantial increase in the danger of structural involvement from brush and woods fires. Considered interface areas, many have only one way in and include narrow twisting roads.

Eastside VFD, 805 Laton Road, operates under contract with the Albemarle Fire Department to supplement fire protection in areas of the former East Side district now incorporated by the city.

East Side also provides assistance under automatic aid agreements with every surrounding department, and those departments, including Albemarle, reciprocate with assistance to them. This is essential to offset periods of low staffing due to job schedules, and transport water to the fire, due to a lack of hydrants.

The department proudly provides primary fire protection to Morrow Mountain State Park, which averages more than 300,000 visitors a year.

Two fires in recent years required volunteers from many Stanly and Montgomery county departments and utilized both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to bring under control.

Close coordination with the N.C. Forestry Service prevents most small woods fires from becoming this size.

East Side protects a NC Air National Guard communications facility on Guard Road.

The district is split by a 16-inch natural gas pipeline that runs adjacent to Camp Tarhelia, which is operated by the Girl Scouts of America and is located in the district.

RECENT HISTORY

Organized in 1958, East Side has provided fire protection to the district since 1959, utilizing a 1958 American Lafrance Engine as a front line truck until 1995.

In 1996, a new engine was purchased to replace the 1958 engine, adding truck payments to the continued payoff of a 1988 fire engine. During this time a used state forestry truck was purchased and is still in service.

The re-evaluation of property in the county brought increased funding in the mid to late '90s and along with several grants has provided funding for needed equipment: NFPA-compliant breathing apparatus, several thousand feet of 5-hose, two thermal cameras, NFPA compliant turn-out gear for all interior firefighters, radio communication equipment, firefighting appliances, and a new First Responder Squad in 2000.

During the past three years, mandatory maintenance costs - roof replacement of the main station and repairs to its 1984 tanker and its 1988 engine - totaled more than $45,000, slowing spending for new equipment.

East Side is working on purchasing a new fire engine at a cost of more than $250,000.

Today, to equip one firefighter in personal protective gear, including breathing apparatus, costs $5,700 and a thermal camera costs $14,000.

In 2005, East Side had revenues of $106,000 from taxes, fundraisers and donations with an annual operating budget of $94,000.

The department is comprised of all volunteer members, with 36 personnel on the roster. If these 36 volunteers were paid $25,000 per year with benefits, it would cost more than a million dollars each year to replace the services currently provided.

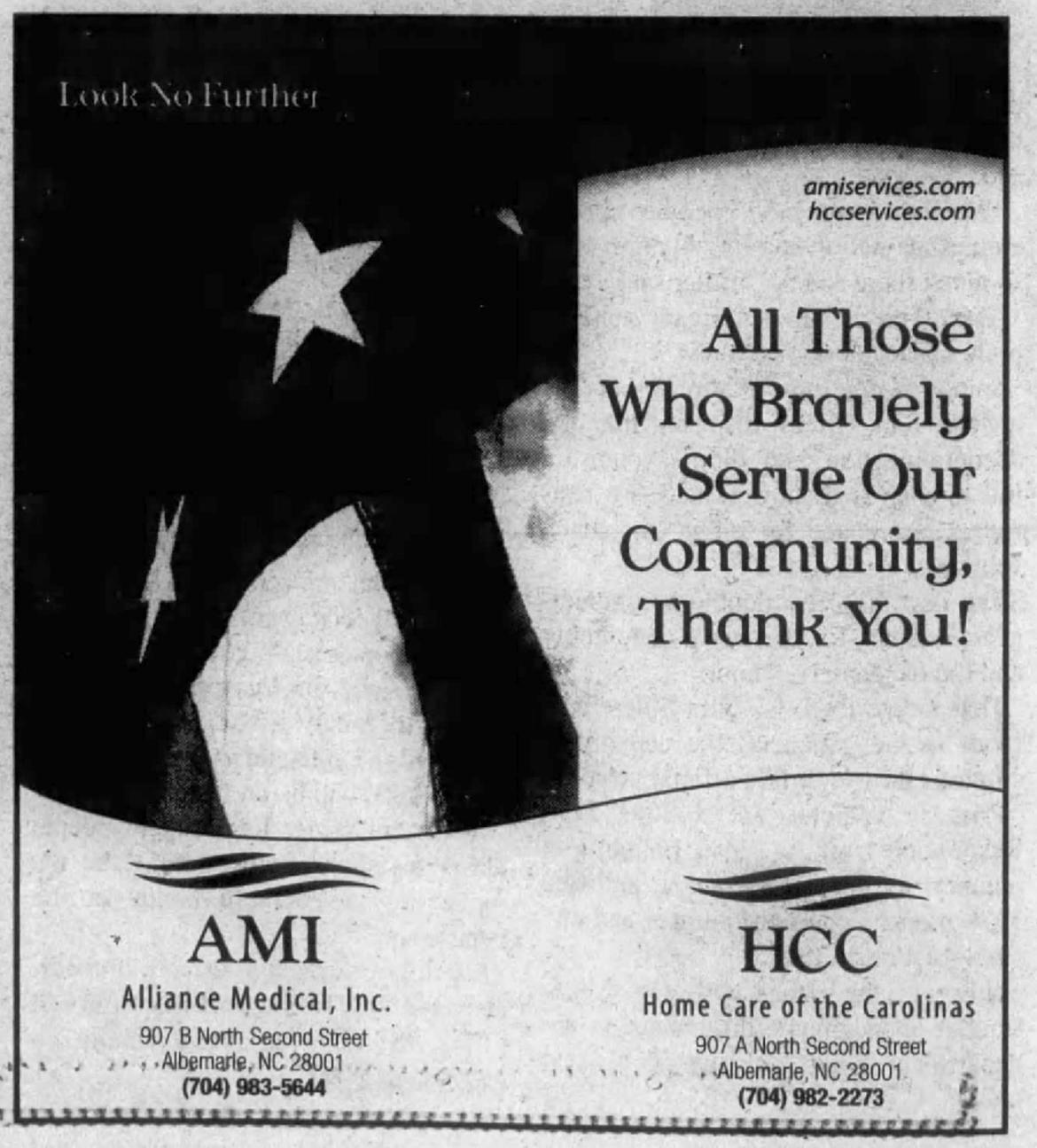
In 1984, Emergency Medical (First Responder) service was organized and automatic external defibrillators were added in the late-'90s.

Several members are state-certified medical responders and emergency medical technicians. The squad's captain is Ken York.

In 1996, the department began sponsoring a K-9 Search and Recovery Team, led by Assistant Chief Alan Beasley. The team currently includes three certified canines, and has an 18 county response area in North and South Carolina.

In 2003, through a grant from the state, the department added vehicle extrication capability to its mission. This endeavor is carried out by combining the efforts of Stanly Rescue and trained East Side members to free pinned, or entrapped, occupants of motor vehicle accidents. A

■ See **EAST SIDE,** 16



SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Albemarle Fire's pride is professionalism

The Albemarle Fire Department Station No. 1 and headquarters are located at 1610 E. Main St.

The department was established in the late 1800s.

The department's first station was located on North Street.

In 1923, a new fire station was built behind the city hall. A new station was built in 1972 on North Third Street. The truck in the vehicle display case in front of the building was purchased in 1923 when the station was at located at city hall.

Recently the city refurbished the old Coca-Cola bottling plant on East Main Street into a combined fire and police station and relocated Fire Station No.1 to the renovated building.

Two other stations, Station No. 2 on Concord Road and Station No. 3 on the Northeast Connector serve the city. The fire department covers 16 square miles of Albemarle's city limits.

Currently, the department has 42 full-time and four part-time staff members. Albemarle Fire Department responded to approximately 1780 calls in 2005.

Equipment utilized by the department includes a 2000 E-One 75 foot ladder truck at Station No. 1, a 1996 Quality Pumper at Station No. 2, a 1989 LTI 75 foot ladder truck at Station No. 3, a 1979 E-One pumper as a reserve truck, six support vehicles, a 2006 Wave Runner for water rescue, and the department has a new E-One pumper on order.

The department, with Fire Chief Eddy McDaniel and Fire Marshal Brian Taylor, has an annual budget of $2,769,000 and does not hold any fund raisers.

Albemarle Fire Chief said the department has a long rich tradition in the city and all employees take pride in their jobs and serving residents of the city.

"I want to convey to our citizens we are proud about our long service to the community," McDaniel said.

"And we are going to continue and enhance through training and response times to be the best we can be.

"We are proud to be here and provide service to citizens and stakeholders we have."

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Aquadale VFD always on alert

Aquadale VFD Inc., located at 12002 NC Hwy. 138, was established in 1958.

The department started out with a 2 1/2-ton surplus U.S. Army truck until the department purchased a 1962 Ford American LaFrance Pumper.

The department had 8-12 members. The department later started adding more vehicles as the district grew with homes, farms, and businesses.

The department has had six different fire chiefs; the present chief, Terry L. Smith, has been serving since 2000. Currently, the department has 32 members, with all certified in EMS and fire response. The department responds to approximately 150-175 calls per year.

Aquadale has two stations, Station No. 50, located in Aquadale and Station No. 51, located in Cottonville, three miles south on Plank Road.

The department now consists of two engines, two tankers, two medical responder units, one brush unit and one utility unit. This year, the department applied for a Homeland Security grant to replace a 3,000 gallon tanker.

The department purchased land located at the corner of Plank Road and NC Hwy. 138 to build a new Station No. 50 due to lack of space. The old Station No. 50 will still be used for training and as a community building for the residents of Aquadale Fire District.

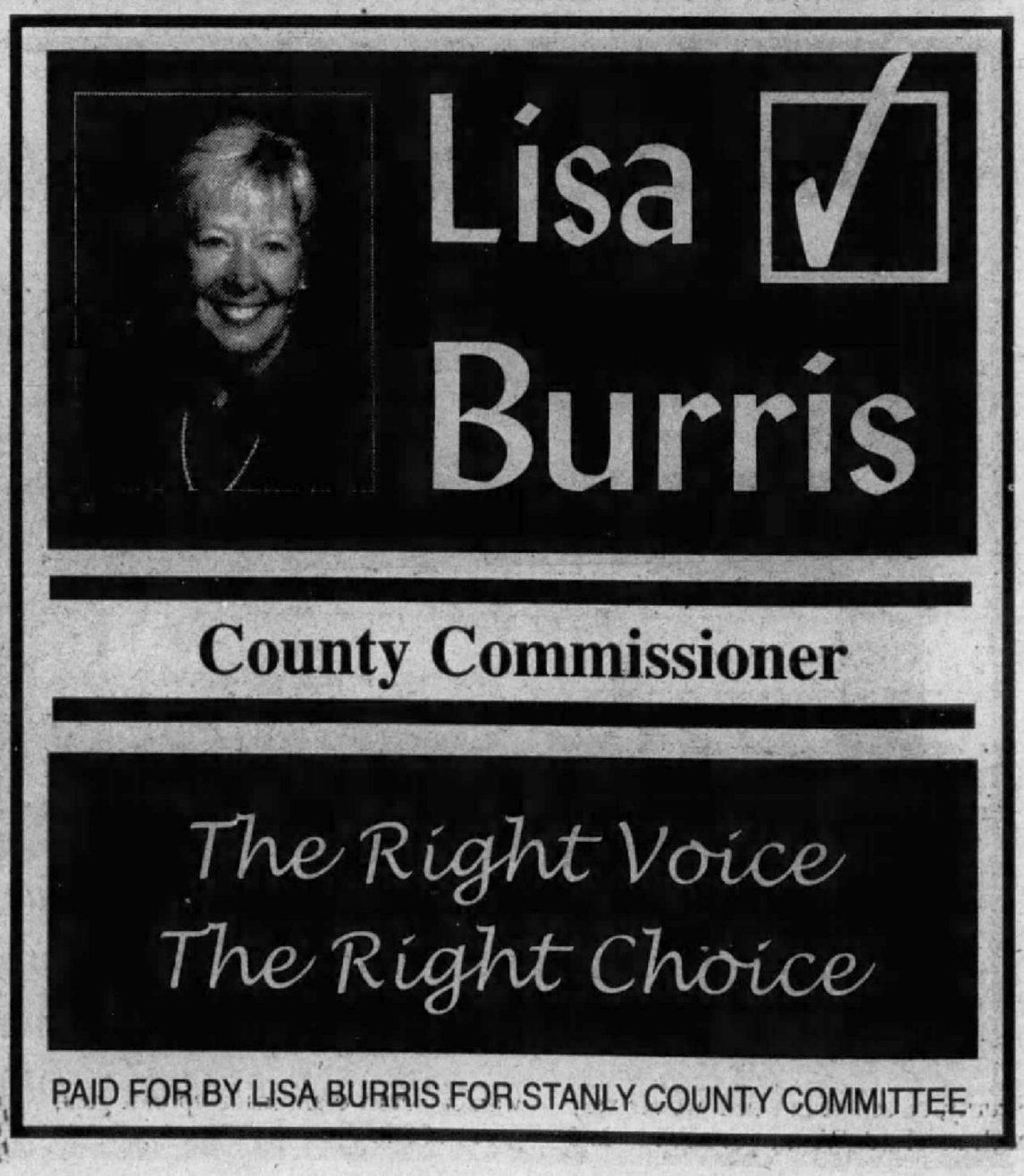
The department meets every Monday night and trains three nights per month. Members have to keep up with the events in the world and with the changes in fire and EMS services.

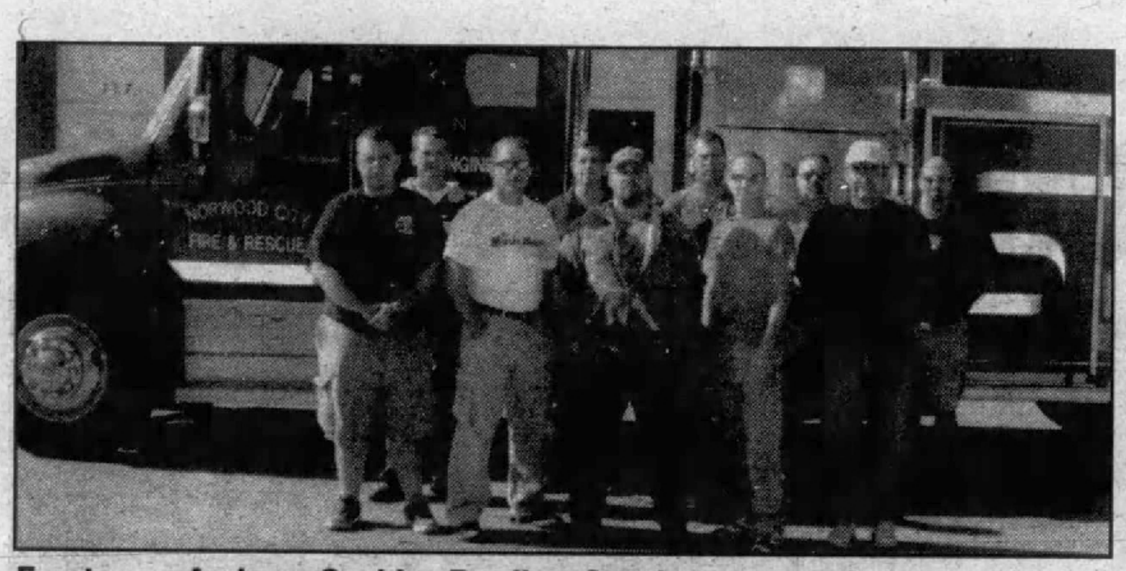
Stanly County has a lot of good departments that work together when duty calls. The department is proud to serve its community day or night, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The doors are always open for people in need. The department serves about 1,800 residents in a fire and EMS district that encompasses a 38- to 40-mile radius.

Aquadale VFD Inc. has 11 officers in the department and seven members serving on the board of directors.

"I feel very lucky at my department as chief. I have a lot of good officers and members which make my job a little easier," Chief Smith said.

Aquadale Volunteer Fire Department members man two fire stations - one in Aquadale and another in Cottonville.





Front row Andrew Cauble, Bradley Swaringen, Tim Huneycutt, Vance Howerton, III and Adam Harris, back row: Tim Franklin, Johnny Lambeth, John D. Ward, Don Edwards and Brian Hardman.

Norwood City Fire & Rescue always on guard

Norwood City Fire and Rescue is located at 106 Campbell St., Norwood.

It was established on Jan. 17, 1945 with 14 members. Since the inception of the department six fire chiefs have served. Nick Hutchinson was the first in 1951.

Tim Huneycutt has been the fire chief after the last chief, Chris Furr, passed away. Huneycutt has been with the department for 10 years.

"I love working with the fire department," Huneycutt said. "Serving the community is important, all the members are very dedicated and we do the best to maintain our training to the highest quality and standards."

Currently 22 volunteers serve in the department. An average of 75 calls per year are responded to by the firefighters. The service area for the department is within the Norwood city limits, but the department does assist other departments when needed.

Norwood Fire and Rescue was the second department to receive the Cecil's Rig, a piece of equipment used for vehicle extrication.

The department has an annual budget of $73,000 and does not hold any fund raisers.

EQUIPMENT

1989 Pumper-tanker
2002 Pumper-tanker
1986 Chevrolet equipment van
1998 Chevrolet Suburban
Brush truck
Rescue boat D
Cecil rig

ROSTER

Tim Huneycutt, **chief**
Tim Franklin, **assistant chief**
Aaron Lee, **assistant chief**
Tommy Diggs, **captain**
Don Edwards, **secretary/treasurer**
Clyde Almond, Jr.
Adrian Blalock
Andrew Caudle
Danny Franklin
Brian Hardman
Adam Harris
Vance Howerton, III
Keith Hyatt
Johnny Lambeth
Doug Lisenby
Shane Lisenby
Troy Luther
Brian Preslar
Bradley Swaringen
John D. Ward

■ Emergency

continued from page 4

Montague started in1990 and worked as a paramedic and EMT. Then he moved to Cabarrus County where he worked until April of this year.

Brian Simpson is EMS manager, Bill Rogers is fire marshal and Robin Shaver is office manager

EMS supervisors are John Yow, Darren Almond and Jeff Craven.

"We prepare to deal with anything," he said. "Now we are a part of Homeland Security, an aspect in which we are very much involved. We are prepared to deal with terrorism or threats of terrorism."

Yes, there is potential for terrorism in Stanly County, he said

Stanly County is between the financial center of Charlotte and the military base at Fayetteville. Also there are dams and reservoirs that we enjoy every day that could be used by terrorists as targets. "You can't speculate but you have to be diligent in your readiness posture," Montague said.

"We are a complex bunch and we take our jobs very seriously.

"We have good supervisors, good workers and we are made up of a great group of folks."

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Terry Eudy – Captain, Wayne Carter – Captain
Greg Caudle – Lieutenant, Melissa Hill – Secretary
Brandon Burleson – Director, Donna Jones – Treasurer
Ray Smith – FR Captain, Matt Brinkley, Justin Carter
Robert Cooper, Randy Holt, Phillip Lawing
Sharon Ray, Adam Starnes, James Watkins
Eddie Kesler – Jr. Firefighter
Will Oxendine – Jr. Firefighter

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Badin VFD marks 90th anniversary

By Jay Almond
Staff Writer

Badin Volunteer Fire Department was defined nearly a century ago by a handful of working men and a modest shanty.

The department, which marks nine decades of service in the town this year, has since grown into a force of about 30 members with modern and classic emergency response tools.

Chief Dale Ward pretty much grew up at the station spending time with his father and other members through the 1960s.

For him, the 90th anniversary is an important milestone because he's seen about 35 years of dedicated service from the local institution.

Ward knows the hard work that goes into the preparation, practice, training and execution of firefighting.

That service commitment calls 27 members away from other engagements about 185 times a year.

Roughly 125 of the department's respones are for medical assistance and about 60 are for fires, all typically within its five mile radius coverage area.

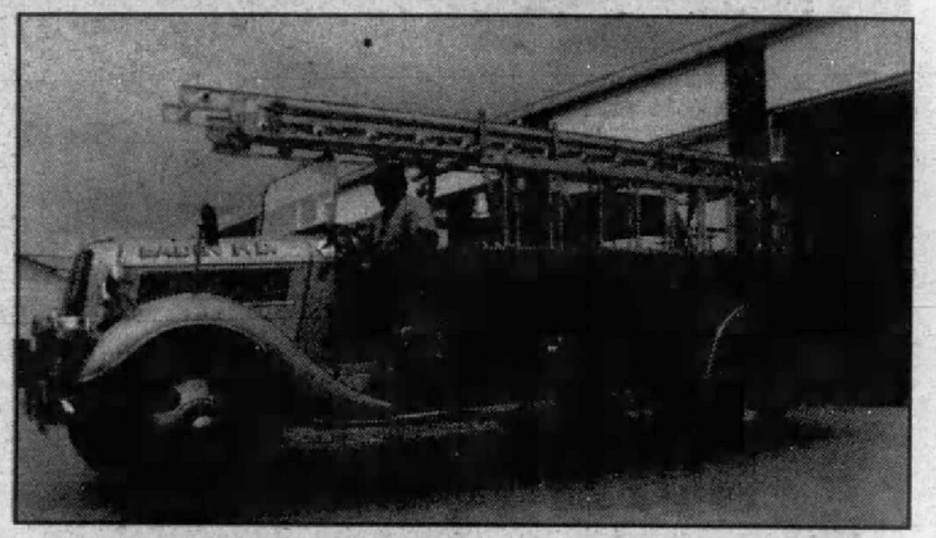
As a humble seedling department organized in 1916, Badin VFD endured a unique journey and continues to add links to its chain of history and service.

H.R. Wake, Works Manager of the Tallassee Power Company in Badin, set the earliest plans in motion.

He charged Farmer Scott, a line and labor crew manager at the plant, with the responsibility of creating the town's first fire team.

Scott selected his own employees to fill the first positions as

■ See BADIN, 10A



Badin VFD Chief Dale Ward drives "Old'37" from the fire station on N.C. 740 in Badin.

Millingport's VFD grows with rural community

Millingport Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1955 and incorporated Jan. 24, 1956.

At the time of its original charter the department started with one used truck and a two-bay station and a small office.

Now 51 years later, MVFD has a new building, built in 2004 at 32521 Millingport Road, adjacent to the old building.

The new building features four double drive-through bays, a large meeting and dining area with a kitchen, a boardroom, two offices, mens and women's baths, a large storage room and a stand-by generator.

Its main priority is to provide quality fire and EMS service to the Millingport community.

In 1992, MVFD welcomed its first class of first responders and currently has 39 volunteers consisting of medical responders, EMTs, paramedics and volunteer firefighters.

Its fundraisers consist of two annual barbecues, one on the fourth Saturday in March and the other on the second Saturday in November, which will be Nov. 11 this year.

Chief Phil Burris said the department always welcomes those interested in joining the all-volunteer department.

Present equipment includes a 2005 engine that holds 1,000 gallons and pumps 1,500 gallons per minute; a 1986 engine that holds 1,000 gallons and pumps 1,000 gpm,; a 1966 engine that holds 1,000 gallons and pumps 500 gpm; a 1979 tanker that holds 2,500 gallons; a1983 brush unit, 200 gallons; and a 2001 Squad Ford F450 used for medical emergencies and brush fires.

Eleven of the Millingport Volunteer Fire Department's 32 volunteers are shown in this photo from the 1950s. Among them were Fire Chief Bill Lowder, U.A. Hatley, Penny B. Lowder, Bill Rowland and Hugh Harwood.

Millingport's fleet of trucks combines new and old apparatus.

All of us have known someone in distress that has called 911 and been comforted or protected. The employees of Storm Technologies, Inc. appreciate the dedicated Fire, Rescue and EMS professionals on duty to protect the public from dangerous situations, whether it be natural disasters, accidents or health problems. We simply want to say ...

THANK YOU!

STORM

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Locust gears up for new homes, duties

AVERAGE CALLS PER YEAR

525 fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls.

COVERAGE AREA

Five miles from the station on South Central Avenue. The department provides mutual aid to Rocky River, Ridgecrest, Oakboro, Georgeville and Midland Fire Districts. The department provides primary rescue response to Locust, Rocky River, Ridgecrest, and Oakboro Fire Districts.

EQUIPMENT:

Engine 461: 1,250 gallon pump 1000 gallon tank Class A Foam Pro system.
Engine 462:1,250 gallon pump 750 gallons of water medical / vehicle extrication equipment, Class A Foam Pro System.
Ladder truck 46: 1,750 gallon pump 75 ft. aerial high angle rescue equipment.
Tanker 464: 2,500 gallons of water 1000 gallon pump.
Rescue 46: Heavy duty rescue carrying rope, vehicle extrication, and water rescue equipment serves as service truck for structure fires (cascade air breathing system).
Squad 46: F-350 diesel 4-door cab contains medical supplies for first responders.
Utility 46: Truck used for hauling personnel and equipment to scenes and training.
Brush 467: Ford F-350 diesel wild land fire suppression utilizing a high pressure / low volume system for fire attack.

ROSTER:

Keith Allison
Todd Bowman
Cavin Bryant
Duffy Coleman
Jeff Coleman
Chad Crump
Tim Fesperman
Phillip Fridie
Ashley Furr
James Griffin
Scott Hall
Chris Hart
Jamie Hartsell
John Hathcock
Raymond Higgins
Jason Honeycutt
Todd Huneycutt
Sandy Kee
Josh Lemire
Tyler Massingale
Todd Morris
Brian Shue
Jeff Page
Margaret Page
Craig Richards
Jeana Richards
Steven Shaw
Jennifer Simpson
Josh Simpson
Chris Smith
Billy Stancil
Lisa Stancil
David Towery
Leah Towery
Dennis White
Emily Wells

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS:

Michael Coleman
Billy Stancil Jr.

PART - TIME EMPLOYEES:

Six firefighters with EMT certification.

Locust Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1954 by the Locust Lions Club. The department's first truck was purchased from the U.S. Air Force. Locust was the first department in Stanly County to have a diesel engine.

Starting in the late 1970s Locust began providing medical first responders in the Locust Fire District and heavy rescue response to western Stanly County.

Locust Fire and Rescue was the first Stanly County agency to upgrade to the emergency medical technician (EMT) defibrillation techniques. In the latter part of 2000 the department was the first fire department providing advanced life support skills with members trained to EMT intermediate level.

In 2006, Locust Fire and Rescue hired part-time paid drivers. This provided one North Carolina certified firefighter and EMT in the station from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

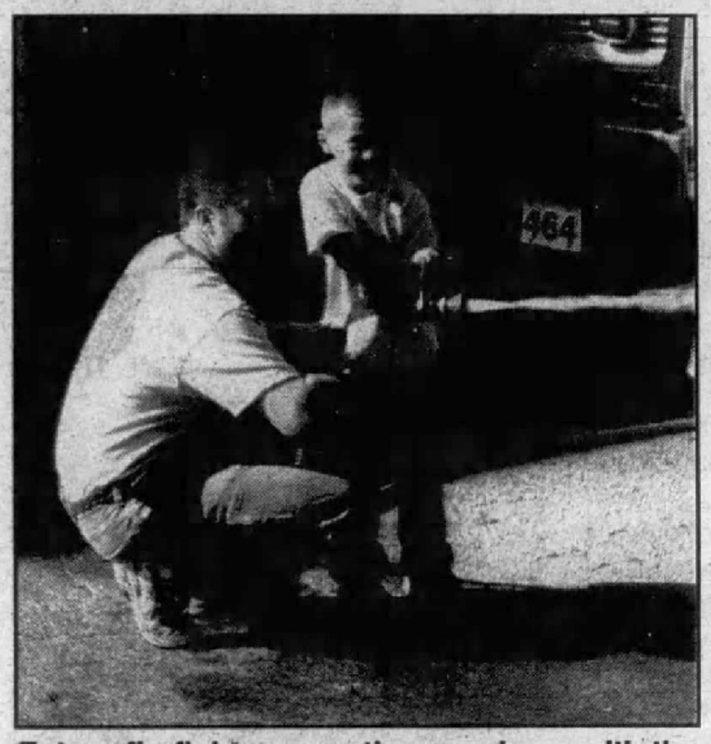
They supplement the volunteers during the day at a time most volunteers are at work and unable to respond to calls.

The part-time employees are utilized for other duties such as station clean-up, truck maintenance and fire prevention activities.

The department is always evolving to keep up with the rapid growth of the community. The department continuously trains volunteers and employees to be able to provide services and protection for the community.

Locust Fire Department is actively involved in promoting fire and life safety to the public.

Firefighters visit day cares, churches, schools and other organizations in the community to educate residents on how to be safer in everyday life.



Future firefighters practice on a hose with the assistance of a Locust firefighter.

In 2006 the department taught fire safety to all the daycares in the Locust fire district.

Kindergarten students from Locust, Stanfield and Carolina Christian schools have toured the fire station.

The fire safety house is a tool the department uses to teach students how to plan an escape if there was a fire in their home. Firefighters demonstrate firefighting gear, tools, equipment and fire trucks for the children. For some fun students were able to squirt water from a fire hose and practiced fire safety rules.

Throughout the month of October, firefighters will be visiting local schools to reinforce and teach fire safety skills to elementary students.

Locust Fire Department will host the second annual Trick or Treat Open House on Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the fire station.

Educational materials will be passed out along with candy, the department will have fun activities for the children during the festivities.

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

New London on call

■ Badin

continued from page 6

Badin firefighters and discussed the fledgling department's needs during work hours on the job.

Once the town designated firefighters, the need immediately arose for a station house, preferably one that cost nothing.

A fire station fashioned from a small wooden building just north of Walnut Street. It was initially used by the French company as a horse stable, but became much more.

Today, the department operates from a $100,000 annual budget.

Red eagle finials crested members' silver leather helmets and the department continued to gain an identity.

By 1937, the Tallassee Power bought a fire truck and remodeled the former Abernathy's Cafe to accomodate it.

Volunteers responded to the call for a rescue squad for water rescue in 1949. It was sponsored by the department until 1958 when the Stanly County Rescue Squad was formed.

In the next few years Tallassee Power gave way to Alcoa, which incorporated the department into a business and provided subsidized funding.

Such reliance on a "parent" entity was reduced through the years as the department became more able to support itself.

A door-to-door fundraising campaign in the 1970s led to a new Ford firetruck for the department near the end of the decade.

The early 1980s marked the dawn an Emergency Management Services Squad in the town.

The Better Badin Organization helped the department purchase and equip a 1982 Ford van with EMS components.

In 1990, the station moved to the corner of N.C. 740 and Nantahala Street into a structure with four drive through bays and one single entry bay.

Local residents and businesses helped acquire the previously residential site, which had a kitchen, training room, office and a radio room as well as storage space.

By 2000, members had raised enough money to purchase a 1995 Pierce pumper and a 2000 Freightliner tanker.

That equipment was acquired through the help of the Alcoa foundation and community support.

In 2001 a fire tax district was set forth, making Badin the final department in Stanly County to do so.

They were awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant for a new brush unit.

The modern Badin VFD, which has been run by 15 different chiefs through the years, works to stay current with firefighting technology.

Now in its 51st year of service, New London Volunteer Fire Department covers a district of 27.17 square miles, including the town of New London.

In November 2001, after 10 years of planning, the construction of a new fire station was completed and New London VFD moved to its current location at 310 South Main Street in New London.

In an average year, New London VFD responds to 250 calls and has 38 volunteer firefighters that are active.

Chris Allan is fire chief and Sid Lanier and Tim Higgins are assistant chiefs.

The department has the following equipment:

■ 1996 Chevrolet Squad, medical emergencies;

■ 1995 Quality Engine, 1,000 gallon water and 1,500 GPM pump;

■ 1994 Quality Engine, 1,000 gallon water and 1,500 GPM pump;

■ 1993 Ford Rescue, vehicle extrication, medical equipment, high angle rope equipment;

■ 1979 Mack Tanker, 2,800 gallon water and 500 GPM pump.

NLVFD OFFICERS

Chris Allan - **Chief**
Sid Lanier - **Assistant Chief**
Tim Higgins - **Assistant Chief**
Derek Starnes - **Fire Captain**
Brian Simpson -**Fire Captain**
Bill Rogers - **Fire Captain**
Darrin Dissler - **Sr. Firefighter**
Richard Kimmer - **Rescue Captain**
Kenny Kendall- **Safety Officer**
Adam Palmer - **EMS Captain**
John Kimmer - **Safety Officer**

OTHER MEMBERS

Jennifer Allan
Darnell Almond
Jerry Almond
David Ent
Johnny Chestnut
Tate Daniels
Jeremy Eury
Joey Gobrish
John Hearne
Ellen Higgins
Kristina Higgins
Kenneth Kendall
Bridget Kimmer
Cathy Kimmer
Rick Laney
Will Lilly
Chris Morris
Eric Morris
John Pickler
Jon Plowman
Mike Sasser

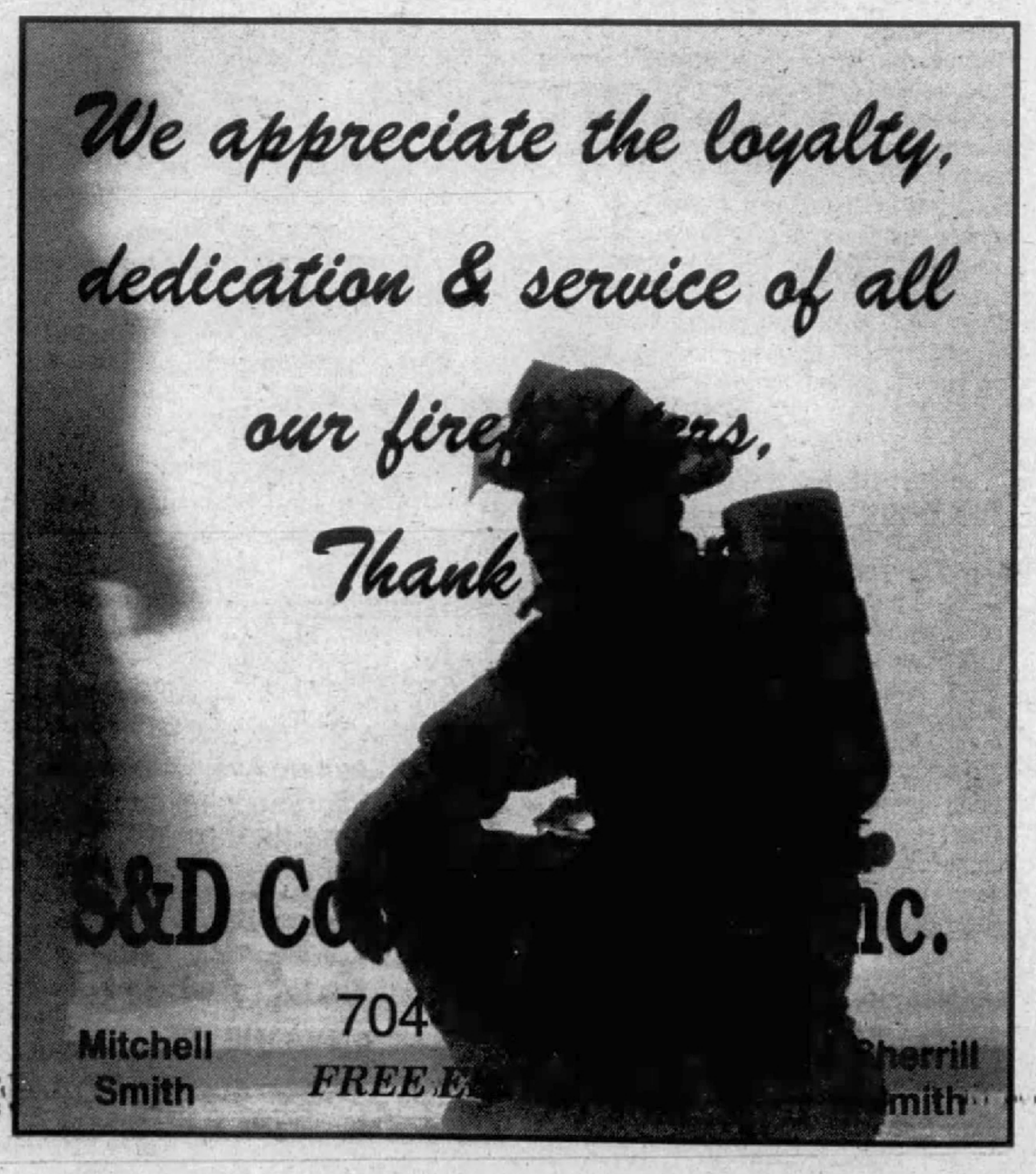
■ Group

continued from page 3

management and operations of their respective fire departments. The 26th annual event will be Oct. 27, 28 and 29 this year and will offer classes in areas such as firefighter protective equipment, firefighter survival, confined space rescue, emergency vehicle driving, firefighter ventilation, hazardous materials, fire prevention, vehicle extrication, wild land fire control, basic emergency medical care and classes on the National Incident Management System on which all departments and personnel must maintain a level of training.

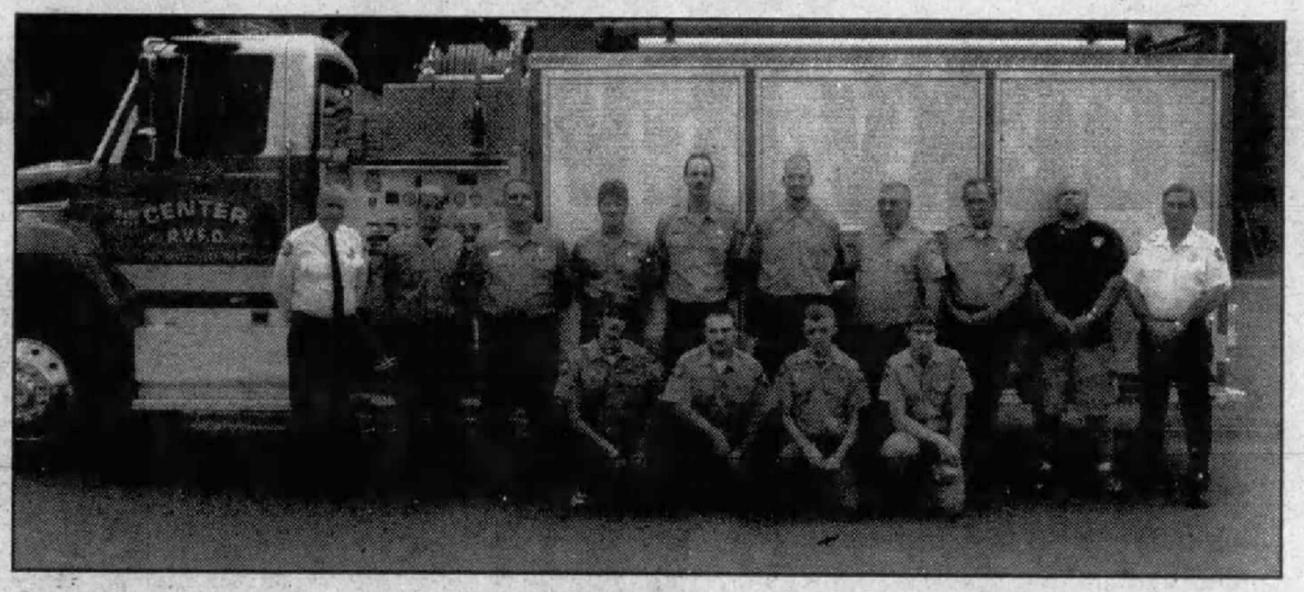
To honor and remember those firefighters from across the nation that have died in the line of duty the association holds a local memorial service that coincides with the national Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service held in Emmetsburg, Md., each year. This is the second year the association has held this service at Liberty Gardens in Albemarle. In addition to line-of-duty deaths they include members and retired members of local agencies who have died over the previous year. Although their deaths were not in the line of duty, this is a way for the association to honor and remember these individuals, who in most cases

■ See GROUP, 15



SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Norwood Center Rural boasts 2 fire stations



Norwood Center Rural Fire and Rescue is located on 141 Blalock Street with a satellite fire station on Indian Mound Road.

The department was incorporated Oct. 22, 1957.

Original funding for the department was provided by the county at $105 monthly. The department raised other funds through fundraisers and donations.

Currently the department has funding through the county, grants from the state and a barbecue fundrasier during the Norwood Arbor Day festival.

The first fire truck was an old station wagon donated to the department from the town of Norwood.

Kermit Young converted the vehicle to use as fire equipment.

The first vehicle purchased by the department was a 1947 GMC fire engine from the Collins & Aikman mill on North Main Street.

Over the past 15 years the department has been able to acquire a reliable collection of firefighting vehicles and equipment.

Recently the department has built a satellite station with three bays on Indian Mound Road housing an engine, tanker and rescue boat. This has been instrumental in reducing response times to the areas served around Lake Tillery.

A junior firefighter program at the department for teenagers between 16 and 18 allows the teens an opportunity to see if they would like to pursue a career in fire fighting or be volunteer firefighters.

Vaughn Rummage has been the chief of the department for the past 20 years.

During his tenure, the department has grown, built a new building on Blalock Street in 1990, added new equipment and respond to the needs of the community.

OFFICERS:
Chief: Vaughn Rummage
Assistant Chief: Toby Taylor
Assistant Chief: Mark Pilkins
Captain: Byron Luther
Lt. John Frank Helms
Lt. Michael Cauble
Safety Officer: Marty Walter

MEDICAL RESPONDER OFFICER:
Captain: Reggie Roche

EQUIPMENT:
1988 GMC van
1979 Min-pumper
1979 Min-pumper
1990 Ford Pumper
1993 Ford tanker
1996 Freightliner pumper
1998 Econoline van
1999 Chevy Suburban
2000 Ford min-pumper
2003 Crown Victoria
2005 International Pumper-tanker
2006 Ford Expedition
Two rescue boats

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Wayne Wiggins, chairman, Mitchel Edwards, Co-chairman, Lucy Snuggs, secretary, Toby Taylor, treasurer, Phillip Mabry, Ernie Barbee, Mickey Barfield, Julian Burgin and Ed Bivens.

ROSTER:
Vaughn Rummage
Toby Taylor
Mark Phillips
Bryon Luther
Michael Caudle
Ronnie Yarbrough
Reggie Roche
Chase Melton
Lane Boles
Kyle Henley
Chris Coone
John Frank Helms
Marty Walters
Joe Taylor
Darryl Gerald
Chad Livingston, Jr.,

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS:
Hunter Pilkins, Jr.
Christian Bundy
Jonathan Smith

■ Group

continued from page 12

were the guiding forces in starting many of the area emergency services area and who, over the years, have helped bring the level of service to where it is today.

The association board of directors, made up of chiefs from each fire department in the county, serves as its governing body.

Current members are Eddy McDaniel, Albemarle; Terry Smith, Aquadale; Dale Ward, Badin, Bill Almond, Bethany; Andy Efird, East Side; Barry Luther, Endy; Jeff Coleman, Locust; Phil Burris, Millingport; Chris Allan, New London; Tim Huneycutt, Norwood City; Vaughn Rummage, Norwood Rural; Barry Smith, Oakboro; David Isenhour Richfield-Misenheimer; Dexter Eudy, Ridgecrest; Tripp Crosby, Rocky River; and Anthony Efird, Southside.

Non-voting members, as approved by the SCFA Board of Directors, and who serve as liaisons to their respective agencies, such as Emergency Services director, the fire marshal, Stanly Rescue, the communications director and the N.C. Forest Service.

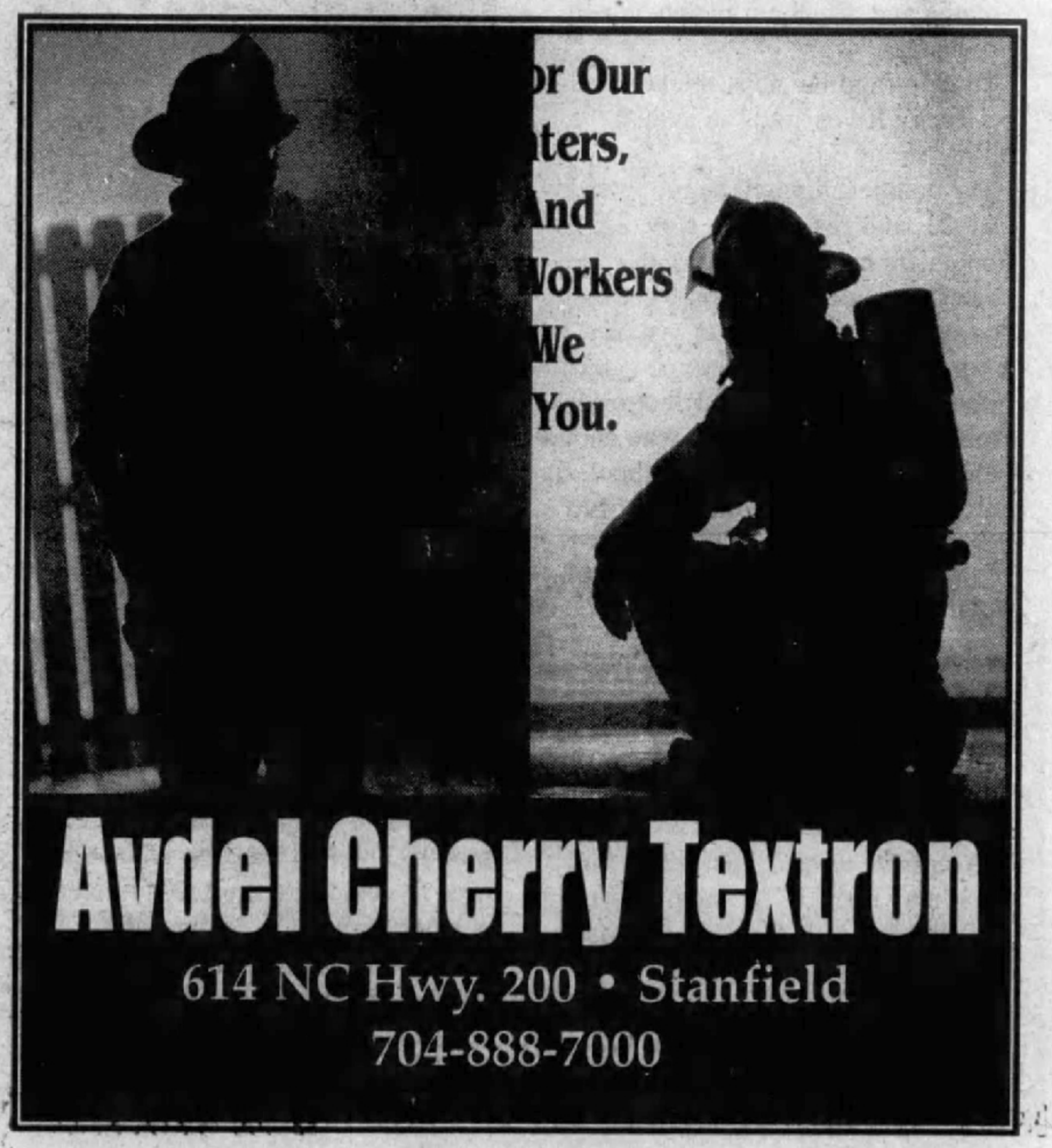
Current officers are David Isenhour, president; Eddy McDaniel, vice-president; Toby Taylor, secretary/treasurer; and Tim Pinkston, chaplain.

As the association moves forward, the continued changes, including demands and responsibilities associated with emergency service agencies as a whole, will continue to be a priority. The hope is to keep the association playing a key role in the support function of emergency service agencies across Stanly County.

This includes using available resources and the knowledge to establish and maintain common ground to address the issues that all fire departments must deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Not in a way to direct policy for any fire department, or other agency, but to work together on the areas and issues of common interest to make the overall services provided to the county meet the needs as well as being as uniform as possible between all agencies involved.

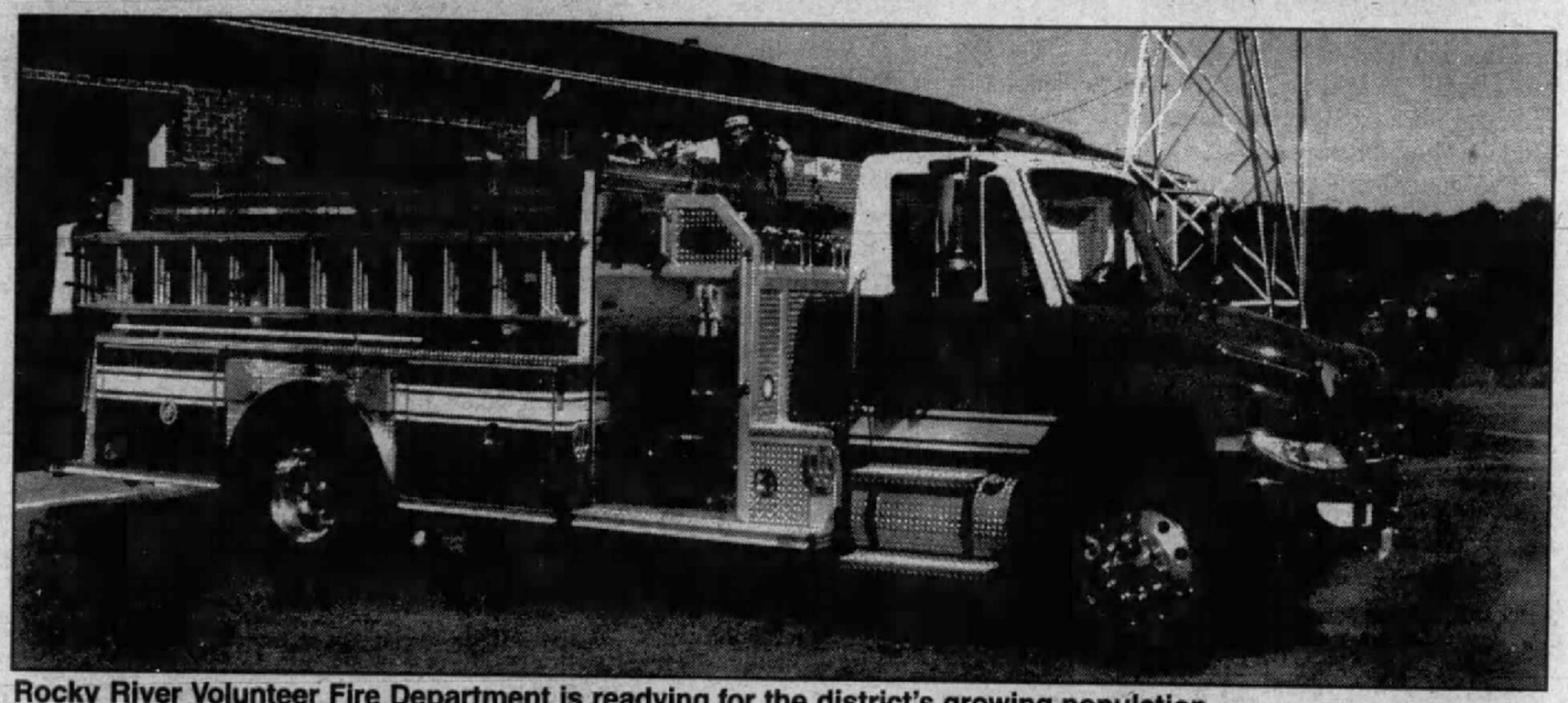
Firefighter safety will remain a top priority as they strive to maintain a level of safety for all emergency service personnel and to deal with the continued demands and expectations of the fire service in general. Communication, training and operational practices, as well as safety, are all important issues on the local level and as departments work toward addressing these, the association will be there to assist them as needed and to help establish uniformity when practical and when in the best interest of all concerned.



SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Rocky River VFD looks to grow

By B. J. Drye
News Editor



Rocky River Volunteer Fire Department is readying for the district's growing population.

The department is specialized to handle every possible condition when it comes to helping those in need.

Rocky River Volunteer Fire Department is looking to grow its membership.

The department was at 28 members a little more than a week ago, as two individuals joined at one of the VFD's two monthly meetings.

Tripp Crosby has been fire chief since mid-summer, and he's looking to take his experiences with other departments and help Rocky River grow and better serve the residents of its jurisdiction and surrounding areas.

One factor facing Rocky River and other departments in Stanly County is an increasing population, especially in this western end where housing developments are popping up everywhere.

"Growth is coming this way," Crosby said.

"That's going to increase our call volume and affect our members and our budget."

To help fund the department's budget, Rocky River holds an annual turkey shoot.

The competition will begin Saturday, Oct. 21, and run through Nov. 25. Shoots are held from 7-10 p.m.

Costs vary depending on what the competitor is shooting for, usually from $2 to $6 per shot.

Ten targets are set up 75 feet from the firing line. The person who shoots closest to the bulls-eye wins the designated item, ranging from bacon and country ham to a turkey.

Stock shotguns are required, nothing modified.

"It does generate a little extra revenue for us to buy items for our firefighters and equipment," VFD member Todd Helms said.

Crosby said more rescue equipment is needed.

"You have to have equipment for what may happen," he said, referring to increased calls from a larger population.

Rocky River stretches to the Union and Cabarrus county lines, to Rocky River and near Oakboro and Locust.

Crosby points out that since these areas have volunteer fire departments, it's not uncommon for two or three departments to show up at an incident — and it's often necessary.

"Locust and us have a good working relationship," says Crosby of Locust Fire & Rescue, one of its mutual-aid response organizations.

Rocky River VFD members meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The first meeting is for business issues, while the second meeting is when training is conducted.

"We need new people who are willing to join," Crosby said.

"There is a place for everyone in a VFD. You may not be able to go in and fight a fire, but there's always something that needs to be done."

For more information on the turkey shoot, contact Todd Helms at (980) 521-4106. For more information on Rocky River Volunteer Fire Department, call (704) 888-5904.

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Merger good for Oakboro Fire & Rescue

By B. J. Drye
News Editor

Oakboro Fire & Rescue is nearing its 10th year as an organization, having merged city and rural fire departments in 1997.

"We've been very blessed since we merged," said Fire Chief Barry Smith.

Smith has a paid and volunteer firefighter connection.

Born and raised in Albemarle, Smith moved to Oakboro in 1981. While he has been an Albemarle firefighter, now recognized as a battalion chief, he is in his first year as Oakboro fire chief.

"It's just sort of natural," says Smith, referring to his dual role. "I expect these guys (Oakboro) to help me out if I have a problem, so I should help others out, too."

Smith is one of many Oakboro firefighters who have other jobs as firefighters. Others in the department work for Albemarle and Charlotte, one being a captain at the Mecklenburg County entity.

"We have lots of experience here that is passed on," said Anthony Graves, a member of Oakboro Fire & Rescue.

Oakboro's coverage area runs from Red Cross to Rocky River to Endy, but like most organizations in the county, firefighters will respond to assist neighboring jurisdictions.

Oakboro representatives usually respond to three to four calls per week, but with the projected high population increases in western Stanly in the next five to 10 years, firefighters know the calls will increase. The increase may mean paid firefighters are necessary throughout the county, not just in Albemarle.

"I don't think it's needed now, but as the county continues to grow, you're going to need that," Graves said.

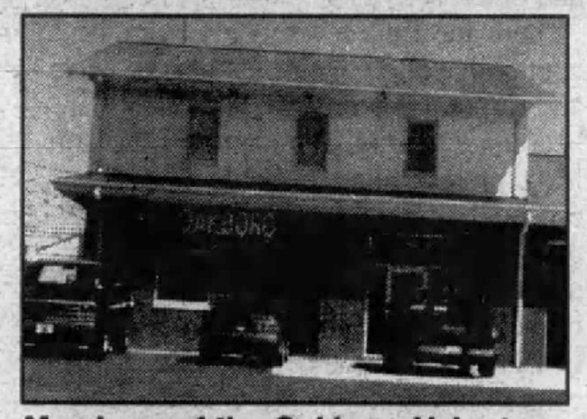
Some citizens may not realize the work put in by firefighters within Stanly County, Smith said.

"There's a tremendous number of man hours in Stanly County going on each week," he said.

Several members at a time are going through training, some of which consists of classes two nights per week and some Saturdays for six months. The nearly 40-member department also meets on the first and third Thursday of each month for special training.

In addition to training, fighting fires and saving lives, Oakboro volunteers offer fire prevention and safety tips at the elementary school, day care centers, churches and other community events, such as a relatively recent car safety seat check at TnT Sports in Oakboro.

Oakboro's fire tax is one of the lowest in the county at $.04 per $100 valuation, so fundraisers are obviously important to keeping this department running and



Members of the Oakboro Volunteer Fire Department serve the town on a daily basis.

paying for necessities, such as the pumper proposed for purchase next year. The pumper costs $300,000.

The main fundraiser is the Fourth of July Celebration. Oakboro Fire & Rescue sponsors the annual event, which draws in hundreds of thousands of people to see the shows, enjoy the rides and watch the parade through downtown.

Another fundraiser that is gaining popularity is the ATV drag races held at Ted Hinson's Big Lick Festival Park on N.C. 205.

More than 300 four-wheelers raced in two-vehicle heats at the last event in September, bringing racers and attendees from as far as South Carolina and Wilmington. The next event is Saturday, Oct. 14.

All the training, the fundraisers and fire prevention has one goal: helping those in need.

"It's amazing how much you can help, and that's a good feeling," Graves said.

Active members of Oakboro Fire & Rescue are: Scotty Alexander, Sheila Allen, Jason Barbee, Wesley Barbee, Jim Cameron, Lisa Cratty, Shane Cratty, Tim Cratty, Robert (Ryan) Efird, Fred (Mike) Eudy, Rodney Eury, Kevin Floyd, Anthony Graves, Billy Greene, Jeff Helms, Larry Helms, Edward Hill, Billy Cope, Wayne Howard, Frank Lanning, Courtney Little, Sylvester Little, Ashley Morton, Shea Morton, Matthew Murphy, Jeff Ross, Jimmie Rushing, Barry Smith, Cheri Smith, Jamie Smith, Matthew Smith, Dale Wallace, Jerry Wallace, Joe Watkins, Brian Watson, Tiffanie Watson, Caleb York.

Would like to salute all area Emergency Professionals.
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Jack Cranford, **Vice President**
Lee Timberlake, **Treasurer**
Suzette Porter, **Secretary**
William A. Efird
Miriam Cranford
Ted Clinton
Dan Morris
Harold Holt
Granser Dick
David Lee
Hoyle Poplin
Bryan Springer

OFFICERS/ FIREFIGHTERS/ FIRST RESPONDERS:
William A. Efird, **Chief**
Mark Smith, **Assistant Chief**
Alan Beasley, **Assistant Chief**
Robert Wilhoit, **Captain**
Chris Smith, **Captain**
Ken York, **EMS Captain**
Joe Tenhagen, **Lieutenant**
Dan Morris, **Lieutenant**
Robert Cranford, **Safety Officer**
Ryan Beasley
Mike Blanton
Brian Brown
Allen Clark
Ted Clinton, **Station Maintenance**
Aaron Kessel
Ashton Laine, **Truck Maintenance**
Frank Leonard
Janet Long, **Chaplin**
Tommy Luther
Jeremy Mason
Anthony Maurice
Chris Morris
Dan Morris
Suzette Porter
Bryan Richardson, **Truck Maintenance**
Bruce Scott
Al Sharpe, **Breathing Apparatus Maintenance**
Dawn Sharpe
Spenser Tenhagen
Wanda Tenhagen, **Fire and EMS Secretary**
Alan Thompson
Lee Timberlake
Kristy Wilhoit
Todd Williams
Olivia Winchell
Michelle Zirrilo

EQUIPMENT:
Station 64
Laton Road
1958 American Lafrance Fire Engine (Original Department Truck) / Parade Truck
1995 Quality Fire Engine
2000 Ford First Responder Vehicle
Station 65
N.C. 24-27/73
1984 EEI Tanker
1988 E-One Fire Engine
1988 Chevrolet Brush Truck

■ East side

continued from page 6

close working relationship has benefited both agencies and the patients we encounter.

East Side averages more than 200 calls for service a year.

CONCERNS:

The No. 1 issue facing most volunteer fire agencies is the dwindling number of people willing to serve the increasing call volume.

With the improvements to equipment, there are additional hours required to learn safe and effective use of the new technology.

Firefighter, EMS, Rescue Technology training certification classes are the same for both paid and volunteer agencies. This required training and increased call volume competes with the volunteers' family time, regular job, sporting events, and other activities.

There are still a few employers in the county that allow their members to leave and respond to incidents, but this is becoming a rarity. The members that can leave provide much needed assistance, especially during daytime hours.

An employer benefits from having volunteer members working for them because they use their firefighter and EMS training in the workplace to remain calm during emergencies while looking for and controlling hazards.

Water supply is a concern for the East Side District because there are only five hydrants bordering Albemarle.

A planned water line expansion will dramatically change fire protection in the district and will provide hydrants to over half of the protected area.

While clean water is a must for this area, so is it also necessary for fire protection. East Side is closely following the expansion with hopes of seeing sufficient water main size and enough hydrants to reduce fire insurance rates in the district.

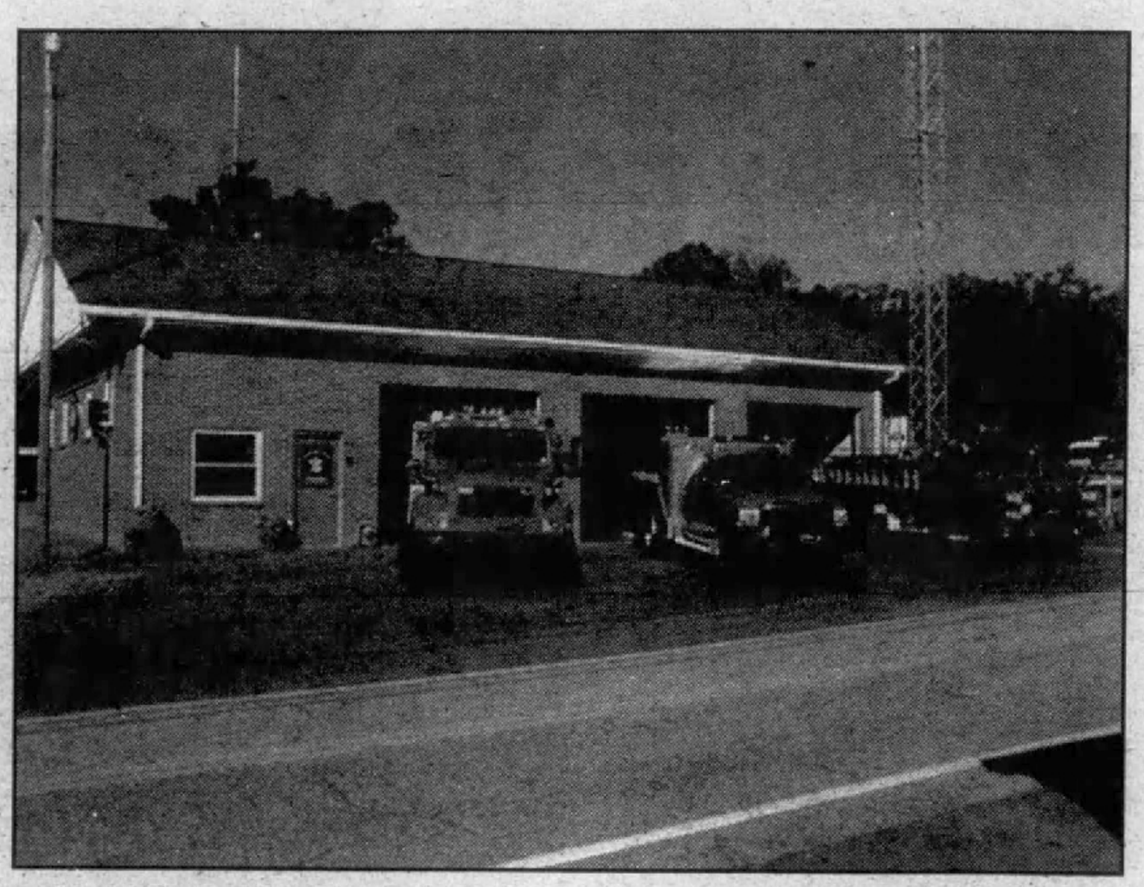
East Side District has a fire tax of .08 cents on every $100 property valuation and tax revenues are crucial to its current level of service and its future.

Another problem for the East Side an other departments is having proper, highly visible address numbers displayed.

It is recommended that numbers be reflective and visible from both directions.

Within East Side District, there are a multitude of residences that have no numbers displayed, often causing precious minutes to be lost due to backtracking and sometimes going door-to-door looking for the person in need.

These numbers are available at several area stores and volunteer departments. Besides smoke detectors and proper battery replacement, the money spent for this, may be the best investment you ever make.



TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Your department is only as good as the funding/equipment, the training, and community/member commitment. I encourage you to get involved.

There are many things to do, besides entering into a burning house. The training you receive can be useful in many instances and helping your neighbors can be rewarding in many ways.

East Side conducts 7 p.m. fire meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month, at the station located on N.C. 24-27/73. Volunteering in the fire service can be a life changing experience.

Thanks for your interest and continued support of the East Side Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief, William "Andy" Efird
eastsidevfd@carolina.rr.com

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Richfield-Misenheimer covers tri-county area

The biggest issue facing the Richfield-Misenheimer Volunteer Fire Department is getting volunteers during the day, according to Chief David Isenhour.

"A lot of departments are looking at staffing with paid employees during the day to make ends meet," he said.

From its station at 228 W. Church St., Richfield, the department serves a 33-square-mile area including parts of Stanly, Cabarrus and Rowan counties and all of the town of Richfield and village of Misenheimer. It has 34 volunteer firefighters.

David Cody is president of the current board of directors. Amy Cody is vice-president, Beverly Frick, secretary Richard Kirk, treasurer; and Lanny Everhart, Darren Williams, Tom Roseman Daniel Isenhour, Jim Huneycutt, Tony Bowman and Chief David Isenhour (non voting), board members

Tim Cody is assistant chief. Amy Cody and Jimmy Huneycutt are fire captains and Dianne Frick is responder captain. Fire/responder lieutenant is David Cody.

Fred Mitschke is training officer, Amy Cody is maintenance officer and Daniel Isenhour is fire prevention officer.

Other members of the department are Jim Barringer, David Bolton, Lee Bolton, Wayne Bolton, Tony Bowman, Barry Chapman, Brian Cody Darrell Cody, Rodney Cody, Michael Dennis, Lanny Everhart, Dewey Forrest, Beverly Frick, Vince Hamel, Matt Helms, Alison Isenhour, Daniel Isenhour Rebecca Isenhour, Jarrett Lowder, Mike Misenheimer, Robert Mitschke, Tommy Roseman, Anthony Shoe, Bryan Smith, Jennifer Teeter, Gene Truesdale, Walter Truesdale and Darren Williams.

Established in December 1955, the department celebrated its 50th anniversary last year at a Sunday open house. Around 100 people attended.

"Over the years the department has dedicated itself to providing the best service possible to the community, as well as the surrounding area," Chief Isenhour said. "The commitment of the current personnel is the same as the original incorporators as well as all those individuals that have put in the time and effort to make the department what it is today."

The department has moved from the times when people lived and worked in the communities and were available to be an active part within the structure of the community fire department. Practices are different now than in the past.

Richfield-Misenheimer Volunteer Fire Department serve homes and businesses in sections of Stanly, Cabarrus and Rowan counties.

"We appreciate all the help and support from all the county boards in the three areas we serve and from the community. A lot of people don't have time any more and we have had real good support," Isenhour said.

"We are still pushing fire safety in the schools. That has made a big difference. Richfield School has been very cooperative.

"We don't do it for recognition, we do it to help the community."

The department operates on fire tax funding as well as donations and supplemental funds. It continues to apply for grant funding when possible to update equipment. Although grants are not a guaranteed source of funding, the department has been approved for several matching grants that have helped fund several key projects for equipment such as 800 mhz radios, forestry firefighting personal protective equipment, pagers, thermal imaging camera and other upgrades that would have otherwise not been possible.

The department requires each member to maintain 18 hours of approved fire training from January to June and July to December. This meets the minimum yearly required 36 hours of fire training to meet membership requirements. Areas of training include basic firefighting through in-house department training and training with other departments, first aid and CPR, and continuing education for medical responders.

M.G. Roseman Jr. was chief from December 1955 until 1980 when he was succeeded by his son, Tommy Roseman, who served until 1998. Robert Isenhour followed from 1989-1998 and Scottie Heglar was chief from 1998 to 2000 when David Isenhour took the helm.

The department began in a two bay station on N.C. 49 with an additional shed in which to park one of the trucks to keep it out of the weather. In 1999 the new six-bay station opened on U.S. 52.

Current equipment includes a Chevrolet Suburban, command and support, personnel support, backup responder, miscellaneous; 1980 Ford Pumper, service truck, reserve pumper; 2001 primary pumper, first out pumper; 1991 pumper tanker, first out tanker, primary first out for automatic mutual aid unit; quick response unit, primary first responder unit.

"I believe that as a department we will continue with the same tradition as we move forward into the future, said Isenhour. "We will continue to address the changes that come before us with an open mind and take the actions needed to maintain our goals and commitments to those we serve, although the changes that will be addressed are ones that will be new to us in some cases and ideas that not so long ago were looked at as something we would never have to deal with."

Thanks to all our brave Fire, Rescue and EMS Workers

We Salute You!

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SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Ridgecrest VFD dates back to 1964

By B. J. Drye
News Editor

Ridgecrest Volunteer Fire Department firefighters cover a 5-mile area in western Stanly County.

"Anything in the western end, we're pretty much involved with," said Dexter Eudy, who has been the fire chief for the community for 11 years.

"Everybody's like that. You get at least two departments on every call."

Having grown up in this small community and serving as a mail carrier here, Eudy knows his surroundings well.

But like many entities throughout Stanly County, growth is an issue for Ridgecrest.

The housing developments already in place and the ones popping up all over, especially in the western end, are a concern for the fire department.

"The whole county is going to have to look at having paid personnel at each fire station because of the population growth," Eudy said.

"The medical calls alone keep increasing."

The department has 39 full-fledged members and seven junior members, personnel in training to become full members.

Ridgecrest VFD experiences around 220 calls per year, including fire and medical responses, at an increasing rate of almost 10 percent each year.

One part of reducing the number of calls is teaching fire prevention to local elementary school students. Ridgecrest firefighters teach students at Running Creek and Ridgecrest elementary schools about fire safety, and firefighters emphasize the point that they are there to help in tragic situations, that they are your friends.

"We tell them to have a place where everyone meets after they get out of the house and to not go back in the house after they get out," Eudy said.

The department was established in 1964, with Bob Murdock as the first fire chief. Since the building was completed in 1965, the structure has undergone many improvements throughout the years.

One of the biggest improvements to fighting fires in Ridgecrest was the implementation of water lines to Ridgecrest School.

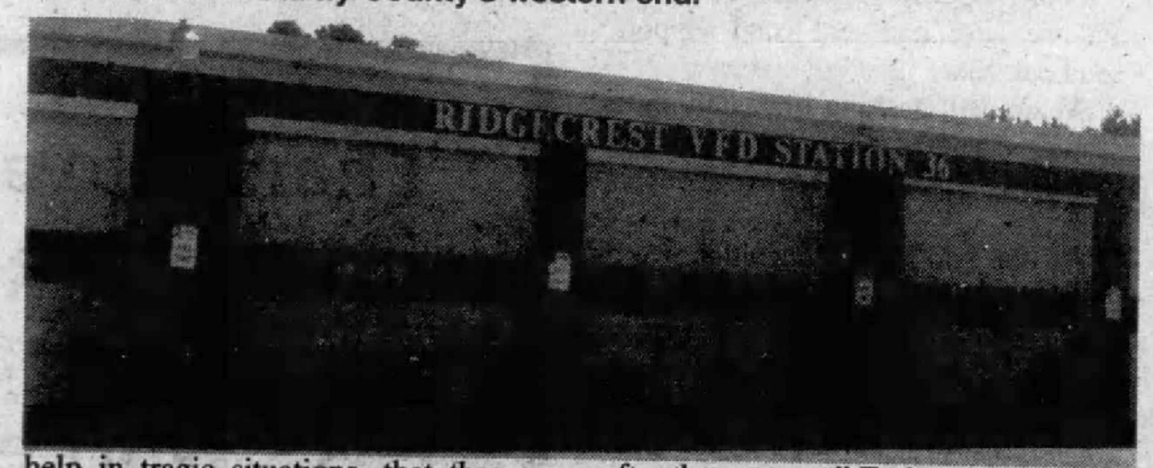
"It was a big help to us," Eudy said.

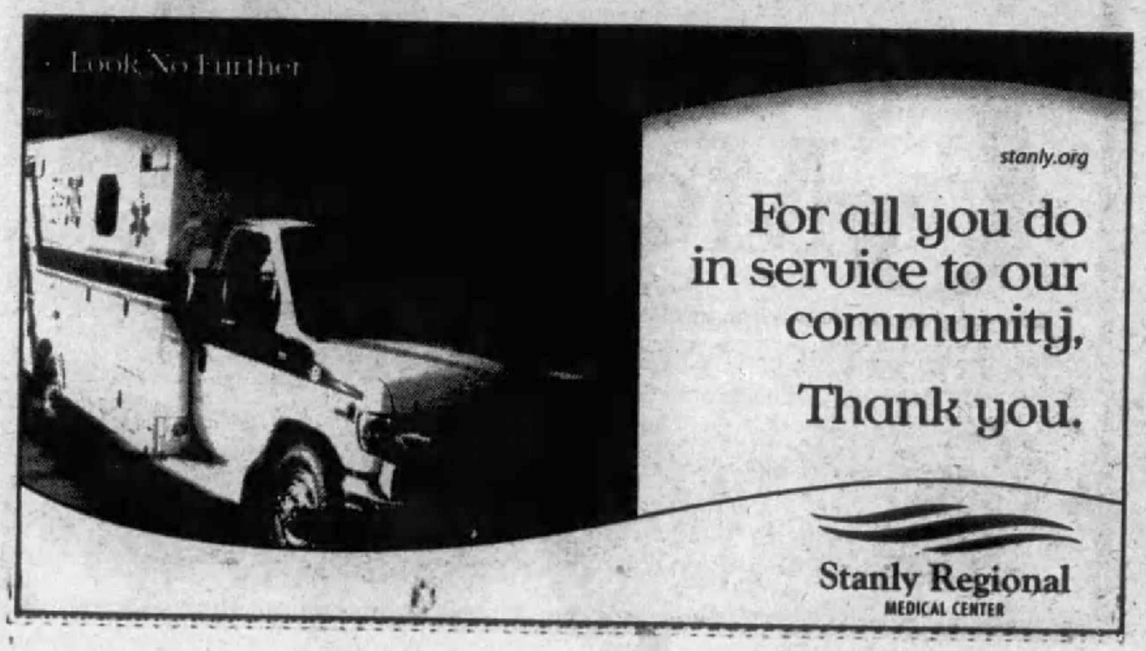
Before the water lines, firefighters mainly relied on tanker trucks.

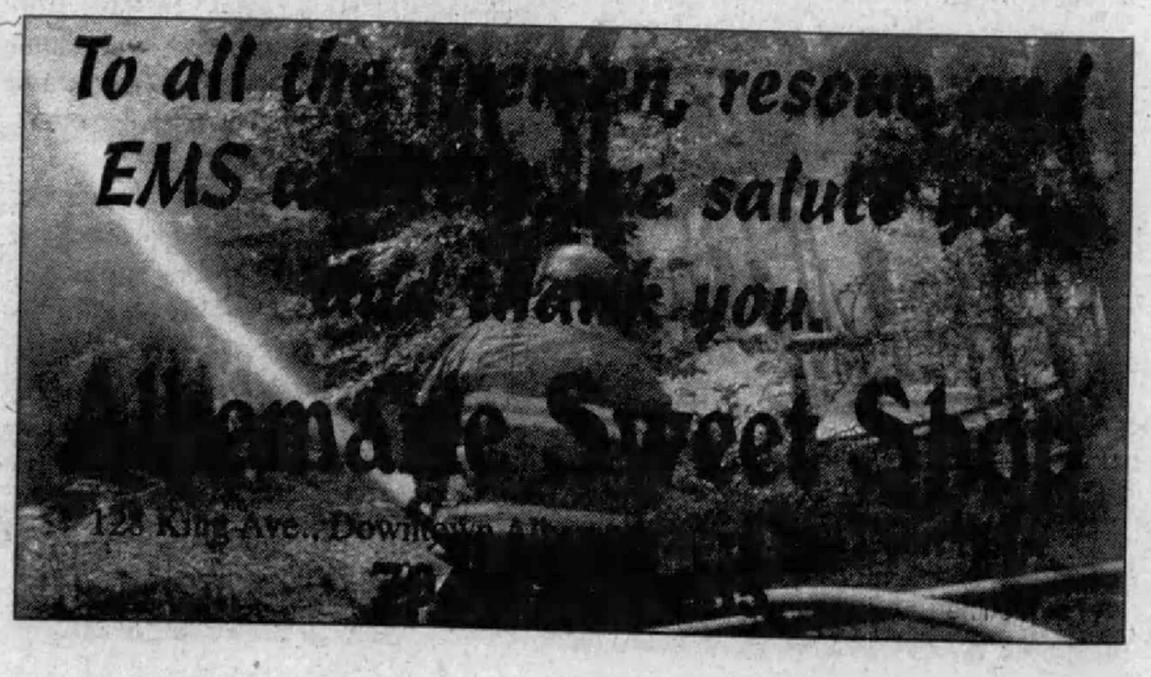
Having purchased a new brush truck this year, the department is looking at replacing its 1983 fire engine next year.

One way of raising funds for the new truck is the Ridgecrest Volunteer Fire Department Golf Tournament, which is held each April.

Although the coverage area is technically five square miles, Ridgecrest Volunteer Fire Department volunteers serve much of Stanly County's western end.







SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS/EMS

Bethany VFD boasts 34 volunteers

Bethany Community Volunteer Fire Department serves more than 2,000 people in its district and is located on Bethany Road.

The department was chartered on Jan. 4, 1956, and currently has 34 volunteer firefighters serving within the department.

Bill Almond is chief and Mike Caudle and Mark Collins are assistant chiefs.

Bethany VFD has the following equipment:

- 2006 F-550 Mini Pumper, used for quick response for motor vehicle accidents and medical calls;
- 1998 Freightliner Tanker/Pumper;
- 1995 Freightliner Pumper;
- 1977 Ford Pumper.

The department will be holding a number of fundraisers in the coming year, including the following:

- Haunted House at the Old Claremont School on Oct. 20- 21, Oct. 25-28, and Oct. 30-31;
- Pork and Chicken Barbeque on Saturday, Nov. 4;
- Pork and Chicken Barbeque on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007.

Bethany Fire Department volunteers include, front row, left to right, Ronnie Hardister, Bill Almond, Mike Melton, Roger Hathcock, Todd Tucker, Russell Tucker, Robert Kelso, second row, Jernemy Forsythe, Mickey Melton, Chris Crawley, Mike Caudle, Chris Morris, Ashley Morris, Andrew Caudle, third row, Kandace Crawley, Robert Frederich, Tim Simmons and Daniel Myers.

OFFICERS OF BETHANY VFD

Bill Almond - **Chief**
Mike Caudle - **Assistant Chief**
Mark Collins -**Assistant Chief**
Chris Crawley - **Traffic Officer**
Kandace Crawley - **Medic Captain**
Jeremy Forsythe - **Lieutenant**
Daniel Myers - **Lieutenant**
Ronnie Hardister - **Captain**
Chris Morris -**Captain**
Todd Tucker - **Chaplain**

OTHER MEMBERS

James Boots, Jr.
Andrew Caudle
Dustin Caudle
Terrie Collins
Doug Culp
Jason Fredrich
Robert Fredrick
Brent Hathcock, Jr.
Roger Hathcock
Chad James
Robert Kelso
Cody McSwain
Derrick Medlin
Roger Medlin
Bill Melton
Mike Melton
Mikey Melton
Ashley Morris
C.J. Oliver
Alton Simmons
Jamie Springer
Tim Simmons
Davin Tucker
Russell Tucker, Jr.

Your dedication, and your readiness to be of our assistance on any day...at any hour... is deeply appreciated.

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Pizza Hut

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Norwood Center Rural VFD & Rescue Department

Center Rural Volunteer Fireman & Rescue Members: Chief, Vaughn Rummage; Asst. Chief, Toby Taylor; Captain, Byron Luther; Lt., Mark Pilkins; Ronnie Yarbrough, Reggie Roche, Chase Melton, Lane Boles, Kyle Henley, Michael Cauble, Chris Coone, Jr. Firemen; Hunter Pilkins, Jr. Firemen; Rusty Herrick, Jr. Firemen; Christian Bundy, Jr. Firemen. Not pictured: John Helms, Lt., Marty Walters, Safety Officer, Joe Taylor, Joe Caudle, Darryl Gerald, Chad Livingston and Jonathan Smith, Jr. Firemen.

Board of Directors are: John Frank Helms, Ronnie Hatley, Mickey Barfield, Julian Burgin, Ed Bivens, Ernie Barbee, Wayne Wiggins, Chairman; Jimmy Colson, Co-Chairman; Lucy Snuggs, Secretary; and Toby Taylor, Treasurer.