

Firefighters resuscitate man right after swear-in

BY ANDREA REEVES | COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF WRITER

GLENDALE - When the nine new Glendale firefighters walked out of Glendale Town Hall after being sworn in Nov. 6 they didn't know that seconds later they would have to work together for the first time.

A woman approached the new firefighters to help a gentleman she said was falling down. But the firefighters soon found that William Streight, who was at Town Hall setting up for elections the next day, was having a heart attack. They immediately got to work.

They administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation and were able to resuscitate him.

Springdale and Woodlawn emergency medical teams soon arrived and Streight was taken to the hospital. Streight later died at the hospital.

Glendale flew its flag in front of the Village Office at half mast for three days last week in remembrance of Streight, an 82-year-old Glendale resident.

"Everything went very smoothly. The group there, they just kicked right in and took off. It was great to see them working as a team," Finney said.

"It speaks volumes for the people we're bringing on." Other than this unexpected and unfortunate incident, the new Glendale Fire Department isn't taking any additional runs ... yet.



The department still needs organized, additional firefighters need to be added and everyone has to go through training and get used to operating with each other as a team, Finney said.

But the teamwork the group demonstrated on Nov. 6 is a good indication that it won't be difficult to work together, according to new Glendale Assistant Chief Amos Johnson, who's also a lieutenant with the Forest Park Fire Department.

"We were pretty aggressive with our EMS skills. And the cohesiveness. We just gelled together right then. There's a lot of experience with EMS and fire there. A lot of experience that kind of gelled together."

About 10 months ago, the Glendale Fire Department was disbanded after a consultant's report said the chain of command was broken.

The village recently hired Finney as the new fire chief and this month nine firefighters - two of whom were named assistant chiefs.

They're still taking applications for additional firefighters.

Johnson said he's eager to be a part of the process to make the Glendale department operational again to where the Glendale department can support its own.

And for Johnson, that includes making everyone welcome at the department, including former Glendale firefighters.

"We're willing to make that happen and that starts from the top. That's what we're going to portray and I hope it trickles down to the rest of the crew," he said.

"I think the way it will turn out will surprise everyone."