

The All Hands

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

FEBRUARY 2015

Volume 3, Issue 2



In This Issue:

Deputy Chief	1
Adm. Update	2
Training & Safety	4
EMS Division	5
Fire Prevention	7
New Hires	8
Photos/Events	11
BC Update	13
LT Promotions	14
Dates and EOM	16

Special points of interest:

- 2014 Firefighter of the Year
- 12 Ways Great Leaders are Different
- Arthur Roebuck
- North Station History
- Retirement Party

Deputy Chief's Message

By **DARREL DONATTO**

Deputy Chief

I have written before about the pace of change here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue and the need to manage that pace. While change management is essential, if we are going to be a better fire department, both for our community and our employees, then we must embrace and we must pursue change. Staying the same is never going to make us better.

February 2015 is bringing great change to Palm Beach Fire Rescue and together we are making Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.

We recently promoted four new Lieutenants: Willie Bonfante, Danny Dunnam, Brian Matzen, and Mario Reyes. These four individuals have clearly demonstrated their commitment, engagement, leadership, loyalty, and capabilities and I am very excited for what they will accomplish in the coming years. I offer my sincerest congratulations to each of them.

The company officer fulfills a critical, demanding role within our organization. Company officers are the most influential member of the department and are the key to daily operations. The tasks and responsibilities of the company officer range from incident commander to mediator and from coach to public relations representative. Primary among these is working to ensure the safety of the firefighters assigned to them; to make sure that "everyone goes home." Fulfilling this broad statement requires skill, knowledge, education, and experience in a wide range of areas from building construction to hazardous materials and from department policy to using computer software. We are extremely fortunate to be able to promote these four great employees to this very important role. I have no doubt that their efforts will make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. Likewise, we are fortunate to have a great group of employees who we will be able to be promoted to Lieutenant in the near future. The opportunities are just around the corner, and as I have said before, the time to prepare for those opportunities is now.

We have also had the good fortune to promote two new Battalion Chiefs within the past two months: Phil Dudley and Sean Baker. Without a doubt, these two individuals represent everything great about Palm Beach Fire Rescue. They work harder, train more, deliver excellence, embody loyalty, and care about this organization as much or more as anyone I have ever met. They have a proven track record of delivering results and they always strive to do the right thing. I love being able to work with people like them, as well as the other ready and able officers who make up our pool of future Battalion Chiefs. The Battalion Chief role is one of leadership and influence. We are so very blessed to have so many good leaders within this department.

We have recently taken delivery of our new Quint fire apparatus. In the near future, this multi-function truck will replace two vehicles, an engine and a platform. We included a compressed airfoam system (CAFS) on the new quint. CAFS makes water work from 5 to 30 times better than water alone in suppressing fires and thus provides for greater fire control. CAFS will stick to

Continued on page 2

Administrative Update

By Brodie Atwater

Assistant Chief

It's been another busy month or so here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. The following information has been compiled in an effort to keep everyone up to date on what's been happening in the Department:

- A new Opticom traffic control device has been installed at the west end of the Flagler Memorial Bridge. This device will allow traffic to clear the intersection prior to the arrival of units transporting off the island. The device that was previously in this location was relocated to another intersection in Town when the bridge closed to all traffic for several months. Most major intersections in Town are now covered with the Opticom system and the remaining intersections will be addressed in the future.
- The washer/extractor has been ordered for Station 3. It should be received within the next two weeks and will be installed by an outside plumbing contractor. This unit will give personnel the ability to wash their gear at regular, required intervals and also on an as needed basis. Thanks to Lt. Weber for all of his efforts in bringing this project to completion.
- An update to the Station 3 Meeting/Training room is currently in the planning stages. This planned update will include painting, new flooring, remodeling of the existing kitchenette, updating of the AV equipment mounting and

updated fire decor. This update will be the first since the opening of the station and should make the room a more inviting and professional space.

- Public Works will be working on several projects around the stations in the coming months including, LED lighting for the bay at Station 2 and dorms at Station 3, replacement of the gym floor at Station 3 prior to the arrival of the new gym equipment, roof replacement at Station 3, replacement of drop ceiling tiles and interior painting at all stations.
- In anticipation of the reconfiguration of the parking of apparatus at Station 1 and 3, due to placing the new Quint in service, Public Works will be using an outside vendor to re-arrange the electric drops at each station.
- Request for bid proposals have been distributed for the updating of the exhaust removal systems in each station. The main companies competing for the project are expected to be Plymovent and Magna Grip. A pre bid meeting is to be held the week of February 9th. Completion of this project is expected in the second quarter of this year. 🔥



Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

vertical and overhead surfaces and not only extinguish fires quickly, but prevent re-ignition. CAFS filled hoses are much lighter than water filled hoses and thus CAFS filled hoses will be easier to manage and advance. This new piece of apparatus, along with the new safety and firefighting equipment and technology built into it, are certainly going to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.

In the near future, we will be redistributing some of our personnel to more adequately cover the risks and needs within the Town. Our goal is to promote three new lieutenants to staff the rescue at Station 2 and balance the staffing at Station 2 and Station 1 at 5 personnel. In addition, we will be changing the response configuration for some of our call types to ensure a quicker and more efficient response.

Clearly, the past few months have brought great change. We are definitely making Palm Beach Fire Rescue better. But take note, the coming months offer lots of opportunity for us to continue this progress. With all of your efforts, we will make Palm Beach Fire Rescue an organization that our community loves and that our employees love. 🔥

2014 Firefighter of the Year Award—Jill Bassford

Palm Beach Fire Rescue proudly announces that Lieutenant Jill Bassford is the 2014 Firefighter of The Year.

Lieutenant Bassford has achieved incredible goals and completed impressive tasking during this past year. Her pledge to improve this organization has been achieved through passion for her profession. Lieutenant Bassford’s innovative spirit and passion for doing what is right for others, the department and customer’s, shows in her selfless actions.

Jill was hired at Palm Beach Fire Rescue on April 30, 2001. For nearly 14 years, she has proven time after time to be highly knowledgeable and extremely motivated. She promoted through the ranks from Firefighter/Paramedic to Driver Engineer, and has now held the rank of Lieutenant for over five years. Additionally, she has served as Station Commander at Palm Beach Fire Rescue Station #2 since 2011.

Lt. Bassford continues to take classes off duty to help improve her skills and to be able to bring additional knowledge back to her co-workers as she has done her entire career. She has technical level certifications in the five technical rescue disciplines including: rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse rescue and vehicle machinery rescue. Lt. Bassford earned two Associates of Science degrees, Fire Instructor 1 certification and Live Fire Instructor certification. This year she attended FDIC, The Great Florida Fire School, and several seminars based in areas as diverse as technical rescue to leadership issues in the fire service. Some of the classes were: vehicle extrication, buss extrication, the art of reading smoke, how to think like an incident commander, step up and lead, live fire instructor recertification,

The Palm Beach Firefighter of the Year Award is given for excellence in performance. The recipient is recognized for attitude and engagement in all areas of job functions, leadership and professional development. The tradition was started in 2004 and remains a coveted and highly respected honor. As a decade old ritual, the recipient from the previous year hands the award to the new recipient. Pictured here, Firefighter of the Year 2013 Battalion Chief Phil Dudley hands the award to Lieutenant Jill Bassford, Palm Beach Fire Rescue’s Firefighter of the Year!



building construction and fire attack, as well as storm glass and solar panels on the fire-ground. Her passion for training is clearly exceptional.

During 2014, Lt. Bassford taught “Bailout” Training to all shift personnel. She assisted as a Live Fire Instructor at Palm Beach State College for the department’s quarterly live fire training. Jill also taught each of the several groups of probationers hired this year the subjects of vehicle extrication, hose evolutions, and high rise training.

Lt. Bassford is extremely dedicated to her role as fire officer and to Palm Beach Fire Rescue. She consistently attends fire and EMS based functions off duty in order to support the members of Palm Beach Fire Rescue and represent her department. Lt. Bassford is a member of the County Wide Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) committee where she contributes her passion and knowledge to improve firefighter safety.

The list of Jill’s accomplishments is long and impressive, yet she still found time to be in top physical condition. She participated in several physical fitness based events in the local area. Her knowledge of work out and fitness equipment assisted her organization in purchasing and installing items in the station gym.

We highly commend Lieutenant Bassford for her dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Department. Her work ethic and moral standards makes her a great asset to the Fire Rescue Department and the Town of Palm Beach, therefore, making Lieutenant Bassford the outstanding recipient of the 2014 Firefighter of the Year Award. 🔥

Palm Beach Fire Rescue Firefighter of the Year Award Recipients:

2004	James Duane	2009	Derryl Bucheck
2005	Ray Herr	2010	Sean Baker
2006	Keith Golden	2011	Roger Lane
2007	Craig Stanfield	2012	Mike Marx
2008	Robbie Locy	2013	Phil Dudley

Training and Safety Division

By Dave Burke

Division Chief

The month of January 2015 brought many opportunities to learn as well as reinforce our knowledge foundation in both fire and EMS service delivery. The last week of the month our three new hires began employment: Montoya, Beltran, and Santini. During their first weeks they were introduced to appropriate computer programs, Human Resources, and the folks at the Communications division. They were then reintroduced to many principles learned at the academy, but taught with PBFRR specifics to ensure survival and safety. These subjects include vehicle machinery rescue, radio use, self-contained breathing apparatus, bailout training, high-rise firefighting, hose management, and emergency vehicle operations. All three firefighters finished the two week indoctrination and have received shift assignments.

PBFRR conducted High Rise Firefighting Training for 8 days during the month. The City of West Palm Beach graciously allowed our eager crews to use their old city hall building. The 6 story building slated for demolition, provides the near perfect training ground for building confidence on learned firefighting principles. Special thanks to BC Dudley and Lt. Bassford for their passion of training and leadership with regard to instruction.

Lt. James Weber enhanced employee safety and improved delivery of emergency services by providing training on donning, doffing and use of level D TyChem suits. This important suit ensemble provides the proper PPE for responders during emergencies that require an isolation factor, such as a patient with a suspected exposure to the Ebola virus.

An After Action Report meeting was held regarding the recent structure fire on Primavera Avenue. Responding crews from PBFRR, WPBFRR and PBCFR met and discussed positives and negatives. This type of communication enhances safety for responders and customers. The "No finger pointing" rules assist members to accept responsibility and pledge to improve. The knowledge gained from this meeting will assist in the creation of a STEALTH report document outlining particulars learned from this event.

Did You Know?

Chief Alan Brunacini delivers a highly regarded customer service seminar. He will be at BRFR on March 10 & 11. Look for flyers on the training boards or visit <http://myboca.us/fire/pdf/Newsletters/01-02%202015.pdf>

The new FPL plant located at the Port of Palm Beach is now in operation. A few of our personnel have been invited to tour the facility. A detailed response plan is underway with the guidance of RBFR. Look for future training on this important target hazard in our area.

The Great Florida Fire School is being held at Palm Beach State College in October 2015. The event offers a menu of classes of all types. Check out <http://www.greatfloridafireschool.org/> 🔥

Ocean Rescue

By CRAIG POLLOCK

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

After the first week of January came to a close attendance at Mid-Town Municipal Beach started to decline as Christmas Holiday break came to an end. In mid-January the sand re-nourishment project started at Mid-Town beach and is expected to last until March or April. During the restoration of Mid-Town and Phipps Ocean Park, sections of the beach will have to be closed to beach patrons. Both beaches will have heavy construction equipment in use during the project. 🚧



EMS Division

By Jimmy Duane
Division Chief

Earlier this month at the Palm Beach County Commission meeting the Mayor of Palm Beach County once again declared the second Tuesday of February, "Hands Only CPR Day". For the 3rd year in a row, Palm Beach Fire Rescue opened their doors at each of the stations in an attempt to educate as many people as possible with performing hands only CPR.

Anyone can learn CPR – and everyone should! For some, learning CPR brings apprehension with the fear of having to perform this in the public setting. The fact is that a very large percentage of the instances where CPR is needed are actually in your home, workplace or on someone you directly know. The life you save with CPR is mostly likely to be someone you love. As Firefighters, we are trained on a regular basis, recertifying every 2 years. Quality and early CPR will make the difference between life and death for the patient. If you know someone, whether family or friend that has never been taught CPR, urge him or her to learn.



New Medical Standing Orders will be placed in service during the 2nd week in February. For the past several weeks, crews have been giving classes on each section, as well as studying them on their own. Jason Stern has created a short cut that can be placed on your phones, Ipads and computers, and soon on the new tablets. This shortcut gives personnel quick and easy access to every aspect of the standing orders. In addition, this will enable personnel to use the shortcut as a training tool. By clicking on certain portions of the protocols, specific items are linked to tutorial videos ranging from cardiac stemi lectures to demonstrations on equipment usage and procedures. His goal was to make the protocols as useful as possible with several different resources included in one place. This is incredible work done by Jason, job well done!

Though we are adapting and overcoming the problem, the national drug shortage is still at the forefront each month in the fire service. One particular medication that seemed like such a basic drug to buy was the



500ml bags of Normal Saline. However, this past month I was able to purchase 2 cases (Which was the monthly limit) of the product. This shortage has had a direct result on pricing, which has seen a dramatic increase. We are purchasing smarter and trying to avoid any wasteful spending on medications that are rarely used and often disposed of due to expiration dates. Patient care is our number one goal; therefore we are working hard to overcome the problem, always searching for new vendors to purchase from and new ways of making our system more efficient.

All Paramedics in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department will re-certify on Advanced Cardiac Life Support during the month of March. Florida Atlantic University (FAU) will be conducting this renewal program. This certification is a required process occurring every two years. With several new personnel coming to Palm Beach since the last renewal process, each person whether recently trained, or soon to expire will all participate so that everyone completes this important training at the same time. *



12 Significant Ways that Great Leaders are Different From the Rest of Us

By Lolly Daskal,
President and CEO, Lead from Within
June 25, 2014

If you're looking to become a great leader--as a manager, as a boss, as an entrepreneur--you must start from the qualities that make you different from the rest.

How many of these do you already emulate? How many have you yet to acquire?

If you want to be great:

1. Make people feel valuable.

People need to be valued. Great leaders make people feel that they are at the heart, that they're part of making things happen.

2. Make the time to connect.

Spend time getting to know those you're leading. Don't lord it over anyone; instead, listen. When you connect, you are investing in building even more connection.

3. Be honest and straightforward even when the news is bad.

Always speak honestly and with candor. Show that you are not afraid to speak the truth in any situation.

4. Take the heat.

If the blame is yours--whether because of your direct action, an unsuccessful strategy, or a failure of your leadership--accept it. Don't make excuses, pass the buck, or throw others under the bus.

5. Share the credit.

The best leaders know that they could not have accomplished much on their own. It takes a team, a group, to make things happen, so give each member of that team credit for your success.

6. Give praise, and do it often.

Make sure those you're leading receive the attention, the appreciation, and the affirmation they deserve.

7. Delegate responsibility without micromanaging.

Delegation doesn't mean dismissing people or leaving them hanging or set up to fail. The process of delegation should include

help, coaching, and guidance where it's needed. Things get done right, and your team members grow.

8. Celebrate skills, and appreciate talent.

Look for the best in others, and help them celebrate their skills and strengths.

9. Challenge the status quo, and don't settle for mediocrity.

Remember, innovation starts at the edge of discomfort, and great progress happens when you take chances.

10. Invest in your people, and make them feel important.

Whatever you spend in terms of time, energy, and money to keep those you're leading growing and learning, in the long run it's less than the steep cost of no development and no learning.

11. Encourage and inspire.

Motivate people to be their best even when they don't know their potential yet.

12. Build team spirit, and encourage inclusiveness.

Place a higher value on team spirit than achievement. When you concentrate on spirit, you gain long-term success.

The leaders who differentiate themselves from the rest aren't necessarily the leaders who have all the power, but they are the leaders that have the ability to empower. They win people's hearts by helping, developing, praising, encouraging, and motivating. They are the leaders that are different from the rest of us.



Fire Prevention

By **TIMOTHY POMPOS**

Division Chief

In the month of January, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Division completed 201 fire prevention activities with the assistance of Fire Operations shift personnel. The Fire Prevention Division and Lt. Mark Bradshaw are busy in preparing for our 4th Annual Public Safety Open House event that will be held on February 17, 2015 from 4 PM till 7 PM. Medical staff from Good Samaritan and St. Mary's Hospitals will be on hand once again to administer stroke, blood pressure, and BMI screenings, as well as providing heart health information along with prizes and giveaways. Staff from the Society of Four Arts will be in attendance to provide information in regards to their adult education programs that are offered to the community, which includes: AED/CPR; Hurricane Preparedness; and Fire Extinguisher training classes which are taught by our Fire Rescue Operations personnel. New to the open house, we will have a certified Safety Clown to promote fire safety education. Lastly, we will have fifteen Wellington High School firefighter cadet students from their fire science program present once again to help us provide a better Public Safety Open House event this year.

In January, Lt. Mark Bradshaw taught several AED/CPR classes for the Winthrop House on 100 Worth Avenue and at the Palm Beach Country Club. Also, Fire Prevention staff provided on-site fire safety lectures to the Everglades Club and the Breakers for some of their new staff members. The Fire Prevention Division completed a Special Assignment Overtime class for three new employees: Yorgui Beltran; Brennan Santini; and Stephen Montoya. Just a friendly reminder, any new hire that has not received their SAO training shall make arrangements through their assigned Battalion Chief to attend an SAO class.

Recently, the Fire Prevention staff has been working on reducing false fire alarm activations that have been occurring at 2842 South Ocean Blvd. (Tideline Resort); 363 Cocconut Row (Chesterfield Hotel); and at the condominium of 2560 South Ocean Blvd. We have been working closely with each of the building's management teams in correcting the deficiencies in their fire alarm systems. Also, Fire Prevention has been working with individual property owners of single-family homes that had been hit recently with false fire alarm activations. We have been following up with each of the homeowners or their property managers in providing them assistance in mitigating their false fire alarm occurrences. Company Officers should remember that if

you're responding to a confirmed false fire alarm activation incident, if Police Communications receives a cancellation request with a proper code / password by the fire alarm company's central monitoring station we can cancel prior to arrival. 🔥



Pictures from our last open house.

Meet our New Hires



My name is Stephen Montoya and I feel greatly honored to have the opportunity to be part of the family here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Having been born and raised in the area, I feel blessed to be given the chance to protect the people of the Town of Palm Beach. I am 26 years old and was born at St. Mary's and raised in Royal Palm Beach. I graduated from Wellington High School and shortly thereafter attended EMT school at Palm Beach State College. After attaining my certification as an EMT, I began working for Medics Ambulance Service while I worked to attain my AA. After completing my degree I moved up to Gainesville where I attended paramedic school. I was surrounded by a fast paced and extremely progressive medical field as I trained at Shands at the University of Florida. After paramedic school I completed my AS in EMS and moved back home to Palm Beach County. I was hired at Good Samaritan as an ER Paramedic and attended fire school while working there per diem. I later attended nursing school, completed my AS in nursing, and am currently studying to take my state boards to become an RN. For the past year I have been a part of Palm Beach County's Reserve Battalion. When I am not at work I enjoy playing soccer, basketball, fishing, hunting and riding four wheelers. I am excited to be at this department and am hoping to absorb as much information as possible from everyone at this department as I begin my career as a Firefighter/Paramedic.

Yorgui Beltran is a 26-year old firefighter that currently resides in Broward County. He completed his EMT and Paramedic studies in 2009 at Broward College, and shortly thereafter attended Coral Springs Fire Academy where he became a certified firefighter. F/P Beltran has been a Volunteer Firefighter for the past 2 years for the city of Lauderdale By The Sea where he honed most of his firefighting skills. While volunteering he worked for Medics Ambulance Service and the HCA South Transfer Center where he learned to complete patient transfers from one hospital to another as efficiently as possible. F/P Beltran is very happy with the great opportunity to serve the Town of Palm Beach and wants everyone to know that "I am thrilled to be a member of such a great agency and I am looking forward to providing my services to the citizens".



Brennan Santini is an Alabama native that came to Florida when he was 9 years old. His family settled down in Boynton Beach and he attended Seacrest Christian and Boynton Beach High School. When he was 16, he started his first job at Two Georges restaurant in Boynton Beach. Little did he know at the time that he would work there for the next 11 years. A family friend introduced him to the Fire Service and he was hooked from the start. F/P Santini attended Palm Beach State College for EMT, Paramedic, and Fire Academy certifications. F/P Santini would like you to know that, "Getting hired by Palm Beach Fire Rescue is an extreme honor for me and I am very grateful for this opportunity. I look forward to starting a rewarding career helping the residents and visitors of the Town of Palm Beach, and of course to meet all of my new family."

Arthur "Ray" Roebuck, Retired Driver/Engineer



Retired D/E Paramedic Ray Roebuck , 62, of Tequesta, Florida, passed away suddenly on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Ray began his career with PBFR in 1982 and retired in 1995. A Memorial service was held on Friday, January 30th. Engine 1 was sent to stand by the services with the on duty crew of, Lt. Weber, D/E Katz and F/P Wieber. Also in attendance were, Deputy Chief Donatto, D/C Duane and D/C Burke. There were several retired PBFR personnel also on hand to show their respect. An honor guard presentation and casket vigil was conducted by volunteers from area honor guard teams.

A Funeral service was conducted for Ray on Saturday, January 31st. The Engine crew from Station 1 attended with the new Quint standing by at the service. On duty personnel in attendance included B/C Golden, Lt. Sekula, D/E Buchek and F/P Lucas. Off duty personnel attending were B/C Baker, Asst. Fire Marshall Curcio and B/C Dudley. Several retired PBFR personnel were also in attendance at these services.

PBFR personnel in attendance were given the honor of acting as pallbearers and participating in the funeral procession after the church services were concluded.

Ray's family has expressed extreme gratitude for the participation of the Department in honoring their family member and one of our own.



Farewell Brad Schell



We would like to wish Firefighter Brad Schell a warm farewell. Brad was hired by the Town of Palm Beach on January 30, 2014 and brought with him 9 years of experience as a firefighter. Since Brad's inception with Palm Beach Fire Rescue, he has been openly accepted as one of the best recruits of recent hires. Brad has displayed all of the passion and hard effort needed to be a welcome addition to any crew to which he was assigned. Brad accepted a firefighter position with another municipality here in South Florida. The department would like to wish him the best of luck.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue—North Station History

By Denise Peed Pilversack

Daughter of Fire Chief Clarence Peed (3rd Fire Chief)

Not many people would think of an active fire station in the middle of a historic south Florida resort as a family home. I was lucky enough to experience just that. My father, Chief Clarence A. Peed, was the third chief of the Palm Beach Fire and Rescue Department. Chief Peed became assistant chief and then chief in the 1950s after being in the dept. since 1926. As a chief my Dad was required to live on the island full time. As a result, at age 8 my family, Dad, Mother, brother (age 11) and I, moved into a renovated third floor apartment at the North Station.

The modifications included the addition of two bedrooms added on top of the second floor roof and a back stairwell egress. The former roof on the second floor became a play room of sorts including a game table and pin ball machine. No air conditioning made the third floor really hot so open windows and fans were the norm. Hurricanes meant the on duty crew boarded up the windows across the front of the building and then got ready for calls. The rest of the building just leaked water all over the place.

Living in a fire station was GREAT for many reasons. The South side of the property was a grassy lawn with palm trees a small fish pond and loads of room for games. The third bay was mostly empty and was perfect for roller skating and even bike riding and kick ball. You could skate through the length of the third bay, out the back doors, over a concrete pad, around and down a concrete path at the south side of the building, across the front sidewalk and back into the 3rd bay through big front doors—Perfect!

I lived in the station for almost 14 years so friends from elementary school age through high school were coming and going at all times. In 1953-54 the only TV in the building was a 17 inch black & white in the main room off the front entrance. Saturday mornings I was allowed to watch 1 hour of TV—Lone ranger and Superman were favorites. There was a checkers game board set up so I became an expert checkers player. Decks of cards were available on the long table in the main room so I was great at solitaire and pretty good at black jack.

There were rules. The business of the fire department was always the priority. The second floor firemen's dorm was off limits except at birthday parties when my friends got to slide down the fire pole ONCE. We could never touch a fire truck or any equipment without permission. When the alarm sounded we all knew to

get out of the way of men and machines. We had an alarm bell in the living room and a radio scanner by Chief Peed's bed so having calls come in was routine at all times of the day and night. Chief Peed suited up and responded to every fire call.

During a January, 2015 visit to Palm Beach County I was graciously given a tour of the North Station by Battalion Chief Sean Baker, Lt. Mike Marx, and Stuart Grimes. We talked about how even though the building interior has been changed, the business of the department and its first responders has remained the same.

Chief Peed would be very proud of how his department has progressed. I am sure he would feel the department where he dedicated 44 years of his life is in good hands. Well done PB Fire and Rescue!!!!



Denise Pilversack on the third floor of Station #2 in her prom dress.



Denise Pilversack in the same spot of Station #2, 50 years later during her tour of the station last month.

Blast from the Past shared by Denise Pilversack



Department picture estimated to be taken around the 1960's.



Chief Peed on the Southwest side of Station #2.



Training Pictures



F/F Dick ascending the ladder.



D/E Buttery on belay



Packaging patient in the Stokes basket.



Patient packaged, ready for lifting

Retirement Party—Bassett, Fuller and Codispoti



Battalion Update

By Sean Baker

Battalion Chief

The new Pierce Velocity 75' Ladder has been delivered to Palm Beach Fire Rescue. The Apparatus Selection Committee consisting of, Division Chief Jimmy Duane, Battalion Chief Sean Baker, Lieutenant Joe Sekula and Driver/Engineer Derryl Bucheck, had a daunting task designing a new class of apparatus to fit the combined role of a Fire Engine and an Aerial Apparatus with a compressed air foam system. Several meetings with local vendors, neighboring fire departments, and engineers from Pierce Manufacturing helped the committee come up with the specifications needed to build this unit.



The ladder, also known as a Quint, is equipped with a 75 foot aerial device, 500 gallon water tank, 30 gallon Foam Cell, Husky Foam Pump, and Hercules 150 CFM hydraulic air compressor. The Ladder will be housed at Central Fire Station 1 and will serve as the front line suppression unit from that station. The arrival of the Quint allows Palm Beach Fire Rescue to use new tactics for fire suppression that were previously unavailable to the department. The Compressed Air Foam System will allow fire rescue to fight fires on the island with greater speed and efficiency with a decrease in property damage from excessive water use. The quick extinguishment and exposure protection afforded by Class A Foam leads to decreased property damage from fires and from fire suppression activities. Departments throughout the United States have documented saving property with Class A Foam that would have otherwise been lost if using plain water.

The quint carries Advanced Life Support equipment, four gas meters, an assortment of power saws, a thermal imaging camera, and built-in vehicle extrication equipment. It also has a full complement of ladders, hand tools, roof tools, and electrical adapters. It is by far the most versatile piece of equipment that Palm Beach Fire Rescue has ever purchased and it will protect and serve the residents on the island for many years to come. 🔥

Newest Additions to the Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Family



Congratulations to Jerry and Christine Castillo for the birth of their daughter. Amity Emme Castillo, born on 1/14/15 weighing in at 7 lbs. and 3 oz. and 20 inches long.



Congratulations to Richard and Kim Ward for the birth of their daughter. Adriana Grace Ward born on 2/12/15 weighing 7 lbs. 8oz and 21 inches long.



Lieutenant Promotions



Willie Bonfante has been with Palm Beach Fire Rescue since June 2002 and was promoted to the rank of Driver/Engineer in August 2005. Lieutenant Bonfante has been very busy amassing two Associates Degrees in Nursing and an Associates of Arts. He is 8 classes away from his Bachelors of Science in Nursing. As a permanent Acting Lieutenant of almost 2 years, Lieutenant Bonfante has been diligent and willing to perform any and all difficult tasks that may be required in the course of mitigating any kind of situation which might arise. Congratulations Lieutenant Bonfante on a job well done. Your wife Tessa, your two sons Mark and Santos should be proud. Lieutenant is currently assigned to the Engine 2 and Rescue 2 at our North Fire Station Two on C shift.

It is our pleasure to announce that Mario Reyes has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Lieutenant Reyes has been employed with PBFRR since November 1994 and moved through the ranks from EMT, Paramedic and he has held the rank of Driver/Engineer since August 2010. Lieutenant Reyes has also been acting as a Step-up Lieutenant since December 2007 and is currently a State certified Fire Inspector, Fire Officer 1 and Fire Instructor 1. He was promoted during the Annual Awards Ceremony on February 6, 2015. Mario's family, his wife Kendall and his son Landon, and his extended family here at the department could not be prouder. Congratulations Lieutenant Reyes. Lieutenant Reyes is currently assigned to Truck 1/Rescue 1 at Central Fire Station on C shift.



Brian Matzen was hired by the Town of Palm Beach in 2008. Shortly after starting his career with the town, he was married to his wife Michelle Matzen. Brian and Michelle have two children, almost 3 year old Zoey and 16 month Cooper. In September 2010, he was awarded employee of the month. In September 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Driver Engineer and then promoted again to Lieutenant in 2015. Brian has completed numerous fire service classes and holds Instructor III, Pump Operator, and Company Officer I Certifications as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Administration. He recently returned from the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland where he attended a week long course in Multi Alarm Incident Command. Being a Florida native he was surprised that shaved Ice falls from the sky and is not limited to snow cone carts at the local fair. He is currently working on his Fire Officer II certification and plans to return to the National Fire Academy. Currently Brian is assigned to Station 1, A Shift as the Rescue Officer.

Photos from the Awards Ceremony



Lt. Danny Dunnan and Family at Awards Ceremony



B/C Sean Baker and B/C Phil Dudley



Chief Donatto recognizing our three new employees.



Willie Bonfante and Eric Legore receiving a commendation award.



MAY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	394
B Shift	423
C Shift	489
Total	779

Fire Prevention Inspections

201

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	15,782
Town Ordinance Enforcements	167
Preventative Actions	146

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	74
EMS Calls	168
Transports to Hospital	114

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Ryan Zabovnik	2/3
Angel Sronce	2/9
Lacie Nicole Flynn	2/9
Michael Messner	2/12
Richard Ward	2/14
Christina Wieber	2/15
Belinda Hardy	2/16
Brian LeBrun	2/16
Gerald Hagin	2/20
Alejandro Mahy	2/22

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Chase Davis	2/10	1 year
Timothy Pompos	2/27	26 years

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2015:

January	Oscar Geerken	July
February		August
March		September
April		October
May		November
June		December

Employee of the Month— Oscar Geerken



Firefighter Paramedic Geerken has served in the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization for 18 months and is currently assigned to the North Station on “B” shift.

Oscar is the first smiling face you see when entering Station 2 and the last you see when leaving. He always makes everyone feel welcome and important. Oscar goes above and beyond what is expected of him on a daily basis. Oscar is a step up Driver Engineer, a responsibility he takes very seriously. Oscar can always be found working on apparatus and equipment, learning new techniques, and filling his need to be the best Firefighter possible. Oscar’s attitude is always hopeful and based in service to others. He delivers outstanding customer service and is a true asset to his crew and a pleasure to work beside. Oscar has spent countless hours assisting and training new probationary employees, and always offers his assistance with reference to training and gaining knowledge.

Several weeks ago, Oscar volunteered to design, develop and assist in the logistics of procurement, for the PBFR T-shirts department members received as holiday gifts. He also worked doing the same for a Station 2 T-shirt. These small acts of dedication have helped to improve the morale of the department. Oscar’s dedication, selfless actions, and relentless hunger for job knowledge are setting him apart as a future leader in our organization.

Firefighter Geerken’s Lieutenant describes him as, “Very dependable, can be counted upon to achieve results, and demonstrates a high level of initiative.” And just as importantly, she adds, he also “Recognizes the needs of others and builds enthusiasm within all on his shift.” Others notice that most around Oscar pay attention to what he is doing, because they can learn from his initiative.

We highly commend Firefighter Paramedic Geerken for his dedication and devotion to the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization. Oscar consistently performs at a high level, always striving to do his best and make Palm Beach Fire Rescue a better place to work and serve the community. His daily efforts in the station are an example of what we stand for and strive to do every day. He is a great asset to the organization, therefore, making Oscar Geerken an outstanding recipient of the January 2015 Employee of the Month award.

