



THE BOTTOM LINE

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

S.A.R. 1st Responders Recognition Luncheon



Inspector James Cody was honored with a Fire Safety Commendation at the Sons of the American Revolution First Responders Recognition Luncheon. This well-deserved recognition highlights his continued hard work, commitment to fire safety, and dedication to serving our community.

We were also proud to stand alongside first responders from agencies across Collier County who were recognized today. We truly are one big first responder family, and the teamwork and collaboration between our agencies is what allows us to serve our community so effectively. We're incredibly proud of Inspector Cody and grateful for everything he does for the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and our community.

VFW 1st Responders Recognition Award Ceremony

Lieutenant Jose Santana was honored at a special VFW First Responders Recognition Award Ceremony. Lt. Santana's dedication to public safety, firefighter training, and selfless service—both on and off duty—exemplifies the very best of the fire service. From protecting our community to mentoring others and supporting adoptive families nationwide, his impact reaches far beyond the firehouse. Congratulations, Lt. Santana, and thank you for your outstanding service!



Orange to Black Ceremony



Congratulations
Recruit Class 25-01!

GNFR Softball Team News



Congratulations to the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Team for winning the Battle of the Badges Lower Division Championship! Competing against fellow first responders, they showed incredible teamwork and heart. We couldn't be more proud—way to represent!

Community Recognition Spotlight



GNFR Chief of Staff, Nicole Chesser, was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Award from the Sons of the American Revolution for her outstanding assistance and continued support over the years for their annual First Responder Appreciation Luncheon.

Nicole's dedication behind the scenes helps strengthen the connection between our organization and the community we serve. This recognition is a true reflection of her commitment, professionalism, and service to others.

Congratulations Nicole!

Local Hero Recognized for Life-Saving Actions

If you remember the early morning house fire on November 30, 2025, at 1:44 a.m. on Estey Ave., this is the neighbor who heard screams coming from inside the home and didn't hesitate to act. Damian bravely entered the lanai and helped the resident escape to safety – actions that truly made the difference between life and tragedy. Damian was honored with the "You Are Our Hero" Award at the Fire Board of Commissioners meeting in January. We are incredibly proud of his selfless courage and quick thinking, and we wanted to publicly thank him for saving his neighbor's life.



Florida Fire & EMS ALS Competition



The Florida Fire & EMS ALS Competition is a multi-day event that challenges top EMS teams with realistic medical scenarios, testing their skills, teamwork, and decision-making.

Greater Naples Fire Rescue proudly competed as one of the few non-transport agencies—and the only fire department representing Collier County.

Representing GNFR: Andrew Dominguez, Jesus Gonzalez-Roman, and Thomas Norman.

We're proud of their dedication and commitment to excellence

Honored to Support Our Veterans

Engine 70 Crew was proud to attend the State Veterans' Nursing Home Property Dedication Ceremony at the Golden Gate Golf Course property. This future facility will provide skilled nursing care, wellness services, and important resources for local veterans and their caregivers.

We also had the opportunity to meet a service dog in training, which will provide free therapy and support to veterans on site – an incredible addition to this project and the services being offered.



Early Brush Fire Season Joint Press Conference



We joined the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Florida Forest Service, Marco Island Fire Rescue, Naples Fire-Rescue Department, and North Collier Fire Rescue District for a joint press conference to highlight an early brush fire season due to the extremely dry conditions we've experienced over the past two years. Working together helps ensure our community stays informed, prepared, and safe.

Career Fair at Lely High School

Engine Crew 75 and Chief Krajewski had a great time participating in the Lely High School Career Fair recently! Students didn't just learn about the fire service – they got to experience it firsthand.

We brought three hands-on obstacle courses: Charged hose pull, Dummy drag, and 24-foot extension ladder carry.



GNFR Recruit Class 26-01 Graduates Academy



Congratulations to GNFR Recruit Academy Class #26-01 for completing our intensive seven-week academy. We know they worked extremely hard to complete the rigorous training, and we appreciate their dedication to the District. We're looking forward to seeing them grow and learn throughout their probationary year.

Congratulations

Blue Mass at St. Agnes Catholic Church



Engine 73, Battalion Chief 73, and Deputy Chief Diaz attended the Blue Mass at St. Agnes Catholic Church, joining fellow first responders from across Collier County.

The Blue Mass is a meaningful tradition that brings the community together to honor and pray for the safety, strength, and well-being of those who serve.

“All First Responders Matter” Breakfast



Thank you to 1-800 Board Up for hosting a free breakfast for first responders (active or retired) on the first Friday of each month at Perkins (Pine Ridge & I-75). It's a great way to connect, build camaraderie, and support mental wellness.





MDA Fill The Boot



Special Firehouse Dinner at Station 21



Battalion Chief Weinbaum and Firefighters Hogue, Schaltegger, & Dew pulled out all the stops to create an over-the-top, chef-worthy meal for a Firehouse Dinner that was won at a local auction benefitting the Freedom Waters Foundation. While they don't normally cook this way in the firehouse kitchen, they went above and beyond for this incredible cause. Our Station 21 crew also assisted with prep work and cleanup, making it a true team effort from start to finish.



First Course – Scallop Ceviche
Diver scallops cured in lime and orange with tri-color peppers, roasted corn, cotija cheese, and corn tortilla chips.



Second Course – Roasted Tomato & Burrata Panzanella--Roasted heirloom tomatoes and garlic with toasted rustic bread and basil, topped with burrata, aged balsamic, and extra virgin olive oil.



Main Course – Braised Short Rib
Red wine-braised beef short rib with mirepoix and herbs, served over Parmesan polenta with charred asparagus, finished with lemon gremolata and red wine demi-glace.



Dessert – Lemon Tart
Buttery shortcrust filled with silky lemon curd, macerated seasonal berries, and fresh whipped cream.

First Responder Chili Cook-Off



We had a great time at the First Annual First Responder Chili Cook-Off at The Mini Bar! We're proud to bring home 3rd Place People's Choice—thanks to our GNFR family and friends for the support! Special thanks to Battalion Chief Weinbaum for representing us with an awesome chili, and congrats to Naples Fire Rescue and Collier County Sheriff's Office on their wins! We're already looking forward to next year!

Autism Adventures Station Tour



We had an amazing time welcoming a wonderful group of children from Autism Adventures SWFL to Station 73. We showed the kids the fire truck and all of the tools we use in the field, then took them inside the station for a behind-the-scenes look at where we live and work. They explored the radio room, living room, kitchen, gym, and even the bedrooms – getting a full picture of a firefighter's day.

Salvation Army Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



Thank you to The Salvation Army for hosting a great Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! We're proud to support the Holiday Toy Drive—a 53-year tradition that continues to brighten the holidays for families in need. We appreciate the recognition and our strong partnership with all who make it possible.

Mission BBQ Check Presentation to Collier 100 Club

We were honored to attend a check presentation at Mission BBQ in support of the Collier 100 Club. We're grateful for their continued support of local first responders and the impact they make in our community.



Fire Scene Photos

