

THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT GAZETTE

FIRST QUARTER 2021 | VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 8

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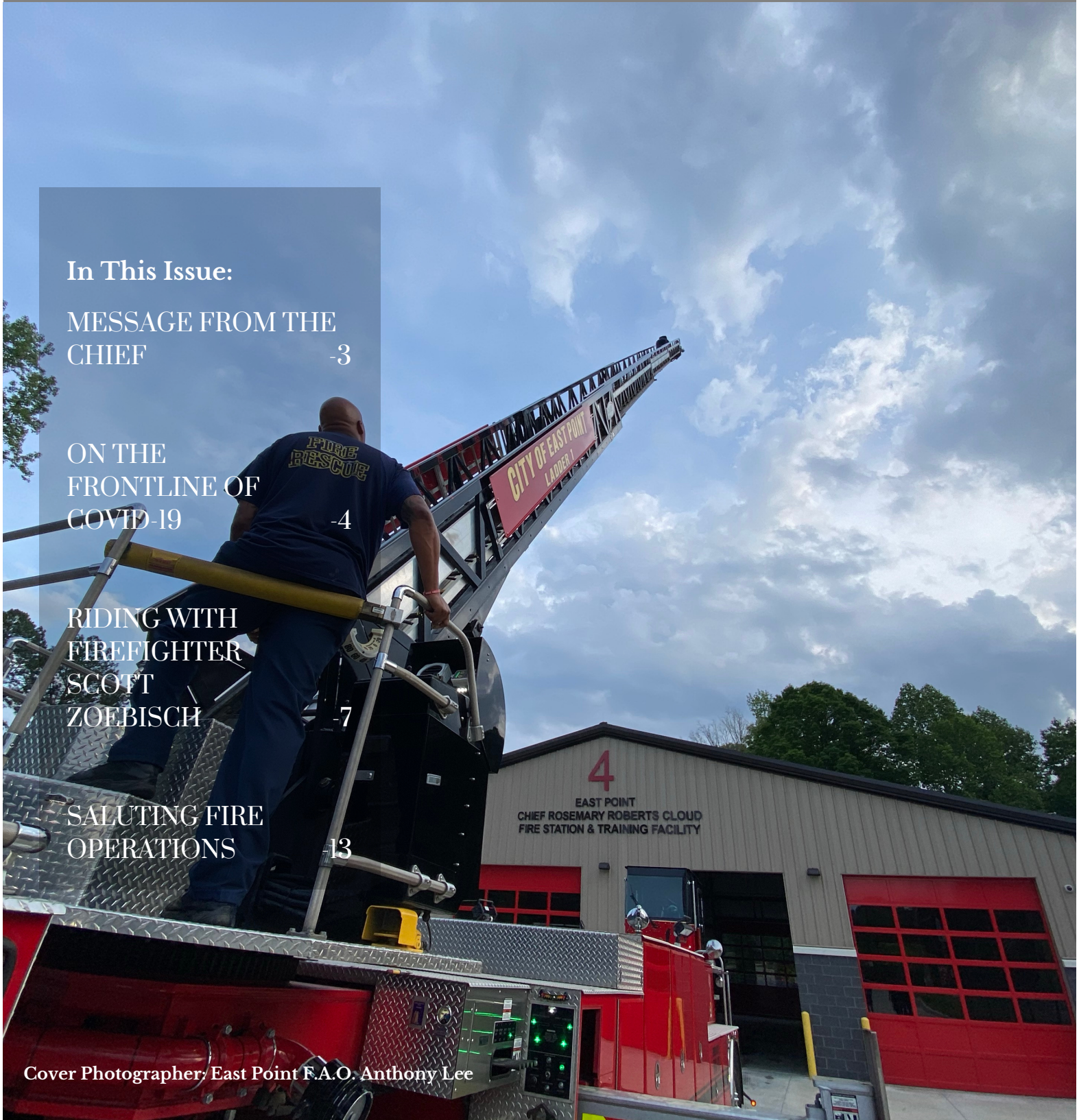
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Cover Photographer: East Point F.A.O. Anthony Lee





City of East Point Fire Department Command Staff



FIRE CHIEF COREY THORNTON



DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM TATE



DEPUTY CHIEF MARCUS ANDERSON



CHIEF CHARLES KENDRICK



CHIEF TIMOTHY EVANS



Image Credit: The Sydney Morning Herald and Associated Press



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

by Fire Chief Corey Thornton

With 2020 being behind us and the challenges it brought due to COVID-19, the future looks promising as new vaccines become a game changer in the war against the virus. To date, millions of Americans have been vaccinated with either the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as further research is underway to create additional inoculations. Studies show that being immunized is an effective way to hinder the virus, keep people from serious illness, and prevent death.

This is achieved by the vaccine instructing the body's immune system how to identify and combat the pathogen that is the genesis of COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, once a person is vaccinated, the body commonly requires up to two weeks to build immunity, which means a person could possibly still contract the virus after being vaccinated and become ill if the body has not completed the necessary time to build up defense.

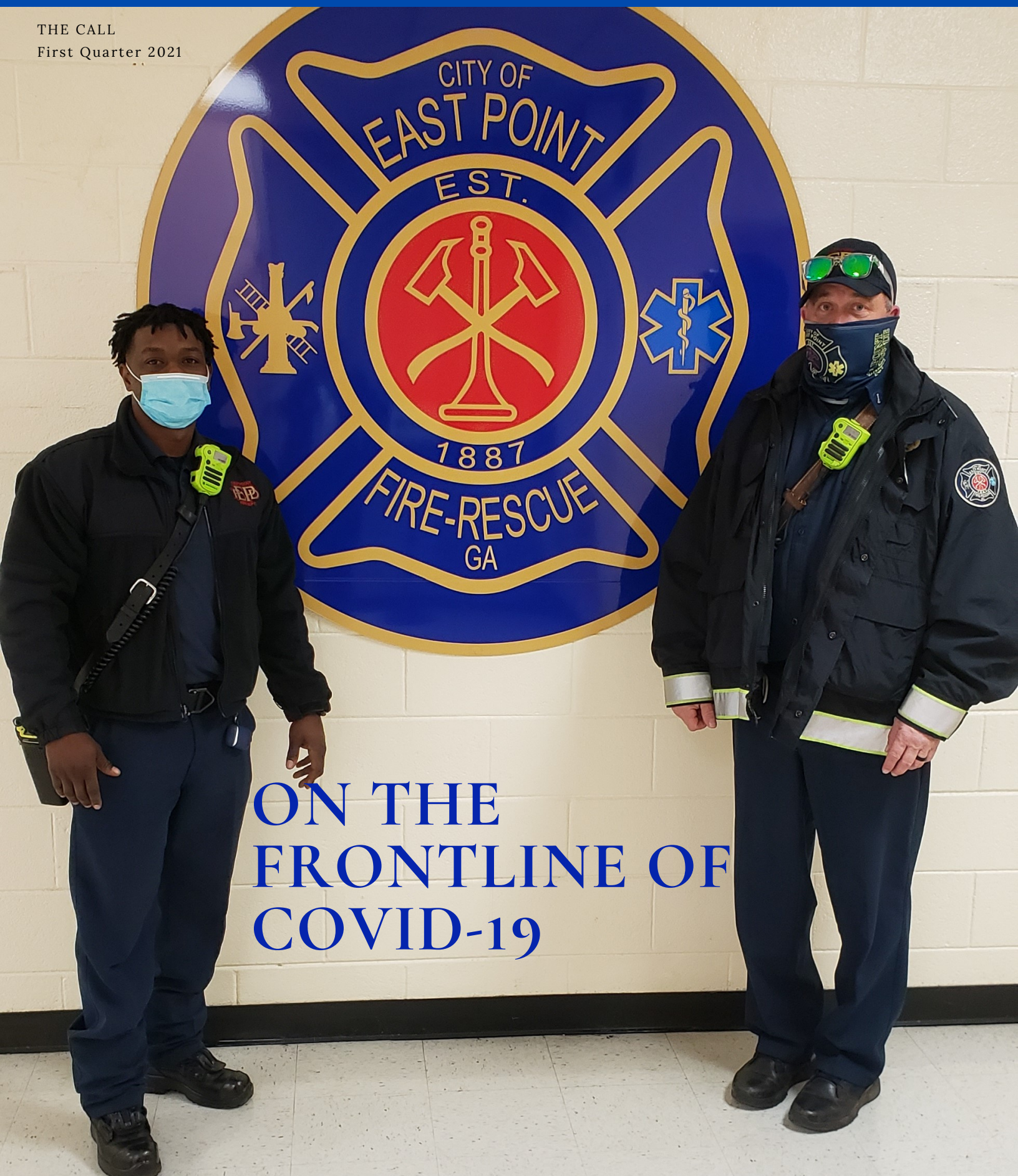
In this issue of THE CALL we speak with two East Point Firefighters who rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated, then volunteered to administer the vaccine to others. Also in this issue we salute our own frontline First Responders. These individuals were acknowledged by fellow Firefighters and Officers for acts that saved lives, preserved property and provided comfort in a time of crisis. I am also happy to introduce to you a new public program we are producing called The Fire Chief's Roundtable, seen on EPTV-Channel 22, and our social media outlets. Plus we spotlight the Firefighter in the beard and red suit who brings smiles and laughter to children across East Point each year.

Stay safe, remain vigilant, and enjoy this issue of THE CALL.

Honored to Serve,

Chief Corey Thornton

THE CALL
First Quarter 2021



ON THE
FRONTLINE OF
COVID-19

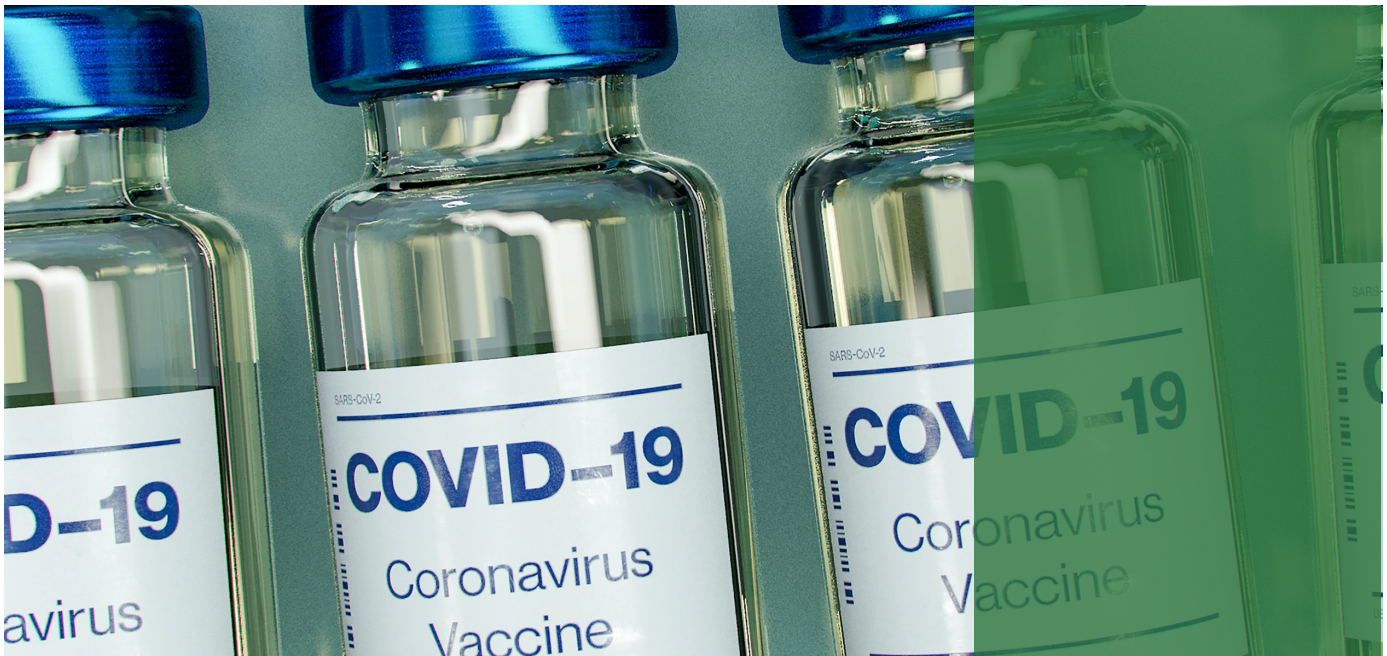


Photo by Daniel Schludi on Unsplash

EAST POINT FIREFIGHTERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

When the Coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019, no one could have imagined how far reaching and devastating the impact would be. In early March of 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 had reached the pandemic stage. The United States and other countries immediately instituted lockdowns, enforced curfews, and promised the development of a vaccine was the pathway to return to life as normal.

Scientists and researchers across the globe raced to develop an immunization, which was a laborious task given vaccine development takes an average 10-to-15 years to complete. However, by mid summer 2020 Pfizer and Moderna emerged as leaders in the vaccine race, and on December 11th of 2020, after completing a series of clinical trials, Pfizer announced that the

U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) authorized use of their mRNA vaccine, followed by Moderna announcing FDA approval of their mRNA vaccine on December 18, 2020.

That was good news to East Point Fire Lieutenant Douglas Stanley and Firefighter Coleman Lynn who looked forward to getting vaccinated. The two also said it presented an opportunity, as they anticipated how First Responders might play a role in vaccine rollouts.

That moment came in January of this year, when Stanley and Lynn volunteered to administer vaccines to the general public at mass vaccination sites. Stanley at the Fulton County Airport (formerly known as Charlie Brown Airport) in Atlanta, and Lynn at the Mercedes Benz Stadium in downtown Atlanta.

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The goal is to achieve herd immunity, which is possible when a significant percentage of the population is vaccinated and becomes immune.

Lt. Doug Stanley



Photo Credit: Hakan Nural on Unsplash

"I recommend you do your own personal research, and consider the people you are around with underlying health conditions."

Firefighter Coleman Lynn

East Point Firefighters Making a Difference in the Fight Against COVID-19

Stanley says he is proud to be on the frontline of this monumental effort. "The goal is to achieve herd immunity, which is possible when a significant percentage of the population is vaccinated and becomes immune," Stanley said. "Therefore, it's important if we're going to make progress in moving forward and return to some degree of normalcy in life that people consider getting vaccinated," Stanley stated.

Lynn agrees, and while he is pro-vaccine, he says it is up to everyone to look at their situation to determine whether to get vaccinated.. "I recommend you do your own personal research, and consider the people you are around with underlying health conditions," Lynn stated. "Because in the end, it's important that everyone, works together to not only protect themselves, but others they come in contact with."

Stanley and Lynn gave up their off days to administer vaccines on a voluntary basis. They both say they have vaccinated more than 100 people at their respective vaccine sites.

RTS



Photo Credit: CDC on Unsplash

Covid-19 Vaccine Locations and Appointments

Covid-19 Vaccines are now available in various locations. To find out where you can be vaccinated, visit the following websites:

Fulton County Department of Health
<https://fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Vaccine Finder website (provided by the CDC)
<https://vaccinefinder.org/search/>



"I am mindful that everyone wants compassion and understanding in times of uncertainty. Therefore, I want to always impart that comfort, and provide a solution in difficult situations.

Firefighter Scott Zoebisch.

Riding with Firefighter Scott Zoebisch

by P.I.O. Renita T. Shelton

When Scott Zoebisch decided to become a Firefighter for the City of East Point he says it was to fulfill a desire to serve others, and to expand the Department's community outreach. He has not been disappointed.

As a 16 year veteran of the Department, Zoebisch serves in several capacities: Fire Apparatus Operator, Tiller Operator and the jolly man in the red suit, who dons a beard and bag to distribute toys to hundreds of children in East Point for the Department's Annual Santa Ride Along.

Zoebisch's compassion was on full display recently when he responded on an Obstetrics call and found a mother grieving the loss of her baby at four weeks term. In a recent conversation with the Firefighter, he

reflected on that moment, and the impact it had on everyone involved.

P.I.O. Shelton: In December 2020, you were riding Engine 3, which was first on scene on an O.B. [obstetrics] call for a patient who had given birth at 4 weeks. A fellow Firefighter, Rosa Tullis, commended your actions that day, saying CPR was in progress, which was thought to be odd because, "A fetus of this size and development is probably not viable." She indicated upon arrival you quickly moved into the role of providing primary care to the mother and fetus. What were your thoughts as you handled that delicate yet devastating situation?

RIDING WITH FIREFIGHTER SCOTT ZOEBISCH

Firefighter Zoebisch: As a First Responder, we are met with different circumstances that we have to be prepared to address and mitigate. O.B. calls inherently generate a certain amount of stress because you don't know whether the Mother is about to deliver, irrespective of the stage of pregnancy she's in. As a result, we have to be ready to act. While I cannot discuss the specifics of that particular call, due to HIPPA regulations, I will say that I look at every patient as a family member, and the care I render is what I would desire and expect someone to provide me, and a loved one. I am mindful that everyone wants compassion and understanding in times of uncertainty. Therefore, I want to always impart that comfort, and provide a solution in difficult situations.

P.I.O. Shelton: What was the catalyst that sparked your desire to become a Firefighter?

Firefighter Zoebisch: It was during the eight years I served in The United States Army as a Veterinarian Technician. I enjoyed being of service to people, and interacting with individuals from all walks of life and different backgrounds. The Fire Service was a natural next step. It is a para-military environment, that satisfied my desire to serve, while simultaneously allowing me to extend the Fire Department's reach into the community. I



began my career with Atlanta Fire Rescue before joining the City of East Point.

P.I.O. Shelton: Yearly, you have faithfully and voluntarily, suited up as Santa for the Fire Department's Santa Ride Along greeting hundreds of children with a toy at Christmas. Everyone agrees that you are perfect in that role. Why is serving in that role important to you?

Firefighter Zoebisch: I believe every child deserves to be happy, and to also know that someone genuinely cares. I believe the greatest gift someone can give another is one's own personal time and being in the moment. Some children are facing really difficult situations in life, and if I can bring a smile to their face, and joy to their heart, I'm a better person for it. I thrive on making others feel loved and appreciated, and I believe in the end they are left in a better place.

P.I.O. Shelton: At what point will you feel that you have reached the pinnacle of your career?

Firefighter Zoebisch: I am striving to become a Lieutenant with the City of East Point Fire Department. Earning that bugle will mean, as a supervisor, I can provide leadership to future Firefighters. The pinnacle of my career will be in hearing someone say, "I was led and trained by



"Among the most vivid memories I have of the time I was in Fire Recruit School, is the era we lived in. It was a time when simple acts of treating everyone with respect was the norm of human kindness. Strangers or familiar faces I encountered each day, back then and even now, I learned to lift with kind gestures, because I've also witnessed that those same smiles given are returned when you need them most."

Firefighter Scott Zoebisch

RIDING WITH FIREFIGHTER SCOTT ZOEBSCH

Firefighter Zoebisch (continued):

Lieutenant Zoebisch." That will be a proud moment for me.

P.I.O. Shelton: What has been your greatest achievement in working with the East Point Fire Department?

Firefighter Zoebisch: The words of affirmation from colleagues and supervisors that my work ethic has been noticed and appreciated.

P.I.O. Shelton: What advice would you give persons desiring to embark upon a career in the fire service?

Firefighter Zoebisch: Everyday there will be a new task. Face the day with a glass half-full outlook, and leave every situation better than it was when you first encountered it.

P.I.O. Shelton: What single message would you like to share about the importance of being a community servant?

Firefighter Zoebisch: Service to the community is a privilege. Whether the job is big or small, relish in the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, because that difference can have a rippling effect that travels far beyond that one person to the community at large.

RTS



Firefighter Zoebisch greeting a child with a toy during the East Point Fire Department's 2020 Santa Ride Along



Firefighter Zoebisch at Fire Station #3





EAST POINT FIRE CHIEF RECEIVES BLACK HISTORY HONOR

East Point Fire Chief Corey Thornton, a graduate of Tri-Cities-High School, was recognized by Alumni during Black History Month for being a trailblazer.

Thornton was acknowledged for becoming the first African American Tri-Cities Graduate to become Fire Chief for the City of East Point.

Born and raised in East Point, Thornton began his fire service career with the City of East Point on September 11, 1995. He was appointed Fire Chief on April 1, 2020 after serving as Interim Fire Chief the previous year.

Hey Bulldogs! Hail to our Fire CHIEF of East Point!
... See More

First Black Tri-Cities High School Alumni to become Fire Chief for the City of East Point, GA
COREY THORNTON, CLASS OF 1994

182 34 Comments

Like Comment Send

Fire Chief's Roundtable

Conversations and Information with the Fire Chief of East Point



FIRE CHIEF'S ROUNDTABLE: EPISODE I:

The Fire Chief is joined at the table by his Command Staff to talk about their careers, and to offer advice on how aspiring Firefighters can join the City of East Point Fire Department.

View at:
<https://youtu.be/vkVD2yGPugQ>

East Point Fire, Then and Now

The East Point Fire Department is excited to announce a new program called the **Chief's Round Table**. The production can be viewed on Facebook, YouTube and EPTV-Channel 22 (the East Point City Channel). Monthly, it will bring conversations with the Fire Chief and others invited to the table to discuss Fire related topics. The program will also feature East Point Fire Department programs, events, health matters and more.

Chief Thornton says it is another way the Department is extending its reach into the community to keep people informed. "Through this program we hope to impart knowledge, and give viewers a closer look at who we are, what we do, and what's on the horizon," Thornton said.

The first installment of the **Chief's Round Table** is available to watch by clicking the link located in the box to the left of this page.



Fire Chief Corey Thornton

Saluting Fire Operations

"At the heart of our operation are the men and women on the frontline, who are passionate about what they do, and are committed to a life of service."

Fire Chief Corey Thornton

The East Point Fire Department prides itself in being a multi-faceted operation, that employs and trains some of the best men and women in the nation to become Firefighters. In addition to protecting the community through fire suppression, the Department also renders emergency medical aid that often can mean the difference between life and death.

Fire Chief Corey Thornton says the core of the Department is its dedicated team of First Responders, who come from different walks of life, but are united by a common purpose. "At the heart of our operation are the men and women on the frontline, who are passionate about what they do, and are committed to a life of service," says the Fire Chief.

Deputy Chief William Tate said while every Firefighter contributes to the success of the entire operation, there are standout moments for some that blaze in memory. "As a Firefighter you are cognizant that when you arrive on scene you are being critiqued by those you're there to serve, and fellow First Responders who are matched in skill and knowledge," stated the Deputy Chief.

"There are also those instances that are deemed exceptional that colleagues express demand attention because of the exemplary work performed," Chief Tate emphasized.

During an emergency, some remember a glimpse of the faces that instilled calm, while others may recall fragments of the voices that quieted fears. However, for First Responders etched in memory are the valiant acts of comrades who often are unsung heroes.

We salute the Firefighters and Officers who were acknowledged for the skills, tactics and compassion shown during times of emergency.



**Chief William Tate
Deputy Chief of Fire Operations**

Saluting Acting Battalion Chief Joseph Petranto

*by Deputy Chief of Operations William
Tate*

Lieutenant Joseph Petranto served as Acting Battalion Chief in March and impressively performed his duties as Incident Commander at the scene of a structure fire. Fire Crews responded on a call of smoke filling a hall at the Motel 6 on Virginia Avenue. Upon arrival, Lt. Petranto did a quick scene size up, and expeditiously established command and ordered assignments. Furthermore, he swiftly called for the appropriate additional resources needed. Despite multitasking in issuing assignments, communicating with Dispatch, and continuing scene assessments, Petranto promptly notified me, as Deputy Chief, of the incident. He also provided me with his initial Incident Action Plan. Lt. Petranto's performance was in a word - impressive - given his performance as a seasoned Battalion Chief although he had served only a limited time as Acting Battalion Chief. The entire East Point Fire Department salutes Lt. Joseph Petranto for his remarkable execution of duty.



**Pictured Above:
Lieutenant Joseph Petranto**

Life Saving Actions of Engine 4 and Rescue 2

by Lieutenant Robert Paulus

It was in late January of this year when Engine 4 and Rescue 2 were dispatched on a call of a person down, and it reportedly being unknown whether the individual was breathing. Upon arrival, crews immediately started to work in accordance with Fulton County EMS protocols, successfully reviving the patient to Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). This was achieved prior to the patient being boarded into an ambulance and transported.

Engine 4 and Rescue 2 are to be commended for their knowledge, skills and swift actions during this emergency response. Riding Engine 4 that day were Lieutenant Sammie Cole, Firefighter Gerrell Lilly, Firefighter Elijah Dobson and Firefighter Darion Myles. On Rescue 4 was Firefighter Ryan Dublin and FAO Anthony Lee. I commend all of you for a job well done. Salute.



**Pictured Above:
Lieutenant Robert Paulus**



The Compassion and Professionalism of Firefighter Scott Zoebisch

by Firefighter Rosa Tullis

In late December 2020, East Point Fire units, Rescue 4 and Engine 3, were dispatched on an Obstetrics call for a person who had given birth pre-term. While en route, we were informed that CPR was in progress.

Upon arrival we found Firefighter Scott Zoebisch providing care to the mother and her unviable fetus. The room was in complete silence, as Firefighter Zoebisch took control of the scene, and spoke calmly to the mother.

While every First Responder on scene was deeply moved by what had occurred, it was Firefighter Zoebisch who in that moment spoke for all of us, and to a larger degree, the East Point Fire Department as well. Zoebisch handled the situation with grace, dignity and reverence as the Mother grieved the loss of her pregnancy.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but during times of trial and adversity. Firefighter Zoebisch stands tall. The sympathy, empathy and professionalism he displayed in that moment, was deeply felt, admired and remembered.

On behalf of the great men and women who make up our Firefighting force, I salute you Firefighter Zoebisch.



**Pictured Above:
Firefighter Scott Zoebisch**



**Pictured Above:
Firefighter Rosa Tullis**



Photo Credit: Marisol Benitez for Unsplash

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At times we are stronger functioning as one, doing our part in contributing to the whole. Shaping the end to be resilient, durable and able to withstand all challenges.

Fire Chief Corey Thornton