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911 Appreciation Picnic

Our annual Employee Appreciation Picnic was held May 7, 2005 at the Turner Lake Park Pavilion. We usually have this during National Telecommunicators Week in April but due to the First Responder Class, it had to be rescheduled. This year we had a Mexican themed celebration in



honor of Cinco de Mayo including decorations, music provided by a

DJ, and a catered meal from El Charro.

Everyone enjoyed Suzzan's Trivia Game, and the **Great Corona Challenge** was a big hit! Thanks to some wonderful friends, we were able to get the radios covered so that everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship. I am pleased to say that we had almost 100% participation. Those of you who did not attend missed a great party.



My sincere appreciation goes to those of you who gave of your time, effort, and money to make this occasion special for all of us. Thanks to Jody Nolan and the FFA Camp Staff for providing the funds for the catered meal.

The Team Leaders have committed to make this a yearly event to show each of you how much you are appreciated and that the work you do does not go unnoticed. Everyone continue striving for excellence in your job, you make us all proud!

-Mike Watts



Outstanding Job!

I just wanted to personally thank and congratulate all of you on Team A for the outstanding job in handling the storm damage from Wednesday night July 6th. I have had nothing but compliments for the way you handled the increased volume of calls throughout the event. Everyone pulled together and got us through this like the true professionals you are!

During your 12 hour shift from 6 PM to 6 AM you answered 401 incoming calls, 192 of which were on 911 lines. You assisted public safety units by making a total of 296 outgoing calls. Our normal average daily call volume has been hovering around 440 - 450. You nearly handled that amount for your entire shift. In the one hour period from 11 PM to midnight you fielded 123 calls. From 10 PM to 11 PM you handled 104. All this while also handling radio traffic associated with the event and activating the Emergency Alert Sirens.

Thanks again for all that you do and keep up the good work!

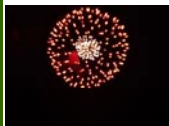
Also a big thank you to Jody Nolan who assisted with handling the public works units since we lost our Roads Department channel.

-Mike Smith



Independence Day Celebration

This year, the fireworks for Newton County were moved to try to overcome the traffic congestion. The fireworks were moved from City Pond Park to Highway 142 and Airport Road. The Church of Covington on Highway 142 had booths set up with food, a stage with live music (three different bands), and allowed use of their property for parking for the fireworks. Additional parking was located in other fields on Highway 142 and on Airport Road.



Several dispatchers went out there to help coordinate the

communication between those directing traffic and those patrolling the crowds. According to estimates from several public safety officials, around 7000 - 8000 people were present before the rain. The rain did not ruin the event, some people did decide to go home, but the fireworks went on as planned.

Aside from a little traffic congestion on Highway 142, the celebration was a hit and some say the fireworks will possibly be there again next year.

EMS personnel on standby at



the celebration reported no major injuries, just a few band-aids handed out for minor scrapes.

There were also no traffic accidents nor were any arrests necessary.

Aside from the thunderstorm that came through, all had a good night. Thanks to the fire department and Jody Nolan the fireworks were wonderful. I have heard many say, "the best show ever."

It will be hard to top next year!



Happy Birthday

- Tom Wall, April 14
- Amanda Harden, April 27
- Ryan Turner, June 8
- Sue Roberts, June 12
- Jennifer Mercek, June 17

Happy Anniversary

- Mike Watts, 4 years—April 16
- Adam Cooper, 1 year—May 14
- Kristen Heil, 1 year—June 2

EMS Ride A Longs



"On the way to the call 101 asked me if I knew CPR and I said I was certified but never actually done it and he threw me some gloves and said I was about to if I wanted." - Sarah Herbert

It looks like we started our ride-a-longs with a bang! Almost everyone from Team D has completed an EMS ride-a-long. Here are some comments from their individual summaries turned in for the career ladder credits.

"I watched the paramedics treat every patient with care and concern. I also realized how bad the radio traffic can sometimes be for the paramedics once they are in their truck." - Karen Nelson

"It was an interesting experience seeing what they do on scene. I wish I could have

gone on more calls." - Amanda Harden

"I really enjoyed riding with EMS. If I could do it again, I would. I learned why two units might go to the same call and how poor the radios are. Not only are the radios bad but the diesel engines in the trucks cause such noise that it makes it hard to hear the radio traffic once driving." - Kristen Heil

"I enjoyed the experience and appreciate the opportunity to learn what each other agency does during their work day." - Krista Hipps

"I already had a great deal of respect for medics and firemen for the work that they do on a regular basis and after my ride

a long I have even more respect for them. I am thankful for the experience that I got on my ride a long." - Sarah Herbert

Riding with EMS, has taught this shift some new things and has let others put to practice some things they learned here.

Thank you, Karen, Amanda, Kristen, Krista, & Sarah for sharing your experience with us!



Public Safety Employee of the Year!

I just wanted to pass along to each of you what you probably already know and that is the Covington Rotary Club named Mike Smith the Rotary Public Safety Employee of the year. This is a very prestigious honor and it was my pleasure to present it to him in front of the team leaders and Trudy. I believe he was truly surprised considering I had not told him about it. I want everyone to know that Mike received this award for all of the hard work

he has done and the accomplishments he has achieved in such a short period of time.

As I said in my comments to come on board and learn about the issues facing all 911 centers, build a new center, and be instrumental in getting SPLOST funds earmarked for 911 is phenomenal. As I meet with public safety officials around the state it is clear to me that many of them

consider Mike an expert in the field of 911. I agree. Finally, I want it to be known that I did not nominate Mike, but I would have, had I been asked to submit a nomination. Mike was nominated by someone not in the public safety community. This fact should not go unrecognized. This is proof that Mike, along with many of you, has worked hard to bring recognition to the 911 center. His leadership abili-

ties and your willingness to follow, have allowed the center to operate by "thinking outside of the box" which is opening doors everyday. Our center is now recognized and respected all across this state along with each of you and Mike. Congratulations on a job well done and I personally want to thank each of you for giving Mike a chance to lead you to what you are today.

Keep Growing!
Stacey L. Cotton

Relay for Life 2005

This was the 911 Center's second year participating in the Relay for life. I want to thank everyone who donated money or items for the fundraisers to help our team raise money. I also want to thank all of the participants that participated in the Relay itself and came for moral support.

A special thank you goes out to the employee that represented the 911 Center as our Miss Re-

lay, Ryan Turner. Men agree to dress up as women and participate in a beauty pageant to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Ryan agreed to wear an evening gown and high heel shoes. The total amount of money raised by all the Miss Relay Contestants was \$10,500.

Thanks again, to everyone who helped out along the way!

Anessa



Our Miss Relay, Ryan Turner

Thank you Ryan!!

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated."
-Confucius

A Trip to Basic Communications Officer School

I must admit, I was a bit nervous about going. I had heard all sorts of stories, most optimistic. Katie Quinn and I went at the same time so we rode together. Having someone else from the center with me did a lot to calm my nerves the first day. The GPSTC center was much larger than I had expected. The Instructors were very reassuring and were willing to review with anyone at anytime. When the exam day came, some of the nervousness returned but mostly I was confident since I had reviewed the material, and paid attention during the class, the instructors reassured us we had nothing to be nervous about. The written exam did not take very long so we quickly moved

on to the practical portion of the exam. The tension was high in the classroom before the "practical" I had learned throughout the week that many of the students had never dispatched before this and I was very thankful that our center had taken the time to train us and have us ready before we stepped a foot into that room. The "practical" portion went better than expected and so it was done. I admit I let out a huge sigh of relief, however knowing that I had successfully made it through the training gave me a sense of accomplishment and confidence that I can perform the tasks needed to do my job well. I enjoyed meeting dispatchers from all over the region,

and learning the differences between the 911 centers. I also found a new respect for our center. I found that much of the training was a review for us, some new topics were discussed, but mostly we had been prepared for this experience and I appreciate that.

-Christina Crabtree



On behalf of Team C, we would like to say Congratulations to Suzzan for her promotion as Team Leader and we are happy to have her as our Team Supervisor and a part of our team. Her experience and knowledge will be greatly beneficial. -Laurel Roysden



"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."
-Muhammed Ali

Poker Run

As most of you know we are planning a Poker Run to raise money for the Relay for Life. The run is going to take place on Saturday, October 22 (only 3 months away). The event should be a lot of fun, but it is going to take a lot of hard work to pull it off. Right now we are looking for sponsors so we can put all the money raised into our Relay donation. We are also planning our route which will include 5 stops, beginning and ending here in Newton County. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or helping out in anyway contact Anessa, Erin, or Katie.



In April, the Communications Officers completed a First Responder/Advanced First Aid Class held at the Georgia FFA Camp on Highway 36 in Covington. The class outline followed the National Safety Council guidelines and was taught by personnel from Newton County EMA, Newton EMS, Newton County Fire, Life Net Air Transport, and personnel from the Covington-Newton 911 Center.



1st Responders Class

The class covered such topics as legal aspects of emergency care, bleeding and shock, patient immobilization; medical and traumatic emergencies, burns, overdoses and poisonings, OB/GYN emergencies and childbirth.



The 24 hour class was given over three days with the first two days committed to

classroom instruction and practical exercises. The final day was dedicated to scenario based learning where the students participated with Fire/EMS and helicopter personnel in a variety of medical situations. This provided a unique learning experience for our Communications Officers because they were actually able to apply what they had



learned in class in order to treat the patients they encountered.

All evaluations of the class were positive. Hopefully we can provide more training of this nature in the future.

-Mike Watts



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“Striving for Excellence”

We're on the web! Check us out.

www.covington-newton911.net



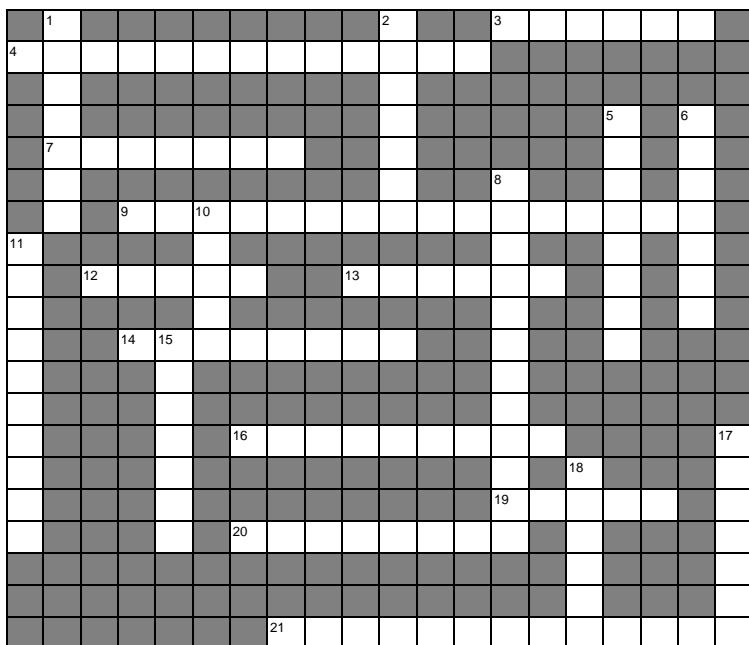
Covington-Newton County 911 Center

Quote for July...

“To sit back hoping that someday, some way, someone will make things right is to go on feeding the crocodile, hoping he will eat you last - but eat you he will.”

-Ronald Reagan

911 Crossword Puzzle



Summer Safety Tips...

- Most clothing only has SPF of 5-9, sun damage can happen through clothes
- The sun is at its strongest between the hours of 10am and 4pm
- Most of the sun's radiation can penetrate clouds and still cause sunburn
- Regular use of sunscreen can lower your risk of skin cancer by almost 78%
- Your sunglasses should be able to block 99 or 100% of all UV light
- Insect repellent made with Deet is absorbed through your skin, the safest products have less than 10%
- Wearing light colored clothing will help repel bugs/insects
- Strong fragrances can attract bugs/insects
- Swimmer's ear is an infection of the outer ear canal caused by trapped water that allows bacteria and fungi to grow
- It is estimated that 260 children under the age of five drown each year in residential swimming pools

Information received from Medical Association of Georgia Newsletter & State Farm Insurance Newsletter, 2005.

The idea to add a crossword puzzle to our newsletter came from Suzzan Monroe & Mike Watts. With the help of Adam Cooper & Trudy Henry—I have added this one. If you like it and would like to see more puzzles added to our newsletter, we can continue this! We will need to mix it up a little, though—maybe for our next one someone can come up with some street names or other words and clues! Let me know! —Erin

ACROSS

3. 10-96
4. s60 (2 words)
7. 10-76
9. s14 (2 words)
12. s77
13. 10-81
14. 10-20
16. s76 “_____” car
19. 10-86
20. 10-15
21. 10-44 (2 words)

DOWN

1. 10-17
2. 10-14
5. 10-16
6. s23 “_____” person
8. s83 (2 words)
10. s59 loud “_____”
11. s55 (2 words)
15. 10-82
17. 10-54 animal “_____”
18. 10-9