

# THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT BI-MONTHLY GAZETTE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 7

## In This Issue:

MESSAGE FROM  
THE CHIEF - 2

A PURPOSE  
FILLED LIFE - 3

LIFE SAVING  
ACTIONS OF  
ENGINE 2 - 7

THE ANNUAL  
SANTA RIDE  
ALONG - 8





Image provided by Gerd Altmann, Pixabay



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

*by Fire Chief Corey Thornton*

2020 has certainly been a year that will forever be looked upon as one of the most challenging in our nation's history. That is true as well for those of us who work in the Fire Service, as it stretched and tested our resources and abilities in providing services to our most precious asset, and that is you - the East Point community. The Coronavirus Pandemic became that invisible enemy that encroached upon every segment of society leaving no area or person untouched. We also witnessed however, the resilience and strength that comes when faced with adversity, and we discovered there is nothing we can't face and overcome individually and collectively.

The Fire Service is an honorable organization of men and women who daily commit to protecting life, property and the environment. However, there's more to our portfolio than that. We believe in and provide community service through various programs. One of our most popular is the East Point Fire Department's Annual Santa Ride Along, in which Santa rides a Fire Truck to spread holiday cheer, and greet children with a toy. Included in this issue are pictures of this year's Santa Ride Along event.

As we close out the year and look forward to the next, my hope is that 2021 will be a year of great health, happiness and hope for you and your family. Have a safe and happy holiday and a glorious new year!

Honored to Serve,

*Chief Corey Thornton*



“

*I knew East Point was going to challenge, and push me to the next level in serving the community.*

## A PURPOSE FILLED LIFE

by Renita Shelton

Living a life of purpose is what East Point Firefighter Darius Tye aims to do daily. He says a career in the Fire Service provides the right combination of challenge and reward which makes for a a satisfying career. Although Firefighter Tye is relatively new to the East Point Fire Department, he is a five year veteran of the Fire Service. Recently, I sat down to talk with Firefighter Tye about his fire career, and why he says East Point was his Department of choice.

# A PURPOSE FILLED LIFE

**P.I.O. Shelton:** Tell us about your career in the Fire Service prior to coming to East Point.

**Firefighter Darius Ty:** My career in the Fire Service started with Dekalb County Fire Rescue. Prior to joining the East Point Fire Department in March of this year (2020), I worked for Riverdale Fire Services in Riverdale, Georgia. To date, I have served in the Fire Service a total of five years.

**P.I.O. Shelton:** What led you to join the City of East Point Fire Department?

**Firefighter Darius Ty:** It is a great city with great residents. Before joining East Point I often visited the area and held small jobs in the city. This enabled me to get a glimpse of the city. I can wholeheartedly say that I enjoyed every interaction and conversation. I view East Point Fire as an elite Department, with a dynamic, well trained body of men and women firefighters who are passionate about their calling to serve, and committed to aggressively fighting fire. It was a team I knew I wanted to be a part of.

**P.I.O. Shelton:** What inspired you to seek a career as a Firefighter?

**Firefighter Darius Ty:** Thoughts of becoming a Firefighter first started



when I was in High School. I am reminded of a statement by Child Activist Marian Wright Edelman who said, "Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time." I identify with that. I began serving the community through my Church and enjoyed the exhilaration I experienced in playing sports. During this time, I was also informed of my Uncle desiring to become a Firefighter, but his dreams were dashed because of problems he had with his eyesight. However, he encouraged me to pursue a career that would allow me to serve people. Firefighting was that career. It allowed me to live out my Uncle's dream, push my athletic abilities and make a difference in the community. It was the common intersection where all those points converged.

**P.I.O. Shelton:** What has been your greatest accomplishment, and what is the single achievement you are most proud of?

**Firefighter Darius Ty:** Serving a community that is diverse, and being able to inspire and give hope to individuals who reflect my heritage and culture to know they too can realize their dreams. I am proud to wear that uniform, and make a difference, large or small, in the community I serve. It's the greatest honor.



*"This time of Covid-19 has magnified the unselfish commitment of being ready to serve that Firefighters exhibit daily. Firefighting is a noble profession that reveals not only who we are, but what we are truly made of, and that is true grit."*

**Firefighter Darius Tye**

# A PURPOSE FILLED LIFE



“

*I desire to promote to Chief Officer. There would be no greater satisfaction than to make differences along the way to improve the functionality of each rank.*

**P.I.O. Shelton:** What do you foresee as being your next, in terms of your hopes, dreams and goals?

**Firefighter Darius Tye:** I desire to promote to become a Chief Officer. There would be no greater satisfaction than to make differences along the way to improve the functionality of each rank. I feel this would contribute to the overall success of operations, and have our Department serve as a model for other Fire Departments of comparable size.

**P.I.O. Shelton:** With the country being in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, what impact has COVID-19 had on the way you respond to and handle response efforts?

**Firefighter Darius Tye:** The pandemic has definitely taught me the importance of PPE and ensuring the sanitation of our equipment and personal practices when coming in contact with any patient. It has also taught me to be more adaptive in the treatment and care of patients during this critical time in our nation's history. Equally important, this time of COVID-19 has magnified the unselfish commitment of being ready to serve that Firefighters exhibit daily. Firefighting is a noble profession that reveals not only who we are, but what we are made of, and that is true grit."



Engine 2 Firefighters on November 10, 2020 (left to right) Firefighter Nicholas Citizen, Firefighter Eris Mackey, Firefighter Andrew Dunlap, Fire Apparatus Operator Kyle Cooper, Firefighter Kevin Cooper (Officer in Charge of Engine 2)

## LIFESAVING ACTIONS OF ENGINE 2

A swift response, medical skills and competence contributed to Firefighters saving the life of a woman from what appeared to be a drug overdose. On November 10, 2020 Firefighters on Engine 2 were dispatched on a call that a person was down not breathing at a local hotel. Within a brief time, the Fire Department Officer in charge radioed back "Engine 2 on scene." Upon arrival, Firefighters immediately took over performing CPR which was already underway.

Firefighter Kevin Cooper administered compressions as other Firefighters performed a quick patient assessment. During CPR, Firefighter Cooper determined the patient was suffering a possible drug overdose. Immediately, Firefighter Cooper gave instructions for Narcan to be administered. Narcan is a nasal spray that can treat and reverse a narcotic overdose in an emergency. FAO Kyle Cooper promptly administered Narcan, and the patient regained a viable pulse and began spontaneous breathing.

Fire Chief Corey Thornton said Engine 2's response is an indelible reminder of the lifesaving difference Firefighters make daily. "During an emergency, every moment is precious and every second counts, which can make the difference between life and death," said Chief Thornton. "Engine 2's heroics are to be commended, and each member congratulated for the important role they played individually in reviving the patient's life."

# IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



## East Point Fire Department's Santa Ride Along

**Pictured left to right: East Point Fire Chief Corey Thornton accompanied by Logistics Specialist Sidney Gooden purchasing toys for the Santa Ride Along.**

The East Point Fire Department brought holiday cheer to nearly 200 children during its 2020 Santa Ride Along. The event was held on Saturday, December 19th from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Santa traveled East Point neighborhoods on a Fire Truck to meet and greet children with a toy in each of the city's four Wards,

Fire Chief Corey Thornton said this year's Santa Ride Along was even bigger than last year's thanks to the generous donations from East Point Neighborhood Associations, East Point residents and community partners. Here are some of the memorable moments from toy shopping to Santa and his helpers distributing toys. Enjoy and Happy Holidays!

# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



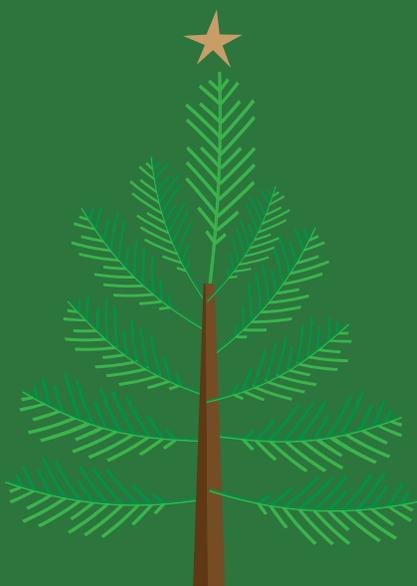
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



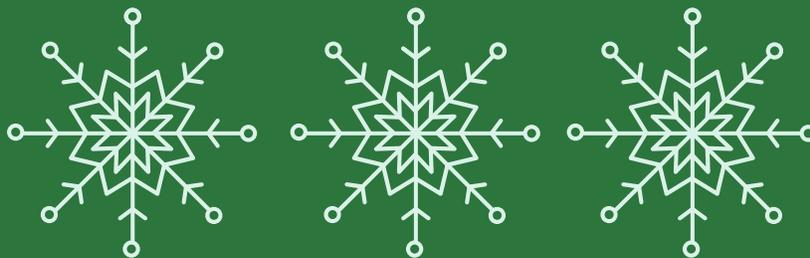
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



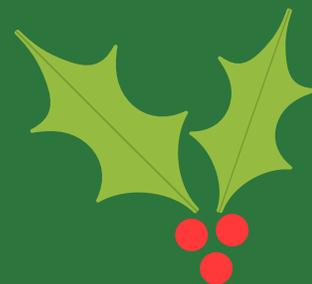
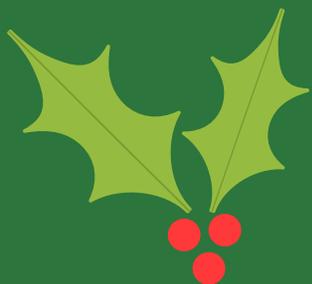
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



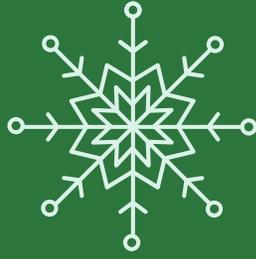
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



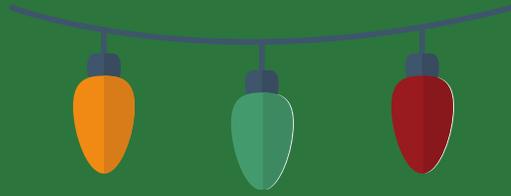
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



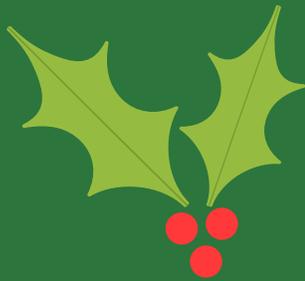
# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG



# THE 2020 SANTA RIDE ALONG





”

On behalf of the men and women of the City of East Point Fire Department, I wish you a joyous holiday season and a safe and healthy New Year. See you in 2021.

Fire Chief Corey Thornton