Chief’s Corner
John Bales, Fire Chief

All Aboard!!

The month of April will bring many changes to the department, mostly in the addition of new recruits and a new Training Chief. I will begin by offering my congratulations to the 16 probationary firefighters who completed their probationary year and the dreaded “probie book”. Congratulations to Firefighters Damon Gentrup, Casey Dragos, James Rudnicki-Vasquez, Scott Hartman, Kyle Shelton, Ulises Sarinana, Sonja Klopf, Devin Hallock, Michael Jojola, Holly Hiedeman, Alex Baumeister, Anthony Hittle, Daniel Casey, JD Rotzoll, Aaron McNally and Anthony Martinez. We look forward to having you with the organization for many years to come. This was the first year for the probie book, of which many of you had input in the composition of the activities. The Training Division will be spending some time reviewing those activities and evaluating the pros and cons before putting out the new book for this year’s class.

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2012 on board this week. Recruit Academy starts on April 4th with 12 new recruits and three outside recruits from Golden Gate and Coal Creek Fire Departments. Lieutenant Kehoe has the schedule set and thank you to those of you who have stepped up as instructors and assistants during the next five months. Our academy continues to improve every year and much of this is due to the quality of the instructors.
The new members coming on have a wide variety of backgrounds. There are two City residents in the group, both from District 1. The new members are as follows: Nathan Beckman, Jessica Crump, Charles Grandberg, Dillon Hallock, Dustin King, Ryan Masica, Zachary McCreary, Jonathan Priestly, Zeljko Spiric, Tony Stephenson, Mitchell Sturm and Chase Whitaker. As always there could be some fine turning due to circumstances beyond our control.

Also new to Golden Fire will be Division Chief Marc Mahoney, who will take over the duties of Training and Safety Chief. Chief Mahoney comes from the Eagle River Fire Protection District, formerly known as Avon Fire. Marc has been with them since 1999 beginning his career as a volunteer and moving up through the ranks. He is currently the senior company officer on his shift and spends a great deal of time as the Acting Battalion Chief. Marc has both a Bachelors and Masters Degree from Grand Canyon University in Public Administration and Executive Fire Leadership. Marc has been a part of the overall training program with Eagle River and has obtained several State of Colorado Certifications. Chief Mahoney starts his duties on April 16th but don’t be too surprised if you don’t see him around the office prior to his start date.

New equipment is beginning to arrive in reference to several grants and the monies for the new Truck 4. In the next weeks, there will be a new Thermal Imaging Camera and Air Monitor on Tower 1. We have received several new radios and as soon as the new template is finalized, we will have all of our radios reprogrammed by Jeffco and begin distribution. All rig and station radios will have identifier screens so you can tell which channel you are on.

We will attempt to go live on the “Emergency Reporting” records management system starting May 1st. There has been a slight delay due to some CAD difficulties and a personal illness on the part of our representative from the company. We will start with incident reporting and quickly be moving into inspections and other fire and life safety modules. The hydrant information has been installed as well. Many of you will still need the initial training and get your personal log on from Debbie.

We have started out the first three months with over 350 emergency responses and many of them significant types of calls. Thank you for your response and shift coverage. The Wildland season is well upon us and was evident by the recent wildfires in the county and the requests for mutual aid. Keep up the good work.

As you can tell there is lot of activity both emergency and non emergency. The next quarter looks busy as well with many new things on the horizon. This is your department, so jump on board and be a part of what should be a challenging and interesting 2012.

### NUMBERS FOR MARCH 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Calls</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Hazardous Condition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mutual Aid Given</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District # 1 - 56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Clear Creek Canyon</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Average Response Time</td>
<td>06:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District # 2 - 48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Miller Coors Property</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Average Firefighters/Call</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Response - 10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Out of City/Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Average Total Time/Call</td>
<td>30:52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue/EMS - 55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Mutual Aid Received</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Est. Fire/Damage Loss</td>
<td>$25,730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hurry up and Wait

Hurry up and wait is not my best suit. When given a task to do I like to run into it and get it all done, efficiently and quickly. Unfortunately, we have suffered a one month setback in starting our new reporting software. It is not malfunction in nature at all and came down to some human factors. A family emergency in the company and schedule conflicts might have slowed things a bit, but no doubt we are still on track and will be implementing the new software, Emergencyreporting.com (ERS) on May 1, 2012.

There are still a lot of things that can be added to the system that we are working on behind the scenes. The mapping for hydrants is going to be reloaded so it will be more useful by adding the map pages to the listings. With that being said, you should notice the new Google Earth icons on the training room laptops and the Watch Office computer. All staff has had this feature added as well. Having Google Earth access on the computers will allow the user enhanced mapping features within our new program. You should be able to use ERS to locate hydrants whether responding to a call or for training purposes. The Fire Prevention module and all of our occupancies are being tested and getting ready for use. The training module is undergoing construction and a new product will be here in the next few months so the Training Division has decided to hold off implementing the new training portion until the end of academy and hiring of our new Training Chief.

I will need you to continue to do your reports in our current NFIRS program (H T E) until the new “Go Live” date for Emergency Reporting. Hopefully on May 1st, 2012 we will officially begin our new reporting software. I will keep you posted as we get closer. If you have not received your login and password please contact me via phone or email for instructions. If you have not been able to attend any of the trainings please call or email me for setting up an appointment for this training.

I would like to thank all of you for your patience and your assistance as we head into the 21st Century. It is exciting and hopeful for many other technologies to come. We are also beginning the process of purchasing iPads®. Yes, that is correct, iPads®. I have spent a lot of time researching and going back and forth between Android® and Apple® but in the end I have been won over by the iPad® and all it has to offer. I will keep you posted when we begin the implementation of these devices.

Here is to a new and exciting era at Golden Fire Department!
New Projects Complete or Near Completion

With several construction projects now complete or near complete, an update for those projects is in order. A company called Source Gas has moved their offices into downtown and now occupies the upper two floors of the Clear Creek Office Building formerly occupied by Pentax. A remodel has resulted in some changes to the floor plan and a new access control system to include access control in the elevator car to access the upper two levels of the building. Urban Escape Day Spa has moved from their location at 700 12th Street and is now in operation at their new location in the southeast corner of first floor at Gateway Station at 1299 Washington Avenue, behind the soon to be Indulge Restaurant; however, access to this business is from the main corridor inside the building as the exterior doors were replaced with fixed glazing. The Thai Monkey Restaurant recently opened in the Golden Gem Building at 1300 Washington on the first floor space of the former Mavericks Grill. The new Camping World Building is planning to be re-opened for business in early April. As you may re-call, they tore down their existing building and rebuilt a slightly larger one in its place at 1600 West Colfax. Finally, the new replacement fire alarm/mass notification system at 1000 Jeffco Parkway is currently undergoing pre-testing in preparation for the GFD final inspection/acceptance testing that Kevin Kirby and I will be doing on Monday evening April 16th and Friday afternoon and evening April 20th. For anyone wishing to tag along on any one of these evenings, let me know as it would be a good way to learn the new system and familiarize with this rather larger and “mazy” building.

As I am sure everyone knows by now, we instituted fire restrictions effective at 8:00 a.m. on March 28th due to the weather and resulting fire danger conditions. As a result, the CSM E-days fireworks display has been postponed to Saturday night May 5th at 9:00 pm, fire danger conditions permitting. The fire personnel standby crew spots will be the same and Lt. Kehoe will post those in WTW and let everyone know when they are there for sign up for this approved work detail opportunity. Speaking of approved work detail opportunity, please mark your calendars for Saturday September 29th when from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. you will have the opportunity to participate in our now 3rd Safety and Preparedness Day in partnership with the University of Colorado Hospital Burn Center. More details will follow as the event date nears.

Lastly, there has been some re-kindle of interest in our community wild fire prevention plan so we will be working on more public education and outreach opportunities. As part of this public education we are also going to start a public education to our community about a relatively simple thing. Over the past several years I have been hearing from some of you and noticing myself how difficult it is to find the addresses, mostly on residential homes. While this is a fire code requirement even on existing buildings that addresses are clearly visible from the street of address, we have to get the message out in the right way so citizens are more willing to help us help them by first simply finding their location. I am planning on having Kevin Kirby put together an article for an Informer as well a handout or reference you can all have for a common message when you run across address issues on our responses. Thanks to Fire Fighter Finley for helping spur the address issue along.
I heard a paramedic tell a patient who refused transport, "if you fail to take my advice, and refuse to go to the hospital you could die". When I heard this I thought how sad it would be if that person went home and died that night. It would be purely his fault for not following the instructions of a trained professional (the paramedic), but nonetheless it would still be sad. It would be sad for his wife, his children, his extended family and friends, and sad for the community.

Several years ago, a firefighter I knew lost his life in a residential structure fire. When the investigation was completed, it was very clear that the reason he lost his life was because he failed to follow the instructions of the trained professional firefighters who had trained him and were in command of him that night. The other two individuals on his crew that night followed their training and made it out safely. He did not and it cost him his life. His death was a sad day for his family, the department and our community.

As firefighters you have a fun job. It's an adrenalin rush every time a call comes in and you get to jump on the rig and head out to a scene. But as you well, yours is a dangerous profession. That's why you wear so much protective gear and go through such strenuous training, because it's dangerous. You have received instruction from trained professionals the same way that patient received instruction from the paramedic. Follow it, practice it, and ensure others around you do the same, because we want you to come back safe after every call.

In Luke chapter 12 we read these words: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." You are worth more than many sparrows and we place a great value on each and every man and woman in this department and for that reason, we want you to arrive back at the station safe and sound every time.

Your probably reading this and thinking, "man the chaplain is bumming me out, he's supposed to have encouraging words". I do want to encourage you. I want to encourage you to follow what you have been taught by the professionals around you and encourage you to go home safely every night.
Changes in the 2012 Recruit Academy

The 2012 Golden Fire Department Recruit Academy is under way. There are several changes to the academy this year. Some were made to improve our curriculum; some were made out of necessity.

The academy is a little bit shorter this year due to the fact that all written testing must take place at the Division of Fire Safety instead of here in Golden. We also combined the ladders, ventilation, and forcible entry drill nights into one drill day at the Fairmount training facility. Rather than trying to teach basic skills during a short evening in the snow as we did last year, this will give us a full day and some great props to teach with.

The SCBA Maze day will take place in our new training building at the city shops. Many thanks to Chief Snart and Captain Williamson for heading up the construction of the maze prop and for making sure it was done in time for the academy.

The RIT and Search and Rescue day will take place at the Fairmount Training Facility. This will offer us a lot of search options with multiple floors and variable entries.

The Firefighter I portion of the academy will end with a “Scenario Night” headed up by the Battalion Chiefs. We will be responding to several “calls” with multiple rigs in the city staffed by members and recruit firefighters. The night will go as long as needed and will end in an After Action Review.

Since Chief Quador is no longer with us the Hazmat Ops class will be headed up by three of our department Hazmat Techs: Captain Lutz, Engineer Gustafson, and Engineer Roozen. They plan to add some practical hands-on scenarios to make Hazmat “interesting”.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to assist with the 2012 Academy. As usual, I had a great response and appreciate everyone’s time and commitment to making the GFD Academy one of the best in the area.
On March 28 Golden Fire Department was dispatched to a wildland fire near 6th Ave. between 19 St. and Heritage Rd. Upon arrival Chief Bails established command, Executive Assistant Testroet assisted with scribing and accountability. Engine 1, Engine 2, Brush 1 and Attack 4 initially responded. Mutual aid was requested from Pleasant View with a brush truck and Foothills Fire with a brush truck and tender. The City of Golden Communications Manager, Karlyn Tilley responded as PIO to assist with disseminating information to the media. East-bound 6th Ave. was closed for approximately one hour. The fire was quickly extinguished with less than two acres burned.

On March 26 Golden Fire Department was dispatched to a rollover crash on 6th Ave. at mile marker 268. Upon arrival crews found a minivan rolled over onto the driver side. Rescue 1 personnel stabilized the vehicle and began to extricate the victim. Attack 4 personnel established a protection hoseline. One patient was extricated through the rear of the vehicle and transported to the hospital. A small amount of fuel that was spilled was mitigated and all fire units cleared and returned to the city.
After thinking for awhile about my article, I came up with something fun and something to make you think. What does the year 2012 have in store for us? Two of the three months have already set records in the terms of weather. February set a record for the snowiest February in Denver and March was the driest March on record. What will the other nine months bring us? As you may or may not know, 12-21-12 may be the day the earth falls apart. Let us look at a few ideas of how this might happen.

One of the most talked about theories is the end of the Mayan Calendar. The Maya, who lived in Central America between A.D. 250 and 900, had a cyclical calendar that ran approximately one human lifetime, or 52 years (life was shorter back then). To account for events more than 52 years away, they devised another calendar, one that ran 5126 years, and apparently began in the year 3114 B.C. Do a little math: 5126 minus 3114 equals 2012. “I believe the Mayan calendar was based on some incredibly good astronomy, said Lawrence Joseph, author of “Apocalypse 2012.” “They were really good at knowing when. They weren’t so good at saying what’s going to happen then.” The Mayans believed this date would be the end of one life and the beginning of another; it’s up to us to decide what that means.

Nostradamus Predictions & Prophecy: Did Nostradamus predict the end of the world? Nostradamus left his predictions in the form of several letters, almost 1000 4-line verses call quatrains, and a collection of 6-line verses called sixains. Three of the more noted predictions were: The death of Henry II, The London fires of 1666, and The French Revolution. With the death of Henry II, he describes how he dies. The London Fires of 1666 he gives the year of the fires, and The French Revolution he writes of a place that didn’t even exist in Nostradamus’ day. Nostradamus made and recorded over one thousand predictions during his lifetime. Of those, some say over half have come true. As for the end of the world…Nostradamus predicted it to the year 3786 or 3797, depending on which Nostradamus expert you believe. Only time will tell.

If you look at most of the predictions and prophecies, their origins start with the stars. The Mayans used the stars to help build their calendar; Nostradamus was an astronomer and used the stars for some of his predictions. The following article is from author James Michael Sayers’ book “2012: The Official Countdown”. True or not, it is interesting to see what our Solar System will do in 2012.

The most commonly discussed alignment in 2012 deals with only the Milky Way, the Sun, the Earth and Venus. There is actually more than one 2012 alignment to consider. Viewed from the Earth, our solar system has high and low locations of planets and start clusters. As we stand on the ground and look up at space, the concept of the solar system is different than viewing it from above because the rest of the solar system moves around the Earth from our point of view. The solar system is a vast plate shaped array of planets and stars called the Milky Way. During the course of the known history of the world, we have always been located at the top edge of this platter of matter.

The 2012 alignment known as the Galactic Alignment will bring about a change that begins on December 21, 2012. It is said that this particular arrangement of the planets and the dark rift at the center of the Milky Way is occurring for the first time since the creation of our current age, our current world. For the first time in recorded history, instead of looking out over the top of the galaxy, we will be looking at it from beneath the galactic plane.

(Continued on page 9)
There are those who are convinced this event could place the Earth in danger of being sucked into a black hole at the center of the dark rift in the Milky Way. Others feel that since a somewhat similar alignment involving just the sun and the Milky Way takes place on Winter Solstice every December, that this is just a lot of to do over nothing. But there are other odd planetary placements set to occur in the sky with this 2012 alignment that will place us below the plane of the Galactic Equator for the first time in the known history of the world.

At the same time that we look down the galactic rift from the opposite side of the Galactic Equator, there will also be an annular solar eclipse and Venus will transit across the face of the sun. So in 2012 this alignment is not only placing Earth on an intersection with the Galactic Equator, but doing so precisely aligned with the center of the Galaxy where maximum mass exists. This heavy mass means an increase in gravity creating more influence from the barycenter in our Sun. Astrologers and some astronomers predict this will all line up to deliver untoward effects on Earth. That means rapid increases in solar disruptions as part of this heavenly phenomenon.

In addition to all of that due to arrive with the 2012 alignment, two other oddities are set to take place in our solar system. One of them is known as the Galactic Cross which is connected to the Key of Solomon. This formation is the result of the rest of the planets in our solar system lining up in the opposite direction of the Milky Way to create an actual cross formation in the heavens. The Galactic Cross has been awaited since the early days of the world of this current age that we live in. The Galactic Cross alignment is of particular interest to Mystery Schools, secret societies and the occult.

The Cherokee have a Constellation of the Rattlesnake that is unlike any other ancient culture’s sky mapping formations. The Rattlesnake is to appear in the sky in 2012 according to their ancient calendar on December 18, 2012 and marks the beginning of Time Untime that will last for three days. So this means that Time Untime will end on December 21, 2012. Not a great deal of information is published about the Constellation of the Rattlesnake. There is more to the story, but the Cherokee have not been forthcoming with the remainder of their forefather’s instructions. Their reasoning is simple, they do not know that we need the rest of the information and perhaps in time it will become clear that it is of use to the rest of the world. From the sounds of it the Constellation of the Rattlesnake could be the same as the Galactic Cross alignment.

The year 2012 also presents us with the solar maximum, an event that will remain in effect all year. This is expected to be an exceptionally strong solar max by NASA who has stated in print on their website that they expect the 2012 solar max to be a “doozie”, possibly as severe as 1958 or even worse than that. Add to that the gravitational effects the approaching Galaxy will add to the influence of the Sun’s damaging activity and it is easy to see that December 21, 2012 could very well be a most ominous Winter Solstice.

Whether you chose to join the group who prefers to insist that the 2012 alignment will be absolutely no different than the last few Winter Solstices, is completely your choice. Before you make up your mind though, it would be wise to not forget that the governments of the world are expecting something of catastrophic proportion to take place, and soon. They are hastily building and filling a doomsday seed bank far beneath the ground on an Arctic island, and there are some luxury bunkers of rather large proportions being constructed in Russia and at least one other location in the vicinity of the Far East. Then take a look at the Hopi legends of the Ant People, which will lead you to wonder if the reason they have survived so many previous ages of Earth is because at one point long ago, their people escaped devastation by going underground.

One last thought, did anyone see the movie 2012? I love this movie, not for the special effects but for what caused all the destruction. Solar Flares are what caused all the problems. Did anyone see the size of the Solar Flares last month? NASA stated that this year could be one of the biggest years for large Solar Flares. Some of the predictions state that large natural disasters will be the cause of 2012 problems. In the last 10 years we have seen many large scale disasters that have caused massive loss of life and destruction. The Japan earthquake, early and large tornado outbreaks, and let’s not forget the super volcano in Yellowstone that is past due for a massive eruption. How about the volcano on Iceland

(Continued from page 8)
that caused large disruption of air travel in Europe. That was one of the smaller volcanoes on Iceland. I think old Mother Nature will decide the final outcome on our nice little blue planet. Let’s do what we did for Y2K and throw big parties, watch the skies and see what happens.

(Continued from page 9)

**Anniversaries**

**35 Years (trying to catch Chief Burrell)**

- Matt Finley 04/05/77

**7 Years**

- Debbie Testroet 04/04/05

**2 Year**

- Shawn Arbuthnot 04/06/10
- Jeff Boyer 04/06/10
- David Flynt 04/06/10
- Jordan Houser 04/06/10
- Lee North 04/06/10
- Adam Phipps 04/06/10
- Michael Stout 04/06/10
- Marina Valenzuela 04/06/10

**1 Year**

- Alex Baumeister 04/06/11
- Daniel Casey 04/06/11
- Casey Dragos 04/06/11
- Damon Gentrup 04/06/11
- Devin Hallock 04/06/11
- Scott Hartmann 04/06/11
- Holly Hiedeman 04/06/11
- Anthony Hittle 04/06/11
- Michael Jojola 04/06/11
- Sonja Klopf 04/06/11
- Anthony Martinez 04/06/11
- Aaron McNally 04/06/11
- JD Rotzoll 04/06/11
- James Rudnicki-Vasquez 04/06/11
- Ulises Sarinana 04/06/11
- Kyle Shelton 04/06/11

**Birthdays**

- CJ Adkins 04/04
- Tina Balgeman 04/15
- Jeff Boyer 04/12
- Jeff Cole 04/19
- Daniel Glynn 04/17
- Devin Hallock 04/12
- Scot Hartmann 04/28
- Holly Hiedeman 04/22
- Anthony Hittle 04/25
- Neil Hutton 04/10
- Sonja Klopf 05/08
- Cody McHugh 04/09
- JJ Risch 04/15
- Kyle Shelton 04/14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 2</td>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 2</td>
<td>Business Meeting 19:00 Station 1</td>
<td>Academy Orientation 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td>Academy Expectations 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burn House Scenario Evolutions Station 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Training due to Saturday’s Burn House Evolutions</td>
<td>Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td>SCBA Classroom/ Firefighter PPE 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCBA/Maze Drill Day #1 07:00-17:00 Station 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Auto Extrication 18:30 Station 1</td>
<td>Firefighter Safety 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td>EMS Case Review 10:00 Station 1 Fire Behavior 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mayday/RIT Multi-Company Drills 18:30 Station 1</td>
<td>Loss Control &amp; Building Construction 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td>Portable Fire Extinguishers 18:00 Station 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ropes &amp; Knots/Rope Rescue Field Day 08:00-17:00 Station 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Detail Battalion 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CPR for recruits as needed 18:00 Station 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For their actions conducted during a structure fire at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel on March 1, 2012.

For their actions conducted during the Sawmill Fire in Jefferson County on March 26, 2012.