



**WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

3386 OLD WESTFIELD RD.

WESTFIELD, NC 27053

(336)351-2576

**Jonathan Sutphin**  
*Chief*

**Jordan Smith**  
*President of the Board*

**Matt Martin**  
*First Responder Captain*



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Westfield Volunteer Fire Dept,  
Inc.**

<https://westfieldvfd.com/>



## **Westfield Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter**

**Volume 2 Issue 3**

**3rd Quarter, 2022**

### **What's Inside**

- **News from the Chief**
- **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**
- **Canning Season Safety**
- **Calendar of Events**

**A Very Special  
Thank You to all  
who participated  
in our blood drive!  
We received over  
20  
donations!**



**American  
Red Cross**



## The Future of Paid Firefighters in Surry County



Over the last year, the fire departments in Surry County have been planning for the future of the fire service by putting a plan together to make sure the citizens of Surry County get the best service possible from emergency services when needed. The Surry County Chiefs Association appointed a committee in July of 2021 to brainstorm different ideas to ensure fire service over the next 10 years. This committee consisted of, Jonathan Sutphin (WVFD), Chris Baker (BVFD), Brian Lowe (SKVFD), Tony Miceli (JDVFD), Jimmy Ashburn (SCFMO), Bill Goins (Surry County Commissioner), and Larry Johnson (Surry County Commissioner). Through many meetings and different ideas, the committee suggested that the Board of County Commissioners consider funds to hire a full-time firefighter at each Surry County volunteer fire station.

Even though this was a great idea, there were many details that had to be resolved. The major detail would be the cost of providing these firefighters at each station at roughly \$800,000 per year. After discussions with all the County Commissioners, a plan was put in place to begin a 5-year journey of hiring these firefighters. The plan allows this program to grow over the next five years. It also allows the county to absorb this expense in different budget cycles. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Surry County Commissioners passed a budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year that included \$250,000.00 dedicated to this program during the first year of this plan. After making this decision, the Committee was tasked develop rules and regulations for this program over the first year.



## From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

After much deliberation and research into this important matter it was decided that first year regulations for the Surry County Paid Firefighter program would be the following:

- **The following strategically located departments were selected to house the first five positions (with the intention that every department will have one paid position within 5 years). Skull Camp F&R, Bannertown VFD, Pilot Knob VFD, Central Surry VFD, Jot-Um-Down VFD**
- **The agreed upon hourly rate will be \$18.50 per hour (\$38,480/year) for 40 hours per week**
- **Benefits will include Health Insurance (estimated cost to employer \$6000 per year), Accidental injury & Sickness Insurance (\$500 per year employer cost), Worker's Compensation (\$1000 per year employer cost), Employer Matching 401k up to 6% (Max contribution by employer \$2,400 per year with \$750 in fees), Employer Tax will cost approximately \$2,344 per year or 5.86% of paid salaries**
- **Vacation, Holidays, Sick time, and work schedules will be determined by each individual department**



## From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

- **Departments will provide all equipment needed by the employee including PPE, radios, pagers, etc.**
- **Each department will be responsible for hiring their own employee**
- **The position will be funded by a \$50,000 block grant to each station hiring a firefighter provided by Surry County**
- **Position will be governed by and operate under the department SOG /SOPs for which they are employed**

Each department will be audited by the county to ensure the funds are being utilized to fund the full-time program. If funds are not being used specifically for the program, then that department may lose the funding and another department will be chosen to receive the funds the following year.

This committee has volunteered many personal hours to develop this plan to continue the level of fire service over the next five years that the citizens of Surry County have come to expect. Volunteer fire departments are struggling to find volunteers and may soon become a thing of the past.



## From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

The purpose of this committee was to make sure the County understands the struggles in the volunteer departments and to develop a starting point to address the issue of volunteerism throughout the county. Surry County is lucky to have a fiscally responsible Board of Commissioners that support and understand real world events through common sense and wisdom concerning the decisions they make for the County. Westfield Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank all five of the Surry County Commissioners for stepping out of their comfort zone and supporting this program to help keep the citizens of Surry County safe and their homeowner's insurance premiums as low as possible. As always we thank you, the members of our community, for your continued support as we try to continually provide you with the best service that we are able. Your endless support is so greatly appreciated.

**Jonathan Sutphin, Chief**



**Westfield Volunteer Fire Department would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the Banks family and the Beers family in light of their recent losses. May you get through this difficult time through prayer and the comfort of friends. Thank you for your tireless dedication to our department and community.**



# **Safety First**

## **Home Canning and Botulism**

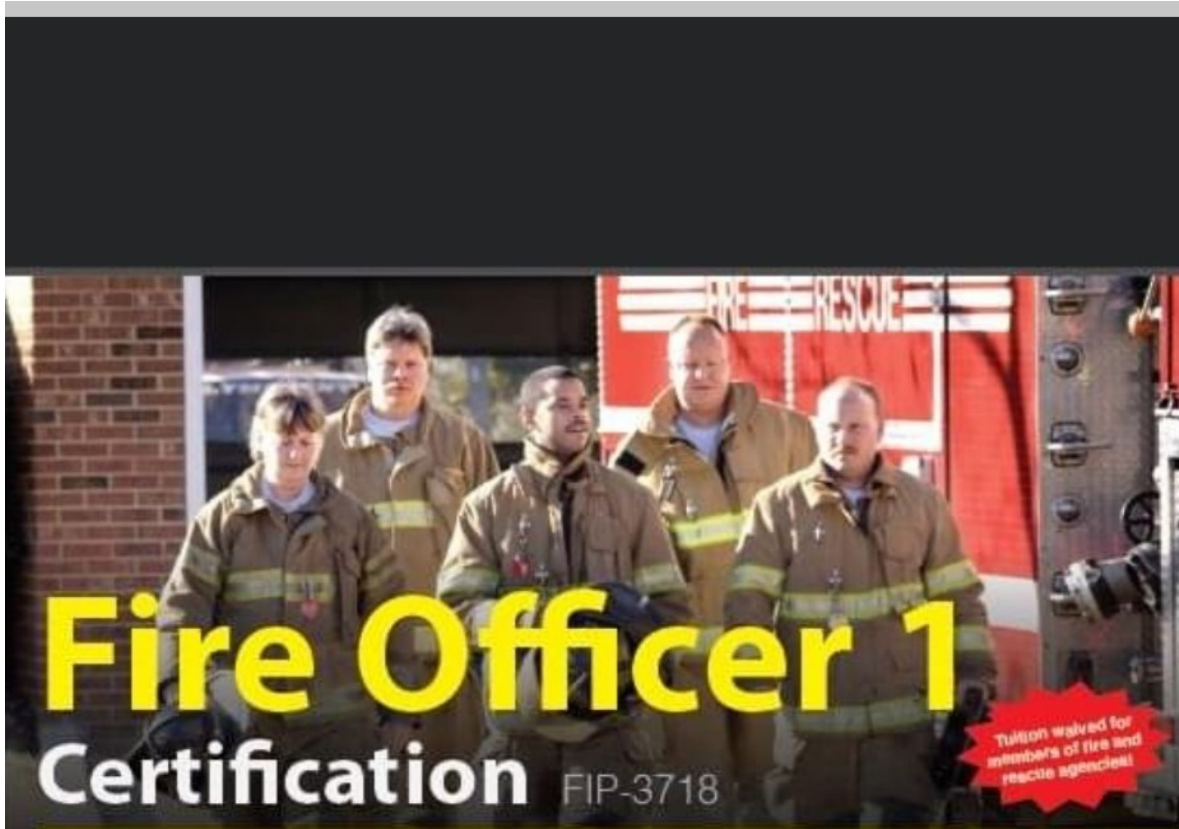
Home canning has had a long and storied history in our part of the country, and is an excellent way to store and share garden produce with your friends and family. But it can be risky –or even deadly– if done improperly. Home canned fruits and vegetables are the most common cause of botulism outbreak. Botulism is a rare but extremely toxic compound that is odorless, tasteless, and colorless. Modern science considers botulism to be the single most deadly toxin known to mankind. Following canning safety guidelines can help protect you and your family from this dangerous pathogen, and ensure that you still are able to have a fully stocked pantry all year long! For more detailed instructions on home preservation please visit the National Center for Home Food Preservation at [nchfp.edu](http://nchfp.edu)

- Always be sure you have a properly functioning canner and use the right tool for the right job. Remember: most modern electric pressure cookers are NOT recommended for canning food!
- Use proper canning techniques. Low acid foods like corn, beans, and potatoes must be processed in a pressure canner to ensure all pathogens are killed
- Always ensure your cans have a full and proper seal
- While some lids are designed to be reused reusing traditional metal lids is never recommended
- Canned foods must be refrigerated after opening
- When in doubt throw it out!





# Officer Training from SCC



### Yadkin Center

- July 12th 6-10pm
- July 19th 6-10pm
- July 23rd 8am-6pm
- July 26th 6-10pm
- August 2nd 6-10pm
- August 9th 6-10pm
- August 13th 8am-6pm
- August 16th 6-10pm
- August 23rd 6-10pm

### Surry County Emergency Services EMS Class Room

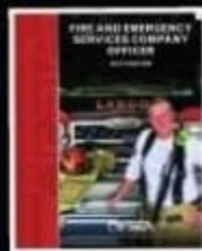
- July 13th 6-10pm
- July 20th 6-10pm
- July 24th 8am-6pm
- July 27th 6-10pm
- August 3rd 6-10pm
- August 10th 6-10pm
- August 14th 8am-6pm
- August 17th 6-10pm
- August 24th 6-10pm

The Surry Community College will be holding a Fire Officer I class. The class will be on a flip flop schedule alternating county each day. The class is set up so that you will have to attend a Tuesday or Wednesday and then a Saturday or Sunday. Students will need to attend 36 hours of the class and complete 100% of the practical testing to be eligible to take the state test.

Pre-registration is required to attend. Contact Jason or Charlie to obtain a registration form.

Jason Lawson | [lawsonjp@surry.edu](mailto:lawsonjp@surry.edu)  
 Charlie Hampton | [hamptonc@surry.edu](mailto:hamptonc@surry.edu)

Students will be required to have the IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer Sixth Edition.



**SURRY**  
 community college  
 Serving Surry and Yadkin Counties  
[www.surry.edu](http://www.surry.edu)



## **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**

**Over the last year, the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department has developed a way to honor the legacy of longtime firefighter Don Riddle after his passing in 2021. The department's scholarship committee put together the Don Riddle Scholarship to honor attributes from Don's life in the volunteer fire department. When he returned to his community of Westfield after his military service, Don served as a volunteer firefighter in Westfield Volunteer Fire Department. He not only fought fire when needed, but eventually obtained the rank of Captain and also served as the President of the department's Board of Directors. In his leadership positions, he placed an emphasis on firefighter training for the members of the department. He served as a role model by consistently being near the top in the number of hours of training each year. He pushed the department to maintain state-of-the-art firefighting tactics as well as equipment. He also placed an emphasis on firefighter and community safety. In 1985, he trained and served as a charter member of the department's initial First Responder program – responding on medical calls with both the Surry and Stokes County EMS. Don was one of the first NC certified EMTs in the department. He retired from the department in 2005 with almost 33 years of service.**

**To be eligible for this scholarship students from Surry and Stokes County had to be a senior in high school with a GPA higher than a 2.0. They must be or have a parent that is a member of an emergency services**





## **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**

**department within one of these counties. The applicant also must desire a career in emergency services or to help their community through volunteering in an emergency service after high school. The applicant must also write an essay describing why they are interested in pursuing an Emergency Services career/certification/degree/ or volunteering in your local emergency organization. They also must write about how they compare their life to Don Riddle's life through his emergency services work.**

**This year's winner of the Don Riddle Scholarship went to a senior at North Surry high School, Andrew Brooks. In Andrew's essay, he explained his experiences in the fire service and how these experiences would help him in the future. Here is a section of his essay from his application packet.**

***"It was my sophomore year that I moved to Dobson and I joined the local fire department, Central Surry Fire, where I am still a member today. But my history of volunteer service starts way before this. I was born in raised in Pine Ridge, a small town where everyone knew everyone and there was a cow field around every corner. I grew up on a small farm as well, we had a couple of pigs that we would raise and then sell as well as some chickens which we used to sell eggs. It was living here that I learned the importance of hard work.***



## **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**

***While growing up in Pine Ridge my dad was a volunteer at the local fire station. I spent most of my life growing up in and around Pine Ridge Fire where I became a part of something and became a part of a family. I had planned on joining as a junior once I turned 15, but before I could, my parents got a divorce which made my dad and I move out of the Pine Ridge District.***

***We finally ended up moving to Cana, a small country town up in Virginia, immediately after moving the first thing I did was find the nearest fire station and joined as a junior. Things were different than they were at Pine Ridge and it took a little while to fit in but once I did it was just like another family like I had before. Throughout my time volunteering at Cana fire, I learned a lot of lessons, took a bunch of classes and training, and was able to help in more ways than I thought possible.***

***After about two years of living in Cana, my dad remarried and we moved to Dobson, just like before the very first thing I did was joined the local fire department. I joined Central Surry as a junior firefighter at the time and one thing that I noticed is the number of juniors that were there, there were many junior firefighters in the department whom I immediately became friends with, and became very close with everyone and became part of another family. Central Surry is still the fire department***



## **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**

***that I am a part of to this day and will continue to be until I leave for the Coast Guard .***

***It was growing up in the fire service which made me fall in love with serving and helping others and what inspired me to join the Coast Guard. Joining the Coast Guard has been a dream of mine for years now and something I plan to make a career out of. Being a part of the Coast Guard, I will be able to continue my love of helping others and my passion for engineering at the same time. As an AMT, Aviation Mechanical Technion, I will be on-board helicopters saving people in distress as well as working and fixing any mechanical problems on a helicopter in the free time. Once I finish my service in the Coast Guard, I plan on returning and joining the fire service again and just helping and serving my community like I always love doing.”***

**The Westfield Volunteer Fire Department is grateful for the community to support this awesome scholarship and would like to thank the Don Riddle Family for their support in continuing to remember Don and all his contributions to his community. On the next page you will find pictures of Andrew Brooks (recipient of the scholarship), Joey Riddle (son of Don Riddle), and Jonathan Sutphin (Chief- Westfield Fire Department)**



## **Don Riddle Scholarship Winner**



**Congratulations Andrew!**



# JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Junior F.F. Training
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Monthly Business Meeting	11	12 Surry Co. Chief's Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Monthly Training	22	23
24	25	26 Stokes Co. Chief's Assn.	27	28	29	30
31						





# AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Junior F.F. Training Emerg. Srvc. BBQ @ WFC 6pm
7	8	9 Surry Co. Chief's Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 Monthly Business Meeting	15	16	17	18 Annual Water Haul	19 Monthly Training	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



# SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Junior F.F. Training
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Monthly Business Meeting	12	13 Surry Co. Chief's Meeting	14	15 Monthly Training	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Rescue Day Three
25	26	27 Stokes Co. Chief's Assn.	28	29	30	