

### Chuck Easter Receives Badge One

Retired firefighter Chuck Easter, who served as a Columbus firefighter and medic from 1966 until 2001, received a replacement "Badge 1" honoring the longest serving firefighter in June.



### Werk Receives Distinguished Career Award

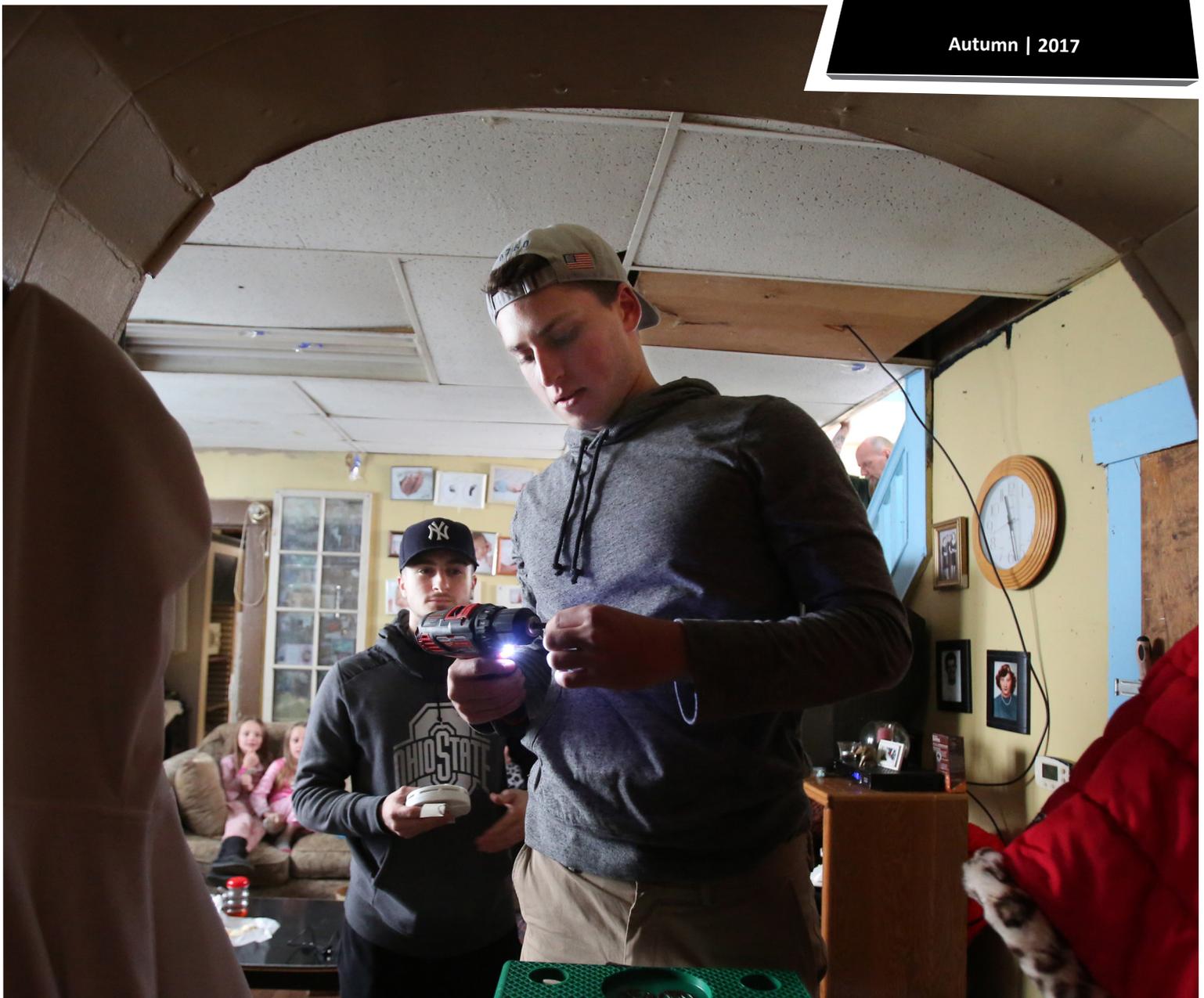
Kay Werk helped to develop the Columbus Division of Fire's Critical Incident Stress Management program. She's now in OSU College of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame



The Columbus Division of Fire Newsletter

# THE **COMMAND** POST

Autumn | 2017



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HIGH RISK NEIGHBORHOODS

Ohio State University student volunteers Jon Alper and John Luongo prepare to install a smoke detector in a home in the Franklinton neighborhood on Saturday.  
Photo by: James Miller

## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

# 2017

SUMMER/FALL

### A remarkable year for Columbus Fire

Over the past year, many things in this Division, city, state, and country have changed. This year was also one that has challenged our Division and pushed us to adapt to the changing needs of our city and our residents. However, our Mission remains the same and is accomplished through the efforts of the Division's dedicated professional firefighters.

In 2016, the Division of Fire continued to deliver a consistent level of exceptional emergency services that our residents expect year after year. As we constantly rose to meet the expectations of our customers this past year, we realized that we were busier than we have ever been and the demands on our Division do not seem to be diminishing in the future.

The Division of Fire has accomplished a number of significant goals and objectives that have provided a foundation for excellence. Specific successes in 2016 include the addition of 63 new recruits, the addition of 6 extrication ladders, finalizing the ground work for the new P/B EMS deployment plan, implementation of the Knox Box and Key Secure systems, and restructuring of our effective response to ensure that we are sending the right resource, at the right time, to the right place.

As I complete my second year as your Fire Chief, the Division of Fire has identified six Strategic Initiatives to guide us over the next five years:

- Assure that our recruitment plan effectively seeks the best, most diverse work force;
- Manage our budget and fiscal needs while improving cost efficiency;
- Provide an effective and appropriate response to all service areas;
- Provide our members with the most up-to-date training;
- Monitor the adequacy of our tools & equipment; and
- Constantly evaluating our technology needs.



Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor

In 2017 the Division implemented the roll out of the P/B Emergency Medical Services deployment system to meet the increasing demand on the Division. This is the first change to the Division's EMS system in more than 24 years. Patient care is, and always will be the Division's highest priority. This change allows the Division to send the right resource, to the right place, at the right time, while maintaining the highest level of patient care. Finally, this change will give the Division the opportunity to improve our EMS Continues Quality Improvement responsibilities.

I am proud to be among the men and women who are committed to providing our community with excellent, compassionate emergency services. As Fire Chief, I am committed to provide the Division with the training, equipment, and leadership needed to fulfill this goal and the mission of the Division of Fire. We will continually evaluate our operations to ensure we consistently exceed the expectations of our community with our focus being "how can we do it better."

These initiatives represent only a fraction of the activities and achievements of this Division. They exemplify the dedication and professionalism of all our members. I look forward to an exciting and productive 2017, working with the city administration, and most importantly serving as your Fire Chief.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Connor

Fire Chief



Welcome to the Columbus Division of Fire Command Post. This quarterly newsletter, focuses on the fire services industry, how we affect the greater community and what we need to do to refine our skills as fire service professionals.

Our mission is to research and write articles that are insightful, interesting, helpful and inspiring. If there is something you feel that we should cover, then let us know. We hope that you enjoy what you read.

Send letters to the editor, story ideas, digital photos or upcoming events to [piofire@columbus.gov](mailto:piofire@columbus.gov).

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THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DIVISION OF FIRE



## The Late Charles Easter III Honored with Badge One Presentation at Heartmobile Debut

Last year, Assistant Chief David Walton of the Administration Bureau learned that retired firefighter Chuck Easter was unable to locate the Badge One he received while he was an active duty firefighter and medic from May 1966 to July 2001.

Badge number 1 is bestowed to the longest serving active duty firefighter, a tradition of the Columbus Fire Department going back many years. Chief Walton teamed up with current Badge 1 firefighter David Karn to arrange for a replacement badge for Easter, and discovered Easter was one of the original team assigned to the Heartmobile.

The Heartmobile, introduced in 1969, was the country's first mobile cardiac unit that revolutionized on-site care for heart attack victims. The converted mobile home was retired in 1973, and had been in storage until 2007, when Bill Hall of the Central Ohio Fire Museum and a group of volunteers began raising money to restore the prototype of today's modern medic units. The debut for the restored Heartmobile was being planned by the volunteers when Chief Walton contacted Hall and asked that the Heartmobile be brought to Station 1 for a secretly planned Badge 1 presentation event for Easter on June 10, 2016.

Charles Easter, then 75, was battling a serious illness, but his family and friends arranged to bring him to the apparatus bay of Station 1 for the Heartmobile's unveiling, and the surprise presentation of the a replacement Badge 1 from Walton and Karn.

It was an emotional day for a surprised and grateful Easter, who got the first tour of the restored Heartmobile with his family and grandchildren looking on. Easter proudly displayed his new Badge 1, but didn't let it leave his hand.

Following the presentation, Bill Hall discussed the history of the Heartmobile and the significant role Columbus firefighters like Easter and Karn played in the development of EMS services within central Ohio. Retired firefighter John Bergman then shared some colorful stories of memorable runs he and Easter had shared, including the hilarious KFC story, which left the gathering howling in laughter and Easter in tears. Afterwards, children toured the Heartmobile as family members snapped keepsake photographs.

*(Badge One, continued from page 18)*





## Firefighters Teach Lifesaving Lessons to New Moms

Photos top: Columbus firefighter and medic Tom Derugen demonstrates the best way to clear an obstruction from a choking child with Heather Moore at a Moms2B class held at Grace Baptist Church on Wednesday, Apr. 27, 2016. Opposite page: Lt. Bryan Wonn. James Miller/Columbus Division of Fire

The state of Ohio ranks second to last in the country for infant mortality or the death of a living baby before his or her first birthday. Thanks to the efforts of the Columbus Division of Fire and the partnership they have formed with the Ohio State University community health program, Moms2B, the program's participants are equipped with the knowledge and instruction needed to ensure their child continues to live a happy life.

Founded in 2010, the program began as a response to the high infant mortality deaths in high-risk, low income neighborhoods in Columbus. The Moms2B team is led by pediatrician, Dr. Patricia Gabbe and infant mental health specialist, Twinkle French Schottke. They, along with social workers, dietitians and health professional students, provide prenatal support and advice to improve the rate of full-term deliveries of healthy babies and focus on reducing infant mortality and the immediate needs of expectant mothers and fathers as well as new parents.

Every eight to nine months, Division members visit Moms2B and teach child and infant CPR techniques and best practices to assist a child in a choking emergency.

"Our moms are always afraid of losing their baby," said Dr. Patricia Gabbe. "Should a choking situation occur, this hands on CPR lesson gives them the confidence and practical skills they need in order to save their baby's life."

The initial partnership was established in 2014 when the Moms2B program requested CPR kits so they could better educate their participants on infant CPR best practices. Upon this request, the program was able to connect with the Division and create a lesson geared towards choking and infant CPR.

"We enjoy breaking up our daily routine by reminding ourselves why we started teaching in the first place and remember that we as a Division have the capability to touch the community on and off the streets," said Columbus Division of Fire EMS Instructor Karla Short.

In April, Montena Middleton attended the Moms2B class held at Grace Baptist Church, along with her one-month-old daughter Makyrah and about 20 new or expecting

moms and dads. Although Middleton, a mother of three boys, isn't a first-time mom, she appreciated the opportunity to learn current best practices for infant choking. She and her classmates watched as Columbus firefighter paramedics Tom Derugen, Mike Eberts and Lt. Bryan Wonn lifted infant mannequins and cradled them face down while using the heel of their palms to gently pound the child between the shoulder blades. Most of the moms were surprised at how much pressure you can safely apply to a baby's back in an emergency choking situation. Each parent eventually practiced the technique on the tiny mannequins.

**“Our mom’s are always afraid of losing their baby...CPR lessons gives them the confidence and practical skills they need in order to save their baby’s life”**

-Dr. Patricia Gabbe

“I enjoyed watching everybody practice on the dolls. It helps with your confidence,” said Middleton. “I didn't really know what to do in that situation, and I'm prone to panic. I've used my fingers down the throat technique in the past. Without this class, I wouldn't know how to do this the right way.”

“They're so in tune with our moms and always come to our programs with such concrete examples,” said Twinkle French Schottke. “We are so glad to be working in partnership with the Columbus Division of Fire in this program, by far of all the lessons we teach, this one is the most popular.”



## Residents Express Gratitude for Service

Dear Columbus Fire Department,

Thank you for volunteering your time in the community and sending out a fire truck for the kids to tour during our Spring Carnival on May 13th. We appreciate you being willing to make an appearance on such short notice. The kids loved it! As always we thank you for your constant 24/7 service to our community as well.

Blessings,

Annette Burner + Staff at Children's Castle EduCare

This is a letter of gratitude and praise to all serving at the Columbus Division of Fire. For the last 6 years I have come to Parsons Ave. for CPR training. First time was by default – you offered the class that fit my schedule. I have returned every 2 years because you all do a great job. The classes are thorough, thoughtful and helpful. The instruction is skillful and most importantly supportive. Keep on doing what you're doing – and I'll continue recommending you all.

P.S.. Special thanks to Steve Martin & Steve Moehrman!

With much gratitude –  
Midge Cull  
School Nurse  
St. Charles Preparatory

Dear Chief O'Connor,

Congratulations to the Columbus Division of Fire for receiving the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Award for implementing quality improvement measure for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. We are truly fortunate to have the best firefighters and first responders in the nation.

Thank you for all that you do to protect the lives of those around you.

Sincerely,  
Andrew J. Ginther  
Mayor

Dear Chief Davis,

I wish to send a note of thanks to members of the Columbus Fire Department for sharing their time and expertise at the Community Day Event at OSU East on June 4th, 2016. Community Day is an annual event put on by OSU East Hospital that is focused on the providing health screenings and basic care services to individuals who lack access to health care services, as well as a forum to educate the community regarding health behaviors and appropriate emergency responses.

4 members of your department, Shuhon Weaver, Kylie Saladore, Shane Michaels, and Nick Koebele, kindly provided education and training in hands free CPR. This training was well received by people

in the community in attendance, and I would like to personally thank them for their willingness to educate. As we strive to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, and its morbidity and mortality in the Near East and surrounding communities, these types of educational sessions are imperative for those we serve.

I look forward to continued interaction with the Columbus Fire Department. Thanks again to the members of your staff who graciously helped out last weekend. We very much appreciate their support.

Respectfully yours,

John A. Larry, MD  
Section Chief, OSU East Cardiovascular Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Chief Kevin O'Connor:

We want you to know about the outstanding service the men of "engine 6, 2 unit" gave us on 1/24/16. My husband, aged 85, fell while in our home, I was unable to reach either of our daughters so I called 911. Within minutes three very friendly and concerned firemen arrived, got my husband into a safe bed, took his vital signs, checked for other injuries and reassured us that Dick was OK. We are most grateful for this service. Thank you!!

Sincerely,  
Dick and Fran Compton

Chief Kevin O'Connor,

On Thursday, April 14th, 2016, our agency was notified of a bomb threat at Pickerington Central High School. Through initial investigation, it was determined that a thorough search of the school building involving explosive detecting K-9s should take place. Your agency was contacted, and Firefighter Rick Harding reported to the school with his explosive detecting K-9. Along with the response of several other K-9's from area departments, your firefighter's response allowed the school to quickly be deemed safe of any explosive devices, and allowed us to quickly make an arrest of a student responsible for the threat. Our department very much appreciates the help provided by your department, and represents the close working relations of area police and fire agencies. Please pass on our sincere appreciation to Firefighter Harding. He represented your office in a truly professional manner.

Please allow this letter to serve as an official compliment for his personal file.

Sincerely,  
Commander Tod Cheney

*(Continued page 10)*



## Support Services Bureau Mark Milestones

The Support Services Bureau (SSB) has seen a complete turnover of the administrative staff in 2016. Our thanks go out to Retired Assistant Chief Kent Searle and Administrative Assistant Sue Levesque for their many years of service. We would also like to thank Captain Alex Sundberg for all his hard work during his temporary assignment to the SSB.

Photos top: Columbus Fire Captain Lawrence Francisco raises the colors as firefighters, construction workers and city officials gathered at the construction site of Columbus Fire Station 2 at 150 East Fulton St. on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 to celebrate the setting of the top beam of the new facility. The new \$8.5 million firehouse opened in June on the site of the original 1962 structure that was ranked as the busiest fire station in the country in 2001. James Miller/Division of Fire

The bureau is now headed by Assistant Chief Richard Ballard, Battalion Chief Steve Saltsman and Administrative Assistant Brenda Schultz who are dedicated to seeing that everyone has the equipment, supplies, and facilities to perform their tasks. Steve and I are classmates from the July 1987 recruit class and Brenda has been with the Division in a part time status since 2011 and full time since 2015.

The SSB is responsible for many things so we have a hand in all bureaus in one way or another. As the key supplier of all the things we need to operate, I now have a greater understanding of the complexity and cost of

the Division's operation and I continue to learn something new every day. We ask that everyone continues to work efficiently and carefully with all that the SSB supplies so, as a Division, we are responsible to the tax payers of the City of Columbus.



Below is an update on many of the projects that are going on within the bureau:

**New Station 2** - The Columbus Division of Fire celebrated the re-opening of John Nance Fire Station 2 on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. Ground was broken on the 22,200 sq. ft. facility in February 2016, which includes three apparatus bays, a watch room, administrative office and 17 sleeping rooms. The facility houses CFD Ladder 2, Engine 2, Battalion 1 and Medic 2, as well as the Division's Dive and Rescue Team.



The station was named for Columbus Fire Lt. John Nance, who died battling the Mithoff Building fire on July 25, 1987. Several members of the Nance family were on hand for the dedication ceremony, including wife Linda Nance, brother Joseph Nance, son Douglas Nance, daughter Suzette Nance, grandson Daniel Nance and his wife Jennifer Nance, and 21 month-old great granddaughter Lilah Nance. The Nance family was joined by Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Safety Director Dr. Ned Pettus Jr., Columbus City Council President Zach Klein, Council Member Mitchell Brown, Columbus Fire

Chaplain Father Leo Connolly, Assistant Chief Richard Ballard and current Badge One Firefighter David Karn who welcomed visitors to the new facility located at 150 East Fulton Street.

**New Station 35** – Final civil and site plans for the \$9 million project are under review at this time, with ground breaking anticipated for January 2018. The City of Columbus owns a 5 acre lot at 711 N. Waggoner Rd. for the new station located in the fast growing far east side neighborhood.

**New Station 16** – Property at the intersection of Oakland Park and Medina Avenues has been purchased, and bids for building designs will be advertised this year.

**Groves Road Facility** - Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther was joined by the City Department of Finance and Management Director Joe Lombardi and Deputy Safety Director George Speaks at a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the Columbus Division of Fire Logistics Center at 4252 Groves Road on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. The 18,000 square-foot facility underwent

an 18 month, \$12.5 Million renovation and will consolidate the Division's logistics, hose repair, Special Events and quartermaster operations under one roof, and house some of the Division's extra ladder, engine and medic trucks.

**Station 4 Bay Addition** – This project added a classroom for hazardous materials training. The bay addition will house the new Haz Mat truck that will be delivered this fall.

**New Ballistic Vests** – A JAG grant has allowed the Division to purchase 40 tactical vests and helmets for the Tactical Emergency Medical Services team as well 85 ballistic vests for EMS personnel by the end of 2017.

**Inventory System** – The SSB is working with DOT and Lucity on implementing an inventory system for division assets. The system, which the city already owns, will be capable of tracking assets, maintenance of equipment, turnout gear records, EMS medication, etc. Roll out of the new system is anticipated for early 2018.

**New SCBAs** – Scott was selected as the manufacturer the new SCBAs, with 565 cylinders and harnesses issued in 2017. Several recruit classes have been issued the mask which is compatible with the current SCBAs. The mask repair section is currently conducting annual fit tests for all members. The second phase of the project is on-going.

**Washer/Dryer** – The SSB has installed 15 commercial units with plans for another 10 installations by the end of October, per the CBA between the city and Local 67. There should also be a minimum of 5 stations completed each year thereafter. As part of this project, the linen contract will be eliminated and kitchen dishtowels will be provided to each station as they have the commercial units installed.

**Drug Kits** – The SSB and the EMS-CQI office are working with the company that makes the hard cases for the EMS kits used on the street to come up with a more user friendly case that does not require the installation of a new drug tag each time the kit is opened. No time lines are available for this project at this time.





Columbus Firefighter Dylan Ulry (above) installs a smoke alarm while volunteer Laurie Riegel chats with tenants at a campus apartment building during the Columbus Division of Fire's 12 Days of Christmas smoke alarm campaign on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016. Fire Prevention Firefighter Jamie Sierra (below) installs a smoke alarm above a basement staircase in a Franklinton neighborhood home. Fire Prevention Firefighter Larry Brady (opposite page) interviews a west-side mother to determine how many people reside in her home. James Miller/Division of Fire

**Smoke** save lives, and the Fire Prevention Bureau has teamed with volunteer groups to walk door-to-door to install 7,032 donated smoke alarms to residents in high-risk Columbus neighborhoods in 2016. The Columbus Division of Fire began the partnership for safer communities with the American Red Cross two years ago.

Columbus Assistant Fire Chief David Whiting led another big canvassing campaign during the holidays, calling it the "12 Days of Christmas", with teams visiting homes on Dec. 9 through Dec. 20 with the goal of installing 10,000 alarms by year's end.

Philadelphia Fire Department, with almost double the Columbus population and a fire department of 2,500, leads the nation with 8,000 installed alarms.

Whiting set the goal of each unit of the Division's 32 fire stations to install at least 100 alarms, with the idea of creating some friendly competition between the battalions.

Although the Division fell short of Chief Whiting's goal, he thanked the many chief officers, company officers and firefighters for their effort.

"It's our gift back to the community, to help make Christmas safer for everybody," Whiting said.

Smoke alarms provide critical early warning of house fires and allow time for residents to escape. Approximately 3,000 people perish in house fires every year. House fire deaths are twice as likely in homes where smoke alarms are absent or malfunctioning because of missing or dead batteries, according to statistics

gathered by the National Fire Prevention Association.

"There's no question that smoke alarms save lives," Whiting said. Smoke carries toxins and can leave a person



incapacitated, thus smoke inhalation kills more people than burns as a result of home fires, Whiting added.

A pair of donated smoke alarms likely saved the lives of Rosie Saunders and Lindsey McLoughlin late Wednesday night, July 20, 2016. The two were alerted to rising smoke around 10 p.m. by the audible siren of a smoke detector, which had been installed a week earlier by Columbus firefighters canvassing their neighborhood.

“We were downstairs watching television and my 15-year-old daughter was upstairs in her room watching TV when the smoke detector went off. I was trying to get up when my daughter started screaming upstairs,” Saunders said.

“I knew something was wrong. It was terrible.”

When firefighters arrived at 72 N. Central Avenue, they found heavy flames rising from second story windows of the single-family house. Saunders, Lindsey, McLoughlin, and two other adults and two children living there escaped the burning structure, as well as several family pets. A single puppy missing Wednesday night was later found safe, hidden under a bed in a first story bedroom.

“My daughter’s father was outside working on my truck and heard the screams. He ran up the stairs and found my daughter trapped in her room, with flames covering a wall. He held a blanket to protect them from the flames and got her out,” said Saunders, who suffers from a disability that limits her ability to walk.

Fire investigators found that a candle left burning in an adjacent upstairs bedroom was the source

of the fire. Investigators recovered the smoke detector after the fire was extinguished and confirmed from an asset tag that it was one installed by Columbus Fire Prevention crews.

“The entire upstairs was destroyed. My daughter lost everything she owned,” said from a west-side hotel, where American Red Cross volunteers found temporary housing for Saunders and her family.

Columbus Assistant Fire Chief David Whiting said that the near west-neighborhoods surrounding Franklinton were targeted by the Division’s Fire Prevention Bureau for door-to-door visits by firefighters after a pair of fatal fires in the 20 square mile section of older homes occurred early in 2016.

“I knew our smoke detectors were old, and probably not working. When firefighters came to our door last week to install them, I invited them right in. I’m glad I did.”  
- Rosie Saunders, fire survivor

By the end of October of this year, the entire neighborhood of about 12,000 homes had been visited by Columbus firefighters along with community and business volunteers who have partnered with CFD to canvass targeted areas, according to Whiting.

“These are older homes utilizing balloon construction, which was popular in the 1920’s. There are no fire stops, and the danger of fire spreading to surrounding buildings is high,” said Whiting.

Whiting said that many of the homes in the neighborhoods spreading from downtown westward to the Hilltop area are high density rental properties, and his firefighters often find too few smoke alarms, and many without working batteries. Many residents assume landlords maintain the alarms.

“I knew our smoke alarms were old, and probably not working. When firefighters came to our door last week and offered to install new ones, I invited them right in. I’m so glad I did,” said Saunders.

Missing or neglected smoke alarms are a common problem in some neighborhoods, according to Whiting.

“It’s a big problem. They’re not like newer homes, where alarms are often hardwired into buildings. We’ve gone into homes with up to 12 alarms, and none of them have batteries,” said Whiting.

Sometimes people will disable a detector if it goes off while cooking in the kitchen, a big mistake, according to Whiting.

“Sometimes it comes down to a family’s finances. You have a lot of fixed incomes in some neighborhoods. Families will choose to buy food for their kids before they buy batteries,” said Whiting.

The new ionization smoke alarms being distributed by the Columbus Division of Fire have modern batteries which last up to 10 years. The alarms are designed to be replaced when they expire; there is no removable battery. That’s a big improvement over older models, according Whiting.

Since October of 2014, the Red Cross has worked with fire departments and community groups across the country as part of a multi-year campaign to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent; home fires remain the biggest disaster threat to individuals and families in the United States.

*(Continued on page 11)*





## Training Bureau Adopts Technology, Adds EMS

Assistant Fire Chief James Davis was promoted in April of 2016 and has taken command of the Training and Emergency Medical Services Bureau. Chief Davis began his career as a firefighter and medic at the Westerville Fire Division in 1984.

Davis joined the CFD in 1998, and has served as an EMT Paramedic at Nationwide Children's Hospital, an emergency department RN at Grant Medical Level 1 Trauma Center and as a flight paramedic for MedFlight Ohio. Along the way, Davis has earned his Nursing/EMS degree from Columbus State, a Business Administration degree from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National

Fire Academy and is currently working on a Doctor of Education in the Chief Learning Officers Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Davis has also served as an adjunct

faculty member at Columbus State Community College.

Assistant Chief Davis was interviewed by Public Information Officer



Battalion Chief Steve Martin in October to better understand Davis' vision for the department in the coming years.

**Battalion Chief Steve Martin:** Could you tell me a little bit about this is, this being a new position for you as Assistant Chief. Tell me what you bring to the table as the bureau head of the Training and EMS Bureau.

**Assistant Chief Jim Davis:** I have an interest and a background in adult learning theory, so I think the concept of everything we do here from initial training to continual education training is all about adult learning. It's about how you take different people from different walks of life and give them the tools to be successful in their chosen path that they've taken in the fire department. Be it EMS, be it fire, or hazardous material or some of the other things that we teach down here.

**Martin:** EMS has recently been combined with this bureau, is that correct? Is that official?

**Davis:** Yes, the Fire Chief has decided to move the EMS CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) under training simply because CQI should and does drive training. We find and identify issues that need to be dealt with. Part of dealing with it is re-mediating the entire group of paramedics in the fire department to make sure that we're providing a consistent approach to patient care in our community.

**Martin:** Can you tell me a little bit about some of the short-term changes that you've seen in your time in here? I'll let you tell me

the whole story but specifically I'm thinking of the eLearning that's going on back with the recruits?

**Davis:** A couple different things that I think are really important; first we're trying to change the culture of this place to more of a community college atmosphere. We are no longer just a training bureau. We truly are a community college atmosphere, the Columbus Fire Community College, because we are teaching all kinds of courses at all kinds of levels that require college level courses of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, etc. So one of the things that we've done with the new recruit class is institute the eBook through the

“We are no longer a training bureau. We are a community college atmosphere.”

- Assistant Fire Chief James Davis

iPad. We're able to reduce costs and increase productivity with the students in their study because it's available to them without having to carry multiple books. They can make sure that they've got all their books with them all the time so they can reference different things that they need. We're able to push out and assign them different tasks and make sure that they've got them and they're spending the proper amount of time completing the tasks. So we're using it, not in any way shape or form as a big brother watching tool, but as

a method to give them an opportunity to be more successful.

**Martin:** If Division members have their own personal iPads or any other kind of eBook vehicle, is there a way that they can get these books downloaded themselves?

**Davis:** We are exploring the idea of making the station libraries all electronic. So instead of books walking away from engine houses they would be assigned to the station computers and people who have an interest in studying for tests and stuff like that would have an opportunity to reach out and get the e-book version of different books. There are apps now that you can highlight, you can write in it just like you would write in a hardbound textbook. So we believe it is the future of learning. We believe that there's evidence that there's a learning curve with it, but we are not seeing the 10% to 15% reduction in grades that you initially see with [converting to eBooks] until people get a custom using it. We're not seeing that here so we're pretty excited about the future of what it looks like.

**Martin:** Have you have any feedback from the students that are using them [eBooks]? Do they find it to be easy or is it difficult?

**Davis:** I have. We've spent a considerable amount of time with the training and the initial roll out of it with the recruits. We have surveyed them twice now; the first time was to make sure that we knew where they felt they stood individually and where they felt they needed help with it. The second time was just say, “You've had this now for a couple months, how's it working for you, do you recommend it for future learning?” Those type of things. The vast majority of the responses were positive.

**Martin:** Your long-term goals, as far the Columbus Fire Community College, we are accredited by the state for our EMS training?

**Davis:** Yes. We're accredited by the state for both fire and EMS in our training and we have received national accreditation or we should be receiving, I should say, a national accreditation in our paramedic program in November.

*(Continued page 18)*



# Division Welcomes New Civilians



**Anita Hobbs** was hired as a Management Analyst in January. She is responsible for participating in the development of coursework and hands-on training exercises for tactical firefighting skills. She came to the Division with several years of experience in test development from the Columbus Civil Service Commission. Anita holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron.



**Bryce Kastelein** was hired by the Division as a GIS Technician in February. He is primarily responsible for managing records of fire incident reporting to include monitoring, updating, maintaining data within a software database that tracks incident runs – he then generates reports based on this data. Bryce came to the Division with a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree in geography from Kent State University.



**Jillian Gates** was hired as an Office Assistant II in February. She is responsible for organizing resources and maintaining equipment required for American Heart Association (AHA) classes offered to the public and Division personnel. Jillian has previous experience working in the Building and Zoning Division of the Development Department. She also has experience in private industry from JP Morgan Chase & Co.



**Tara Reeves** was hired by the Division as an Office Assistant II in February. She is responsible for documenting and reporting information pertaining to the in-service training activities completed by all sworn fire personnel in order to track and verify and maintain compliance with the continuing education requirement for various fire service certifications. Tara also comes to the Division with several years of experience in test administration from the Columbus Civil Service Commission. Prior to that, she has many years of experience as the head of receiving with the Kroger Company.



**Phillip Battle** was hired by the Division as a Management Analyst II in April. He is responsible for coordinating and writing the core competencies for the Division's re-accreditation process. Other duties include grant writing and specification writing for fire apparatus. Phil brings to the Division a bachelor's degree from the New College of Florida and master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. Prior to working here, he worked for several years as a policy analyst with the State Science and Technology Institute in Westerville, OH.



**Kimberly Wells** was hired as an Office Assistant II by the Division in May. She replaced long-term employee Lynne Fisher who retired in February. Kimberly is responsible for all clerical functions of the Professional Standards Unit. Duties include transcription of all PSU interviews and for typing the finished reports for PSU cases for all seven investigators in the unit. Other duties include copying, faxing, filing, assisting in responding to public records requests, scheduling interviews, answering the telephone and sorting and distributing the mail. Kimberly comes to us from Public Utilities with a customer service background. Prior to that, she worked for JC Penney coaching employees in customer care.



**Rebecca Diehm** was hired by the Division as a Public Relations Specialist II in June. She replaced Lee Cole, who moved on to a position with the City Council office. Rebecca serves as a designated spokesperson for the Division. She disseminates information using social media or press releases, prepares speeches and presentation on behalf of the Division, creates promotional and marketing logos, brochures or pamphlets and other reports and publications and organizes ceremonies and other events to promote the Division. Rebecca comes to us with a bachelor's degree in public relations and master's degree in journalism from West Virginia University. Prior to her work here, she worked as a public relations specialist with Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate.

# Division Welcomes New Civilians



**Terry Youst** is currently working for the Division in a temporary capacity as an Administrative Secretary in the Administration Bureau. Terry has worked for us as a temporary since 2015, assisting in the Administrative Investigations Unit and EMS Records when there were personnel shortages. Terry is a graduate of Lancaster High School and attended both Ohio University and the Ohio State University. Terry has had many jobs in her career, first in medical offices as an assistant and transcriptionist, a bookkeeper for Fairfield County Children Services, Assistant Manager and Marketing Director at River Valley Mall and finally ending her full-time working career as a Buyer and Compliance specialist for Abbot Nutrition for twenty years. Terry and her husband Roy currently live in their forever home in Pataskala.



**Amy Cooper** was hired by the Division in November 2016 as an Office Assistant in EMS Records. Amy is new to the City and comes to us with an associates degree in business marketing from Columbus State Community College. Amy was hired to fill the vacancy created as a result of the retirement of Andrea Morone. Amy's responsibilities include entering medical and other related data into a computer system and providing records based on that data. Her duties include researching records and databases in order to provide medical, personnel or EMS run records. She also enters data and provides reports for medical quality assurance. Finally, she provides general clerical support for the EMS Records office such as filing, copying, faxing, answering the telephone and responding to public records requests. Amy lives in the downtown area and is a certified snowboarding instructor. She enjoys art, traveling and reading. Her hobbies include snowboarding, skateboarding, hiking, camping and fishing.



**Karen Buckley** was hired in August by the Division as an Administrative Secretary in the Fire Prevention Bureau. Karen will serve as the secretary to Chief Dave Whiting. Her duties include taking meeting minutes, reviewing directives, memos and inquiries and taking action or referring those to appropriate staff members. She performs daily timekeeping for the Bureau, assigning out-of-class and overtime on the Chief's behalf and making sure paperwork is submitted for payroll. She will assist the lieutenant with incoming pyrotechnic and temporary event permits. Karen has worked in the Department of Public Safety, Director's Office for 11 years. She is from the Hilliard area, where she resides with her dog Brody. She enjoys traveling to Georgia as often as she can to visit her two grandchildren and also enjoys bicycling, hiking and relaxing with a good book.

Columbus Fire EMS Inspector Wynne Spann participates in a free health screening last fall. A team from Healthy Columbus will return to the Fire Complex at 3639 Parsons Avenue to provide the free screening and flu shots to City of Columbus employees on Wednesday, Oct. 11th between 8:00-11:30 a.m. Visit [www.columbus.gov/hr/healthy-columbus](http://www.columbus.gov/hr/healthy-columbus) to register. James Miller/ Division of Fire



# AWARDS



## Columbus Division of Fire Awarded International Accredited Agency Status

Columbus Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor (top) and his staff react after Keith Bonn announces his audit team will recommend a renewal of the Division's Committee on Fire Accreditation International accreditation of public safety excellence.

Management analyst Phillip Battle and firefighter Jason Mayberry (left) are acknowledged by an independent audit team that will recommend the renewal. Battle and Mayberry shepherded an audit team of seven former fire officials who spent four days reviewing the progress of Columbus Fire for a CFAI accreditation renewal first awarded to Columbus Fire in 2007.

The Columbus Division of Fire has received Accredited Agency status for the third time with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The Division is currently the second largest department nationally to receive this accreditation.

Columbus Division of Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor stated that the agency's achievement of Accredited Agency status, "demonstrates the commitment of the Division to provide the highest quality of service to our community."

"Validation by a team of third party evaluators that the Division meets and exceeds the Commission's best practice standards assures us that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth," said O'Connor. "Among other results, the evaluators found the Division to be efficient

and economically responsible and offered a few recommendations for improvement which we will begin addressing this year."

CFAI is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary, and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

More information regarding the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc., and the Commission of Fire Accreditation International, Inc., can be found at <http://www.cpse.org/>.





AWARDS

## Kay Werk Honored by OSU School of Social Work With Distinguished Career Award

Kay Werk, MSW Class of 1970, was inducted into the Ohio State University College of Social Work Hall of Fame last fall after being nominated by Columbus Fire Assistant Chief David Walton for her work developing the Division's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program.

In the wake of the tragic line-of-duty death of firefighter John Nance in 1987, Werk was instrumental in helping the Division formalize a team of peers to address the mental and emotional wellbeing of firefighters coping with the loss of the 27-year veteran Nance.

The Division, who prides itself in answering the call to those in need, found itself in unfamiliar territory and began seeking expert assistance on a topic that had previously been considered a sign of weakness or imperfection, recalled Chief Walton in his nominating letter.

"Since the earliest days of establishing and training a core group of peers, Kay spent countless evenings and weekends riding along various CFD apparatuses to witness firsthand the challenges our firefighters face on a daily basis," said Walton.

During the past 20 years, the initial small group of firefighter peers has grown in both number and scope of skills. The CISM team now consists of more than 100 dedicated firefighters representing a dozen local fire departments. As a founding member of the Division's CISM team, Werk led many foundational training

courses for new team members, as well as serving as a mental health professional during many crisis interventions, including defusings and debriefings in the wake of traumatic fires and accidents.

"Kay became a welcome addition to our family and wholly embraced every aspect of firehouse life; responding on runs, eating cold meals hours after they had been served and even being subjected to the occasional friendly banter that knows no boundaries... a sure sign of acceptance into the comradeship called firefighting," Walton said.

Werk also became an informal liaison for firefighters by educating other mental health professionals about the specific needs and emotional risks firefighters often face during their careers. First responders often risk psychological wounds that are not always visible.

Perhaps no one knows the value of the CISM team's work better than Columbus firefighter Danny Whiteside. Whiteside, a 26-year veteran, trained to become a team member after turning to peers for help in the wake of a horrific accident he came upon while traveling with his family. A person died at the scene despite Whiteside's frantic efforts to save him, and that death haunted him for years afterwards.

*Continued Page 17*

Social worker Kay Werk chats with firefighters at Columbus Fire Station 17 during a photo shoot on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2016. Werk will be inducted into the OSU College of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame in September for her work assisting CFD in developing a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team. The CISM team assists first responders cope with the lingering emotional trauma of dealing with tragic events. The Columbus Division of Fire nominated Werk for the award. James Miller/ Division of Fire

# AWARDS



## Columbus Firefighter Montell Cupe Receives James Lendavic Veteran of the Year Award

Hundreds of employees were honored by Mayor Andrew Ginther for achievement and years of service during the City of Columbus 2017 Employee Recognition ceremony held at the Columbus Police Training Academy on Thursday, Apr. 13, 2017. Among the notable honorees were Columbus Firefighter Montell Cupe, who was awarded the James Lendavic Veteran of the Year Award, Columbus Police Lieutenant Karl Barth, 71, who was awarded the Safety Professional of the Year for 55 years of service as highway motorcycle officer and later as a Police Academy Instructor. Outgoing Columbus City Auditor Hugh Dorian, 81, received special recognition for 51 years of service, including 12 terms as City Auditor, a job he was appointed to in 1969. James Miller/Division of Fire

Firefighter Montell “Tony” Cupe is awarded the James M. Lendavic Veteran of the Year Award by Mayor Andrew Ginther, Deputy Safety Director George Speaks and Assistant Fire Chief Richard Ballard during the city’s 2017 Employee Recognition Ceremony held at the Columbus Police Training Academy.

Assigned to Station 6, Battalion 2, Cupe is a 6-year veteran of Division, where he serves as a firefighter, EMT basic, recruiter and safe house operator. Cupe also serves on the Division’s Fire Honor Guard. Cupe is a veteran to the U.S. Army where he served as a Forward Observer in the fire support military specialty in the 3rd Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment as a corporal. He is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and of Operation Desert Storm. Cupe has received the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star.

To show his support and appreciation of other veterans, Cupe participated in an event to raise money for veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder called the Patriot Shoot. A sporting clay competition and hog roast, the Patriot Shoot event featured Wayne and Jeff Kyle, the father and brother of Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, the U.S. Navy SEAL on whose story the motion picture American Sniper was based. As a former Ohio State football player, Cupe was able to secure two footballs autographed by Buckeye head coach Urban Meyer to pres-

ent to the Kyles. The event raised more than \$32,000 for veterans.

Firefighter Cupe also volunteers daily at the Gillie Community Senior Center where he helps veterans and other seniors with daily activities or just makes himself available to keep them company. He has been a valued volunteer at the center for seven years.

The City of Columbus Veterans Committee awarded the seventh annual James M. Lendavic Veteran of the Year Award to firefighter Montell Cupe for his outstanding service to the citizens of Columbus, the state of Ohio and the United States of America.





# AWARDS

*Werk, continued from page 15*

“I met Kay back in August of ’91 at the training academy, when the CISM team came to talk to the recruits about what they do. Luckily for me I remembered what we talked about that day because I had a significant incident that happened on duty, five years after leaving the academy,” Whiteside said.

Werk’s intervention, using a process called Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) used to treat victims of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, eventually helped Whiteside break the cycle of re-occurring negative memories that sowed the seeds of doubts in his abilities to function as a firefighter. Werk was one of the original 12 professionals accredited to teach the ground breaking treatment for trauma in the United States.

“Kay helped me realize that they’re techniques out there that can help me deal with these things,” said Whiteside.

“It absolutely saved my career. The incident was a very tragic event and I don’t care who you were, if you were put in that event it would have had a significant impact on you. At the time, I felt like I was going crazy. I talked to Kay and she was willing to meet with me, we went through that process of EMDR and it started working. For me, it saved my sanity,” said Whiteside.

“Kay is a huge part of the CISM team, and like I said, she is very well liked and respected within the fire department. She understands what the firemen are and that’s a huge thing. The CISM team is a peer organization; other firefighters that are on that team that have

been through some pretty bad things,” Whiteside said.

“That’s why I decided to become a member of CISM, because I felt like I needed to pay it forward because of the help I received from Kay and the team,” Whiteside said.

Kay Werk was instrumental in bringing crisis intervention training to the Columbus Police Department, and trains both new recruits and patrol officers in recognizing mental illness, and best strategies for assisting those in a mental health crisis. She has also worked as an instructor at Ohio State’s College of Social Work for graduate and undergraduate students.

Kay Werk is surrounded by friends and colleagues celebrating her Distinguished Career Award and introduction into the Ohio State University College of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame in September, 2016.

“I meet Kay in 2002. She was already established as the regional expert in trauma care. It was evident that she had a special place in her heart for first responders.”

- Dr. Pablo Hernandez, Psychiatrist, Medical Director of Netcare

“Kay has been, and continues to be, a steadfast friend of the fire service and all first responders. Jackie Robinson was once quoted as saying ‘A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives,’” said Walton.

“Kay Werk’s impact on the lives of others has been both profound and permanent. The Columbus Division of Fire is greatly appreciative for all she’s done.”

# JUMP

pages

## *Badge One, continued from page 2*

Five weeks later, Charles R. “Chuck” Easter III, retired Columbus firefighter, passed away surrounded by his family on July, 15, 2016. “It was an honor to help arrange for retired Firefighter Charlie Easter to receive a replacement Badge 1,” said Chief Walton.

“As a member of the first Heartmobile, Charlie was a visionary, someone who understood the importance of EMS and its future role in the fire service. It is important to recognize those who dedicated their lives to the CFD and to this great community, those that served in the past to make the present possible,” said Walton.

“We all were bequeathed a great gift, a gift that comprises the professional men and women of the Division, and now it is our duty to enrich this gift and pass it along to future generations of firefighters.”

Columbus firefighter Dave Karn, the Division’s current Badge 1, was also grateful to be a part of the Easters’ special day last June.

“I knew Charlie when I was assigned to rescue 7 and he was on Medic 2,” Karn recalled.

“We had a good time working together, and it was great to see him smile. He had a glow in his eye when he saw the Heartmobile again. He really marveled at the job they did in the restoration,” said Karn.

Karn said he and Easter shared some old stories on that day in June, and remembered difficult runs and former colleagues long departed. Karn felt Easter appreciated the chance to recall a satisfying career with some of the men he served with.

“He was glad to have his Badge 1 back, I know that. He didn’t pass it off to his family, he held onto it.”

Karns credited Easter for his calm professionalism and his willingness to share his knowledge with the new medics joining the ranks.

“Charlie was a calming factor on runs, and that made it easy for everyone else to remain calm in high stress situations,” said Karn

“I know Charlie taught me a lot of things that weren’t in the books. I’m sure I’m a better medic because of guys like Charlie, and Jack Phillips and Bill Carl,” Karn said of the medics that preceded him.

“I know if you added up the number of people Charlie saved, and the number of people saved by medics he taught, there’d be thousands of them.”

## *Smoke Alarms, continued from page 9*

This campaign is in direct response to that dire threat, with the Red Cross committing to install 2.5 million free smoke alarms in neighborhoods at high risk for fires, and to educate those residents about fire prevention and preparedness, according to Harvey Johnson, senior vice president Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services.

The organization’s campaign complemented the on-going mission of the Division’s Fire Prevention Bureau public outreach program, according to Whiting.

The Red Cross Ohio Buckeye Region has donated about 3700 smoke alarms to the Columbus Division of Fire since the campaign began in 2014.

It takes teamwork to canvass whole neighborhoods. Although firefighters assess the homes, volunteers take down basic information and distribute information. Volunteers from the Army National Guard, Center Point Church, Nationwide Insurance and members of the Sigma Alpha Mu-Sigma Beta fraternity from The Ohio State University have joined the Fire Prevention Bureau fire fights knocking on doors this year.

“That’s why we at Columbus Division of Fire put so much into community education and prevention activities, to help reduce the risk in our neighborhoods. Our partnership with the American Red Cross has allowed us to target neighborhoods where the risks are greatest,” said Whiting, and added that engines and medics now carry smoke alarms, so crews responding to calls throughout the city can provide them where ever they have contact with residents.

“Remember, property can be replaced, people can’t,” said Whiting.

Rosie Saunders says she was badly shaken by the fire that destroyed her rental home, and knows how easily the fire could have ended in tragedy.

“I’m very grateful to fire department and their program. I hope they keep it up. It very likely saved my daughter’s life,” said Saunders.

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## *Training & EMS, continued from page 9*

Davis: We’re pretty excited about that. One long-term goal is working with not just Columbus State, but working with Franklin University as well. It’s about trying to encourage our folks to take the next step in their own personal education. They can earn the associates degree. You get the majority of that through your time in the training academy in the journeyman program here. We’re trying to help people take that to the next level to get an associates degree through Franklin in Public Safety Management with a program that we’re going to roll out here very soon. We are trying to make the program both “adult learning” friendly as well as “duty day” friendly for our people. That’s pretty exciting to me.

## LETTERS, continued from page 5

Dear Chief O'Connor

I wish to thank the members at Station 5. In the past year my mother (residing at 103 Potter's Shed Drive) has had a serious decline in health. Despite a home aide during the day and my brother living with her, numerous calls for service have been placed for lift assists, falls, and illnesses. The personnel at Station 5 have always been polite, professional, and made sure I was aware of runs at her home when I was not present. As president and a member of Box 15, it is an honor for the chance to assist and support professionals such as the crews at Station 5.

Bob Hess  
Box 15 President

Dear Chief O'Connor,

Thank you for all that was done for us at the time of Steve Mill's death. The floral Maltese cross was beautiful and a bright note near him.

We also appreciated the honor guard at the calling hours on Wednesday:

FF Ed Eldred 8s  
FF LD Smith 26s  
FF Elvin 16s  
FF Chris Burnett 17s

In inclement weather on Thursday, the last alarm, sounded by Capt. Don Weldon, Ladder 12, FF Jim Messer E22, and FF Todd Bash E32, all Unit 3, was a beautiful close to our remembrance of our husband and father. He was proud of his service to CFD, as were we.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Mills, Stephanie Mills, Stacie Borger and family

Dear Chief,

A friend of mine lost their father in the line of duty as a fireman a couple years ago in Chicago right before Christmas. You all came together and helped him get to the funeral which he thought impossible at the time. You have no idea how much this meant to him and his family.

I needed to take a moment to let you know how important you are to this community. The battles you face daily would bring a lesser person to their knees. I know these battles bring your brotherhood of firemen closer together and create a bond not easily broken. These battles also bring you closer within our community and you become role models to our youth – heroes to all you help. Each moment you sacrifice the chance of not seeing your loved ones again being called out to duty are not in vain. I hope you all know you are truly loved and respected by the community. Sometimes it's hard to remember this because of the intense emotion of the victims you help.

We're all scared and just trying to survive on this huge ball soaring through the universe.

Our family sends you all love and support. Let these good intentions and good energy seep into your souls and help you face another day. You are not alone out there!

With Love & Respect,  
Sonya Stickrod & Jason Johnson

Dear Chief O'Connor,

Just wanted to say how much I thank Firefighter Jeff Miller. I will never forget. I had a water break at 4:15 a.m. behind my toilet, he told me the part I needed I was going to get it 8:00 a.m. and sitting in my truck crying hard, look up and he had the part had worked all night but he went and brought the part and put it on. Thank him. Never forget the 17th day of November.

Lena Meeks

Dear Chief:

At worship on Sunday December 20th, one of the members of the congregation passed out during worship. I called 911. The response I received was outstanding, starting with the person who answered the 911 call. The firetruck team showed up very quickly, and the lead EMT person from the fire truck team, was very professional, kind, and caring. Everyone who responded was great, but I had the most contact with the lead EMT person. They were thorough as well as efficient, staying calm and helping everyone else to feel calm because they were obviously in control of the situation.

It was determined the member, who has been losing weight, had blood pressure that was too low. He was advised to see his medical doctor, to see if his medications needed to be adjusted. They stayed until they were sure the member was stable, alert, and able to stand up.

I am sure you hear when things do not go well, I just wanted to take this opportunity to let you know what a wonderful team you have. Thank you for all you and the CFD do.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Riccio, O.D.

Dear Chief,

Thank you for the flowers. Thank you for all you did to make the calling hours and the funeral a celebration of Jack's life and his years of service.

Aaron Schumm, RN, EMT-B – EMS Nurse Coordinator at Mount Carmel Health.

The family of John "Jack" Phillips

Andy,

The SICU/cath lab/ED staff at MCSA would like to send a huge "Thank You" to medics Waldrop, Purcell, and Lt. Grove. We had an instance where a patient had arrived in the SICU from the ED and went into cardiac arrest. SICU called down to ED for Lucas device and we currently do not have one. As this was happening M29 was en route with a patient and the ED asked if they could bring theirs in. They contacted Lt. Grove and he was able to bring one. Not only did they bring the device, they stayed to assist. The staff was truly grateful for their willingness to stay and assist with the critical patient. They even were wearing lead aprons in the cath lab to assist with CPR. Multiple staff members have reached out to find out their names and just want to say thanks.

Thanks,

Aaron



In Memoriam  
2017 Firefighter Memorial



“Thank you CFD for doing this every year. My grandfather Wayne Daniels was recognized yesterday, and it was an amazing service. Thank you for your tireless service to the public.”

- Nick Daubert via facebook



The Columbus Division of Fire honored 19 former firefighters who passed in the last year at the Annual Firefighter Memorial on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017. Photos (opposite page) Firefighters Sean Trout on Ladder 1 and Leo Gall on Ladder 8 unfurl a giant flag before the ceremony. Top Left; Rich Hennesy, his wife Jasmin, daughter Annie, 4, and son William, 7, offer a prayer for fallen firefighters. Top right; Battalion Chief Michael Vedra sounds taps at the end of the ceremony. Bottom photo; Lt. Ken Peters, a 30-year veteran of CFD, participates in the Division's honor guard. Visit [www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOffire](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOffire) to see more photos of the event. James Miller/Division of Fire

Firefighters Montell Cupe, David Smith and Elvin Pinckney (not pictured) raise the colors during The Columbus Division of Fire's Annual Firefighter Memorial on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017. Visit [www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOfFire](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOfFire) to see more photos of the event. James Miller/Division of Fire





**Chuck Easter Receives Badge One**

Retired firefighter Chuck Easter, who served as a Columbus firefighter and medic from 1966 until 2001, received a replacement "Badge 1" honoring the longest serving firefighter in June.



**Werk Receives Distinguished Career Award**

Kay Werk helped to develop the Columbus Division of Fire's Critical Incident Stress Management program. She's now in OSU College of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame



The Columbus Division of Fire Newsletter

# THE COMMAND POST

Autumn | 2017



The Public Information Office would like to re-introduce our quarterly newsletter **The Command Post** to the men and women who serve in the Columbus Division of Fire. This publication focuses on the fire & EMS services industry, and how our work is changing to meet the demands of a diverse and growing community.

Our mission is to produce both written and digital content that tells the story of the Division and the many ways we serve the roughly one million people of Columbus, Ohio. If there is a story you feel that we should cover, or have an activity that might make a good, story-telling photograph, please let us know. High quality submitted digital photos are also welcomed.

If some of this issue's content looks familiar, then you've probably viewed it first on the Division's social media platforms, including our Facebook page; [www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOfFire/](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusDivisionOfFire/) and Twitter account @CofFire.

Please send your comments, story ideas and upcoming events to [piofire@columbus.gov](mailto:piofire@columbus.gov). Or feel free to reach out to any of us in the PIO staff directly. Help us tell the evolving story of the Columbus Division of Fire.

Our Public Information Office Team is:

B/C Steve Martin, Public Information Officer.....[SCMartin@Columbus.gov](mailto:SCMartin@Columbus.gov)

Rebecca Diehm, Assistant PIO.....[RJDiehm@Columbus.gov](mailto:RJDiehm@Columbus.gov)

James Miller, Division Photographer.....[JASMiller@Columbus.gov](mailto:JASMiller@Columbus.gov)



# THE COLUMBUS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY

The 105th Columbus Fire Recruit Class was visited by a MedFlight air ambulance crew at the Columbus Fire Training Academy on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017. The Eurocopter EC130 was piloted by Kurt Johnson, a former U.S. Army pilot, and manned by flight paramedic Scott Compton and EMT flight nurse Tyler Altier. The recruits were given a tour of the craft, which cruises at 140 mph, and participated in a discussion on emergency scene coordination between airborne EMS teams and local fire service crews. MedFlight operates nine air ambulances in Ohio. The visit was part of the recruits overall EMS training at the Academy. James Miller/Division of Fire

