



# WASHINGTON SPARK!

A monthly newsletter  
from the city  
government of  
Washington, Georgia.

Empowering our  
citizens through  
public information.

March 2016



## The Washington Fire Department is always advancing but keeps with old traditions

The Washington Fire Department was established in 1919 and it has been moving forward ever since its inception. It started with a station down town and with the purchase of a 1919 American Lafrance pumper truck. The founding members established guidelines, rules and a way of doing things that have become tradition and the backbone of the department, even today.

The Department has advanced over the years and has made many contributions. Fire Chief J.R. Rider helped to start the State fire pension fund. Under Chief Rider the fire station saw five new fire trucks come through, moved the station to its current location and advanced the department into a combination of paid and volunteer personnel. With Chief Alan Poss and Chief Darrell Rogers they kept the advancement rolling with lowering the ISO rating with the addition of more paid personnel and new trucks. This benefited all of the citizens of Washington.

### Chief Gilland's Vision for the future

Current Fire Chief, C.J. Gilland has vowed to keep hard work, training, and dedication to the citizens the backbone of the Washington Fire Department. "We were able to purchase a 100 foot ladder truck with an AFG (Assistance to Firefighters grant) through FEMA. This was a huge accomplishment for our town because the competition was tough!" He went on to say that the fire department is "working with the City administration to update our station." The new station would improve training for the firefighters and help with overall operations.

## Washington Fire Department is always looking for Volunteers



According to the Chief, "the volunteers are the cornerstone of our department. These are people who are willing to give up their valuable time to help protect and serve our community without much pay." He went on to point out that volunteers do receive \$25 per drill and also some compensation for responding to calls. The City also contributes to a State pension fund for the volunteers.

Volunteers are a key element to keeping the City's ISO ratings low. This rating is what determines what your insurance rate will be on your home. The lower the rating, the less you, as a citizen, pay for homeowner's insurance. Volunteers are kept in high regard and are treated as an equal member of our full time staff. Volunteers are held to the same standards as our paid staff and they have the same opportunities to fight fire and perform rescue operations. These opportunities give the volunteers a chance to really make a difference in our community.

If you would like to become a volunteer fire fighter you can contact Chief Gilland at (706) 678-7113. Volunteers find adventure, learn life skills, and gain a nice retirement along the way. It requires very little time to become a volunteer! They have two drills a month, 4 hours each on a Tuesday night, a couple of Saturdays a year. They must meet a percentage of structure fire calls to qualify as well.

### PLEASE ADOPT A NEEDY PET



Mick is a 2 yr. old male. He walks well on a leash and has even learned some tricks!

**Calendar:** The City Council meets Monday April 11th, at the Pope Center, 48 Lexington Ave.

**PLEASE WRITE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FOR CITY OFFICIALS ON BACK OF YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT STUB.**

[www.cityofwashingtonga.org](http://www.cityofwashingtonga.org)

