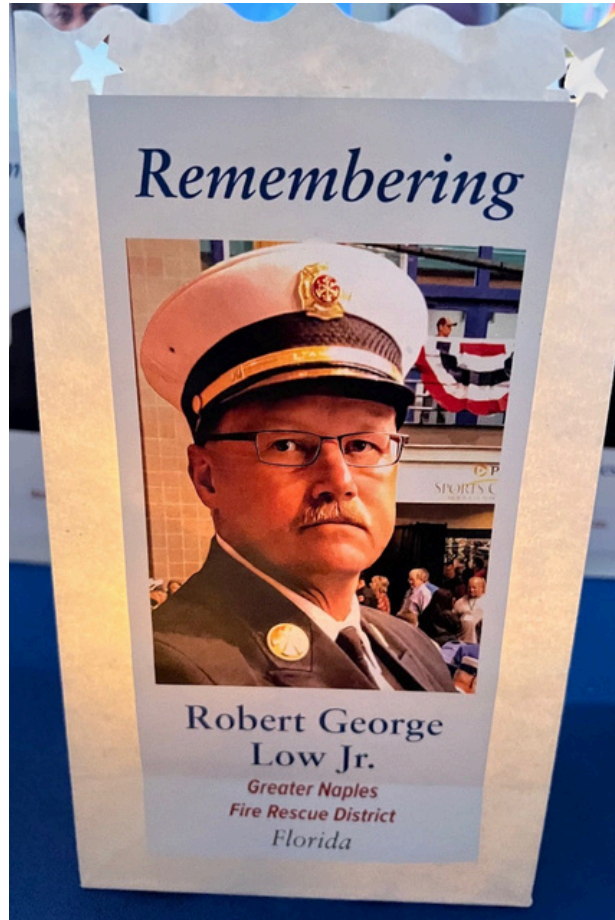




THE BOTTOM LINE

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District



Deputy Chief Rob Low Jr. was honored at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial on May 4-5, 2024. Capt. Rusty Godette, LT Todd Nugent and FF Erin Gill attended the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD to represent GNFD. We are thankful for Rob's service to the community.



Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Retired Deputy Chief Leo Davis Funeral



On June 26th, we honored the life of Retired Deputy Chief Leo Davis. He served East Naples Fire Rescue District for 26 years. We are thankful for his service to the community.

Special thanks to BC Weinbaum for taking the lead in planning, along with DE Diaz, DE Zmejkoski, FF Johnson, FF Prio & FF Phillips for volunteering for Honor Guard.



Years of Service Awards



LT Asher & BC Weinbaum
20 years



DE Garcia
20 years



FF Occhipinti
20 years



DE Cipriano
5 years



FF Williams
5 years



DE Hancock
15 years



BC Schoch
20 years

Congratulations!



Project Fire Buddies



In January 2024, FF Alex Ivanisevic brought an idea to the Local 2396 monthly meeting, about a nonprofit organization that helps critically ill children in fire districts around the country. The organization is called PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES. It was founded by a group of firefighters in Oak Forrest, Illinois. Those firefighters wanted to impact their communities by locating critically ill children in their districts and generating relationships and fundraisers to offer gifts and support for the families. FF Ivanisevic gave the information necessary to the union body to start a chapter here in Naples. With a unanimous decision, the chapter was created. Local 2396 is now the first PFB chapter in the state of Florida. FF Ivanisevic took the role of the chapter president and lead in sourcing out the Locals very first "fire buddy". Through the STARS program, and the help of GNFD EMS Division Chief Dennis DiSarro, FF Ivanisevic was able to locate a child who fit the part. On May 15th, Local 2396 made the first visit to the home of Bruce "Noah" Langlois. Noah is a three-year-old boy who had an extended battle with liver cancer. With 90% of his liver affected, he was flown to Miami for treatment. It was there that Noah and his parents spent two years in this fight. After winning his battle against cancer, Noah finally made it home to Naples. Within a week of being home, Noah's family was presented with yet another unexpected event. Noah's father passed away just two days after bringing his little boy home from the hospital. Michelle, Noah's mother, has shown nothing but an extreme display of strength and determination to ensure that the loss of her husband will not be the end of the families fight to move forward. Local 2396 will dedicate time to building a relationship with Michelle, Noah, and their family. It started with a visit to their home. On May 15, 2024, Noah and his family were greeted on their driveway by what would be their new "extended" family. Local 2396 members, along with Greater Naples Fire Rescue Districts Administration staff, were all present. With the generosity of GNFD, Local 2396 was able to provide three engines and crews to show up with lights and sirens to the doorstep of Noah's home. The Local provided gifts for Noah and his family, from PFB, Local 2396, and GNFD. He was showered with love and support on this special day. GNFD's PIO, Tiffany Wood, also assisted with reaching out to local news crews to cover this special story for everyone to see. Although Noah is our first and only fire buddy we have thus far, he most certainly will not be our last. Local 2396 is dedicated to seeking out other critically ill children who may need our support. We will continue to provide fundraisers and information to the community until every buddy is found. More information about donations, applying to become a Fire Buddy, and the organization, please visit their website at

www.Projectfirebuddies.org.

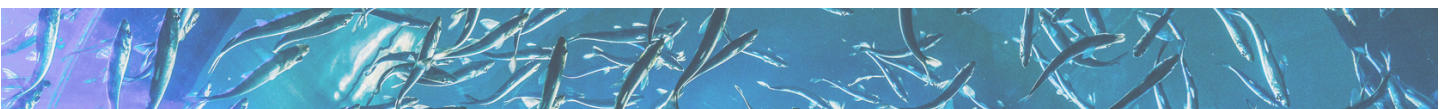
"No child should have to fight their battles alone"



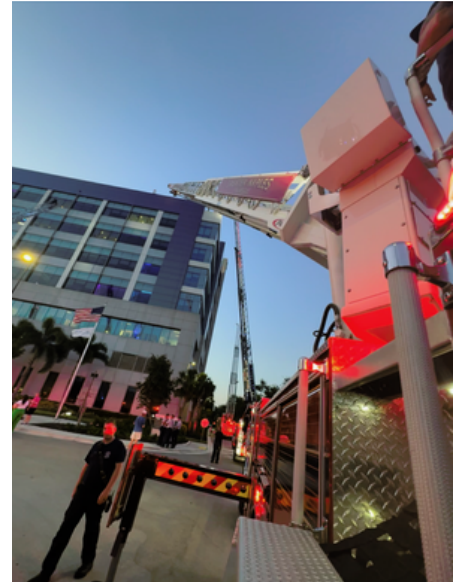
Take A Soldier Fishing



In mid-April, GNFD members came out on their time off-work to support and participate in the Naples Take A Soldier Fishing (TASF) event. TASF is a non-profit organization that supports the brave men and women serving in the United States Armed Services. They provide a free weekend of fun and fishing for active-duty military, retired and wounded soldiers. Some of members brought their own boats and donated their own fuel, expertise and time while others got to spend time with the soldier on the their boat and build lasting friendships. We're very proud of our firefighters who not only give of themselves while working for the community, but also willingly engage within the community and donate to such worthy causes while on their days off.



Friday Night Lights at Golisano Children's Hospital

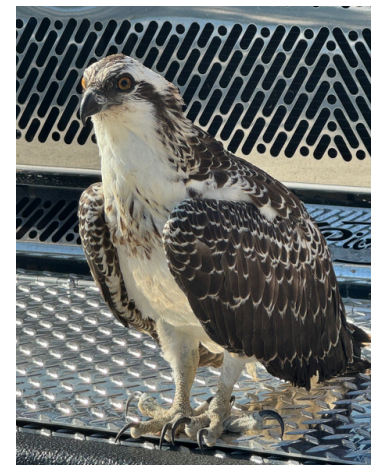


Capt. Sellers, DE Pernak and FF Yero with Engine 72 attended a Friday Night Lights event at Golisano Children's Hospital in Fort Myers. First responder vehicles and representatives shined their lights in the parking lot to wish the young patients a safe and good night's sleep. Patients, staff and families waved glow wands at first responders from their windows to say good night.

Feathered-Friend Visits on Engine 24



Station 24 had an unusual visitor as an adolescent Osprey landed right on Engine 24's front bumper. The young Osprey spent some time chatting with FF Scott Jacobs and posing for the camera. After a little while, the Osprey took off to find some food but he knows he's always welcome to visit!



Promotions



Mark Stirns was promoted to Assistant Chief assigned to the Support Services Division. He was pinned at the May 8th Fire Commissioners Meeting. Mark began his career in fire service more than 25 years ago at the Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District. He joined GNFD in 2012 and he's also been a Fire Commissioner at San Carlos Park Fire District for the past 10 years.



Mark Records was promoted to Fleet Director. He was promoted on May 20th and recognized at the July Fire Commissioners meeting. Mark has been with GNFD since 2016.



FF's Jace Perkins and Sergey Hall represented GNFD in the First Responder Games Hockey Tournament in Palm Beach County. We're very proud of their 2nd place win!

Hockey Team Takes 2nd Place at First Responder Games!



Academy Graduation & Pinning



GNFD Recruit Class 24-01 finished their academy on May 14th, after a rigorous PT session and afternoon mental health forum with their families. They were all pinned at the June 12th Fire Commissioners Meeting. We are very proud of their accomplishments and for working so hard during the 10-week academy. Welcome to the family!

Speech is Silver, Silence is Golden?

By: Chaplain David Wildman



It's a well-known saying, and in most cases, I would subscribe to it. Anyone who has been married or on the job for any length of time has had moments where they regret putting voice to their thoughts. But let's bring this concept into our mental health component within the fire service for just a moment.

At Greater Naples Fire Rescue, we are actively working on various aspects of mental health care, with the Chaplaincy being just one component. Another crucial aspect is our Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) defusings and debriefings. Our CISM process is continually refined, and we are grateful for mutual partnerships, like with Collier EMS, where we offer support to each other during these events.

Recently, we had a session related to a drowning incident. A fairly large group of us and other agencies met up late at night at one of the stations. I honestly wasn't sure how well this session would go, especially considering the large crowd assembled. Would anyone actually speak up about how they felt? How would the new recruits respond in the room? What about the "old-timers" who have seen these incidents more often than most and who might have grown tired of these types of defusing or maybe even become a bit cynical?

To my excitement, some of our "veterans" led the way by engaging, talking about the incident, expressing how they felt about it, and praising their crews. This opened the door for others to feel safe to speak and share. I appreciated that immensely, as it made the entire process more productive and helped people leave the room with lifted heads.

I understand that not everyone will always be ready to speak during these times, and that's okay. However, one thing I have sadly learned the hard way is that keeping things in and not talking to at least one person of confidence will hurt you tremendously in the long run.

We are actively working to form a stronger peer support system within GNFR so everyone has someone they can speak with in confidence and get things off their chest. Silence may be golden in some situations, but when it comes to our mental health, speaking up is invaluable. It's crucial to remember that sharing our experiences and emotions not only helps us process difficult events but also strengthens our bond as a team, ensuring that no one has to carry their burdens alone.

As for me, I'm available to listen—over coffee, breakfast, when I stop by the stations or really anytime you need me. Don't hesitate to reach out; we're all in this together.

Your Chaplain,
David

What Does it Take to Become an Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT)?

By: Fleet Director Mark Records



To become an EVT the candidate must register to take an exam through the Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Commission, Inc. The candidate must decide which area of certification they wish to pursue. There are five different certification tracks: Fire Apparatus Technician, Ambulance Technician, ARFF Technician, LEV Technician, and Management.

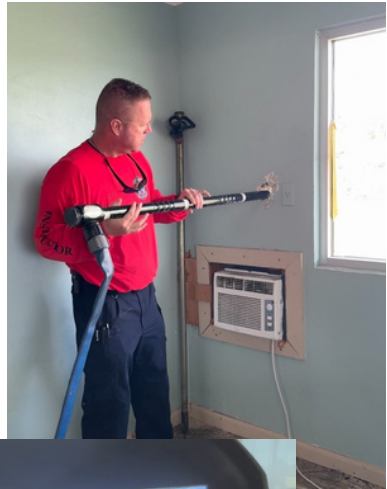
Once the candidate has chosen which track they wish to certify, they must choose what specific certification they wish to get. Each of the five areas has individual tests in a specific area that pertains to that track. Let's take the Fire Apparatus Certification Track for an example. This track has nine individual tests (F1, F2, F3, F4, F4A, F5, F6, F7, and F8) that can be taken. There are three levels (Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3) a technician can achieve by completing the exams. Example: to be a Level 1 Fire Apparatus Technician the candidate must pass F1- Maintenance, Inspection, and Testing of Fire Apparatus, F2- Design & Performance Standards of Fire Apparatus, they will also be required to have passed two Automotive Service Excellence Certification (ASE) T4- Truck Brakes and T5- Truck suspension & steering which are separate test from ASE. After completing the four tests you submit the certifications to EVTCC and they will issue you a Level 1 Certification.

These tests must be recertified every five years to keep the Level 1 Certification active. It will normally take several years to become a Master EVT and years of testing to maintain it.



Training on Isles of Capri

GNFD was offered a two story structure by GCM Contracting Solutions on Isles of Capri. We trained in a "Seek and Find" scenario where the top floor was smoked out and we had to find random items with their thermal imaging camera. These items could have been anywhere, even written on the walls. Then they trained with the piercing nozzles to train on spraying wide angles inside structures. They also trained on Firefighter CPR. We are very appreciative for this training opportunity and there will be plenty more training opportunities to be had there as it will not be demolished for another 5 months.





SUMMER TIME!



Technical Rescue Team Training



TOWER RESCUE



#WeAreGreater

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EGG DROP



Ladder 72 visited Parkside Elementary for their Egg Drop event. Students designed and built contraptions to protect their eggs from cracking after being dropped from 100ft in the air. The students had a lot of fun engineering the ultimate egg-saving device with all different kinds of materials as well as watching the firefighters climb the ladders and drop their eggs.



Good Samaritan

GNFD Accountant, Charity Saieva, witnessed a bicyclist fall off of their bike on her way home from work and she jumped into action to assist them as they were lying on the ground. She was able to quickly assess the patient and give crucial information over the phone to dispatchers, who were sending an engine and an ambulance to the scene. GNFD Administrative Assistant, Judy Schleiffer, saw the incident take place and recommended her to be recognized for her Good Samaritan act.

Please join us in thanking Charity for going above and beyond to help a fellow resident in need. We appreciate her willingness to help without hesitation.

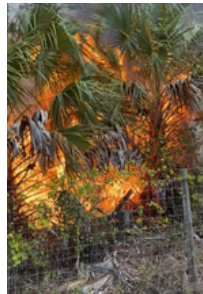


GNFD Noteable Wildfires

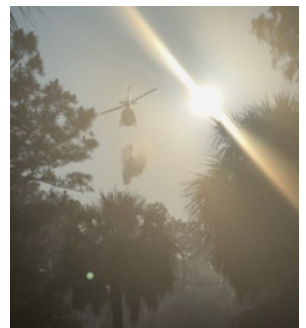
6th Ave NE



Pioneer Trail & Dove Tree St.



21st St NW



Picayune Strand State Forest



GNFD Notable Structure Fires

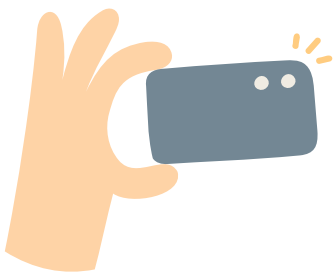
Texas Ave., Naples Manor



Mercantile Ave.



19th Ave SW, Golden Gate City



Have a good idea for a social media post?
Have cool pics from training or an incident?
Send it to your PIO, Tiffany Wood!
Text: (239) 212-6101
email twood@gnfire.org

