

The All Hands

It takes all of us working together, to get the job done!

October 2016

Volume 4, Issue 10



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Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto
Deputy Chief



Thank you for your Service

I recently had the privilege of attending the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Ocala at the State Fire College. This annual event is a tribute to honor and remember those firefighters who have died in the line of duty in the State of Florida. I have a personal connection to one of those firefighters as he was a friend, my partner during the first few years of my fire service career, and my mentor as a new paramedic. He was an ordinary guy and an incredible paramedic. He spent 23 years in the fire service before suffering a line of duty death following a significant exposure (needle stick) to a life threatening infectious disease.

Fortunately, the fire service is much safer today than years past and we are all striving to make it even safer in the years to come. But as I sat at that memorial service, I could not help but to think about each of you here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue and the job that you do and the risks that you are willing to accept. But despite those risks, I know that it is your deep desire to serve and help others that brought you into the fire service as a career.

I love this quote from Danny Thomas that says: "All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don't discover why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."

That quote so aptly describes why people choose to dedicate their lives to public service as a firefighter - because there is something deep down inside of them, there is a purpose born into them, to help others and to make a difference in the lives of others.

It is truly an honor to be able to be a public servant and to make a positive difference for the citizens and visitors of the Town. The Town of Palm Beach would never be the great community that it is without all of the dedicated public servants that work for the Town each day, including police, fire, public works, recreation, and the other Town employees. Our firefighters directly impact people's lives in very tangible ways. The lives that they touch, the people they provide care to as Paramedics, the property they protect as a firefighter all matters. The work that they do matters.

I cannot imagine a higher calling in terms of a career than public service. Being a firefighter is an honorable profession, it is a privilege. It offers a chance to make a huge difference in people's lives. Theodore Roosevelt said it best, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Being a firefighter is work so worth doing.



Continued on page 4

Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief



As we start the new budget year, we also start the new cycle for the annual preventative maintenance on all of the emergency vehicles. We currently have two of our vehicles being serviced, the reserve rescue and the department tractor trailer. The Fire Rescue Department was fortunate to acquire our tractor trailer

from Public Works last year, following the purchase of their new truck. Utilized as a support vehicle, it's main function is to move the Mobile Training Tower in and out of the station for training purposes, something which was contracted in the past at a significant cost to the department.

The new Rescue unit arrived this month. Members of the purchasing committee traveled to the Northwest coast of Florida to perform the final inspection on the vehicle. The truck will undergo several actions prior to putting in service in the south end. As with all vehicles, it underwent an initial mechanical inspection and preventative maintenance; It will have all of the radios and computers installed, the Magne Grip diverter will be installed, and equipment will be mounted. The vehicle will be placed in service in the first week of November.

The Town Council recently approved the purchase of additional Opticom Intersection controllers, as well as vehicle kits, which will be installed in every police cruiser. With the help of our Purchasing Department, the Town was able to acquire enough controllers to outfit every intersection in town with the exception of Bradley Place and Sunrise Avenue, which will be completed this year. The Opticom Traffic Preemption system uses GPS technology to activate traffic lights to both stop cross traffic and allow traffic in the transport lanes to clear the intersection prior to the arrival of an emergency vehicle. The system helps to provide for a safer response by reducing traffic conflicts at each intersection. This recent approval will not only add several more intersections to the overall system, it will also provide greater safety to all the Police Officers responding to emergency scenes.

On September 11th, Palm Beach Fire Rescue received a generous donation from a local artist, Philip Corley. The large oil painting is a scene following the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City, displaying Firefighters raising an American flag on a pile of rubble from what once was the World Trade Center. This picture is proudly displayed in the lobby of Fire Station 3, located at Phipps Ocean Park.

The departments F250, which was previously utilized by the past mechanic is currently being outfitted with emergency lights and a command center. This vehicle will replace the current back-up Battalion Chief vehicle, which has reached its useful life as an emergency vehicle.

The Ocean Rescue Department utilizes Honda Rancher ATV's at both Midtown and Phipps Ocean Park. These units provide rapid response to beach visitors that may require assistance from lifeguards faster when the distance from the towers is far. In addition, patients requiring medical attention can be transported from the beach to the Rescue in a safe manner. In the coming months, Ocean Rescue will be purchasing a new Honda Rancher ATV. This vehicle will replace a current ATV at Midtown beach which is suffering severe rust issues.

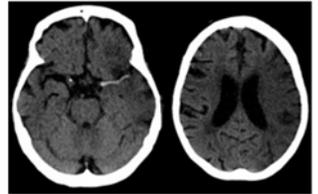


EMS Division

By Dave Burke

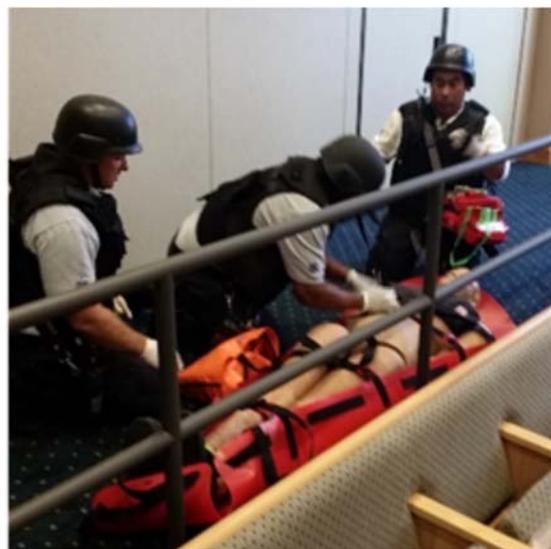
Division Chief

Comprehensive Stroke Alert Update – For those patients that suffer the signs and symptoms of a stroke, details and definitive pre-hospital care is imperative and can be the difference between life and death. Palm Beach Fire Rescue methodology for recognizing a stroke has changed with the roll out of our new medical protocols. We are improving the way we identify a stroke and the large vessel occlusions. The new R.A.C.E. scale (Rapid Arterial occlusion Evaluation) is now used in addition to the Cincinnati scale to assist Paramedics in more accurately identifying life threatening symptoms, allowing our organization to alert the next link in the chain. The receiving hospital, especially comprehensive stroke centers, are better prepared when our organization's Paramedics in the field identify, alert, and treat symptoms. The goal of all providers is improved patient outcome, better minimizing the effects of a brain attack (stroke), and guarding public health. The R.A.C.E. scale training can be found on Target Solutions under the Dr. Schepke lectures. Also noteworthy, the new protocol includes the requirement of at least a 20 gauge I.V. at the antecubital fossa (AC) site. The IV requirement specifically states to avoid the wrist site for IV access as it is unusable for hospital personnel injecting dye for CT contrast.



New Equipment – Med Sled rapid extrication patient moving devices will soon be added to all suppression apparatus. These devices will allow us to package and move wounded patients in volatile environments, including active shooter or storm response type incidents. Training for the device will be delivered through Target Solutions with a hands on portion taught by our personnel. Palm Beach Fire Rescue trialed this device with success during the last active shooter training. Users found the device to be rugged, easy to use and lightweight.

Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight held state meetings in Palm Beach Gardens this week. The DOH EMS Administrator constructed a leadership orientation for Fire/EMS personnel, targeted at those in EMS Chief of Administration roles. The meetings and classes were well received and extremely valuable in terms of information and networking. Our own Deputy Chief Darrel Donatto, was one of the subject matter specialists instructing a class on EMS Data, specifically focused on mentoring new EMS Chiefs in the use of data. During the course of the week, Chief Donatto was once again recognized by the Florida Fire Chief's Association as this year's recipient of Fire Chief of the Year.



Leadership Training

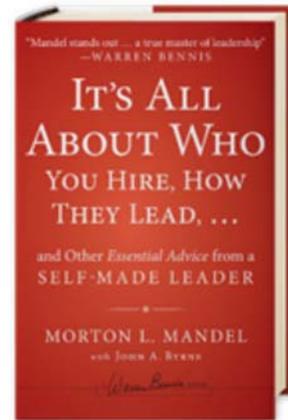
By Darrel Donatto

Deputy Chief

The Palm Beach Police Department and Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department are kicking off a new “Leadership Speaker Series” for current and aspiring public safety leaders. The Town of Palm Beach is rich in talent, with so many world-renowned leaders from the private, government and nonprofit sectors. We are so fortunate to have access to such a large pool of highly accomplished leaders who live and work here in the Town of Palm Beach. These leaders are dedicated to improving our community and have agreed to share their experiences, discuss challenges which have impacted their leadership development, and provide lessons and advice to the current and aspiring leaders in public safety here at the Town of Palm Beach.

The first two leaders who will be sharing their wisdom are Paul Leone, CEO of the Breakers Hotel and Morton Mandel, an American business magnate, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and author of the book IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO, You Hire, How They Lead....

We are excited about how this program is going to develop and elevate the leadership here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. John Maxell, an internationally recognized leadership expert, speaker, and author says: “Smart leaders learn from their own mistakes. Smarter ones learn from other’s mistakes and successes.” You will not want to miss this opportunity for leadership development through interaction with some of the most successful leaders in the world.



Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

Public servants, on a whole, tend to be a more selfless bunch, more “we oriented” than “me oriented,” more giving than taking. These are the qualities that we look for when hiring firefighters and the culture that we are striving to create here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

So despite the risks, despite the long hours, despite the holidays and birthdays away from home - for all that you have done and all that you continue to do for the Town of Palm Beach – my sincerest thanks to each of you here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue for your dedicated **SERVICE**.

Training

By Sean Baker

Division Chief

Hurricane Matthew was the main event since the last Training Division update. The dangerous Category 4 Hurricane seemed to be bearing down on South Florida and luckily wobbled staying East of the island. Palm Beach was largely spared from the brunt of the storm, but we were prepared nonetheless. The Town of Palm Beach had a full activation of our Emergency Operations Center and the fire department followed our storm procedures very well. Personnel handled their personal business and reported to work ready for the long haul that never materialized. After the storm, and after crews completed their damage assessments, firefighters took it upon themselves to help citizens with damage on their private property. Firefighters helped clear driveways of debris and drove residents to their homes when they found themselves isolated due to road closures. The response from grateful residents was noted during the post storm debriefing and is just another indication of the exemplary customer service the department provides the community.



**Basic
Life
Support**

All department personnel have attended the recertification training for Basic Life Support (CPR) training and our certifications have been renewed for another 2 years. We used in house instructors for this training and we will continue with this trend in the future. Advanced Cardiac Life Support is coming up in 2017 and the department is working on obtaining the credentials to recertify in house, again using our own highly trained instructors.

Our new Field Training Officers (FTO) have been selected. Lieutenant Brian Matzen, Lieutenant Danny Dunnam, Lieutenant Anthony Curtis, Driver/Engineer Alejandro Mahy, and Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Montoya are the new faces of the Training Division. The six new FTO firefighters will start a new era for Palm Beach Fire Rescue. They are our own internal instructors that will help us standardize training across all shifts like never before. Bi-monthly meetings will help the Training Division stay on the same page and also help to tailor training based on recent calls and events, in addition to pre-planned training that is already on the calendar. The Training Division will be reaching out to our firefighters to inquire what training is desired and we will have the opportunity to implement those ideas into training evolutions. An example, of this new direction in training was rolled out for during the early part of October by Lieutenant Curtis and Firefighter Montoya in the EMS Simulation Lab. Crews were shown new techniques to utilize our Zoll monitors when monitoring the respirations of medical patients. The lessons about capnography were a blend of refresher and new information that has been very well received by crews.



Quarterly Live Fire Training was conducted at Palm Beach State College and we covered the very important topic of the fire flow path inside structures. This training was a departure from previous sessions as this was a live fire demonstration that highlighted the importance of using the appropriate tactics at the appropriate time during a fire evolution. We received very good feedback from the crews that attended and this was all due to suggestions for future training. With that in mind, please reach out to us with training suggestions so that we can continue to offer real and relevant training to benefit the department and in turn the community we serve.

B/C Update—Attic Fires

By Phil Dudley
Battalion Chief

An attic or a loft is a space found directly below the pitched roof of a house or other building (also called garret or sky parlor). As attics fill the space between the ceiling of the top floor of a building and the slanted roof, they are known for being awkwardly shaped spaces with exposed rafters and difficult-to-reach corners. Most attics remain difficult to access (usually by a loft hatch and ladder), and are generally used for storage. Each year an estimated 10,000 residential homes are reported to have attic fires and cause an estimated 30 deaths per year. The leading cause of these fires is due to electrical malfunction (50%) with electrical arcing the most common heat source in residential building attic fires.

When a fire occurs in an attic, it is common that it will go unnoticed until smoke and flames start escaping from the roof and are visible from the outside. Since attic fires take longer to detect they are very dangerous for firefighting. The delay in detection allows for the fire to quickly intensify, ultimately increasing the danger for occupants as well as firefighters. Check to ensure the fire is contained to the attic and did not start in the basement or first floor and travel to the attic as is common with balloon-type building construction.

Once an attic fire is detected it is imperative to determine your resources and how to use those resources. The Incident Commander must consider several factors in determining the appropriate incident action plan. The most critical factors include life hazards, the extent and location of the fire, the structure size and its construction. Whatever the reason, you may find it necessary to enter the attic to attack the fire at its base. Depending on the needs of the building owner, you may find conditions ranging from an unfinished open space, to a well-built storage area. It is not out of the question to encounter a full set of living quarters.

The incident commander must decide whether to fight from a gable (a gable is the generally triangular portion of a wall between the edges of intersecting roof pitches), from the roof above or the ceiling below the fire. In all instances we have to consider roof and ceiling collapse. When applying large amounts of water to attics remember the water becomes trapped in the insulation, causing an increase of weight to the attic space which may cause collapse. In situations where an attic fire is in an intact space we can often be successful in extinguishing the fire by using penetrating nozzles or just by opening small holes and flowing water in a semi-fog pattern. Remember, salvage is coordinated with the fire attack to minimize damage to the owner's personal belongings and valuables.

Attic fires are in confined spaces and requires extensive overhaul to ensure there are not missed hot spots which could rekindle. One tool we carry is a 4 gas monitor which measures CO. If the CO numbers are not coming down after ventilation, then there still may be hot spots remaining. As for loss control, crews need to be professional and remember the priority in saving homeowners' possessions.



Fire Prevention

By **Marty DeLoach**, Fire Marshal

Why is the month of October designated by the fire service for Fire Prevention awareness? Is it because of the actions of a cow owned by the O'Leary Family? The real facts of the great Chicago fire can be debated forever. The aftermath of destruction as well as the circumstances that allowed the large conflagration to develop and destroy most of the city cannot be disputed.

The origin of the Great Chicago Fire is blamed by most contemporaries, on the O'Leary barn owned by Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. The allegation is that a dairy cow kicked over a lantern, igniting hay and then spreading across the barn and subsequently the remainder of the city, is the most common theory on the beginning of the fire. The fire killed between 200 and 300 people, destroyed 17,450 buildings, left 100,000 people homeless and caused an estimated 3 billion dollars in damage using 2007 equalization.

The City of Chicago's fire department has their training headquarters on the alleged site of the O'Leary farm. In 1997, the Chicago City Council exonerated Mrs. O'Leary and her cow for causing the fire. Mrs. O'Leary became a recluse after the fire and died 24 years later in 1895.

Our fire department works with service organizations to provide assistance in making their buildings and homes safer. We provide cardio pulmonary resuscitation classes to residents and businesses throughout the year. We are available to share information with all of you throughout the year and because a lot of our residents are out of Town in October, we plan our annual fire awareness event in January.

The holiday's season is approaching quickly. This is a time of year that we all get busy and often forget to turn stoves off leave candles burning and overload electrical outlets for holiday lighting. Florida Division of Emergency Management states that fire is fast, in less than 30 seconds, a small fire can get completely out of control. The United States fire service responds to around 9,300 structure fires caused by candles each year. The top four days for home candle fires have been New Year's Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve.

The fire fighters were greeted by lots of eager students at the society of Four Arts earlier this month. The crew was able to read some fire safety information to the students and show the children what a firefighter wears when they fight fires. We have learned that it is important to show young children what a firefighter wears so they will know not to be afraid of us in our protective clothing. Children often hide during a fire because they are scarred. We want them to know who we are and how we will look when we come to help them. The fire fighters and the children had a great time, with a special thank you to Lt. Danny Dunnam, Firefighter Gabriel Cadet and Driver Engineer Craig Johnson.

The fire department conducted 109 building inspections since the last newsletter. We had found 24 violations and ensured they were all corrected in the 476,725 square feet of buildings that the crews and our fire prevention office reviewed. The end of some of the construction projects has begun. The projects on Worth Avenue will all be completed or stopped by November 1. The second phase of the Town Hall Square construction is close to completion, with lots of compliments. These activities have made us all work together to ensure we are able to respond from the central station without any delay to our citizens. The streetscape has been interesting to see the destruction and the rebuilding over the summer. Our residents should all be satisfied with the way the work has turned out.

I wanted to thank all of our firefighters for the patience they have expressed during these projects. Our construction contractors have caused lots of service demands on our crews. We have been working on false fire alarm reduction for the town. The data shows that since April contractors have caused around 20 percent of our fire alarms in town and around 30 percent of our false alarms. We will be working with our building department to provide additional information to the contractors next season to reduce contractor derived false fire alarms. We also have increased demands in our medical response from workers who get injured performing their work throughout the town. Our members have done a great job to get to our incidents, negotiating the streets, during the road construction. The guys and gals have done a great job this construction season, just want all of you to know how much your work and efforts are appreciated.

Did I Do My Best?

By [John O'Leary](#)

Posted **November 2, 2015** at <http://johnolearyinspires.com/2015/11/did-i-do-my-best/>

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” – Robert F. Kennedy

Ever wondered what might happen if you really did your best? I mean gave it your all; served with ALL you had?

You're not alone.

In the early hours of September 8, 1860 a passenger ship on Lake Michigan collided with another vessel. The 385 passengers aboard were jarred from their sleep, confused in the dark, as water filled the hull and the boat broke apart.

Many of the passengers tried desperately to swim the several hundred yards to the shore, but the waves and the chaos made it impossible. So they grabbed onto pieces of the wreckage and screamed for help.

From the safety of the shore, a group gathered and helplessly watched the tragedy unfolding before them. They heard, but could not see, passengers clinging desperately to pieces of the ship in the darkened night.

A young man named Edward Spencer dove into the water, swam through the wreckage, grabbed a passenger, and swam her back to land.

He pulled her ashore, turned and went back into the frigid water. After several trips swimming out to the wreckage, each time returning with another survivor, he was so exhausted he passed out. Moments later, he awoke to the screams, asked that a rope be tied around his waist and then waded back into the water. This ensured that if he could make it out – the people on shore could pull them back to safety.

After his final rescue, Spencer lay bloodied and exhausted on the shore. He looked up in delirium, repeatedly asking the question, “Did I do my best?”

385 passengers entered the water that night. 287 died. 98 were rescued by a rescue boat. The remaining 18 survived because of the unbridled courage, selflessness and love of one man, Edward Spencer. He was told that night with absolute assurance that, indeed, he did do his best.

My friend, it's not likely that you'll be called into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan to rescue others. But every day, and every interaction, provides the opportunity to make a difference by doing your very best.

We can choose to not just show up at work, but to invest ourselves fully into it. We can decide to not just be involved in a relationship, but to pour ourselves into it. We can opt-in to not just enduring the struggles and monotony of life, but to being relishing the grandeur of it.

This is your day to recommit to being fully engaged in life. This is your moment to wake up, tie back on the rope, and get into the water and swim with everything you have towards goals that are truly worthy.

This is your day to risk greatly and achieve greatly by deciding to do your best.

This is your day. Live Inspired.



Live Fire Pictures

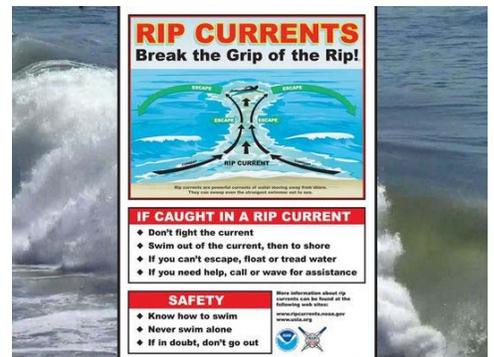


Ocean-Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Shift Supervisor

After the Labor Day weekend beach attendance started to subside on the weekdays with weekends staying fairly busy. For the first half of the month of September swimming conditions at Mid-Town Municipal beach were good with lifeguards flying the Green Flags (Low Hazard). The second half of the month saw an increase in wave activity as wind chop waves began to pick up along the Palm Beach coast. As the waves increase so do the threat of rip currents. Rip currents account for more than 80% of rescues performed by ocean lifeguards. Rip Currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore out to sea. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. The best way to stay safe is to recognize the danger of rip currents and always swim at beaches with lifeguards. When caught in a rip current it is imperative that you stay calm and don't try to swim directly towards shore. Instead swim parallel to the shoreline until the current begins to lose strength and then swim back to shore. As we move in to Fall and Winter the threat of rip currents will increase along the Palm Beach coast.



Promotions



Gabriel Cadet started Palm Beach Fire Rescue October 2013 as a Firefighter / Paramedic. Within his short time in Palm Beach he has taken the required classes to act as a Driver Engineer as well as a Lieutenant. Currently he filling in as an Acting Lieutenant on Rescue 98. Last month Firefighter Cadet took the Driver Engineer exam and was promoted to Driver Engineer on October 8, 2016. Congratulations Driver Engineer Cadet on a job well done!



We would like to congratulate Yorgui Beltran on his promotion to Driver Engineer. D/E Beltran began his career with Palm Beach Fire Rescue 01/27/2015 and immediately chose a path that would land him with the promotion of Driver Engineer. D/E Beltran served as a volunteer with Lauderdale by the Sea for 2 years of which 1 year he was positioned as Driver Engineer. Yorgui completed all the necessary State required Driver classes in order to fulfill his goal of becoming a Driver Engineer. During his tenure at Palm Beach Fire Rescue, D/E Beltran has also accomplished the goal of obtaining his Associates degree in EMS and Fire Officer 1 certification setting him on the path of his latest goal, becoming an officer at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. With the dedication and efforts D/E Beltran displays, there is no doubt that D/E Beltran will accomplish all his future goals at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Congratulations D/E Beltran on your current accomplishments and all your future endeavors.

Construction of the South Station—1994



Photo Ops



Chris McKay, his wife Lisa and son Liam are proud to announce the adoption of their daughter and sister Charlotte.

Congratulations McKay Family!



Palm Beach Fire Rescue attended the "Performance Driven Leadership" seminar at the four arts taught by Bobby Kipper.



Hose Training



Lt. Brain Matzen with his son Cooper and daughter Zoey.

SEPTEMBER DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours	
A Shift	596.28
B Shift	623.52
C Shift	316.91
Total	1536.71

Fire Prevention Inspections	38
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Ocean Rescue Visitors	19,544
Town Ordinance Enforcements	156
Preventative Actions	56

FIRE and EMS	
FIRE Calls	86
EMS Calls	106

Transports to Hospital	66
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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Caesar Mustelier	10/03
Chase Angelocci	10/04
Jody Sronce	10/14
Danny Dunnam	10/22
Stephen Montoya	10/22
Stuart Grimes	10/29

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Sean Baker	10/99	17 years
Brian Matzen	10/08	08 years
Alejandro Mahy	10/12	04 years
Scott McCracken	10/12	04 years
Brendon Andrews	10/13	03 years
Gabriel Cadet	10/13	03 years
Kyle Vander Plaats	10/15	01 year
Dennis Wytrykush	10/15	01 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2016:

January	Michael Marx	July	Richard Ward
February	Charles Shinn	August	Stephen Montoya
March	Stephen Montoya	September	Brian Matzen
April	Chris McKay	October	
May	Alex Mahy	November	
June	Abigail Farrel	December	

Employee of the Month— Brian Matzen



Lieutenant Paramedic Matzen has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for 8 years, starting his career on October 20, 2008. He is currently assigned to the South Fire Rescue Station on “A” shift. Brian is well respected by his peers and supervisors for his work ethic and always displays a positive attitude. Brian is that go to guy when things need to get done and he is always willing to help others regardless of what he is doing.

Besides fulfilling his regular job duties and responsibilities as a Lieutenant Paramedic, Matzen consistently goes above and beyond his normal work duties. During this past month Brian worked with Division Chief Burke to roll out new emergency medical protocols. He was responsible for editing, formatting and revising the content of these protocols before they are issued to personnel. He provided technical oversight for the protocols and most his work was performed on his own time.

Lieutenant Matzen also works as a paramedic instructor at Palm Beach State College and has recently been assigned as one of our Field Training Officers (FTO), bringing with him his experience in simulation lab training to Palm Beach Fire Rescue Firefighters. Brian has attended the National Fire Academy (NFA) several times during the past year to increase his knowledge and skills in the fire service. Finally, Matzen is the person responsible for our medical kits and bags onboard all of the department’s Advanced Life Support Units. He is truly an invaluable member of Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

Always maintaining a positive attitude, Brian is an example for others, his efforts are making a difference in both the department and in our community by improving the quality of the service we deliver. We highly commend Lieutenant Matzen for his dedicated service and devotion to Palm Beach Fire Rescue, and to the citizens of the Town of Palm Beach. Brian demonstrates an attitude of service through compassion and excellence. His consistent positivity makes him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the community, therefore, making Lieutenant Brian Matzen an outstanding recipient of the August 2016 Employee of the Month Award.

