



The Fire Wire

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Service

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Remembering Larry Berry

Story on page 4

The Fire Wire

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Cherokee County Fire &
Emergency Services

Tim Prather
Fire Chief

Tim Cavender
Editor

Eddie Robinson
Assistant Fire Chief

Shane West
Field Operations Chief

Nate Sullivan
EMS Chief

Dean Floyd
Division Chief

Chad Arp
Fire Marshal

Jill Mabley, M.D., FACEP
Medical Director

**Cherokee County Fire &
Emergency Services**
150 Chattin Drie
Canton, GA 30115
Phone: (678) 493-4000
Fax: (678) 493 4034

www.cherokeeountyfire.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

ABOUT THE COVER

Larry Berry left a legacy with the Cherokee County Fire Department. He will be missed, but his vision will live on forever.

Story on page 4

Fire Recruits in Their Last Weeks of Training



Cherokee County Fire Recruits are in their last few weeks of training.

Thirty-one new Cherokee County Fire Recruits are in their last weeks of training before graduating on March 19th.

The recruits began their training on June 15th, 2020 and were divided into two groups, with half of the students going through EMT school, while the other half went through fire training. After the 20 weeks of training, the students switched to the other component of the course for an additional 20 weeks of training. After the 40 weeks of training, the students will become certified firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Students have been going through firefighter training involving comprehensive classroom instruction, which includes training in firefighting techniques and equipment use.

The EMT class learned about assessing the patient's condition, performing CPR, dealing with blood loss, administering bandages, managing respiratory problems, first response treatment for common injuries and emergency childbirth.

Recently, the fire recruits were getting hands-on experience using a chainsaw which firefighters use for debris clearing and ventilation. The EMT students were in the classroom learning about bleeding, wounds and shock.

We wish all of our new recruits the best of luck.

Fire Educators Assist Citizens with Being Prepared

In 1907, Baden-Powell, an English soldier and the founder of Scouting, devised the Scout motto: Be Prepared. Baden-Powell wrote that to Be Prepared means “you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.”

Cherokee County resident, Tammy Dorsten, understands the meaning of those two words even more after an incident a few weeks ago at a local Kroger store. “I was in a Kroger at approximately 7:30 that night, and I had just made my purchases. As I turned to leave, I heard something fall. I turned and it was a gentleman that had collapsed and hit his head in the self-checkout line,” stated Dorsten.

Dorsten went on to say that nobody was taking care of the situation at the time. “So finally, I realize that nobody’s taking control of the situation. So, I just said, I know CPR and I just started directing the way that I had been taught to do. So, you call 911, you go meet the ambulance and you get me the first aid kit. Do you have an AED (automated external defibrillator)? You know, those kinds of things,” added Dorsten.

Dorsten said that the confidence that she had in knowing what to do comes from a class she had taken that was taught by Cherokee County Fire Educators. Tammy, is the director of a childcare center called Holdheide Academy, that is located north of Woodstock. Childcare workers in the United States are required to take CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certified classes. The course teaches daycare workers critical skills and knowledge needed to respond to and manage a first aid or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives. The class also shows how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock, choking, and other first aid emergencies, as well as perform CPR and use an AED.

“I think Tammy is a great director of her daycare. She knows her employees well and she helps them and drills them in the CPR skills before they take their test. I also think the good Lord knew that Tammy was going to need all those skills to use later on,” stated Cherokee County Fire Educator, Beth Elder.

The gentleman that fell was 55 years of age and he was unconscious for approximately 6 minutes and there was blood on his head, too. Paramedics from Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services arrived on the scene minutes later and transported the man to an area hospital to be evaluated.

“You just can’t describe that feeling of being able to help somebody else in a minute when they are completely helpless and nobody else was willing to help. Plus, knowing you stepped up and did the right thing. I made a difference and there’s no better feeling than that” notes Dorsten.

If you are interested in taking the American Heart Association Heartsaver, First Aid, CPR, AED class, go to our website at www.cherokeeountyfire.org and look on the left of the page for a listing of “Events and Classes.” Classes are taught once a month and the cost is \$25.



Cherokee County Fire Educator, Beth Elder (left) stands with Tammy Dorsten, Director of Holdheide Academy

Remembering Larry Berry

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services was saddened to learn recently of the passing of our dear friend, Larry Berry. Berry was instrumental in starting the Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department back in 1975. This was during a time when the majority of Cherokee County was covered by local volunteer fire departments.

Berry was Chief of the local volunteer fire department for over 40 years. During that time, three fire stations were constructed to serve the citizens in southeastern Cherokee County.



A representative with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs said that Berry was a man who has touched so many lives. His footprint on the ground in Hickory Flat will remain forever.

Fire Chief, Larry Berry, stands next to the plaque at the new Fire Station #3 that was dedicated to him for his years of service to the fire department.

On January 17th, 2017, Berry was recognized for his service to the community at the opening the new Fire Station #3 located off Highway 140. Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather invited Berry to come forward to thank him for his 40 years of service to the Hickory Flat community. The Chief invited Berry to join him at the front of the new station to unveil a plaque dedicating the building to him for his many years of loyalty and service to the fire department.

Many are remembering the impact that Berry had on the community this week. "Chief Larry Berry proudly served the Hickory Flat Community for nearly five decades. He was one of the original founding members that stepped up forming a fire department in a community that had no fire service. I believe many lives and property have been touched by Chief Berry over the years. He was a very highly respected leader of the community. The entire time I worked with him, he was always a professional and respectful leader. He was simply a good Christian man and a good friend. It was a great honor to have known and served with Chief Berry and he will be greatly missed," stated Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather.

A lot has changed over the years with the fire service in Cherokee County. In February of 2018, Berry told a reporter with the Cherokee Tribune that Hickory Flat Fire Department's first fire truck was an "open top" and was stored in an old chicken house off Georgia Highway 140. According to Berry, "There wasn't enough room to walk down the sides of the engine. You had to climb over the hood and over the windshield to get in the seat."

Hearts were saddened after learning of Berry's passing, however, his legacy and memory will live on forever. He contributed so much to the fire service in Cherokee County and he will always be remembered as a devoted Chief, a dedicated leader and a dear friend to all. Cherokee County Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, said, "There are no words that can truly express what impact Chief Berry has made, not only in

(Continued on page 5)

Remembering Larry Berry (continued)

my life personally, but on the fire service and our community as a whole. Over the course of his 40 years of service he became an American Fire Service hero and a hero to his community. Not because of any particular acts of bravery, but for the great man, leader, friend and mentor that he was. Simply put, Chief Berry is, and always will be, my personal hero! His influence has made me a better person, husband, firefighter, father, brother, son and servant. He was a quiet man, who never liked to be in the spotlight. He was humble, kind, and always had a smile on his face. I can honestly say that I would not be a member of Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services if it were not for Chief Berry and his guidance over the years. He was an incredible man who is loved, and will be missed, by so many."

Berry was 80 when he passed away at Northside Cherokee Hospital. He is survived by his wife Diane and three daughters, Laurie, Susan and Melinda and several grandchildren. Private funeral services for Berry were held at the Georgia National Cemetery.



An older shot of Chief Berry (center) with members from the Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department.

Mark Cornelius (left), President of the Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department; Larry Berry, a charter member who served 40 years until his retirement; Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fire Chief and Tim Crossland, former HFVD fire Chief.



Hoses Win Again



Evan Ingram (center), Director of Development at Goshen Valley, holds the Guns and Trophy as Sheriff, Frank Reynolds (left) and Cherokee Fire Chief, Tim Prather, look on.

team they wanted to run for, Guns or Hoses, and part of their registration fee was donated to an area charity.

The fire department will donate their winnings to the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch. The purpose of Goshen Valley Boys Ranch, which is located in Salacoa, is to provide hope and a family-model home for boys who do not have either.

Cherokee County came together and raised \$4,176 to help support 2 fantastic charities! Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services will donate \$2,244 to the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch and Sheriff Frank Reynolds Charities will receive \$1,932. Thanks to everyone who came out to support both teams!



A great crowd of runners came out to enjoy the Guns and Hoses Run.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services won the 2021 Guns and Hoses Run that was held on Saturday, February 20th, at Hobgood Park. The fire department had the most runners to sign up for the 15th annual event this year making this the seventh year in a row that the fire department has won the race. A representative with the parks and recreation department stated that this year's race was close because there was only a difference of 26 runners between the Hoses team and the Guns team.

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office solicit registrations from runners to raise money for their charities. The event was open to the public and runners were asked to pick the



Field Operations Chief, Shane West (right), participates in the race with his son, Andrew.

Everyone Had Fun at the Run!



Tips For Spring Cleaning

Before tackling this annual chore, you should be aware of the hazards that may await you: handling household chemicals, lifting heavy objects, navigating around clutter, walking on wet surfaces, and reaching or climbing – to name a few.

Here are some tips for keeping spring cleaning safe.

Declutter before cleaning

Before you start cleaning, clear any clutter that you could trip over.

Go mild

Limit the use of harsh cleaning or disinfectant products such as bleach and ammonia, and never mix the two – doing so can create toxic fumes. (To help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your home, the Environment Protection Agency has a searchable list of registered disinfectants.)

Read the label

Each cleaning or disinfectant product should have a label describing proper use of it and safety precautions to follow during use. Take a minute to read the label and follow the instructions.

Ventilation is your friend

When using cleaning or disinfectant products, open windows or a door, and run a fan to help air circulate.

Consider a mask

If you have allergies or breathing issues, wear a mask to prevent allergic reactions and irritation.

Glove up

It's a good idea to wear rubber gloves when using some household cleaners. The gloves can help prevent reactions (e.g., rashes, skin redness) from exposure.

Get a mop

When you're cleaning floors, avoid working on your hands and knees, which could cause sprains and strains. Use a mop instead, including when you're cleaning a bathtub.

Avoid wet floors

Wet floors are a danger zone for slips and falls. Allow freshly cleaned floors to dry before walking on them.

Safely store cleaning products

Keep them in a clean, cool, dry space where children and pets can't get to them.

Stay safe on step stools

Using a step stool? Be careful! Always place it on a level surface before using, and choose one with a handle or railing so you can maintain three points of contact (two feet and one hand) for optimal safety. One hand can be free for cleaning tasks. Make sure the stool's steps are large enough to properly fit your feet, and face the stool when climbing up or down. Set up the stool close to where you're cleaning, and never attempt to move it while standing on it.

Lift with caution

When lifting or moving furniture and other heavy objects, ask for help. Bend with your knees – not your back – and use your leg muscles to avoid a back injury.

