

# A LOOK INSIDE SSFD / EMS



## RECYCLING PROGRAM

Southside Fire/ EMS and Security maintains six collection trailers used for collecting aluminum cans for recycling. All profits are forwarded directly to SEFBF. In 2010, our recycling efforts raised approximately \$6,500. If you choose to participate in the "Can It!" recycling program, please drop off recyclable aluminum cans at these locations:

- Station One – 10703 White Bluff Road
- Station Two – 1831 E Montgomery Xrd
- Station Four – 155 Wilmington Island Road
- Station Five – 553 McWhorter Drive (Skidaway Island)
- Station Twelve – 1381 Dean Forest Road
- Station Fourteen – 2606 E President Street

For more information call 912-354-1011.

## BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressure checks are taken at all Southside stations between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. We invite you to stop by!

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions regarding our services, programs, and subscriptions, please check our website at [www.southsidefire.com](http://www.southsidefire.com)

## CONTACT SSFD / EMS

(912) 354-1011  
 PO Box 13250, Savannah, GA 31416  
[info@ssfd.com](mailto:info@ssfd.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Southside Fire Department is a non-profit public service organization. Every dollar of your subscription money goes for the provision of fire protection and rescue services.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Blood pressure checks are taken at all Southside stations between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. Home Fire Safety Inspections will be performed upon request. Please call 354-5670.

## IMPORTANT

If you are planning to sell your house and have received a statement for the next year, please give us a call at 354-1011 before you make your payment so that we can correct the amount due.

## ARE YOU MOVING?

Call headquarters 354-1011 and ask for Teresa, Crystal, Cayla, or Anne or send a note to Chief/General Manager, SSFD PO Box 13250, Savannah, Georgia, 31416.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE. Our present insurance classification (class 3) is the best of any combined fire department in the Southeastern United States.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES ARE WAIVED OR REDUCED IN CASES OF HARDSHIP. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE CALL 354-1011.

OUR RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:		PRESENT
\$ 20,000. AND UNDER	(house only)	\$ 62.00
\$ 20,001. - \$ 60,000.	(house only)	\$ 93.00
\$ 60,001. - \$100,000.	(house only)	\$124.00
\$100,001. - \$140,000.	(house only)	\$154.00
\$140,001. - \$180,000.	(house only)	\$194.00
\$180,001. - \$220,000.	(house only)	\$232.00
\$220,001. - \$250,000.	(house only)	\$272.00
\$250,001. - \$350,000.	(house only)	\$308.00
\$350,001. - \$450,000.	(house only)	\$345.00
\$450,001. - \$550,000.	(house only)	\$383.00
\$550,001. and over	(house only)	\$419.00

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ken Wheeler, *President*



Since our last update, Southside has faced many challenges over the past 9 months. The County Contract for EMS coverage for Zones 3 and 4, The Medstar Acquisition, Hiring 104 new personnel, the purchase of 6 New Ambulances, and the new headquarters project, has set a fast pace for the Board of Directors and Staff. I'm very pleased with our performance under substantial pressures, deadlines, and the new construction processes.

The Medstar Acquisition has gone very well, as we started operations on 1 Feb, 2011, providing all 911 EMS service for Chatham County. We have integrated the 104 new personnel, the ambulances, the dispatch centers, and accounting functions, within our department, achieving efficiencies throughout the entire organization. We have optimized EMS coverage for the County with operating locations to meet state-mandated response times. Our dispatch centers have been consolidated at our White Bluff Station, due to additional space demands. We've operated now for 5 months meeting the demands of the community with few glitches. During the period, we had five ambulances fail, requiring replacement, and an investment of over \$800,000.

We have broken ground on the new headquarters facility on Dean Forest and look forward to its completion next year, providing us a new facility to base our operations from throughout the county. This new facility which houses our new headquarters, a fire station, and maintenance facility and state of the art dispatch center, will provide us a more survivable structure during severe weather conditions.

With our challenging economic times, Southside has stepped up to meet community demands in a bold new way with major investments in facilities, equipment, and personnel. While we have not had consensus among all board members as to our direction and actions, I believe that the actions I have advocated over the past two years, as the President and Chairman, will place Southside in a much better position to serve an ever growing community demand for efficient, affordable, community emergency services. I salute the men and women of Southside for their outstanding service meeting today's demands.

## IMPORTANT INFO

**FOR EMERGENCIES:**  
 Always Call 9-1-1

**St. Joseph's / Candler**  
[www.sjchs.com](http://www.sjchs.com)  
 (912) 819-4100 - St. Joe's  
 (912) 819-6000 - Candler

**Memorial Health**  
[www.memorialhealth.com](http://www.memorialhealth.com)  
 (912) 350-8000

**Chatham Co. Emergency Management**  
[www.cema.chathamcounty.com](http://www.cema.chathamcounty.com)  
 (912) 201-4500

**Chatham Co. Tax Assessor's Office**  
[www.chathamcounty.org/assessor.html](http://www.chathamcounty.org/assessor.html)  
 (912) 652-7271

## Your Board of Directors

Charles Teel	Chuck Moore
Tate Shiver	Wilton Persons
Clinton Crosby	Don Amerson
Thomas Harris	Tom Andrews
Ken Wheeler	Peter Schenk - EMS
Karen Owens	

Emeritus	
Samuel McTeer	Lloyd Hodges (Chaplain)
Sid Strickland	Thomas White

# CHIEF / GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Wesley A. Meadows, Chief / General Manager

As always we have attempted to maintain a high level of service at a minimal cost to our subscribers. This year we do not anticipate an increase in our subscription rates and will work extremely hard to keep the rates in the future as low as possible. Southside is well underway with our new Headquarters and Equipment Repair Facility that is located on Dean Forest Road. When Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi and Louisiana the Board of Directors ask that we look for a location more inland than our current HQs on Norwood Ave. We held a ground breaking on June 6, 2011, and hope to be relocated to this facility within 12 months. I would like to invite all of you to come by and visit. August 2011 represents Southside's 50th year of operation serving the community. Since 1961 we have grown from a 1 station operation to over 14 fire stations and 7 EMS sites county wide. I personally would like to thank the leaders of this department who in 1961 had the vision to offer the citizens an opportunity support fire protection without a mandated tax by the county.

## Let me clear up some questions when subscribing for fire protection:

1. As a subscriber to Southside it reduces your homeowner's insurance premium. The amount of the reduction varies between insurance companies. Some non-subscribers have realized an increase of their homeowner's policy by as much as 300%. As a class 3 ISO rated department (the lowest rate that benefits the residential homeowner) your insurance will be much less. If you would like to know your savings then contact your agent and he/she will be more than happy to give you those numbers.
  2. When completing your subscription form please look at our variable brackets for the value of your home. Do not include the land value! It is the building value only.
  3. When you need information regarding Southside there are several ways in which to obtain your answers, web site ([www.southsidefire.com](http://www.southsidefire.com)), call our office between 0900hrs and 1600hrs Monday through Friday, or through discussions with our on duty personnel.
- In closing one thing you as a subscriber can do to assist us in maintaining such a low cost of membership is for you to encourage anyone that is not a subscriber to subscribe.



# VOLUNTEER CHIEF'S REPORT

## WILMINGTON ISLAND DIVISION

- Chief Jason Waterfield

Beginning in October of 2010, the Islands Fire Department took on a new endeavor with the planning phase of Project Life Saver program. In January 2011, fundraising began for the program and in April we took on our first client. The Island's Fire Department is capable of taking on twelve clients in our four-island fire district, though to date, we only have two in the program. Project Life Saver is a nationwide program that trains first responders on equipment that can track and return children and adults with Autism, Alzheimer, Down syndrome and some brain injuries if/when the person wanders, using a radio frequency. The program was developed to assist public safety personnel in its efforts to search for patients with these disorders. This program gives the caregiver some piece of mind when the patient progresses to the wandering stage of the disease. In Chatham County, there are three agencies that are currently involved in the program: Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Skidaway Island Fire Department and Island's Fire Department. For more information, contact Assistant Chief Lewis at [kurt@southsidefire.com](mailto:kurt@southsidefire.com). Stay Alert/Be Safe.

## SKIDAWAY ISLAND DIVISION

-Chief Jim Murray

Stay fire smart and don't get burned..... Fire Safety should be a year-round effort for each one of us!

Watch what you're cooking- we have had several fires that were the result of carelessness while cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you're frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.

Be careful when using candles- We have had fires in bathrooms, kitchens and bedrooms that were caused by the careless use of candles. Keep candles at least one foot from anything that can burn. Blow out your candles when you leave the room or before you go to sleep. A lit candle in a room by it's self is an accident waiting to happen.

If you have a fire in your home or if you "smell something funny", you should exit the home and call 355-6688 from outside your home on your cell phone or from a neighbor's house. Do not investigate the fire yourself...call us as soon as possible so we can get to your house quickly.

Have a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year. Plan where you will meet outside the home so you can be sure everyone is safe.

## SOUTHSIDE DIVISION

- Chief Wendell Hill

Some of you know me as a fire chief only but some of you know that in my spare time ( ha, ha ) I do all sorts of home repair and remodeling. The point I would like to make here is sometimes I have to go up in the attic. I don't know what your attic is like but I have been in attics that had so much junk, and I do mean junk, in them that you had to take some down just to get in there to work. Now imagine no electricity, at night, and you find out you have an attic fire. It is hard enough to fight an attic fire when the attic is empty. What I would like to see happen is for those that have anything in their attic is to reconsider using the attic as storage. Let's face it, most of what goes up into the attic stays there until you die and your children go up there and pull it out and throw it straight into the trash container.

As always, Thank you for your support and remember we are always looking for volunteers.

## MONTGOMERY DIVISION

- Chief Wayne Noha

A special thanks goes out to our auxiliary for their continued support at scenes. This team is notified when there is a call with extended on scene time. They respond with rehab supplies such as: bottled water, chairs, canopies, energy bars and assist with other duties as needed. We really appreciate them more than they know. This team was led by Lynn Miles, President; until she had to resign due to a heavy work load.

## YOUR NEW OFFICERS OF MONTGOMERY FIRE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Wayne Noha-Chief	Max Nowinsky- Deputy Chief
Frank Pilcher - Assistant Chief	Kevin Strickland - Safety Officer
Robin Selgren - Secretary	Sharon Boan - Treasurer

Other appointments are coming soon. Thanks to Frank Ramirez for his service as Assistant Chief for many years. He has decided to step aside to allow for others to serve their community at an officer level.

Congrats to Woody Childs for completing Ga. Smoke Divers training and to Adam Miles for being promoted to Lt. with his full time position at Southside Fire / EMS & Security. Welcome to Darrell Westgate and his willingness to serve his community. Volunteer Carl Sapp has been hired full time with Southside as well. Stay Safe.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT DIVISION

- Chief Eric Phillips

It's been a busy quarter in 7th District. Wildland fires (woods, not-so-controlled burns, grass fires) have been a huge challenge this season, so far. The dry weather has made the area very susceptible to rapidly spreading fires. That combined with their frequent locations away from roads and water supplies make them difficult to control. Remember to contact Georgia Forestry to apply for a burn permit before burning on your property, they can tell you when it is or isn't safe to burn. It's free and it's the law. [www.gfc.state.ga.us](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us) or 1800-OK2-BURN

I'm please to announce our roster is filling up with eager and very qualified Volunteers, a third of whom are career Firefighters with Southside and other local departments, providing 7th District with a wealth of training and experience. We have a few more open positions and then we will begin a waiting list for those who are interested in starting a Volunteer Career with 7th District. Remember we always have positions for those with special skills such as Medical 1st Responder, Public Relations, Finance and Administration, and are actively recruiting volunteers to serve on the support and Auxiliary units.

Finally, two new initiatives we are beginning this summer are the "Address Your Safety" campaign to encourage prominent and readily visible house and business addressing and an Apartment Fire Safety program. Watch [www.7DFD.com](http://www.7DFD.com) for more information.

## FIREFIGHTER FOCUS

- Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief



After such a cold winter, then the extreme heat of Summer 2011, we are headed back to Fall. Of course, you still may want to run that A/C to keep things quite comfortable here in the South. Just like you had your A/C checked before summer (you

did have that done, right?), so you need to check the heater before winter. Here are two tips: change the filters and call your service rep. Units that aren't serviced or have not had the filters changed regularly cause overheating of fan motors and then we show up at your home. You can avoid a potential fire by doing the simple things of having the unit serviced and changing those indoor air filters.

During the cooler days of Fall, we all like to get out with family & friends for some fun. Think about the sources of fuel and fire around where you play. Whether it's in the boat, at the family picnic, or grilling in the backyard, stay alert and aware. Keep children away from open flames and grills. Burns hurt. Let's enjoy our outdoors and be safe at our play as well as at our homes.

## EMS FOCUS

- Timothy Genest, Assistant Chief



Effective February 1, 2011, Southside Fire EMS and Security became the sole provider of 911 Emergency Medical Service in Chatham County Georgia. Via a purchase agreement with Memorial Health University Southside Fire/EMS and Security acquired Medstar/

TransportOne. We hired most of the TransportOne staff that had an admirable history of providing EMS services to Central and North City of Savannah and portions of East and West Savannah via a contract with Chatham County. Southside won the contract with Chatham County for EMS Zones 3 & 4. Zones 3 & 4 are primarily comprised of areas East and West of the City of Savannah City limits and encompass approximately 55,000 citizens. Currently all newly hired employees are being trained as Georgia Certified firefighters. The benefits to the citizens of Chatham County are obvious, when a Southside Fire EMS and Security ambulance arrives at the scene of an emergency you are getting a public safety professional that is trained in three distinct disciplines, EMS, Fire fighting and a security professional who is trained at a level that exceeds or equal any other emergency service in the state of Georgia.

## SECURITY FOCUS

- Gary Jarriel, Director of Security



The partnership between Southside Fire/EMS and Security and the Southeastern Firefighters' Burn Foundation (SEFBF) continues! SEFBF assists burn patients and their families by providing shelter and comfort. So far, 2011 has

been a great year for our fundraising efforts.

The sixth annual Fire & Ice Benefit Ball was hosted by Skidaway Island Division in January. With 250 guests in attendance, their support brought in an impressive \$40,000 for the SEFBF.

All the hard work, from the 2011 Southside Firefighter Calendar models to those who participated in calendar promotions, paid off with a \$9,500 donation to the SEFBF. Southside Firemen are busy creating the 2012 Southside Firefighter Calendar. New calendar information is coming soon!

