



THE BOTTOM LINE

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

Dave Perez & Todd Nugent Retire!



LT Dave Perez and LT Todd Nugent both accepted their golden axes on May 14th to celebrate their retirement from the District. Both lieutenants have exemplified commitment, bravery, and leadership throughout their careers, and their impact will be felt for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for their tireless efforts and sacrifices in keeping the community safe. Congratulations on their well-earned retirement! We wish them the very best in the next chapter!

GNFD Class 25-01 – Academy Graduation Ceremony



GNFD Recruit Class 25-01 graduated on April 27th. We welcomed their families for a delicious lunch, provided by 1-800 Board Up. The day was made even more special as we honored LT Dave Perez on the occasion of his upcoming retirement. The class not only created a class project, "The Legacy Board", but also produced a beautiful, large canvas featuring photos of LT Perez during his time in the fire service. Everyone enjoyed their time together to celebrate such large accomplishments by both the class and LT Perez.



Meowbile Extraction Unit Activated!



This past quarter, Engines 23 and 73 tackled some truly claw-some calls—rescuing not one, but two cats from vehicle engines. With quick hands and plenty of purr-sistence, our firefighters safely freed the furry hitchhikers. No scratches (or cat-tastrophes) reported—just two very relieved kitties and some heroic meow-gicians in turnout gear!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Diaz as he officially earned his Certified District Manager certification at the Florida Association of Special District Annual Conference. This prestigious achievement reflects his dedication to leadership, professional growth, and service to the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and the community we serve.

GNFD Awards & Promotional Ceremony

We had the semi-annual GNFD Awards Ceremony in April. We are happy to say it was very well attended! Our next award ceremony will be scheduled for October 2025. The October Awards will comprise all service awards and promotions that took place between April 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025.



Perkins First Responder Breakfast



1-800 Board Up hosts a free breakfast for first responders (active or retired) on the first Friday of each month at Perkins (Pine Ridge & I-75). It's a great way to connect, build camaraderie, and support mental wellness.

Florida Fire Service Day at the Capitol



Chief Hanson, Capt. Cruz, and Lt. King represented GNFD at Fire Service Day at the Capitol in April—sharing key initiatives, live demos, and the great work happening across GNFD.



Donation from Estero Baptist Church



The Caring Crafters Ministry at Estero Baptist Church recently donated a collection of handmade stuffed animals to the District. Inspired by a desire to give back—and with a meaningful connection through Chief Weinbaum—the group lovingly crafted each colorful "stuffie" to bring comfort to those in need, especially children experiencing crisis.

We are deeply grateful for their kindness, creativity, and generosity.

Salvation Army Appreciation Luncheon

GNFD team members recently attended The Salvation Army's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon—an uplifting event honoring service, partnership, and the spirit of giving. For nearly 50 years, GNFD has proudly led a cherished holiday toy drive, helping bring smiles to thousands of children. Thank you to The Salvation Army for recognizing the volunteers and community partners who help make it all happen.



Phoenix Awards



Congratulations



We hosted a district-wide CERT Drill at HQ. Members from Verona Walk, Island Walk, Naples Reserve and Winding Cypress attended the drill for training. Each team went through different scenarios to discuss what steps they would take to help in various situations. Special thanks to 1-800 Board Up for providing morning refreshments.

CERT Team Drill



#WeAreGreater

Work Day at our Fire Buddy's House



The Recruit Academy recently came together to help out in our Fire Buddy Noah's, backyard. They did some yard work and even built a plant stand for his mom, Michelle, who loves gardening. Everyone pitched in, and the family was very grateful for the support.



Rick Scott visits for Hurricane Press Conference



Senator Rick Scott had a press conference regarding Hurricane Season at the Collier County EOC. Engine 73 attended to show Greater Naples Fire Rescue support for hurricane safety and preparedness.



Handcrafted American Flag Donated to Station 21

Residents from Arden Court Memory Care at Lely Palms recently donated a beautifully handcrafted American flag to Station 21 as a heartfelt thank you for our service to the community. During their visit and station tour, we were truly touched by their thoughtful gesture. To show our appreciation, we invited them back for lunch at the station. Thanks to 1-800 Board Up, everyone enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch shared between the residents, their caregivers, and our crew. The flag now hangs proudly at Station 21—a lasting reminder of the kindness and connection we share with our community.



THANK
YOU!
♥



Orange to Black Ceremony



We proudly hosted the first-ever GNFD Orange to Black Ceremony for Recruit Class 24-01, held in the apparatus bay at Station 73. This meaningful event marks the transition from the orange helmet shield to the black one—a powerful symbol that our recruits have completed probation and are now full-fledged members of the District. We look forward to continuing these ceremonies and honoring the traditions that strengthen our District's pride and unity.

Donation from Empire Bagel Factory



Big thanks to the Empire Bagel Factory for fueling HQ and Station 73 with a whole lot of deliciousness! The bagels (and that dreamy cream cheese) disappeared faster than a fire drill.

Struggle Well Program & Donation



The Struggle Well Program, presented by the 2nd Alarm Project, was a great success! And it only got better with a delicious lunch provided by our generous friends at 1-800 Board Up and ServPro. We're grateful for their support—not just for filling our plates, but for helping us break the stigma around mental health, one meal (and one conversation) at a time.

Felipe Pereira Rides Along with Engine 73



Local social media influencer Felipe Pereira joined the Engine 73 crew for a full 12-hour ride-along. Felipe arrived bright and early at 8:00 AM, excited to learn and share what goes on behind the scenes in our District. To make sure he got the full experience, PIO Wood brought him over to Station 70, where things were a bit busier. While there, Felipe responded with the crew to a call at DLC and a medical call in Golden Gate City. Throughout the day, he learned about station life, our district operations, and the many ways we serve the community. With over 70,000 followers on Instagram, Felipe shares informative and engaging content—so be sure to give him a follow and check out his firsthand look at GNFD in action!



Great Canoe Races of Naples



GNFD was proud to have two two-man teams represent us in the First Responder Heat of the Great Canoe Races of Naples! Big shoutout to Dakotah Gutierrez & Chris Mercier, and Cory Neilsen & John Richard for hitting the water with serious determination. Extra congrats to Team Neilsen-Richard for paddling their way to 1st place! Way to make GNFD proud—on land and water!



Lake Park Diner One Year Anniversary Party



Engine 73 Crew stopped by Lake Park Diner's one-year anniversary party at Founder's Square—and it was a blast! From fun with the community to free ice cream for the kids (and yes, even the firefighters!), it was a celebration to remember. Big thanks to Lake Park Diner for having us and for the sweet hospitality. Here's to many more years of great food, fun, and community spirit!



District Structure Fires



District Brush Fires

