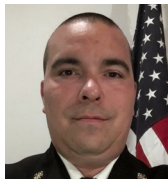


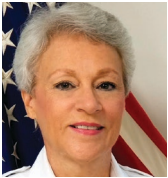
# VOLUNTEER DIVISION CHIEFS

## MONTGOMERY DIVISION



**Max Nowinsky**  
22 Years of Service

## SKIDAWAY DIVISION



**Carey Ruppert**  
7 Years of Service

## SOUTHSIDE DIVISION



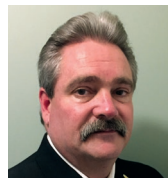
**Jonathan McCrary**  
19 Years of Service

## SEVENTH DISTRICT DIVISION



**Eric Phillips**  
27 Years of Service

## ISLANDS DIVISION



**Keith Hardin**  
37 Years of Service

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

*continued from 2nd page*

Center processed nearly 90,000 calls for service. 2020 is on track to be another busy year too.

A new Communications Center Training Program has been developed and successfully implemented. The program combines several different learning methods in order to provide trainees with a comprehensive training experience. This will help to ensure that the Communications Center personnel have the tools necessary to continue to provide the prompt, reliable services offered by CES.

In late February, CES updated their phone system with a state-of-the-art telecom solution. The new system offers many outstanding features that allow for

seamless, high quality communications within the organization and with our customers. Some of the features of the new phone system make it possible to continue operations offsite if needed.

During the month of June, the CES Communications Center underwent a major renovation. The room was expanded, went from having six workstations to seven, and has the ability to add additional workstations in case of major events. The modern open concept design allows for better functionality and enhanced communications within the center.

The Chatham Communications Division is continuously striving to improve operations and refine processes. There are more exciting updates to come! We are committed to excellence and take pride in serving the responders, citizens, and visitors of Chatham County.



## A LOOK INSIDE CES

### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressure checks are taken at all Chatham EMS Stations between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday (if Firefighter is available).

### CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

When you set your clocks back November 1st, remember to also change the batteries in your smoke alarm.

### HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

To schedule a home inspection, please call at (912) 354-1011 during normal business hours. Please be prepared to give us your home address, home/cell phone, and what times are best for you.

### CAREERS

Chatham Emergency Services is currently accepting applications for Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic/Dispatcher/Mechanic/Fire Watch positions. You may drop by our Headquarters

### FOR EMERGENCIES:

Always Call 9-1-1, or our dispatch directly at (912) 355-6688.

to pick up an application or download from our website. **Learn more about career opportunities at [www.chathames.org](http://www.chathames.org)**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Chatham 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.

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**  
**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.** Our present insurance classification (class 2/2x) is the best of any combination fire department in the Southeastern United States.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

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

### CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES

1399 Dean Forest Rd.  
Savannah, GA 31405  
(912) 354-1011  
[contact@chathames.org](mailto:contact@chathames.org)  
[www.chathames.org](http://www.chathames.org)



# CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fall 2020 • "Your Subscriber Fire Service" Tell Your Neighbor

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## WHAT A YEAR THIS HAS BEEN!

- Chuck Kearns, CEO



Our fiscal year is coming to an end. I should have known that fiscal year 2019-2020 was going to be unique when it started off with Hurricane Dorian threatening our community during the first weekend of the

new fiscal year. As usual, we worked with Chatham County Emergency Management, geared up, did a mandatory recall of all personnel after they were able to secure their homes and send their families out of town to safety. Eventually, Dorian missed us, and we absorbed over \$300,000 in preparation and payroll expenses in anticipation of the storm, for which we received no federal reimbursement.

Fast forward to March, where we were hit with a global pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus. Our workforce and volunteers rose to this challenge as well. Luckily, we were well supplied with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, gloves, etc. We experienced no shortages of these critical items. At one time or another throughout the many months of the Coronavirus spread, we had over 50 employees who were out under 14-day self-quarantine from a possible exposure.

Knowing that life was difficult for everyone at that time with higher prices for essential items, loss of daycare services, and limited food staples in the grocery stores - we determined to continue to pay our employees even when they were in quarantine. Even though our number of emergency responses

that generate revenue were way down, we were blessed to receive some of the CARES Act funding to make up some of the shortfall. With that funding, we were able to sustain the fire department and emergency ambulance operations for the second half of the fiscal year.

This year saw many positive developments for our organization. The first is our people. Our paid and volunteer people were magnificent throughout these challenges like the hurricane threat and the pandemic. They showed up to work, they did their job like professionals, and I could not be prouder of all the workforce members. We made sure that all employees had access to free health screening and Tetanus and Hepatitis vaccination shots as well as flu shots at the expense of the organization. We graduated an EMT to Paramedic class as well as two rookie Firefighter academies where people living in our community who want to become firefighters go through basic training here while being paid so that at the end of the class they come out and are ready to become licensed firefighters. The firefighters were also certified as EMTs and we began sending fire trucks to certain critical emergency medical calls for additional manpower.

We took delivery of three new fire trucks. These are the first new fire trucks purchased in five years. They are a standardized design, carry 1,000 gallons of water and are quite economical to operate. Where local departments spend up to \$800,000 for fire apparatus, our new design costs just under \$360,000 for the vehicle. We also added six remounted box ambulances and

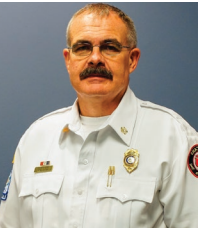
a handful of smaller, more efficient Transit van ambulances for non-emergency work. The remounts (taking the ambulance box off an old chassis, refurbishing it and then attaching it onto a new chassis) saves our organization approximately \$60,000 per truck. The box is lifted off an old chassis and is completely reworked and updated with the latest technology like LED lighting and then it is reinstalled on a brand-new chassis. This is one of the biggest ways that we stretch our dollars for the benefit of our stakeholders. The Transit vans can handle the non-emergency interfacility ambulance business and long-distance transports much more economically than the box ambulances. For these brand-new units, we pay just under \$70,000 each.

This year saw us increasing our applications for Federal and State grant funds and we have been very successful to date. Numerous state grants have been awarded, two federal grants have already been received, and we are awaiting notice of yet another federal grant application. We have built a new, Live Fire Training facility, expanded and renovated our Dispatch Center and added new technology to increase efficiency.

In closing, the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been extremely challenging for our organization but we rose to the task presented to us. A hurricane and a pandemic did not interrupt our operations. Our personnel were very professional during both ongoing emergency operations and we made many improvements in our ability to serve you with highly reliable Fire and EMS emergency services.



FIREFIGHTER FOCUS



~ James Vickers,  
*Fire Chief*

It is my pleasure to recognize and commend the many accomplishments of the Chatham Fire Department (CFD), a division of Chatham Emergency Services, during the 2019 fiscal year. Public safety and emergency services are not just top priorities, they are critical to the health and vitality of our community. CFD has played a vital role to ensure citizens and visitors have access to top-notch fire protection in their greatest time of need for almost 60 years. It's this commitment that has inspired action and produced results over this last year as we continue our path to find innovative ways to improve our service to the community. Each year comes with its own set of opportunities and challenges, and the 2019 fiscal year was no exception.

Day one of the 2019 fiscal year we found ourselves in full scale activation under a Federal and State Emergency Declaration for the threat of impact from Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 Atlantic hurricane, now regarded as one of the most intense hurricanes on record. CFD remained at full activation with the rest of Chatham and surrounding coastal counties emergency services agencies until September 7, 2019.

Looking forward, we continued to be mission driven; focused on delivering effective and sustainable services that meet the needs of the changing community with the resources you have entrusted to us. CFD priorities continued the rest of the year with an increase in community risk reduction and outreach programs, implementation of new professional certification requirements and increased training opportunities, successful graduation of two recruit firefighter classes, new apparatus arrivals, and significant

strides being made to address critical facility needs, including the ongoing work to update existing stations.

Our community risk reduction and outreach programs included installation of hundreds of new smoke alarms and education events throughout the community. Smoke Alarms Saves Lives --- If you are interested in further information on how you can protect what matters most, you and your family; please reach out to us about free smoke alarm installations and free home fire safety inspections.

More behind the scene accomplishments included over 36,000 hours of hands on training; thousands of additional hours inspecting and testing of almost 3,000 hydrants county wide; completion of hundreds of building pre-fire plans; and tens of thousands of hours inspecting, maintaining, and testing apparatus and critical lifesaving equipment. This is necessary to make sure that our personnel and equipment are ready when you need us.

In closing, the improvements accomplished by CFD were only possible through the collective efforts of everyone in the organization including all CES departments, career and volunteer members; and with the support of the executive leadership, board of directors, elected officials, law enforcement, neighboring fire departments, and the community. Thank you for all that you do to ensure success for the CFD.

CFD has much to be proud of from the past year. While the year ahead will undoubtedly present new challenges, there is little we cannot overcome together.

Please remember to check us out on at <https://chathames.org/>.

on any mobile device. We are always looking for qualified candidates to support the organization.

If you are interested in supporting our department as a volunteer for the fire department, we also invite you to complete an online application. You can complete the volunteer application on our website [www.chathames.org](http://www.chathames.org) by clicking on the "Services" link and then click on the "Fire Volunteer" link. Becoming a volunteer is self-rewarding and serves as an opportunity to support your local community. What a great way to offer your time to help others during their personal emergency situations. A volunteer dedicates on average, 20 hours per month. It may be more depending on the number of fires as well as required training per Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council. We greatly appreciate all of our volunteers!

EMS FOCUS



~ Bengle Cowart,  
*EMS Chief*

Greetings Chatham Emergency Services Subscribers!

The first half of 2020 has been let's say a little stressful with the onset of (COVID19) and the shifting of our EMS response procedures to quickly adapt to this ever-changing global pandemic. I'm so very proud of our EMS personnel and their ability to change and adapt to each new guidance that came down from the CDC and DPH. Now we're all learning what the new normal will look like as it relates to EMS response to 911 or private calls throughout our community. The citizens of Chatham should be proud that Chatham EMS is one of only four EMS providers within the State of Georgia with a specialized Infectious Disease Transport Network (IDTN) Team. We have 24 paramedics and EMTs who have been trained by the State of Georgia to transport critically ill and fragile infectious/contagious patients from anywhere within the state or outside of the state using specialized exposure equipment and tactics.

I would like to thank each and everyone from the community who stepped up and provided food for both EMS and Fire personnel during this pandemic. There was such an outpouring of support! It would take up my whole article to thank each of them but please know that it was received and greatly appreciated by our field personnel.

We are sad but excited at the same time to announce that Dr. Frank Davis, MD, FACS who has been the Medical Director for over 26 years for Chatham EMS retired as of June 30th 2020. Dr. Davis has played a pivotal role in our growth and bringing best medical practices for the pre-hospital treatment of the patients in the community we serve. Dr. Davis also just retired from over 30 years as a Trauma Surgeon at Memorial's Level 1 Trauma Center. He will be missed!

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER



~ Barbara Immel,  
*Communications Chief*

Greetings from the Chatham Emergency Services (CES) Communications Center! The department has been bustling with day-to-day operations, training, and some major updates. At the conclusion of 2019, the Communications

*continued on back page*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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*President*



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*Vice President*



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*Secretary/Treasurer*



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Clinton Crosby



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Tom Harris



Quentin Marlin



Chuck Moore



Karen Owens



Peter Schenk



Brad Trower



THE LATEST IN FIRE SUBSCRIPTION NEWS!

~ Nakeisha Jones,  
*Finance Director*

To Our Valued Subscribers,



We want to first say THANK YOU for your support of Chatham Emergency Services Fire Department. We are making great strides to serve you and our community better. If you are new to our service area, we want to say Welcome! Please note, Fire Protection for your property is NOT included in your unincorporated area, property tax bill. Subscribing will lower your property insurance rates.

As some of our subscribers have noticed, we have changed how we calculated our premiums from a 15-tiered value approach to millage-based approached, after reviewing a consultant's recommendations.

All premiums use a mixed millage approach of 0.5\* "mill" on the assessed value of land and 3.2 mills on the assessed value of the building(s). Baseline property values are determined by the Chatham County Board of Assessors (on your tax bill). A minimum rate of \$125 will be applicable for all buildings. Additionally, assessed property values are not inclusive of county exemptions (i.e. homestead).

We have included a land millage because Chatham Fire frequently responds to fires that do not involve a structure, such as grass, trees, open areas, brush, or trash. This equates to 41% of all fires that require immediate extinguishment. As such we need to account for land, a small charge, as well as structures.

We, in no way, can do what we do without your support. All the fleet, equipment and even new technology systems are a testament of your support and we appreciate you. As we navigate through our "new normal," we want to offer online options. You can do all of the following online:

- Submit a new application online that will come directly to our office.
- Email your insurance declaration pages directly to our office, if applicable.
- Make your payment online at [www.chathames.org/pay-fire-subscription/](http://www.chathames.org/pay-fire-subscription/)
- If we have your email on file:
  - You will receive your invoice via email.
  - Pay your invoice from the email by clicking "Click here to pay with credit"
- Make your payment over the phone by calling our office.  
***Please also note that there is no fee associated with using your credit/debit card.***

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us (912) 354-1011 or [info@chathames.org](mailto:info@chathames.org). Thank you again for your continued support.

*\*Rates are subject to change*

