

Editor's Note

Sorry for the delay of this newsletter; outside of the season's close calls with Dolly, Gustav, Hannah, and, of course, Ike (forgive me if I left anyone out), I also encountered software licensing issues when my computer was upgraded.



Protectors of the lights
Clarence Clark and Mario Gutierrez

Further explanation of the latter in layman's terms, software is licensed to a single computer and, when I changed computers, I had



Sleeping accessories

to get a transfer of license to use the software I use to create this

newsletter.

Here and now, and in need of a new fence, we'll try to get back on track keep a regular schedule of the release of this newsletter.



Food delivery service

Thank you for your input and stories which has allowed this newsletter to flourish.

Pictures are some reminders of our adventure with Hurricane Ike; enjoy.

current events at the Houston Emergency Center



IAH honors Firefighters of the Year

HFD Dispatcher Senior Captain, Richard Chandler, and Captain Mark Griffiths were each selected from several other Houston finalists for the distinction of Firefighters of the Year by the Independent Agents of Houston (IAAH).

They were both recognized at a recent luncheon and awarded a plaque and gift prize of \$500 for their efforts which resulted from a mid-rise building became engulfed in flames last year.

This is the 30th year IIAH has recognized the commitment of firefighters and paramedics who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in emergency situations.



HFD Captain Mark Griffiths

Sibling Reunion

When their father died over 30-years ago, Lonnie Gene Holman, Jr., HFD, was separated from his infant sister, Shantrielle Lon-Jean Scott, Telecommunicator.



HFD Sr. Captain Richard Chandler

As the years past, Lonnie became more aware that he had a sister but unsure of her whereabouts. Shantrielle, on the other hand, had no idea about the existence of her brother.

Fast forward, Shantrielle is looking through CAD's Employee login and noticed that there was a employee whose name was similar to her father's.

As time passed, the name kept reappearing. Eventually, Shantrielle shared her curiosity with fellow employee, Mike Coleman, HFD Captain. As it turned out, Captain Coleman mentioned that Lonnie was a friend of his and he would give him a call for her.

After several days, Lonnie and Shantrielle soon spoke with each other and their conversation soon led them to discover that they were brother and sister.

Lonnie's search for his sister was finally over and Shantrielle gained a brother in a matter of seconds. Since their initial conversation, they have spoken on a regular basis and have gotten together so that their children could get acquainted with each other.



Reunited Siblings:
HFD Captain Lonnie Gene Holman, Jr. and
Telecommunicator Shantrielle Lon-Jean Scott

Lonnie and Shantrielle's jobs have a shared passion in helping people and she states, "It's a wonder we both chose these careers. It's in our blood...we call it, our "Gene" thing!"

The Tele Health Nurse (THN) is a program utilized to identify low-priority EMS 9-1-1 calls that may not require immediate emergency transport to the hospital.

When these types of calls are received, they are transferred to a THN registered nurse who aids the caller guide through their symptoms. If the call seems the need to go further than instructions over the telephone, the nurse can decide for an ambulance to be dispatched to the location.

Roderick Jackson, Sr Fire-EMS Supervisor, said, "the goal of THN is to alleviate non-emergency situations in the Hospital E/R and the 911 emergency systems."

Senior 911 Telecommunicators were immediately trained for the program and THN soon went live on June 30, 2008.

Leticia Lopez, Sr. FIRE-EMS Telecommunicator, was the first to take a THN call and, in her words, "I was very nervous about handling these types of calls but, after the first one, I'm back to handling all calls the same as always."



Leticia Lopez, Sr. FIRE-EMS Telecommunicator



Positive Thoughts to Ponder: Character Strengthen Techniques to Live By

What is CHARACTER?



Iva Jarmon, PSAP Supervisor

It is not personality; many of us have very different personalities.
It is not a religion; it's independent of religion
It is not reputation; reputation is what other people think about us.

CHARACTER is the qualities built into an individual's life that determine his or her response, regardless of circumstances

CHARACTER is what we do even when we think on one is watching or when no one will ever know what we're going to do.

CHARACTER is one of the most valuable possessions a person will ever acquire.

Why is CHARACTER Important?

- Character determines success. Personal joy and fulfillment are possible when we develop the inward motivation to do what is right.
- Character builds relationships. Qualities like enthusiasm, compassion and tolerance greatly improve our relationships with supervisors, citizens and coworkers
- Character increases an individual's worth to the organization. Individuals with good character make the best employees, which ultimately results in more opportunities for growth and promotion.
- Character improves qualities. As a result, an individual's character development often translates into improved products and services.

CHARACTER vs. ACHIEVEMENT:

In today's workplace, it is typically not a lack of skills or abilities that sends employees packing; it is a lack of character.

Skills are important. Competency is vital. But most employers value personal Character over things that can be taught about a job. Make a personal commitment to character development; it is a vital requirement for long-term success.

Three keys to building Character:

1. Emphasize – To emphasize good character, simply heighten the awareness. Surround yourself with reminders to apply qualities like joyfulness, endurance and honor to everyday life. The more you think in terms of good character qualities, the easier it becomes to make the qualities a part of your life.
2. Require – Good character is required by raising standards of good character and lowering acceptance of bad behavior. Evaluate your attitudes, words and actions. When on the job, consider what you can do to align your actions with the policies of HEC.
3. Recognize – Everyone desires recognition and praise. We all have a natural tendency to do things that result in recognition, so look for opportunities everyday to praise others for the good character they demonstrate.



<< Imari Raeshon Robertson-Powell, daughter of Sr. Police Telecommunicator, Regina R. Robertson, just completed her first year of college at Jarvis Christian College, located in Hawkins, Texas.

Imari received a full academic scholarship from the school and is pursuing a dual major in Elementary Education/ Psychology with a minor in Music. She also hopes to complete a doctorate in both fields.

So far, her first year of college proved to be successful when she was able to maintain a 4.0 GPA.

In addition to her educational achievement, Imari is a talented singer. When she is in Houston, she sings for the Lord at her home church, New Community Baptist Church, and with the Jarvis Christian College Concert Choir.

Imari stays busy with extracurricular activities such as serving as Vice President of the school's Praise Gospel Choir and, as a, Historian for the Pre Alumni Club and Student Ministry Association.

Her singing talent enabled her voice to be represented in the national HBCU choirs, which sang at the Kennedy Center on September 7th, 2008.

Regina Robertson stated, "I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful daughter."

>> Christen "Peaches" Fobbs, granddaughter of Fire-EMS Sr. 911 Telecommunicator, Connie Ethridge.



"Peaches" is a nine year old, third grade student, at Carmichael Elementary School. Mrs. Pegues and Mrs. Colbert are her inspirational teachers.

Recently, a motivational moment was experienced by Christen when she scored a 100 on her Math TAKS Test.

"I feel that I achieved a goal that made me realize I can achieve anything that I put my mind to," elated the third grader.



<< Leonard Washington, son of Police Telecommunicator, Ylonda Washington, graduated from Ross S. Sterling High School Magnet class.

Leonard is a Texas Scholar. He plans to attend Prairie View University and major in Engineering. Good luck Leonard.

>> Triston Dior Hubbard, son of FIRE-EMS Supervisor, Tamara Patterson, graduated from House of Engineering at George Washington Carver High School. He will be attending Prairie View A & M for a degree in Architecture.



<< Michael Je'vone Ferguson, grandson of 9-1-1 Operator, S. Eckford, graduated from Alpha Academy.

>> Eboni Johnson, daughter of Jennifer Johnson, graduated from Nimitz High School.



*Thanks
to all who
helped make a
"Royale"
Labor Day*

Sonia Reid 3/1
 Deborah Dorsey 3/2
 Joel Avery 3/3
 Darlene Brown-Keller 3/9
 Patrick Brown 3/9
 Desira Thomas 3/9

Leslie Montante 5/1
 Sedonia Murray 5/3
 Roy Sanchez 5/5
 Sherri Stamper 5/6
 Tomica Weathers 5/6
 Jennifer Walden 5/9
 Angela Williams 5/10
 Grayson Wagner 5/15
 Salvador Guajardo 5/16
 Erma Allen 5/17

Glenn Johnson 5/17
 Darwin Johnson 5/17
 Michelle Pak 5/18
 Dyanne Marks 5/19
 Patricia Rosignon 5/19

Latisha Baker 5/19
 Julia Young 5/22
 Tina Tran 5/24
 Michelle Allen 5/25
 Angelina Beccera 5/25

Clay Lowrance 5/27
 David Folkers 5/28
 Anna Hernandez 5/29
 Johnnie Warner 5/29
 Derek Rice 5/29
 Mamie Bonner 5/30
 David Kilibrew 5/30
 Edward Loomis 5/31
 Fatima Torres 5/31

Patricia Curtis 6/2
 Lettie Preston 6/6
 Charlotte Caston 6/7
 Mamie Moore 6/12
 Joe Laud 6/14
 Zulton Henderson 6/19
 Joslyn Williams 6/20
 April Williams 6/21
 David Losoya 6/22
 Andrea Goodman 6/23
 Janie Lozano 6/24
 Dawn Hatch 6/26
 Christina Martinez 6/27
 Andres Pradia 6/27
 Cassandra Jackson 6/27
 Crystal Weems 6/28

Yokisia Johnson 7/1
 Dwaysala Anderson 7/1
 Martha Rosas 7/4
 Elizabeth Lerma 7/4
 Ronda McAfee 7/5
 Anna Leal 7/7
 Donna Adams Berkley 7/7
 John Sifuentes 7/12
 Amy Shockley-Hughes 7/13
 Patsy Bush 7/13
 Rosalind Bulman 7/14
 Enrique Martinez 7/15
 Virginia Wisniske 7/15
 Donna Williams 7/16
 Krizia Cordova 7/19
 Gabriel Vergara 7/21
 Laura Black 7/21
 Thelma Neal 7/22
 Briana Zweck 7/23
 Barbara Brooks 7/23
 Kenneth Meyers 7/26
 Shirley Rawls 7/27
 Annie Williams 7/31

Anniversaries

3-yrs for Timothy and Larnetta Brown, 5/15
 2-yrs for Roderick and Rokenia Jackson, 7/1

New Births

Kayla Denise Moutra, daughter of LaTonia Moutra.

Logan Renard Charles, son of Erika Barnes

Condolences

Carmen Castro, grandmother of Captain Raymond Castro, OEC

Laurie A. Cornett, wife of Anthony Cornett, Meridian



The outside pavilion has allowed for many department cook outs and, on a daily basis, employees can enjoy the outdoors while taking their breaks.

Bill White, Mayor
 David Cutler, HEC Director
 Barbara Evans, 9-1-1 HEC Asst. Dir.
 Matt Hyde, IT HEC Asst. Dir.
 Joe Laud, PIO / Editor
 Connie Ethridge, Sr. 9-1-1 TC / Asst. Editor

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