

THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY GAZETTE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

by Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton

East Point Residents and Businesses:

Welcome to this premiere issue of *The Call*, a monthly publication of the East Point Fire Department. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with information on Fire Department activities, programs, community outreach, service calls and more.

As the interim Fire Chief, I am proud to serve the great city where I was born and raised. I am a second generation Firefighter, following in the footsteps of my Father who also was an East Point Firefighter back in 1983. My history with both the Department and city adds additional value to the leadership opportunity that has been entrusted to me.

Our Department is comprised of highly skilled firefighters who stand trained and ready to serve, protect and assist during times of fire, medical and other emergencies. We look forward to seeing you out in the community, and know as well that you have an open invitation to visit us at any time. Stay safe and vigilant.

Honored to Serve You,

Chief Corey Thornton



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I am proud to serve the great city where I was born and raised.



SIX TIPS FOR BECOMING A GREAT MENTOR

Courtesy of the U.S. Fire Administration

The U.S. Fire Administration lists the following as characteristics that set individuals apart as being a "Life-changing Mentor." To read the article in full, visit https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/

1. Take time to get to know your mentee and allow them to get to know you.
2. Set expectations together in the very beginning.
3. Don't assume anything about your mentee - ask.
4. Know how long to wait before giving advice.
5. Always be honest and forthcoming with your own lessons learned.
6. Celebrate achievements.

EPFD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

*"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."
T.B.*

Mentoring is a practice that has become fundamental in some work places as a means to promote learning and development. The East Point Fire Department recently implemented a mentorship program as an avenue towards career guidance. The initiative is the creation of Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton, who indicated the program serves to help personnel build confidence, and get the support needed to take greater control of their professional and personal development. "The program will allow the more experienced Firefighters and Officers to personally train and help develop those with less experience," stated Chief Thornton. "I also see it as a way to assist us in identifying and grooming high-potential employees, and helping with employee satisfaction, retention and recruitment."

Mentors and Mentees are matched for a period of one year. Chief Thornton intends to move the program into high schools to identify, groom and recruit male and female senior students who may consider entering the Fire Service as a career option. Persons interested in participating in the Mentorship Program should contact Fire Administration at (404) 559-6401.

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The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.

Stephen Spielberg





during the entire training evolution. Additionally, every member of the department should be allowed to interject any safety concerns, thus implementing a culture of openness in communications throughout the training ground that will ultimately transfer to the fireground.

Safety and training should always go hand in hand. There is no excuse for unsafe practices on the training grounds. Unsafe behavior will only serve to cause injuries and produce worse results during an actual event.

With that in mind, we must ensure that we all adopt a philosophy of a safe training environment. It will serve to make our incident scenes as safe as they can be.

SAFE TRAINING LEADS TO SAFE FIREGROUND

by Chief Timothy Evans

Keeping our firefighters safe during training seems like a no-brainer for fire officers. But every year, there are accidents, injuries and deaths in the training environment - incidents that could have been prevented.

One way to ensure safety is to keep firefighters refreshed on the "basics" of the job. NFPA 15-- recommends that basic skills for each position should be developed and that members should perform them at least on an annual basis. When firefighters are well versed on the basics of their jobs, they can perform these skills without thinking about them, which allows them to concentrate on the overall situation.

The #1 cause of near-miss incidents on the fireground continues to be loss of situational awareness, and this can just as easily happen in training.

Having good situational awareness in training basically, means that everyone, especially the Instructor in Charge and the Safety Officer, must make use of the information presented to them and avoid distractions.

This is especially important during the most routine training evolutions where our awareness levels tend to decrease. After all, we all know that losing focus on the fireground or on the training ground can lead to serious injury or worse. During our last NFPA 1410 Drill, many of you were made aware of issues of loss of situational awareness (e.g. hoselines being charged without proper communication).

We must not allow our situation awareness to be affected by some mundane issue interjected during a training scenario. Instructors and safety officers should not become distracted, and must remain focused

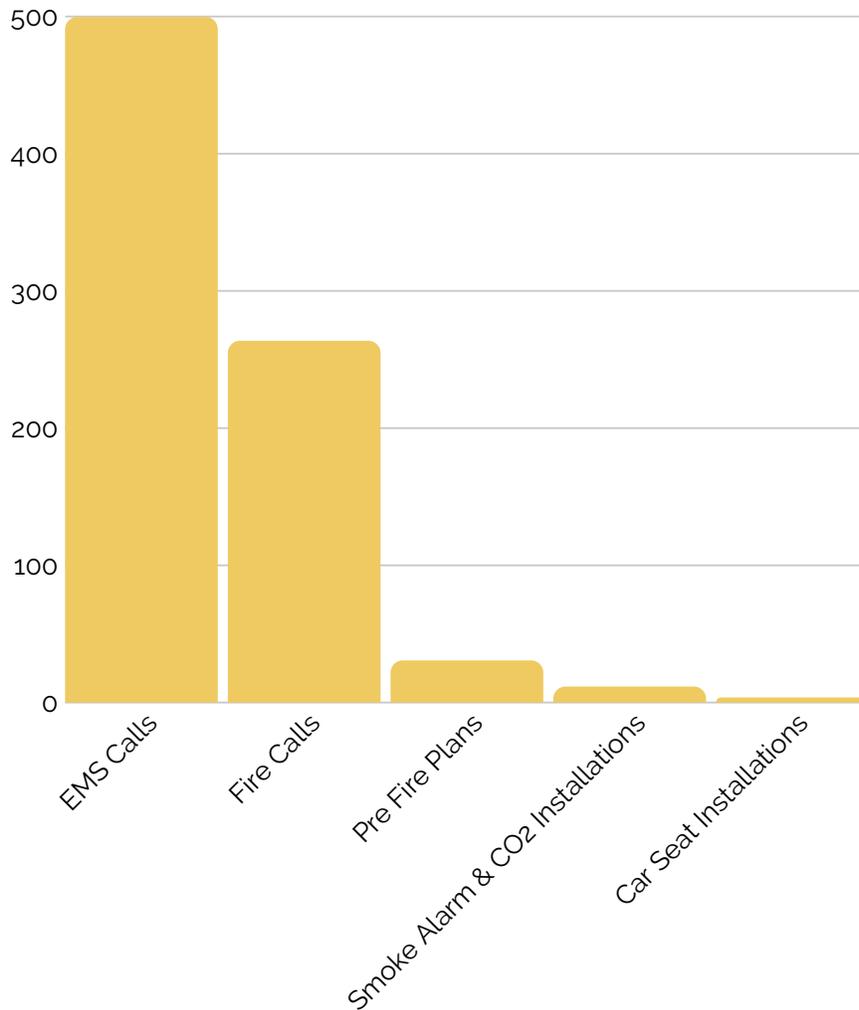
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*Don't train until you get it right.
Train until you can't get it wrong.*

*Doug Cline,
International Society of
Fire Service Instructors*



OUR CURRENT STATS

The Mission of the East Point Fire Department is to prevent disastrous incidents from occurring and minimize damage to life, property and the environment. In the month of July 2019, the Department responded to 762 incidents. Of those, 499 were EMS calls, and 263 fire related EMS Calls. The Department also completed 30 Fire Pre-Plans, and installed 11 Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.



The East Point Fire Department installs Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and car seats free of charge. To schedule a Service Request, individuals are asked to contact Fire Administration at (404) 559-6401.



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

A CONVERSATION WITH LIEUTENANT CEDRIC CHANEY

"Welcome to the rock. What we do here is meant to cut you deep." These were the words of Lieutenant Cedric Chaney as he addressed a class of male and female recruits on day one of training to become East Point Firefighters. As a senior officer, and one involved in training, Chaney's introduction was apropos as he summed up

"Welcome to the rock.
What we do here is meant to cut you deep."

what the next four months would entail to become an East Point Firefighter. "This job is demanding, grueling, and very rewarding," stated Chaney who also goes by the name Captain Pain because of the intensity he's known to bring to physical training. "Applicants are taken through an intense mental and physical process that exposes strengths and weaknesses which are important to know given the rigors of the job."

LT. CHANEY SAYS LEADERS ARE NOT BORN THEY ARE DEVELOPED THROUGH HARDWORK, TRAINING AND SELF-PREPARATION.



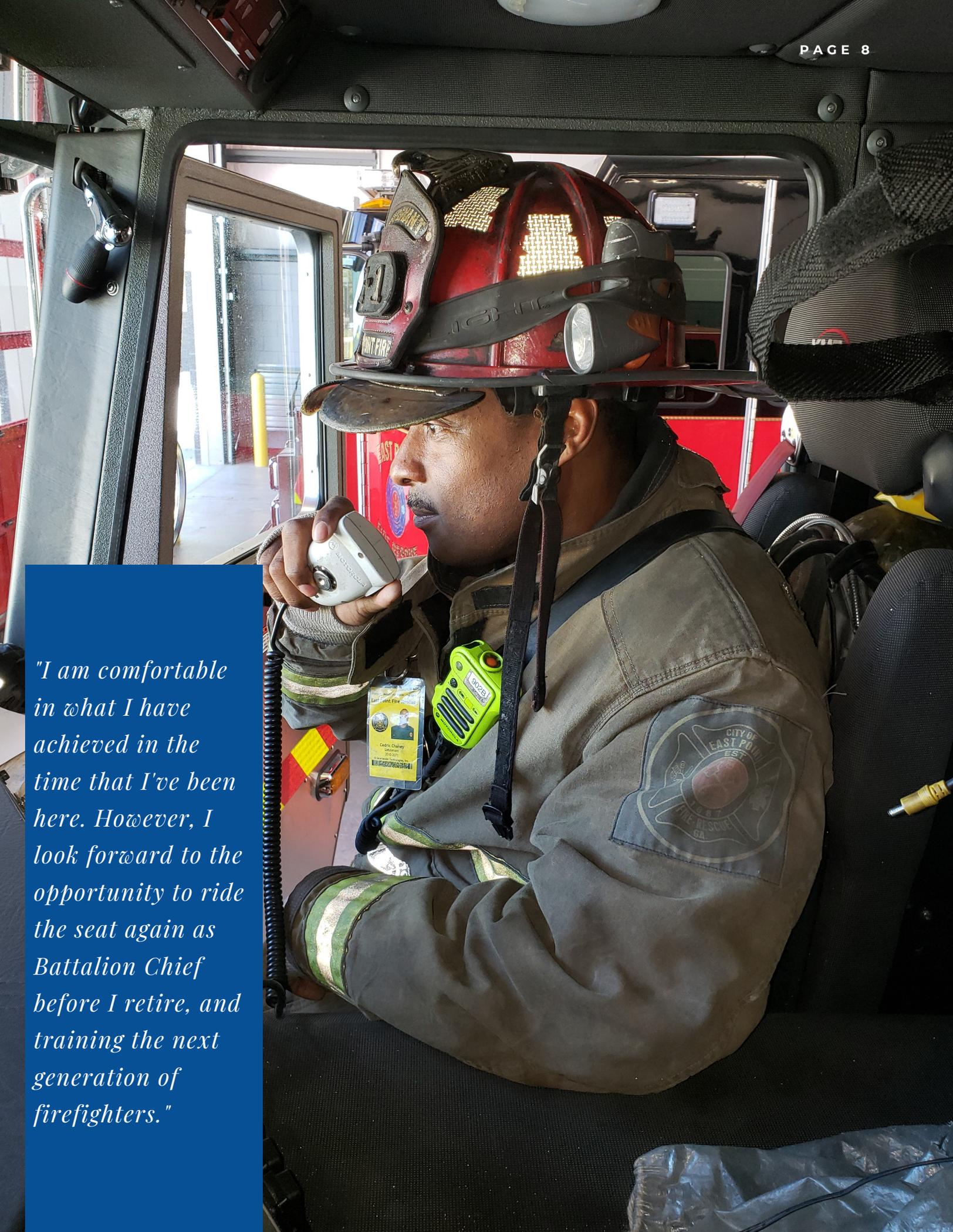
Lessons in Leadership cont.

Chaney said being a firefighter was a career he settled on at a young age. "As a third grader I was captivated by the program Emergency, which featured firefighters running calls, helping people and being hailed as heroes," said Chaney. "I was fascinated by the rope rescues, emergency medical responses, the uniforms, equipment and fire scenes. It made a heavy impression on me that never let go."

"...There's value in learning the basics of being a firefighter first, because that makes you a stronger officer."

Chaney, a 25 year veteran of the Department, says over the years he has witnessed distinct differences between younger and older generations of firefighters. "I find that many of the younger hires want to promote faster instead of learning the core rudiments of being a firefighter first," said Chaney. "Older firefighters will tell them that there's value in learning the basics of being a firefighter first because that makes you a stronger officer."

Chaney says fighting fire has become complex due to a mix of challenges First Responders are now having to face. "We have to adjust our strategies and tactics accordingly due to new materials used in modern building construction," says Chaney. "When I joined the service back in 1994, our textbooks focused on construction that was



"I am comfortable in what I have achieved in the time that I've been here. However, I look forward to the opportunity to ride the seat again as Battalion Chief before I retire, and training the next generation of firefighters."

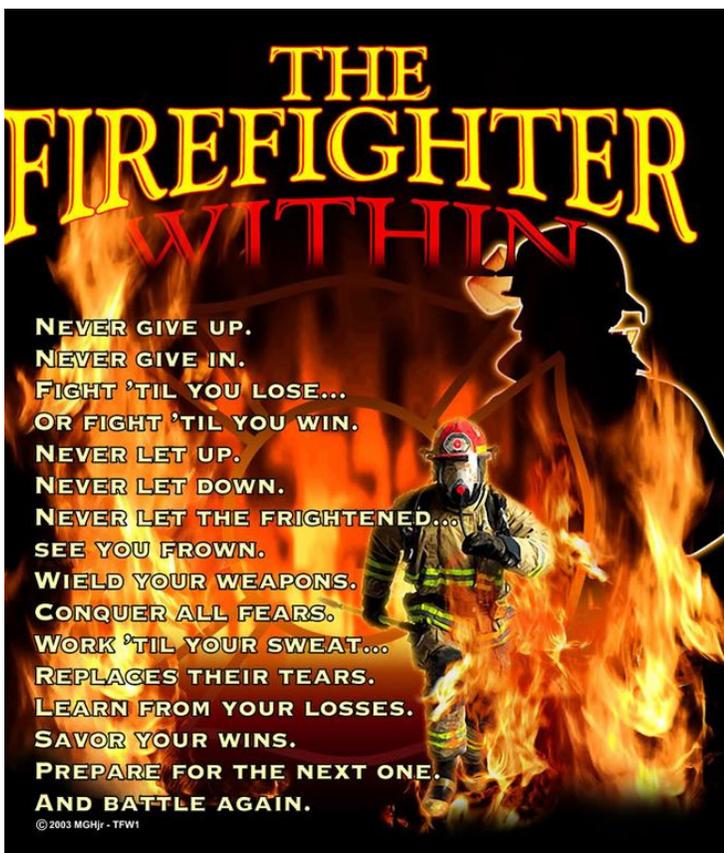
Lessons In Leadership cont.

typically older and more sound. Today with advances in technology, firefighters may arrive on scene and be confronted by construction that has solar panels, and other fire loads that may be hazardous due to products being engineered differently that may impact fire behavior. "

Some describe Chaney as "a stallion," when it comes to fighting fire. He is also characterized as one who performs daring rescues, is energized by a challenge, and passionate about being a public servant. When asked what has been his proudest moment in the Fire Service he says it was on November 26, 2012 when he rescued a three-year-old boy who was unresponsive in a house fire. " It was very rewarding, knowing that you saved a person's life," said Chaney. "There was fire everywhere, and smoke, but I was able to use the techniques that I had learned throughout the years, and was able to find the kid and bring him out."



Today Lt. Chaney is looking forward to retiring, but he remains impassioned about making sure this Department continues to train and develop some of the best Firefighters and Officers around. He pointed back to his memorable introduction before a class of recruits and his statement, "We're going to cut you deep." "It means we're going to find out who wants to do this job and can, verses who doesn't and can't," said Chaney. "Because in the end it's not only drive, but a person's talents, skills, abilities and courage that equips them to make the cut to become an East Point Firefighter."





East Point: Home of History Making Fire Chiefs

East Point Native Sons and Daughter Discuss Overcoming Hurdles to Become Fire Chief

East Point has much to boast about including being home to four African American Fire Chiefs who overcame barriers to become listed in the annals of East Point History. Chief Ronnie Few has the honor of being the first African American Firefighter hired by the City of East Point, and he is recognized for being the first African American male Fire Chief appointed by the City. Chief Few's Fire Service career launched in East Point in 1972. He promoted through every rank culminating with his appointment as Fire Chief in 1993. This trailblazer says a new day dawned with the recruitment of female Firefighters. "Just think, if we didn't open this department up for females to be a part of it, then we may have missed somebody like Rosemary," stated Chief Few.

Chief Rosemary Cloud made history in 2002 when East Point hired her as Fire Chief. It was marked as a historical moment due to Cloud becoming the first African American female Fire Chief in the United States. Cloud began her career with the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue. "Needless to say, coming on the Fire Department as a woman, I was under the microscope forever and a day no matter what mistakes we made or even those that we did not make, we were blamed for them," lamented Chief Cloud.

Chief Larry Few, is the brother of Chief Ronnie Few, and retired from a career that spanned more than three decades in the Fire Service. He served as Fire Chief for Fulton County from 2006-2017, when the Department transitioned to become the City of South Fulton

East Point: Home of History Making Fire Chiefs (cont.)

Fire Department. Chief Few remained in the position before retiring in 2019. He credits his brother for motivating and mentoring him throughout his career. "He was the inspiration for me really getting into the Fire Service. [He] always told me that 'Larry, when people interview you, there must be something in your jacket, in that file, more than Larry - Firefighter. That's been my inspiration," reflected Chief Larry Few.

Chief Corey Thornton is currently the Interim Fire Chief for the City of East Point Fire Department. His Dad, a former Firefighter with the City of East Point, was his role model. "You know as a kid you

would sit there, and you would always say, I want to be a Firefighter. Some people say it, but is it really in you? asked Chief Thornton.

"In firefighting it's not a job, it's more or less a career, and it has to be embedded in you. It has to be something in you to make you want to serve, protect and help others because it's a heavy commitment to undertake,"

You can view the entire interview with the four Fire Chiefs by googling: **"East Point Fire Chiefs Paved the Way for Others."**



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**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES
BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW IF THEY WILL
COME AROUND AGAIN**

”

Chief Marcus Anderson

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



Teaching Life Saving Skills

Firefighter Scott Zoebisch taught CPR to children attending the Q Parker Legacy Foundation's United Youth Summer Camp.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a lifesaving measure performed when the heart stops beating. According to the American Heart Association, CPR can double or triple a person's chances of survival following cardiac arrest.

Welcome Back

The East Point Fire Department joined other city personnel in welcoming local students back to school after the summer break. A rousing welcome was given as students returned to Woodland Middle School on August 12, 2019. Chief Corey Thornton along with members of his Command Staff and Firefighters applauded students and encouraged them to keep up the good work.



Free Meals Distributed

"It's all about community. It's at the heart of what we do," stated Interim Fire Chief Corey Thornton as his Department participated in distributing free lunches to youth 18 and under at Martel Homes this summer. The free meals were provided through the Fulton County School Nutrition program. Chief Thornton is accompanied by Chief Marcus Anderson and Councilmember Joshua B. Butler, IV, WARD D AT-LARGE

Fire Drill

The East Point Fire Department conducted a Fire Drill at the Armada Supply Chain Hub center on North Commerce Drive in East Point. Armada Compliance Manager Rodney Blevins said the company makes a practice of drilling twice a year for each shift to be knowledgeable, and ready to respond appropriately during an emergency.

Chief Corey Thornton attended the Drill, accompanied by Assistant Fire Marshall Chief Marcus Anderson as well as Engine 3 staffed by Lieutenant Robert Paulus, FAO Anthony Lee and Firefighter Amos Williams.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Battalion Chief Lindsey Cassell who has received a Masters of Art Degree in Christian Ministry Leadership. Chief Cassell is currently going through ordination to work in the area of Pastoral Care.

Best wishes to Training Chief Tim Evans and his wife Cindy on their 1st Wedding Anniversary - July 28, 2019.

High Five to Firefighter Chip Turner who will be celebrating "30 Years," in the Fire Service on September 25, 1989.

Find out more about Firefighter Turner's service in the in the next edition of THE CALL





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Sticking to good habits can be hard work, and mistakes are part of the process. Don't declare failure simply because you messed up or because something went wrong. Instead, use your mistakes as opportunities to grow stronger and become better. DREAM BIG. WORK HARDER.

Chief Charles Kendrick