

Growing Goodyear-Chief Luizzi-Final

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goodyear, firefighters, department, station, city, fire, fire chief, employees, building, people, years, cancer, clean, challenging, important, fire stations, growing, captains, big, piece

SPEAKERS

Close, Host Tammy Vo, Open, Chief Paul Luizzi

- O** Open 00:03
Coming up on this episode of Growing Goodyear...
- C** Chief Paul Luizzi 00:06
It tells the citizens that our firefighters are as healthy both physically and mentally as they can be in order to kind of help them in their emergency. So you're getting the best during your worst time.
- O** Open 00:25
Welcome to Growing Goodyear, a podcast that provides in depth conversations with the movers and shakers in the ninth fastest growing city in the nation. Located just 20 minutes west of downtown Phoenix, people and businesses are flocking to Goodyear, Arizona. It's a great place to live, work and play. And despite its rapid growth, it still feels like everyone's hometown. Simply put, it's a great time to be in Goodyear, Arizona. Now here's the host of Growing Goodyear. Digital Communications Director Tammy Vo
- H** Host Tammy Vo 01:00
Welcome to Growing Goodyear. By nature, firefighting will always be a dangerous job. But over the last few years, the city of Goodyear has taken steps to eliminate some of the hazards and risks these brave men and women face each day. Thanks to the efforts and investment from city leaders, the Goodyear Fire Department is leading the way in the use of new technology to keep firefighters safer from cancerous and deadly carcinogens. From the storage and cleaning of their gear and equipment, to the physical layout of new fire stations, Goodyear has made it a priority. On this episode of Growing Goodyear we'll talk with Goodyear fire chief Paul Luizzi

about these safety measures and why they are so important and how Goodyear has become an industry leader in utilizing many of the cutting edge health and safety practices. But first, it's time for our Fast Five with Chief Luizzi. You are a big Boston Red Sox fan, right?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 01:58
Yes.

H Host Tammy Vo 01:59
So who's your favorite all time Sox player?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 02:02
Favorite all time? I'd have to go with Dustin Pedroia.

H Host Tammy Vo 02:06
Your favorite holiday and why?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 02:08
Thanksgiving, because you don't have to bring gifts.

H Host Tammy Vo 02:12
But you do have to cook?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 02:14
I don't but yes.

H Host Tammy Vo 02:15
Oh, I see. It's the end of a long day you grab the remote. What are you watching?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 02:21
If I had my choice, First 48.

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Host Tammy Vo 02:24

What did you want to be when you grew up?

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 02:27

My mom has a picture of me probably two or three years old as firefighter. Dressed as a firefighter. So

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Host Tammy Vo 02:34

Over the course of your career, what has been your most memorable call?

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 02:37

Memorable call? The one that kind of popped into my head just now as you said that, for about eight years, I flew as a flight paramedic on a medical helicopter. This baby had this really rare disease. He's about 18 months old, and the disease is called cutis laxa. And they have zero connective tissue in their body. But the thing that struck me about him was there's a baby behind that. And usually babies do very well on a helicopter flight. They, the vibration just kind of puts them to sleep. But he was wide awake and he was looking around and I had moms keys and I was just jingling them in front of his face. And he was just following the keys around. It just reminded me that that even though despite you know all of his horrible medical conditions he was going through, there's a baby right behind there.

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Host Tammy Vo 03:27

And it's not just caring for patients, in that aspect. It's also caring about your employees, which is what we're talking about now, which is your firefighters and your employees. When it comes to cancer prevention on the job. Why this, this means so much to you right now?

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 03:47

I think over the last few years, what we've seen is it can affect really even the youngest persons in our department, and to have three people affected by cancer that are less than 40 years old that really kind of struck you as wow, this really can have a negative impact on us. But I think the biggest thing is just stressing the importance of keeping yourself healthy as much as possible in whether it's making sure you fully decontaminate after a fire, or that we give them the proper facilities to stay clean in environment that's protective of them. But I think the third part of that is the annual physicals that we give the firefighters to make sure that if we do find something, we catch it early enough in that it can be preventable. And I think that goes to show the last two cancers that we've had, exactly that. That they were caught early, in they were early enough that they received treatment and they were able to survive through those cancer diagnosis.

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Host Tammy Vo 04:58

So walk us through how this happens. You've got, let's say a fire crew that responds to a fire, right, let's say a house fire, what is happening at the house fire from that point when they're on the call to when they get back to the station that is contributing to some of these trends we're seeing nationwide with firefighters and cancer?

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 05:19

I think the biggest thing starts with the fire itself. And so all of the new furniture coverings, on walls, on the carpets, everything that's out there, there's a synthetic component to it. And a lot of those synthetics have cancer causing agents in them. And so when that starts to break down under fire, it burns much hotter. But it also gives off a lot more chemicals. And so when we go to a house fire, our job is to get in there and to stop the spread of that fire as fast as we can. Obviously, we're looking at a lot of different components to what's going on with the house at the time we arrived, but our goal is to get in there and get the fire out to prevent the damage to the home, hopefully give a family back some part of their home. And so when a fire occurs like that on a couch, it's off gassing all of those chemicals and through the smoke that gets on the firefighters clothes. And if there's any exposed skin, which we hope that there isn't that they should be buttoned up appropriately, but their skin can be exposed, all of that smoke gets on their clothing, and then they come out of the fire and now they're still off gassing. And so all of those chemicals are coming off of their body now in into the atmosphere. Our goal at that point is to decontaminate them. So we'll do a gross decon on them. So we'll spray them down with a hose, we'll wash with a bucket of soap and a long brush, wash all of that off, get them out of their clothes, and then they'll go through a personal decon. So they'll get their neck, their armpits, the back of their knees, the groin, just to make sure that they get all of any gross contaminants off them. Then we get them back on their trucks, you know, obviously, they go back to the station, and then there, they get all of their gear pulled apart, get it in the washer, get that cleaned, get their second set of gear out, and then they get themselves in the showers deconned and then they're really ready for the next call. We want to make sure that there's definitely a separation of where the clean area is where they live and where they eat, where they train, and you know, where they eventually lay down and get some rest at night. We want that to be a clean environment for them as much as possible. And then we have those decontamination areas that that's where they can walk when they're dirty, and make sure that they get into the showers, there's laundry facilities there so they can wash their T shirts and their pants right away, so they're not carrying all of that dirty stuff through the rest of the station. The other piece is, you know, we wash all of our equipment and all of our uniforms at the station so we're not bringing that home to our families and exposing our families to those carcinogens. But that process has to be consistent for them anytime we enter those types of environments to make sure that we are consistently trying to keep our firefighters as clean as possible.

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Host Tammy Vo 08:20

And the city has invested in new equipment, new buildings to support this. Tell us about that.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 08:28

Yeah, so we've been very fortunate to have a city council that supports public safety. And it's not something that just happened when firefighters developed cancer. It's been something that's been going on for a really long time. I've been here for 15 years, and I've always felt the council has been a big supporter of our public safety divisions. So it's nice to really feel that level of support when we build our fire stations that we can build in those components to make sure that we are continuing to keep our firefighters clean.

H Host Tammy Vo 08:59

How important is it to have the support and the buy in from not only, you know, city leadership, but our council?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 09:05

Obviously, it's very important because they control how the budgets are spent in our city. And they do the right things by challenging what's going on, making sure that we are getting the most out of the dollar that we're allotted. We're one of 14 departments in the city and we're all competing for that same dollar when it comes to budget time. And as I stated previously, city council has been always very supportive of public safety. It's been their number one priority for a long time. But they did challenge us in making sure that we are spending the money the most appropriate but, you know, as we go through that vetting process, which you know, can be long and challenging I guess at times, but ultimately it's the right thing to do to make sure that we are spending the citizen's tax dollars the right way. And we're just not being frivolous about how we spend those dollars. So it was great working with them. It's a long and kind of arduous process to go through. But ultimately, we delivered a very good product and they were very happy and very proud to have those new stations in their city.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 09:09

Let's talk about fire trucks. Your average resident might look at some of the fire engines and say, Oh, it's just another fire engine. Some of our new ones though, if you were to really look at it closely, what's the difference in the design?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 10:23

I don't think a lot of people would be able to tell them just from a design standpoint, but from a functionality standpoint, for the firefighters, we do have clean cabs now. So we don't let any of that dirty equipment into the cab, where they're riding to and from the stations, or to and from training. We want to try to keep that environment as clean as possible as well. So we've made bigger outside compartments for them to be able to store their gear so it's outside of the area that they ride around in the trucks, so that at least gets another area where they can have some safe refuge from any of those carcinogens.



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Host Tammy Vo 10:59

I think it's safe to say that Goodyear fire has had some challenging times in the last couple of years with this. Tell us more about Austin Peck and Gilbert Aguirre with your department, what they've gone through over the years.

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Chief Paul Luizzi 11:12

Sure. Ironically enough, had been diagnosed with cancer right around the same time. So Austin was just a little bit over 30 years old. At work one day and develops a bloody nose. You don't think much of it, it's pretty dry here for most of the year and so you know, people get, you know, bloody nose just happens, but it wouldn't stop. And so he eventually went and saw his physician and what they had found out as they looked up his nose was that most of his septum was gone. The part that separates the left and right nostril was completely gone. And so they sent him for more studies and he has a massive tumor in his sinus. And so they send it out, get a biopsy, and it's a very rare form of cancer. And so it's called SNUC. I think less than 1200 people have ever been diagnosed with it. And I think when Austin was doing his research, maybe one other firefighter in the world had it so really rare. And so he went through a myriad of different types of treatments. It really held on for about four years. And then the cancer just got the best of him, it spread throughout his body and unfortunately, he passed away at age 35. So horrible tragedy, young family, little girls. And so that really, really impacted our department greatly. Right around the same time, Gilbert Aguirre he was diagnosed with leukemia. He got actually picked up on our annual physical, they found some blood work that was off sent him to hematologist, they said you have leukemia. And so he actually ended up over at CTCA for his treatment, the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, and they did a phenomenal job with him. And he was off the truck for probably the better part of a year after his diagnosis, and then was able to get strong enough and well enough that his physician let him come back to work. His fight has just been truly amazing as he's worked on legislation, clean cab concepts, clean staging concepts. He's really been the head really of a lot of this legislative change in our state, when it comes to cancer and how workman's comp looks at cancer in our state.

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Host Tammy Vo 13:31

Has it been hard for you at times to be the fire chief?

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Chief Paul Luizzi 13:36

No, I mean, you know, I think it's, I heard somebody said this the other day on another podcast, it's the seasons of your life, you just go through these different events and times. And, you know, I think it really kind of strengthens the bond of the department. I think one of the things that I noticed after Austin, and I've been in other departments where we've lost people that have passed away on duty, and it's, it can rip a department apart because there's a lot of finger pointing. But one thing I noticed about our department is the level of resiliency that they had in how they really kind of joined back up as a group and became much stronger in that resilience really showed. So I thought for me from my standpoint, that it's very humbling to be part of that and to be the leader of that organization. When you don't necessarily as a leader, you don't necessarily cast your magic wand and say everybody's going to be resilient to these

things. But I think some of the programs that we put in place, in some of the people that we've hired, have really helped us become a much more resilient organization, a much more stronger organization.

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Host Tammy Vo 14:51

And I know mental health is a big component of what you do and it's important to you as fire chief, tell us about what you're working on with your your firefighters.

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Chief Paul Luizzi 14:59

We were really fortunate and we got a grant, a federal grant, to bring on a psychologist for a year, and really work with our department. We were really fortunate to be able to get Dr. Tania Glenn, she came in, she has a lot of public safety experience. She came into our department and really started to build that level of resilience. But from a behavioral health mental health standpoint, as a fire chief, when you bring in a new program, you're always at a level of uncertainty, are they going to trust this person. This is somebody from the outside, are they going to think that it's something they don't want to support. And the first year that she came out, she spent four full weeks, with our firefighters just really gaining their level of trust, doing a lot of coffee table training with them. So sitting at the kitchen table and just talking through mental health, behavioral health, why it's important, how to build resilience. What happens when you see a traumatic call? What's that process that your body goes through?

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Host Tammy Vo 15:58

Your firefighters go on some pretty, they see some pretty tough things.

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Host Tammy Vo 16:00

Yeah they see. Yeah, some awful things sometimes, and letting them know that it's okay to not be okay. Coming up through the ranks that was always told to me just get over it, you'll be fine. It'll go away. Well, sometimes it doesn't. Getting to that point where knowing that it's okay to not be okay, is really important. It's something that that level of empowerment we have to push down to the firefighters to make sure that they do understand that. But Dr. Glenn has really done that. And so she kind of proved that this process would work. And so the next year, we were able to get it adopted as part of our budget. And so since 2016, she has been a contracted member of our department, and continues to do the same process for four weeks throughout the year, so once a quarter, she comes out and spends an entire week with our firefighters. We have a kind of a consistent flow that goes into see her and we've developed our own peer support team from that, she was able to get them certified. So that when we do have a traumatic event, we can deploy our peer support team to the firefighters in their station, to make sure that they're doing okay. And then what they do is, because Dr. Glenn lives out of state, they'll communicate with her by phone. And if it's something to where she has to come out, she's on the next flight out to Goodyear, and she's able to see those people in person. One of the things that really struck me was one day, I was in a Starbucks waiting for my order and one of my firefighters, off duty, he came up to me said hello. And he gave me a hug. Now this is

not a person that hugs people. And so I was taken back by it. And he kept saying thank you, and I said for for what? And he said for bringing us Dr. Glenn. And that to me was like incredibly powerful, like, wow, this is this is really gonna work. And then the next time was when we were talking about our core values and talking about empathy and how as first responders you can develop empathy fatigue or compassion fatigue.

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Host Tammy Vo 18:01

You become a little jaded, desensitized.

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Chief Paul Luizzi 18:02

Yeah, so you have to be careful about that, you have to know when that happens. And so one of my firefighters stood up, and he challenged 10 other men in the room and said, the importance of behavioral health, that he goes to Dr. Glenn. And he challenged them on their mental health and to make sure that they are squared away and if they need to go see her, see her. Make an appointment that it's okay to not be okay. And now I start to hear the stories about after a bad call guys will challenge each other to go see Dr. Glenn, or go see one of the peer supports, or we also have a chaplain. The city obviously provides us with EAP so there's a lot of resources that we have now for our firefighters for behavioral health, and for mental health wellness, but to see them start to challenge each other, and know that it can affect them and where they can go to get help, that just was incredibly powerful for us.

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Host Tammy Vo 19:00

Do you feel like the fire industry, looking back over the long run, has been sort of, you gotta be tough to work in this field. Right? So is what you're doing in this mental health capacity? Is that sort of challenging that notion?

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 19:12

It does. It challenges the everyday notion that, you know, you've got to suck it up. Big deal, you saw a bad call, get ready for the next call. But that's not what it is. It's okay to feel upset after a call. That's a normal process. That's a normal feeling. But to try to hide that it's just it's not, it's not good for you, you know, eventually it's going to lead to a problem. Some people just don't have the capacity to be able to hide that. And so to be able to talk about it with a trained professional, or even really to talk about it with a peer just to get it off your chest is really important. And so when we're going through interview process in the next few weeks for firefighters, and we're still going to look for the same type of driven type A personalities, but the piece that we ingrain in them during their training is that it's okay not to be okay. If you're having a bad day, that's normal. If you feel awful after a bad call, that's normal. Here's some resources if it's not going away after a few days to go see and get some help.

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Host Tammy Vo 20:13

Because if I'm calling 911, and I need help, I probably want whoever comes to my door to be an

because if I'm calling 911, and I need help, I probably want whoever comes to my door to be as fit as they can be.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 20:21
Yep.

H Host Tammy Vo 20:21
In all ways.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 20:22
Yeah. Physically, mentally. Yep, you want the best of the best.

H Host Tammy Vo 20:25
For your average person who looks at the trucks, looks at the fire stations as just what they are and what they've seen for their whole lives. Why should this matter to your average person? Why should they care?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 20:36
I think it shows that the city cares about their employees number one. So the city that you pay your taxes to really does care about their employees. Time and time again, we talk about the city's belief that the employees are the number one asset and it really shows and everything that they do for us. But I think more importantly, it tells the citizens that our firefighters are as healthy both physically and mentally as they can be in order to kind of help them in their emergency. So you're getting the best during your worst time. When the city values its employees like that, then the customer service that we provide to our citizens then is even greater.

H Host Tammy Vo 21:23
And talking about other cities, how does Goodyear stack up to other cities when it comes to clean firestation designs, designs of the fire trucks, the whole decontamination process? How innovative are we right now?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 21:37
I feel like we're very innovative. In fact, when we're building our stations, or when we're talking about our truck builds, a lot of departments reach out to us and we've had a lot of departments tour our new stations, and truly try to understand the process. I remember just recently, the

new Buckeye fire chief came out and toured the stations and took a lot of pictures about the components that we've added into the stations for him to be able to bring back as they're designing their new station to try to incorporate some of those processes. So I feel like we're really on the leading edge of innovation when it comes to making sure our employees are clean in there decontaminated appropriately. But we also give them clean facilities and clean trucks to be able to work in.

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Host Tammy Vo 22:23

This has got to be reassuring for your staff.

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 22:26

Yeah, it is. I think it provides a level of comfort, you want them fully engaged 100%. Obviously, our jobs are very dangerous and so if they have got other things on their mind, if they're worried about their safety, then they're not going to be able to deliver 100%. So we want them to be able to give 100% at all times. And so we're trying to take care of all of those components to make sure that they are feeling safe.

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Host Tammy Vo 22:48

Another area where you've invested in technology for the safety of the residents is GIS mapping, tell us how that works.

C

Chief Paul Luizzi 22:55

Yeah, so it is a newer concept. And we're still trying to pull it all together, but the idea is, especially if we have some of these big buildings that that are going up now. Whether it's you know, Amazon, UPS, Dick's Sporting Goods, you know, there's a lot of big buildings that we that we respond to. And so it's hard to know from the outside what it looks like on the inside and where the exits are, where do they have any hazardous materials that are inside that building? And so through our GIS department, we've been able to team up with our fire prevention, our operations group, and GIS, and we're able to map these buildings so that when the captain arrives on the call on his computer, he's able to see the different layers that go into that building. And are there any hazardous materials in that building? Where are the fire exits located? You can imagine on a million square foot building, trying to figure out exactly where the fire alarm control panel is, it's can be very difficult at times. All of those components are already built right into the computer so there's no guessing, or there's no, hey, I think I remember that it's down on this side of the building. We know exactly through GIS, how to pinpoint exactly where that piece is inside the building. And so a lot of the mystery of what it looks like on the inside of the building is taken away when we have these layers available to us.

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Host Tammy Vo 24:27

Now I'm gonna ask you about you.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 24:28
Okay.

H Host Tammy Vo 24:29
So I can hear, and others might be able to hear some of your East Coast accent. Maybe. Tell us where you're from.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 24:38
So born and raised in Massachusetts, more specifically, Brockton, Massachusetts, which is about 20 miles south of Boston.

H Host Tammy Vo 24:46
And why did you come to Goodyear?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 24:48
I had been in either working as an EMT, paramedic or a firefighter for almost 20 years in Massachusetts. And we had visited Arizona a few times, my family and I and we always thought maybe it's an opportunity after you retire. But an opportunity came up in the city, they were hiring their first ever EMS program manager battalion chief. So that, you know, obviously, it's a lot of my background. And so came out, I tested and was fortunate enough to be able to get the job. So moved out here in 2007.

H Host Tammy Vo 25:24
And here you are, you're still here.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 25:25
15 years later.

H Host Tammy Vo 25:26
What is it about Goodyear for you?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 25:28

C Chief Paul Luizzi 25:28

It was the culture. And I tell people this a lot, I had a job back in Massachusetts, I was doing well there. Putting in a lot of hours, but I was doing well, you know, all of our family, both sides of the family are there, I really didn't have to leave. And so from my standpoint, I was looking for a place that had a culture that really kind of supported a lot of my values. And that was the first thing I felt when I came to Goodyear was just, I felt like this was a great cultural fit for me. And I still tell that to new employees, I wasn't looking for a job, but I was looking for something that was more of a cultural fit. And Goodyear has been that ever since I've been here.

H Host Tammy Vo 26:12

Being a firefighter has always been a 24/7 job for you. But now it's 24/7 and you're the fire chief. And your department have 120 plus employees, I mean, you're responsible for the overall wellness of our residents. I mean, when they call 911, you've got to be there, right? They're the ones that they need to see you immediately. So when I think about what you do in your job, what keeps you up at night? That's a lot. That's a lot to manage.

C Chief Paul Luizzi 26:42

It is. We have fantastic people, we put a lot of empowerment into our captains who manage their shifts in their station. And then we're fortunate enough to have a battalion chief that runs each shift. So every 24 hours, we always have a chief that's in operational position. They're entrusted to make some pretty high level decisions. So I feel very fortunate from that standpoint, you know, my captains in my battalion chiefs make really good decisions. So I never lose sleep about that piece. What I worry about is sometimes things that you can't control. And so that sometimes keeps me up at night. But I'm getting better about that piece. But I think just the future, you know, we're a growing city, we're the ninth fastest growing in the United States, second fastest in Maricopa County. And that growth is showing in Goodyear. You know, there's more traffic, there's more people moving here. And so how do we sustain that growth model? Because it's expensive to hire employees, build fire stations, buy fire trucks. So how do we continue that in the future and continue the same level of not only service to our citizens, but the same level of service to our employees. That's the things that I think about a lot. But, you know, obviously, we have a great city manager and a great leadership team. So they've got their eye on the ball on that piece. But it, you know, I think it's just my nature to worry about things like that. So.

H Host Tammy Vo 27:17

What is most rewarding for you as fire chief?

C Chief Paul Luizzi 28:21

I think for me, it's interacting with the firefighters. Being able to be back in the stations, and sitting down and you know, talking about them, whether it's our core values, the coaching process that we're going through with with all of our employees, or the new performance appraisals, I get a lot of value in that. And anytime I get a chance to mentor people, I really

enjoy that piece. But I will say one of the things that made me happy last week is you know, as we're testing these captains, the fire chiefs panel interview, it can be a little unnerving for the candidate, they have to sit across this, you know, four of us on the panel, and you can tell that they're nervous. But quite a few times people brought up either books that I had recommended to them to read and able to repeat back important pieces, or at least what I thought was important from the book, or just talking about conversations that they've had with me years ago, in bringing that back during the interview. And it really struck me. When I was a paramedic, you had a diabetic that was unconscious because their blood sugar was low. And you know, we could do things for them, give them sugar, and they wake up, they feel better, you know, you bring them to the hospital and then they're reunited with their family. So it's a it's a good success story. But you get instantaneous satisfaction within 10 minutes. Now as a fire chief, sometimes I have to wait six years to see something come to fruition and to have a captain candidate recall a conversation that they had with me, maybe it's just a hallway conversation or maybe it's just a conversation at a kitchen table but to have them bring that back, as a point of their interview process, that to me, it was empowering. I was like, Okay, we're doing the right things for this department. And we're really growing great leaders for the future.

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Host Tammy Vo 30:10

Do you miss responding to calls?

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Chief Paul Luizzi 30:12

I do. Yeah. I don't miss it at three in the morning. But I do, I do miss going to calls.

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Host Tammy Vo 30:19

I think when it comes to being innovative, and it comes to just caring about your employees and the community, I have a feeling it doesn't stop here for Goodyour Fire? Is this a journey that you plan to continue in terms of making sure that our firefighters and our communities safe?

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Chief Paul Luizzi 30:37

Yeah, it's a constant process, it's kind of our number one priority. I always tell them two things. One, I want you to go home to your family the same way you came to work, same shape, look the same, maybe a little uglier, but go home the same way that you came to work. Number two, I want you to spend every penny of your pension, we put a lot of time and effort, blood, sweat, and tears, to get to that point in your career where you can retire. I want them to be able to spend all of their pension money because it is known that the survivability for both police and firefighters after they retire is five to seven years. It's just the amount of stress that you put on your body living in that type of an environment, that constant go, that constant level of being amped up for a call that that takes a toll on your body. And so, you know, we want to make sure that we keep them healthy, both physically and mentally, and that they could spend all their pension money.

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Host Tammy Vo 31:39

What about hiring? You mentioned Goodyear growing so fast, are we hiring more firefighters or any other staff?

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Chief Paul Luizzi 31:44

Yeah, this year, we're bringing on a big group. So we're anticipating 20 this year, probably five in May, 15 for September and then depending on if you know we have more opportunities through the budget process next year, even probably more in January. So big group coming through this year. We're excited for that. Excited to bring in some new folks. We'll be opening a new station in July of 23 is our anticipated opening up that station. So getting those crews ready to be operational prior to the station opening. We're also starting to see the first wave of retirements. We've had several of our firefighters that have hit retirement age. And so we're in the process is just starting to see that over the next you know, four or five years.

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Host Tammy Vo 32:30

By investing in money and resources, Goodyear has made a conscious effort to protect those whose jobs are to protect us. As the city continues to grow and the need for more firefighters goes up, the Goodyear Fire Department is prepared to make sure that the community it serves is as safe as possible. Not only do these health and safety measures ensure that the current members of the Goodyear Fire Department are looked after, but it also serves as a reminder of the Goodyear City Council's commitment to ensuring the best possible conditions for first responders and city employees. Until next time, I'm Tammy Vo, thanks for listening and remember, it's a great time to be in Goodyear.

C

Close 33:13

That concludes this episode of Growing Goodyear. Make sure to leave us a review and subscribe on your favorite streaming or podcast player app. If you have any questions or comments, email us at communications@Goodyearaz.gov And don't forget to follow us on the city of Goodyear's social media pages.