



# the General Alarm

August 2013

Fire Chief Steve Earley  
3085 St. Lawrence Ave  
Riverside CA 92504  
951-826-5321  
[www.riversideca.gov/fire](http://www.riversideca.gov/fire)

## New APCO Vice-President John Wright

Retired Communications System Analyst John Wright was installed as Vice President of APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials) on Aug 21 at the Anaheim Convention Center. This role is a huge honor and responsibility for John and reflects well upon his 37 years of service with the City of Riverside. Next year John will serve as President in this international trade organization that represents public safety communications.

John was hired in 1972 by the Riverside City Fire Department as a dispatcher. In 1984, Fire and Police combined into one dispatch center. John was in the first group of civilian promotions to supervisor in this combined center in the summer of 1985. John then served as a Training Supervisor and near 1990, was assigned to run the equipment, communications, and radio program. Eventually this position was reclassified as the Communications System Analyst which was the position John held when he retired on Nov 14, 2009. In 2003, John received runner up for Supervisor of the Year from CPRA (CA Public Safety Radio Association) and then earned Supervisor of the Year in 2004.

Our congratulations to John for his achievements.



**L to R: Captain Jeff Loveland, APCO Vice-President John Wright,  
and Fire Chief Steve Earley at APCO Installation on Aug 21**



## Optimist Club Award Winner FF/PM Jeff Lewis

Every year, the Riverside Optimist Club honors local firefighters and police officers for their contributions to their departments and the community. The City of Riverside Fire Department is honored to announce that this year's recipient of the Riverside Optimist Club "Respect for Law" award (Fire Category) is Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Lewis.

Jeff was selected based on his efforts with the City of Riverside Fire Department Explorer Post 101 program. Jeff has been involved with the explorer post since 2004 and holds the rank of Advisor. Jeff is a high energy employee who brings a great deal of passion and enthusiasm to work each day. He has strong desire to continue with and improve upon the explorer program.

Jeff has been with the City of Riverside Fire Department for 12 years and is currently assigned to Squad 5 at the Airport Station. In 2009, Jeff was awarded the Medal of Valor for his heroic actions during a structure fire in 2008 that led to the successful rescue of a trapped civilian.



Jeff was honored by the Riverside Chapter in July and by the Pacific South-East District on Aug 11 in Barstow. (see email from the District Chair on page 4).



August 2013

## Birthdays



## Congratulations

### September Birthdays

<i>Rich Bell</i>	<i>9/6</i>
<i>Scott Blair</i>	<i>9/25</i>
<i>Carol Blake</i>	<i>9/1</i>
<i>Clinton Breads</i>	<i>9/19</i>
<i>Luis Contreras</i>	<i>9/30</i>
<i>Anthony Frausto</i>	<i>9/7</i>
<i>Evan Green</i>	<i>9/11</i>
<i>Dave Hernandez</i>	<i>9/12</i>
<i>Steve Jeremiah</i>	<i>9/18</i>
<i>Karen McCoy</i>	<i>9/2</i>
<i>Darin Muchmore</i>	<i>9/5</i>
<i>Richard Lee</i>	<i>9/21</i>
<i>Mark Powell</i>	<i>9/11</i>
<i>David Revollo</i>	<i>9/26</i>
<i>Jeremy Roberts</i>	<i>9/6</i>
<i>Frank Robles</i>	<i>9/6</i>
<i>Ron Rondero</i>	<i>9/26</i>
<i>Shannon Smith</i>	<i>9/14</i>
<i>Tyler Stanford</i>	<i>9/18</i>
<i>Bob Valdez</i>	<i>9/23</i>
<i>Dan Wible</i>	<i>9/14</i>
<i>Mike Williams</i>	<i>9/1</i>

### 6 month probation:

Alex Austin (Aug 12)  
David Nelson (Aug 13)  
Jason Roehl (Aug 22)



## Growing Families



*Josh Fudge:* Congratulations to Josh Fudge and his wife on the birth of their baby girl, Kylie Lyn Fudge. She was born at 1330 on Aug 4. She weighed 8.2 lbs and was 20" long.

Ed Lastra and crew on Aug 27, his last shift before retirement





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August 2013

## ***Email from Jack Kohlmeier District Chair/ Pacific South-East District Optimist International on Aug 26:***

I wanted to take a moment of your time to make sure you were aware of the award Firefighter/ Paramedic Jeffery Lewis received from the Pacific South-East District of Optimist International on August 11, 2013.

Each year, all of the clubs in the District are allowed to individually recognize a firefighter and a police officer/deputy through the Respect for Law Program. The criteria is open ended, which allows us some latitude in those nominated for an award. Most awards tend to be awarded for valor, as well as community service/service to youth.

The Riverside Optimist Club recognized Jeffery for his outstanding efforts with the BSA Explorer program, his involvement with the training and mentoring of fellow firefighters, as well his previous act of heroism. His name was then submitted to a district committee who selected one recipient from each profession. Jeff was the unanimous choice of the committee.

Not only do I want to thank you for allowing Jeff to attend the award ceremony in Barstow on August 11th, but I also wanted to mention what an impressive individual he is. His efforts with young aspiring firefighters is inspirational, as well as his on duty actions and heroism. Everyone was impressed with his acceptance speech, and were delighted to meet him afterward. We also enjoyed meeting the two Explorers who accompanied him. I am sure this goes without saying, but you must be very proud of Jeff.

Thank you for your time, Chief. Please feel free to contact me as I can provide you with more information.

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Eric Peniata participates in a drill simulating a palm tree rescue on Aug 26



CAL FIRE INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM #6

Mike Kaslin, Incident Commander



Command Staff

- Mike Kaslin, IC
- Ray Chaney, Deputy IC
- Mitch Villalpando, Liaison
- Gabe Santos, Safety
- Rick Vogt, Information

General Staff

- Mike van Loben Sels, Operations
- Barry Biermann, Operations
- Polo Rodriguez, Operations
- Chris Post, Plans
- Dawn Pedersen, Logistics
- Harper Keene, Finance

August 12, 2013

Fire Chief Steven Earley  
Riverside City Fire Department  
3085 St. Lawrence Street  
Riverside CA 92504

Dear Chief Earley,

I would like to take the opportunity to let you know about the commendable actions of one of your Engine crews on the Silver Fire. Riverside City Brush-12, while assigned to the Silver Incident on August 11, 2013 and under the command of Captain Sean Smith. His crew, Engineer Matt Mathis, Firefighter Josh Lavin and Firefighter Jonathon Trujillo assisted tremendously as a family returned to their home that was destroyed by fire.

As the realization of this tragedy sunk in with the parents, Captain Smith and his crew took the time to help relieve the family's stress by personally engaging the children. The crew spoke with the children, had them squirt water from a nozzle and invited them to sit inside the engine. The crew also took the time to sit down with the kids and eat lunch together. The heartfelt efforts of Brush- 12 most definitely assisted these children, and the entire family, to cope with a very stressful and tragic situation.

I would like to extend my gratitude to you, Captain Smith and the crew of Brush-12 for demonstrating true customer service and compassion. They are a terrific reflection on the values and culture of the Riverside Fire Department.

Mike Kaslin  
Incident Commander

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## Double Time

There seems to be a higher than average number of twins among RFD members and their families. This month and in the coming months, the General Alarm will feature some of the twins.

*Top right: FF Chris Ingalls' children: Older brother on left is Aiden; the twin in the middle is Owen and the small man on the end is Jameson. They just turned one on Aug 21st.*



*Middle right: Eric Peniata's five year old twins, Marley and Taj, at the beach.*



*Bottom right: Jason Tinsman's identical twin daughters, six year old Skylar and Alexis. Jason, 44, also has a twin sister named Julie.*

*Below: Engineer Tom Kleveno's twins: Travis (left) and Taylor (right) 21 years old now, born April 21st 1992. Both in school and currently testing for the City of Riverside Police Department (like their mom Deb Foy)*



## More Mail...

August 2013

**Email to Chief Earley from Shonda Herold, Community Redevelopment Housing Project Coordinator, on Aug 27:** Hi Chief Earley & Deputy Chief Esparza,

I just wanted to thank you and your firefighters – especially those from Station 4 for attending some community events that the City's Housing Authority recently hosted. First, we co-hosted a National Night Out event at our apartment units at 1740 Loma Vista with our property Manager, Riverside Housing Development Corporation (RHDC). The Firefighters from Station 4 were able to attend, here are some photos of the event:

Recently, the Community Development Department/Housing Authority made a request though Norma Pagan for a fire truck and firefighters to attend a community event that the City's Housing Authority was hosting at Patterson Park (on the Eastside), this past Saturday, August 24th.

Norma was great, she helped us get our event scheduled answered my questions and confirmed the Firefighter's attendance. The team from Station 4 arrived and were just wonderful! They took pictures with the kids, showed off their tools, let the kids hold their fire hats! It was great!

As soon as photographs from this most recent event are ready, I will forward some. Thank you again, for sharing your team for the afternoon.

If you could pass this on to the firefighters at Station 4 as well, it would be greatly appreciated!

Have a great day and a safe weekend!





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## CERT GRADUATION



Ten new members completed the 20-hour federally certified Community Emergency Response Team Training Course on Aug 4. The course was held at the Riverside Fire Department Training Center Aug 2-4.

Fire Chief Steven H. Earley said, "I am extremely proud of our CERT training program and our partnership with Riverside County Fire Department in bringing this important training to our citizens."

More information on the Riverside CERT Team may be found at <http://www.readyRiverside.Com>

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# More Mail...

# the General Alarm



August 2013

**Email from Debra Islas to Cathy Mitchell on Aug 13:** I want to start by apologizing for it taking us so long to put our thanks and heartfelt appreciation in writing to thank these wonderful young people: Jessica Escamilla, Jake Riddle, Raul Gonzalez, Tanner Roa, Brett Williams, and Dewey, for all their hard work and commitment to making our move a success and never complaining even in the 106 degree heat.

These young people worked on 6/30/13 from 7:30 AM until 4 PM that day only breaking for lunch. We could not have made this move without them as I had recently had surgery to my right arm and could not help my husband lift anything. Your Fire Explorers are awesome and deserve high praise. Thank you for all your hard, tireless work. We really do appreciate all of you.

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**“Wow!!!”**

**E3 witnessed this air drop while on the Falls Fire on Aug 5.**



## Big Storms

August 2013

Heavy rains and wind hit the City of Riverside from 3-4pm with rain measurements at 1.3 inches. The rain and winds caused damage along a swath of Riverside through UCR, eastside and northside neighborhoods, Downtown, and then passed through the newly developed Bonaminio Park alongside Tequesquite Arroyo.

There were multiple reports of downed trees, downed arcing power lines, power outages, flooding with vehicles stranded and flood waters threatening occupants. The Riverside 911 Dispatch Center was inundated with 911 calls for help. Fire and Police resources immediately responded for help. The fire department's swiftwater response team was readied, but they were not activated. The City's Emergency Operations Center was activated to coordinate the efforts of emergency services, public works, public utilities and cooperating agencies. The City departments coordinated a rapid response to citizen requests both during the weather event and after as recovery efforts to restore services were put into motion.

The Old Downtown Fire Station sustained damage to its roof causing water damage within the station. Downtown units responded to over 70 calls during the 24 hour period of heaviest rains.

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## Guess Who?

Do you know the identity of this RFD member?  
If so, send your guesses to Missy Finney





## Back to the Future

This replica of the "Back to the Future" DeLorean made an appearance at the grand opening of the new Bakers on Magnolia and Tyler. The owner asked if he could take a photo with Truck 2.



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## New Disaster Shelter Trailers

Eight new Disaster Shelter Trailers are now available in the Inland Empire to support mass evacuation and mass shelter operations. The new trailers were deployed to Hemet in support of evacuations caused by the Mountain Fire in the Idyllwild area in Riverside County.

Each Disaster Shelter Trailer is stocked with cots, blankets, and other emergency supplies capable of supporting a 100 person evacuation center or disaster shelter. The new trailers complement existing mass shelter trailers and caches already in place within Riverside and San Bernardino County regions.

The trailers were funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and administered locally by the City of Riverside.

