Timeline for Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Signature Project

* March 14, 2018 President Elect Greg Davis, Past President Elizabeth Gill, Buckhead Rotarian Denise Starling, Executive Director of Livable Buckhead held initial brainstorming session at Buckhead Club to discuss possible Signature projects for Buckhead Rotary during Year 2019-2020. Denise and Elizabeth expressed “concern” for living conditions at City of Atlanta Fire Stations and ways Buckhead Rotary could help.
* April, 2018 President Elect Greg Davis, Past President Elizabeth Gill held initial meetings and conversations with Shirley Ann Smith, Executive Director of the Atlanta Fire rescue Foundation about opportunities for Buckhead Rotary to help with housing conditions and other needs of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department specifically the five Stations in the Buckhead footprint. This discussion ultimately led to the Adopt a Station program which was implemented by the AFRF during 2019.
* May 2018 -RCB submitted district grant proposal to provide support to buy uniforms for Camp Ignite. This program was initialized by the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation to expose young women ages 14 to 18 to careers in the fire and emergency services industry.
* September, 2018 President Davis and PP Elizabeth Gill went on a ½ day tour of the 5 Buckhead Fire Stations and realized there was a TREMENDOUS need for outside help for many of the Fire Stations.
* February, 2019 Buckhead Rotary Club assisted with registration and provided financial support in amount of $5,000 for the first Camp Ignite program utilizing our District 6900 grant ($3,000) and club matching funds to purchase uniforms ($1,714) for Camp participants.
* May, 2019 President Davis and PP Elizabeth Gill met with Shirley Anne Smith, Executive Director of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation to discuss contributing to the Foundation on behalf of the Buckhead Rotary for year 2019-20. We committed to give the Foundation 25k for a three-year period, totally 75k. The monies will be used to benefit Battalion 6, the 5 Buckhead stations.
* July 1, 2019 PP Elizabeth Gill, Project Chair made the announcement our Club’s signature project for 2019-2020 would be the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. Elizabeth told the Club about losing their daughter Rachel Thorn as a result of a fire in Buckhead in 2016. The 5 Buckhead Stations we are supporting were the Stations that came to her daughter’s aid that day.
* August, 2019 Chief Michelle Middlebrooks, the Chief of Batallion 6, the five stations in Buckhead joined Buckhead Rotary and immediately started joining Committees and getting involved in a variety of Club Projects.
* July, 2019 – present day PP Elizabeth Gill asked the Chief Middlebrooks to get a Wish List from the 5 Buckhead Stations. We circulated the attached list to the Club members and other Organizations in Buckhead including the Buckhead Coalition, Buckhead Business Association and the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods.
* September 9, 2019 Meeting of Buckhead Rotary’s speaker was the Atlanta Fire Chief for the City of Atlanta. The Club commemorated September 11th in a moving tribute to our Fire Department
* September 11, 2019 several Buckhead Rotary club members attended September 11th services honoring the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department and other first responders.
* November 12, 2019 20 Buckhead Rotarians manned the front desk and worked in other capacities at the annual “Breakfast with our Bravest” event honoring the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. There were over 500 in attendance. Buckhead Rotary was a Gold Sponsor for the event. A video featuring PP Elizabeth Gill was shown at the event promoting the Adopt a Fire Station program. <https://vimeo.com/361936333/c575e6da93>
* December 2019 2 Industrial washer and dryers were ordered for Fire Station 26, thus using our 25k. This washer and dryer will be used by the whole battalion after a fire, removing toxic chemicals which are used in fighting fires. Studies show if you leave these toxic chemicals on their suits the chemicals cause cancer.
* The Adopt a Fire Station becomes a huge success for our club. In addition to the 25k we gave the AFRF, at least ½ the club gave other contributions which were on the Fire Station’s wish list. For example, TV’s, 2 gas grills, sports equipment, furniture, refrigerators, food, pots and pans, wi-fi equipment, cutlery, dinnerware and lawn equipment. Sam Massell, Buckhead Rotarian, former Mayor and former President of the Buckhead Coalition asked Haverty’s to give a recliner for each station. (insert photo) PP Elizabeth Gill asked Rooms to Go to give 4 recliners to a Fire Station and they did so happily. In addition to the impact our Club has made in Buckhead, the Adopt a Fire Station has been picked in other communities across the city.
* January 2020 PP Elizabeth Gill gave a speech to the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods, a group of 125. In this talk she spoke about the Buckhead Rotary’s 25k signature project and the Adopt a Fire Station Program. The latest Wish List was given out at the meeting. From this speech, Facebook groups and NextDoor published information about Buckhead Rotary’s involvement and jumped on board and Adopted the 5 Fire Stations in Buckhead
* January 2020 PP Elizabeth Gill, Denise Starling, Executive Director of Livable Buckhead (Buckhead Rotarian), Chief Michelle Middlebrooks (Buckhead Rotarian) and Shirley Anne Smith, Executive Director of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation met to discuss Livable Buckhead and Buckhead Rotary teaming up to serving breakfast at the Buckhead Fire Stations. First Firefighter breakfast is slated for Thursday, March 19. This will occur once a quarter.
* February 27 President Greg Davis was one of the speakers at the Ribbon Cutting for Fire Station 26, which was renovated in part because of our Rotary Club’s outcry to improve the conditions in this Fire Station. This Station was built in 1953 and had received no assistance in renovation until this time. The Mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms was also a speaker and thanked the Buckhead Rotary for the support of Buckhead Fire Stations. (Insert photos and Northside Neighbor article.)
* March 28, 2020 Buckhead Rotary’s Foundation Ball will auction off driving and rides on the Fire Trucks. This will be a huge hit!
* May 11, 2020 We will have our regular Buckhead Rotary meeting at Fire Station 21. Chief Michelle Middlebrooks will give a presentation on all the things we don’t realize about what our Firefighters do on the job every day. The club will also have an opportunity to see the Fire trucks and equipment.
* There has been a great deal of publicity this Rotary year which has heralded this grassroots effort by our Rotary Club. Here are some of the articles which have been written.

Joanne – there is an article in HoodWinks

<https://www.buckheadrotary.com/news>

<https://www.reporternewspapers.net/2020/01/31/buckhead-leads-push-to-adopt-fire-stations/><https://www.mdjonline.com/neighbor_newspapers/northside_sandy_springs/news/the-rotary-club-of-buckhead-is-donating-k-to-aid/article_0e48ed3a-a749-11e9-ba3a-c39df4b2ad90.html>

<https://rotary6900.org/story/3021>