

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

October - December, 2020 Volume 6 – Issue 21



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Professionalism ~ Integrity ~ Compassion

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

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Office of the Fire Chief

By: Kingman Schuldt, Fire Chief

I am thankful.

2019 was another productive year for the organization, achieving a number of milestones and accomplishments. This would not be possible of course, without the efforts of many individuals throughout the organization, coming together to make our community a safer, better place to live and work. Our residents, and we are fortunate to have the many blessings and opportunities afforded to a community such as ours, and for that I am thankful:



- I am thankful for the opportunity to be a public servant; providing for others in their time of need.
- I am thankful for a career that provides my family the means to live a wonderful life.
- I am thankful for the Board of Fire Commissioners' support to strengthen our infrastructure including personnel, apparatus and facilities enhancements.
- I am thankful the District adopted a final Balanced Budget for fiscal 2018-2019, and the economic forecast appears favorable for the next year.
- I am thankful the District secured an eight-year operating agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide emergency services to Alligator Alley; including funds to sustain 12 firefighter positions.
- I am thankful for the opportunity to work closely with Collier County and Everglades City to enhance services countywide; including the ALS program, co-location of fire rescue facilities, and life safety authorities.
- I am thankful the Florida Legislature adopted law to provide benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with specific forms of job-related cancers. And, similar benefits have been afforded to our civilian employees.
- I am thankful for the Professionalism, Integrity, and Compassion demonstrated by our hard-working team that provides exemplary fire rescue and life safety services each and every day.

Taking the time to be thankful and appreciative for things you have accomplished or received, tangible or intangible, should makes you feel positive about yourself and your career, relish these experiences, improve your well-being, help you deal with adversity and build strong relationships — all crucial traits both with your family, and in and out of the workplace.

I, for one, look back at our recent accomplishments and remain thankful for the work of so many people of our organization. Looking forward to 2020 I remain enthusiastic and anticipate many exciting times and accomplishments to come. Never underestimate what we accomplished in 2019, and what is possible when we work together toward achieving common goals. We have a great team, supported by a great community, and for this I am thankful.

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Operations Section

By: Nolan Sapp, Assistant Chief



The Holiday Season is over for 2019 which is the peak of winter visitor season for all of South Florida. This adds an increase for requests for emergency service from your Fire District, and also a tremendous amount of additional traffic on the road. For emergency personnel it means requiring additional attention to the many vehicles in the lane of travel.

The general public (many of whom come from other areas of the country) is often inundated by the increase in emergency vehicle traffic on the streets as well as the added seasonal traffic. They often come from areas where Fire Departments and EMS run hundreds of calls or less per year.

Greater Naples (like many other Fire Rescue agencies in our area) responds to thousands of calls for service. Greater Naples Fire District exceeds twenty-two thousand incidents per year and thousands of responses from one or more of your fire stations.

This can lead to many different reactions from people from various other states who have driving laws unlike Florida's with regard to what to do when responding apparatus are approaching. In the State of Florida, we no longer advise to pull right. Florida has the "Move Over" law, which means if you can't go right then check to see if you can move to the left lane, or slow down 20 mph if you can't move safely. Responding apparatus are responsible to clear the lane of travel, but in a safe manner. It's important for the public to not stop in front of the responding unit and to move left or right safely when possible.

Drivers of responding apparatus also need to be alert to traffic conditions and have situational awareness of the traffic they are in. They must never force traffic to enter a blind intersection where the public has nowhere to go. They also are to never just sit in heavy traffic and stand on the horn or siren to the point people panic. Driver/Engineers must recognize these situations and know how to control their emotions and control the emergency vehicle.

Collier County utilizes a system that controls the traffic lights to allow the apparatus to clear the intersections as apparatus responds. You may have noticed a white light on the traffic light that is often seen at an intersection which shortly is followed by a responding Fire or EMS vehicle. The light is meant to let Emergency Responders know if they or someone else has control of the traffic control device. But for the public, if the light is steady white then the Emergency Responder is not far behind. If the white light is flashing then the emergency responder is coming from one of the other directions of travel.

This is teamwork between the public and the Emergency Responders who are all trying to accomplish what's important to them. Together everyone can manage to get to their respective destinations safely if they stay alert and know the rules of the road.



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HR Corner

By: Debbie Schwarz, HR Manager



Start out 2020 with an eye on Cyber safety. A few words of advice to keep both children and personal information safe in 2020.

Online Safety Rules provided by FamilyEducation.com

Teach kids these safe-surfing rules:

- Don't give out personal information, including your full name, address, phone number, name of your school, or anything that would reveal your actual identity. Don't provide information about your family or friends, either.
- Don't meet in person someone you met on-line unless your parents agree that it's okay and they or another adult can accompany you.
- Don't respond to messages or comments in chat rooms that make you feel uncomfortable or threatened. If you respond, it just invites more of the same. Instead, tell your parents or a trusted adult.

Set limits on the amount of time your kids may spend online and what areas on the Internet are appropriate for them to enter.

The website Cyber Aware sponsored by AT&T provides some advice to avoid scams. Do not answer calls from numbers you not recognize. If you receive a one-ring call from an unknown number, do not call that number back.

Robocalls can be more than a nuisance. They can also be criminals trying to get your money or personal information. You can report suspected robocalls to your cell phone provider and the FTC: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov, and to the FCC: www.consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

Here are the 3 things you need to know about robocalls to stay protected! Stop, Think, Act.

1. Stop – don't automatically answer when your phone rings.
2. Think – if you don't know the number, let it ring.
3. Act – install a call blocking service – may providers have now rolled out programs to help identify potential spam.

Stay cyber safe and aware in 2020!

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Planning and Growth Management Section

By: Wayne Martin, Assistant Chief

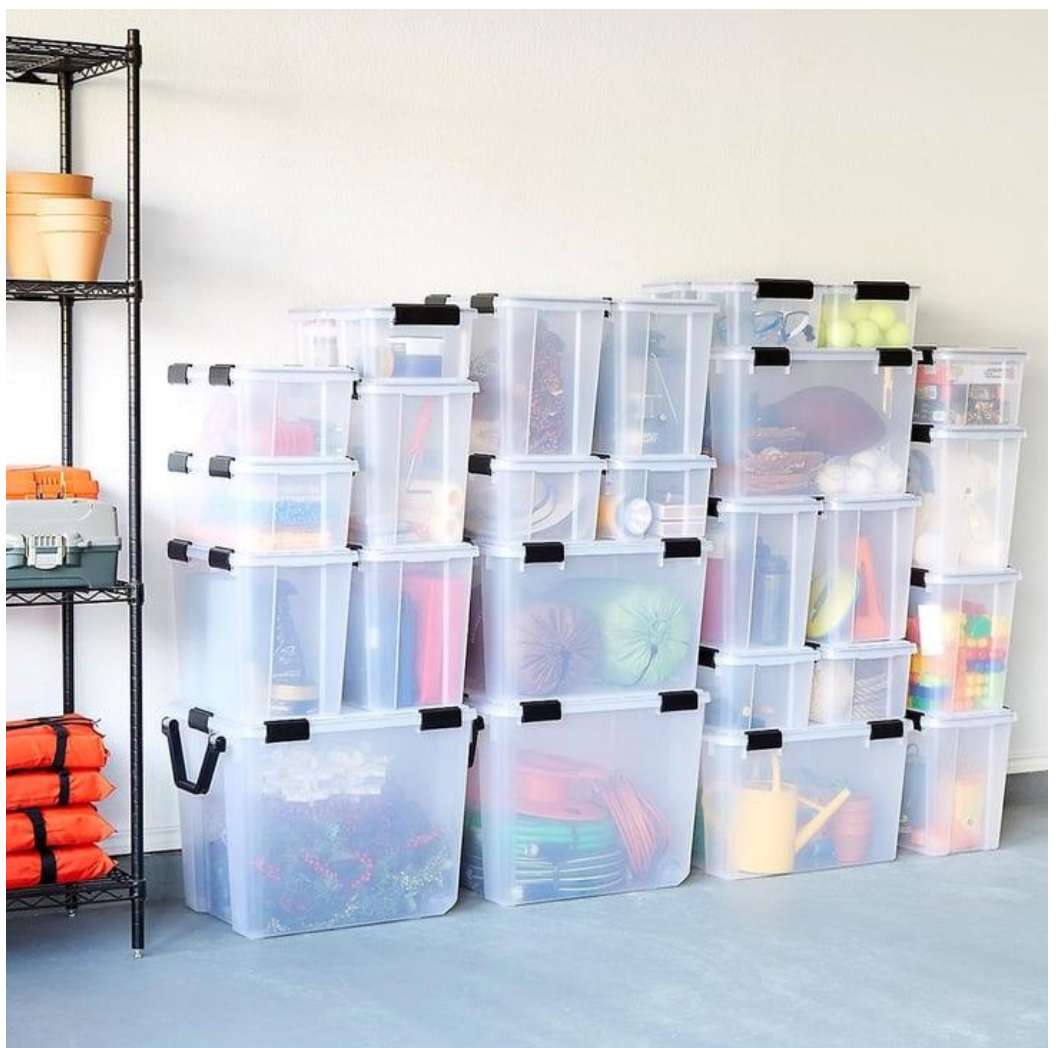


Just like making New Year's resolutions, how about we look to make our home environments around us cleaner, neater and safer?

For example, starting in the garage, empty and remove all old paint cans, and products that are no longer needed or products that have expired. Toss out old rags, paper towels, cords, boxes, etc. that are no longer needed. Be sure to remove all combustible products, old lightbulbs, gas cans, etc. You can contact Collier County for free disposal drop off location to discard a number of items such as paints and oils that may be harmful to the environment.

Store things you want to keep in containers and label them so as to reduce clutter and make the workplace safer. Organize all loose tools and equipment in cabinets or on shelves so they are off the floor and reducing trip hazards. Try to find time regularly to perform house cleaning and organizing. Things do not stay organized on their own, they need to be reorganized continuously and consistently.

Do whatever you can to get rid of items no longer needed. Less clutter results in fewer fire hazards and injuries. Some preventative actions and a little time every week will reduce injuries and help in keeping your home a safe place for your family.



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Awards & Recognition



Acting Lieutenant Jarett Cotter
20 Years of Service



Welcome to GNFD
Brian Bower and Scott Johnson



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Chaplain's Corner

By: Jack Strom, District Chaplain



There is a story that was used as a teaching moment when I was a kid in the third grade. It had a simple but basic lesson of what can take place if we would work together. Although you and I have lived well beyond the third grade of school, I believe the truth of this old story is still pertinent to all of us. The setting is in the “old country” in Europe during that of hard times, of drought and of hunger. The people had little and were fearful that what little they did have would be stolen.

It is upon this scene that a sojourner entered their village. He stopped at the first house and he told them that he had found a man desperately in need of food on the road just outside their village. He inquired of them concerning food that he might give to this one in need.

Those he inquired of told him that there was no food to be shared and further, he was informed that the very ones he was asking for help, themselves would soon starve and die. Going from door to door, he was told the same story.

It was then that the sojourner made a great discovery. Right there, in the middle of the dirt street, he stopped, knelt down, and brushed back some dirt and loosened a stone, about the size of his fist. With great delight he shared his discovery... he had found a "soup stone," and what a find!

The people had been passing by and walking over it, unaware of its potential. Now they were asking the questions. What could they do with it? Eat it? How? What would it taste like? How would they prepare it? If there was one "soup stone" would they find more?

"First things first," the sojourner replied. He would need a large cooking pot filled with water and placed over a fire. Then he cleaned and put the "soup stone" in the large pot and started cooking it. As he stirred the water about, he would sample it and then continue stirring. He suggested that an onion or two would help the flavor. One of the villagers felt that they could spare an onion and so without delay, brought it and put it in with the "soup stone."

Then another said they could spare a few potatoes, and then someone else brought a couple of turnips. Some, dried corn, a carrot from this one and that one. Soon the whole village was busy finding and bringing what they could to add with the “soup stone.” Not only was the hungry man that the sojourner had found, fed and helped, but there was more than enough to feed the villagers and satisfy their hunger as well.

Our circumstance may be very different in need and supply but whatever the need of others, together we can meet their need by giving what we have. In so doing, we will find that there is enough for us as well. Whether it is rescue and clean-up of a hurricane like Irma, the brush fires of the dry season and families who have lost their homes in such a fire, an economic recession and the list goes on and on. That is why the word RESCUE is our last name.

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Employee News

Condolences

Our prayers are with the following families:

Suanne Woeste Family
Manny Correa Family



Just Arrived!

Welcome our newest family members:

Tyler Robert born to Damon Fleming and Ashlee Brust on October 6, 2019.

Employee Spotlight

Each year the Naples Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honor local First Responders for their service and duty. This year at their annual awards ceremony held on November 14, 2019, Greater Naples Fire Rescue District (GNFD) Lieutenant Inspector Mike Bays received the Fire Safety Commendation Medal for his exceptional service in the Fire and Life Safety Section.



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In the Community

