



THE BOTTOM LINE



KEEPING YOU INFORMED.

GNFD ASSISTS FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

GNFD ASSISTS WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE

GNFD stands by to assist Florida Forest Service with a prescribed fire south of I-75 and east of Everglades Blvd. Prescribed fire is a safe, controlled way to apply a natural process that clears out overgrowth that not only ensures the health of our natural resources, but reduces the risk for catastrophic wildfires.



Prescribed Fire Benefits

- ✓ Helps reduce the risk of wildfire and protects communities adjacent to natural areas by reducing highly flammable vegetation
- ✓ Promotes and maintains healthy and resilient fire-adapted ecosystems
- ✓ Improves nutritional quality and nutrient cycling of soil
- ✓ Maintains habitat conditions for plants and animals
- ✓ Maintains biodiversity within fire-adapted habitats by promoting flowering and fruiting of plant species
- ✓ Restores fire to landscapes that no longer experience the natural historic flow of fire due to habitat fragmentation
- ✓ Helps to manage invasive plant populations
- ✓ Safer, efficient, and more cost effective than wildfire management

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OPENING OF EMS STATION 25



Greater Naples Fire Rescue District is pleased to announce the staffing of EMS Station 25 as of February 28, 2022. The Station is located at 3675 Hacienda Lakes Parkway and will reduce response times in the immediate response area.

MDA BOOT DRIVE

Firefighters are dedicated to saving lives and protecting the people we serve. For decades, Local 2396’s alliance with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) has been about that dedication. The partnership between firefighters and the MDA is truly about saving lives, through work to find a cure for a disease that robs individuals of their quality of life. Be on the lookout for our members at an intersection near you and help them fill the boot!



COMMUNITY CORNER

Parakeet Rescue

Engine 75 was dispatched for a Parakeet stuck between a 42" kitchen cabinet and the wall. The bird flew up and fell into the void. To avoid doing any damage to the home, the crew utilized the Slim Jim from their lockout kit to reach the bird and create a perch for it to sit on. Firefighter Billy Cipriano calmly lifted the bird up and out of the void. The bird was uninjured and no damage was done thanks to this crew's quick and resourceful thinking. Thank you to Lt. Derek Jones, DE Romain Favier, and FF’s Billy Cipriano and Stephen Keene for saving this family’s treasured pet.



CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

The Garden of Life

CHAPLAIN JACK STROM

The story is told of a friend and a garden. Our friend comes to an intersection, where Opportunity Avenue and Challenge Boulevard cross.

Our friend stands there in bewilderment wondering what to do, when across the intersection, and just down Opportunity, our friend sees a huge rock wall. It's obvious that something is being protected. Our friend ventures across the intersection and finds the gateway. Our friend is looking at a garden. Our friend can appreciate something of such beauty. And so he ventured on in through the gateway.

Over the archway was the name, *The Garden of Life*. It’s obvious that great planning and detail have brought about this garden. Our friend has already made acquaintance with the *Gardner*. They talk together.

All of a sudden, our friend blurts it out. “Oh, I’d love to work in a place like this!” to which the *Gardner* says that he would have to be away for some time. “But if you’ll take over the garden... and follow the instructions I give you, when I get back, I’ll see you get a transfer to *Headquarters*.” The *Gardener* took out a book. “Now, this is the *Handbook of Good Gardening*. Everything you ever need to know about gardening, you'll find in this Book.”

Just inside of the gateway, is the high point of the garden. There is an artesian well that flows and gushes with energy and with life. It is called the *Fountain of Joy*. It irrigates the garden.

Near the *Fountain of Joy* is a massive tree, the *Tree of Peace*. In the evening our friend can sit there under the boughs of the *Tree of Peace*. Maybe take the *Handbook of Good Gardening* and read and relax.

What else grows in the garden? There is one plant that is pleasurable to plant but takes work for it to blossom. But when it does! What fragrance! What beauty! It is called... *Love*. It just seems to make an atmosphere all by itself.



Remember that rock wall that first got our friend's attention? It is called the *Wall of Reputation*, built of *Stones of Character*.

Goodness is a ground cover. Our friend planted some *Goodness* here and some *Goodness* there, over barren soil, and the ground was covered.

Then one day, when our friend was working the back area of the garden, he noticed a stranger in the gateway. Our friend immediately went to the gateway and made introduction. The stranger pulled out a calling card. Representative of the *World Seed Company*! He said, “I couldn't help but feel sorry for you. You wouldn't have to work nearly that hard.” The representative showed our friend a seed package that had pizzazz and color! And the instructions on the package said, “Sow anywhere... Very little care needed.”

Our friend thought, “Oh, if I could have something like that!” He could put it anywhere... It would be so easy! The package was called *Worldly Pleasure*. And then the representative said, “Now, I’ve got something else here. In fact, we’re selling more of this than anything else this year. It’s a replacement for the plant called *Love*. This is called *Lust*!”

And then the representative asked, “What kind of plant food are you using?” And our friend said, “*Faith*.” “*Faith*! Your grandparents used that! I’ve got something uptown. This is for the 'Now' generation. This is what is really in demand this year. It’s called *Rebellion*! You take a little *Lust* and put some *Rebellion* with it. You'll have something growing in your garden! You'll be the talk of the town!”

Time passed and by now there are places where irrigation ditches haven't been dug. And land is parched, and plants aren’t doing very well. That’s when our friend noticed the package he’d received earlier. *Worldly Pleasure*, and he thought, “I’ll try just a few seeds as an experiment.” To our friend’s surprise, in just a couple days, it was growing and blossoming. So easy, our friend thought. I’ll go over there and plant a little *Worldly Pleasure* and plant a little *Worldly Pleasure* over here. Our friend is busy planting *Worldly Pleasure*.

Our friend soon noticed that *Worldly Pleasure* blossomed in a hurry but didn’t last long. In a few weeks-time, it was beginning to wilt and die.

It is now that our friend remembers the *Gardener* who said he was coming back! What if the *Gardener* came back today? “What has happened to my garden?” Our friend frantically tried to pull up *Lust*. Its roots were so deep. And the *Tree of Peace*? Thankfully, those roots were still alive. It took a lot of *Faith* to refresh the garden. Even with *Faith*, there were places in the garden where it seemed nothing would grow, except *Goodness*. Of course, there were places where the *Wall of Reputation* had fallen apart. Our friend had to repair the wall and put the stones back in. Unfortunately, you can see where it has been repaired. Repairs sometimes leave scars.

Is this your story? The question is, in what condition is your garden? What grows there? If the *Gardener* were to come back today, would you receive a transfer to *Headquarters*?

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

NEW RECRUIT CLASS

GNFD welcomed the following 15 new members who were sworn in and officially pinned with their badge at the March BOFC meeting after finishing an 8-week training academy. We wish them much success in their new career!

- Shane Barron
- James Callahan
- Cody Callanan
- Horace Carr
- Rocco Comperatore
- Andrew Dominguez
- Alexander Ivanisevic
- Alejandro Molina
- Thomas Norman
- Robert Pavlinovic
- Pedro Pereiro
- Thomas Rosen
- Matthew Sciarrino
- Nikola Tsachev
- William Wilrycx



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

International Women’s Day was celebrated globally on March 8th. GNFD appreciates the hard work and dedication displayed by all the women in our department today, and everyday.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Promotions

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to newly promoted Driver Engineer Mike Zmekoski



Congratulations to newly promoted Lieutenants Aaron Cline, Tony Palermo, and Doug Holden



Congratulations to newly promoted Driver Engineers Thomas Pecora, Justin Leal, and Raul Suarez-Murias



RECOGNITION

20 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GNFD

Fire Chief Nolan Sapp has been serving our community for 20 years. With 44 years in the fire service, Chief Sapp has dedicated his life to public service and the District is fortunate to have his experience and expertise guiding us into the future. We cannot thank him enough for all he does to improve our Fire District.



2021 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



We are proud to announce the 2021 Firefighter of the Year is Lt. Tony McGee. Lt. McGee was nominated for the time and dedication he puts into taking care of the community, his crew, and all of his fellow co-workers. He also played an integral role in a technical rescue call, saving the life of a construction worker. We are very fortunate to have Lt. McGee as a Company Officer serving our community.

2021 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Join us in congratulating Logistics Technician Brian Bower for being named the 2021 Civilian Employee of the Year. Brian was nominated for always going above and beyond in his duties, and always taking on new tasks that arise to help accomplish the mission of the District. We wish Brian continued success and are proud to have him supporting the logistical needs of the District.



STORK AWARDS

Firefighter Devin Prio & Firefighter Victoria Trapani received the Stork Award after delivering a baby girl on March 21, 2022. Upon arrival, Squad 21 found the mother lying on the floor with the baby’s head crowning. The baby was delivered without complication. Mother and baby were transferred to CCEMS for transport to the hospital for further evaluation. We are very proud of Firefighters Prio and Trapani for their professional and compassionate teamwork on this very special call.