

The All Hands

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

April 2017

Volume 5, Issue 4



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Deputy Chief's Message

By Darrel Donatto, Deputy Chief



It would almost seem intuitive that, as firefighters, we make a difference in the lives of others. In fact, the whole reason our fire department exists is to make a positive difference in the lives of others. However, I don't think we take the time to think about that enough – to take stock of just how many ways we do that and who we do that for.

It is easy to see how our Palm Beach Fire Rescue men and women make a difference on the calls where someone is having a sudden heart attack, stroke, or other severe medical illness. Likewise, it is clear the difference we make we someone has suffered a severe traumatic injury. It is also easy to see how they make a difference in stopping a small fire from growing big or putting out a bedroom fire before it becomes a whole house fire.

But that is only part of the story. The people who work for Palm Beach Fire Rescue work here because they genuinely care about others. That is both why they chose to work here and why we chose them to work here.

There are so many stories of how they go above and beyond to help others; like when they cooked a Thanksgiving meal for a family who had a fire in their stove on Thanksgiving Day; when they went back to the station at 2 am to get batteries for a citizen's smoke detectors because they didn't want them to go back to bed that night not feeling safe, like when the power went out in a condominium and the citizens on the upper levels need to get downstairs with their luggage and our firefighters carried them down 8 stories along with their luggage and pets; like when a pipe broke in a residents home and our crews went above and beyond to protect their personal belongings and to help remove that water until they could get a private company out. The stories go on and on.

There are also lots of stories that show how our employees go above and beyond to help each other. We have some incredibly gifted and talented fire officers who are so gracious with their time and who are so intentional about trying to build up and mentor our newer members. They spend their time, on and off duty, teaching, guiding, mentoring, and growing the future leaders for our organization. They truly are positively impact the lives of their coworkers in ways that will span an entire career. Likewise, there are lots of less seasoned firefighters who go above and beyond to make the lives of their supervisors better. They are the first to volunteer for a project or to take on additional responsibilities from their supervisor – lightening their load so they can focus on other things.

There is such an incredible and great feeling that one gets when they see how their actions really

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Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief

The FY17 budget process is finalized and submitted. Each Division has reviewed and evaluated Department needs and requirements. Capital equipment and programs have been considered and adjusted as needed. The preliminary budget has been reviewed by the Director of Public Safety for any needed changes. The process will continue in the coming weeks until a final budget is ready for submission to the Town Council for review and approval.



Department wide pump testing is completed. All suppression apparatus has been successfully tested and passed. This testing is completed annually on all firefighting apparatus equipped with pumps and has been coordinated by Lt. Dunnam with assistance from on duty crews. Were very fortunate to have individuals trained and willing to complete this process, which would otherwise cost several thousand dollars if completed by an outside vendor. By doing this in-house, we not only save money, we also use this as an opportunity for pump training. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this!

The annual Palm Beach Daily News Food Drive occurred this month with food and monetary donations being accepted at each fire station. This drive has been very successful in the past with Town residents donating a large amount of non-perishable food items. This year the Fire Rescue Department received 1,156 pounds of donated food. The drive has provided a much needed boost for the inventories of local food banks and other organizations that assist the less fortunate.



We continue to experience greater than normal mechanical issues with some of our older units. Engine 98 experienced a severe oil leak, requiring the vehicle to be towed for service. Following the yearly preventative maintenance, the high pressure oil pump was replaced, fuel line leaks were repaired, new tires were installed and smaller miscellaneous issues were resolved. Engine 98 is one of two matching engines that were purchased in 2001 and are slated to be replaced during the FY2018 budget. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Fleet Maintenance continues to provide high level services to us and are quick to respond to our needs, keeping the vehicles in ready condition.



The AV upgrade to Station 3 was completed. The new system is equipped with Smart technology, where presenters can deliver interactive presentations all with the touch of your finger without having to stand at a computer. Community organizations and Town departments will greatly benefit from the use of the new system



EMS Division

By **Dave Burke**

Division Chief

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is pleased to announce Dr. Steven Keehn as our new Associate Medical Director. Dr. Keehn was chosen for this position by our primary Medical Director, Dr. Ken Schepke and Deputy Chief Donatto. Dr. Steven Keehn completed undergrad studies at George Washington University, medical school at Nova University, and medical residency at Good Samaritan in Long Island, NY. He then began work in Humboldt County, CA before starting at J.F.K. Medical Center here in Palm Beach County. His passion for EMS and helping others began early, when in 1996 he became a junior member of the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department in Pikesville, MD. During his undergrad years, he attended D/E and technical rescue courses. When asked, why EMS? Dr Keehn enthusiastically answered, "I have always loved it. I have been immersed in EMS and Fire Rescue since 1996. I love the excitement and helping people." Since hiring on as Associate Medical Director, Dr. Keehn has instructed an advanced airway class for rapid sequence intubation as well as interosseous placement and procedure. He has observed as a rider on a few emergency calls and interacted with the crew after hours on several occasions. In the near future, he will be utilized as an instructor in lectures, educating at shift level, and testing off new Paramedics. Of course Dr. Keehn will fill in as primary Medical Director when needed and can always be reached. We are excited to have him as part of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue team.



A "Brown Bag" Medication Check-up Event was held at each station on April 1st. Members from Kappa Epsilon Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, students from the Doctorate of Pharmacy program at Palm Beach Atlantic were present at PBFR stations to meet and discuss all medication matters with residents and visitors. This free event was a great opportunity for Palm Beach Fire Rescue and these knowledgeable students to form a partnership for future events to improve the lives of people living and visiting Palm Beach. The Fraternity members showed their appreciation a few weeks after the event by presenting a plaque to the department.

Our own Lt. Willie Bonfante created and developed a video to deploy our automated chest compression device, the Zoll Autopulse. First, he and his crew made a few videos using smart phones demonstrating his systematic approach, the "Pit Crew" method in which all rescuers have pre-assigned roles. Lt. Bonfante then created an interactive presentation. Now, with the assistance of the production studio at PBCFR, he created a professional training video for use by departments across the country using the device. Lt. Bonfante's initiative and passion are what drives improvement, and encourages all of us to pursue excellence.



Students from the Doctorate of Pharmacy Program at Palm Beach Atlantic participating in the Brown Bag Event.



Lt. Willie Bonfante and his crew creating an interactive presentation with the Zoll Autopulse.

Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

The month of March was very busy both Town of Palm Beach public beaches. Attendance at Phipps Ocean Park has continued to stay busy since the beach renourishment from 2016 has maintained a 100-yard-wide beach. Lifeguards have stayed busy warning spring break crowds of rip current and Man-O-War dangers. Spring is typically a windy period along the beaches and rip currents risk tend to be high at this time of year. 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. For daily beach conditions at Mid-Town Municipal Beach, please call 561-835-4693

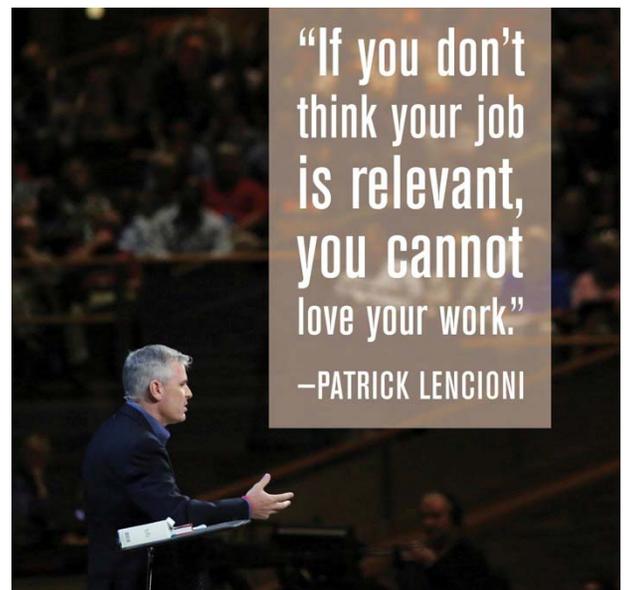


Deputy Chief's Message (con't)

From page 1

makes a difference in someone else's life in some large or small way. The people here at Palm Beach Fire Rescue love helping others; they love making a positive difference in the lives of others.

My personal and sincerest thanks goes out to each and every member of Palm Beach Fire Rescue, as they have made such an incredible impact on my life. They have made my job so much easier by serving our community and its members so well. They are constantly looking for ways to make Palm Beach Fire Rescue better.



Training

By Sean Baker
Division Chief

The department conducted Forcible entry training at our South Fire Station #3 under the guidance of Field Training Officer/ Lieutenant Anthony Curtis. Shift personnel received training on gaining entry into structures that have hurricane impact glass using hand tools, and power equipment. This vital training was followed up with a refresher on forcible entry through locked doors and gates. Training of this type is vital to crews as it will help them quickly and efficiently gain access to buildings so that any type of emergency can be mitigated quickly and efficiently.



Quarterly Live Fire training was also conducted at Palm Beach State College in the month of April. This quarters training focused on fire hose management, fire ground incident command, thermal imaging camera operations, and controlling high heat conditions inside a structure. We had a total of 9 evolutions where operational personnel were exposed to real time scenarios that forced them to make decisions, on the fly, in order to have a successful outcome. This drill's main goal was to augment training that crews conduct on a daily basis, with an added element of heat and stress inoculation.

The month of April will also focus on Aerial apparatus training as we finally conduct our Aerial class that had to be delayed in March. This training is the first State certified class that we will be taught entirely by department personnel with Lieutenant Charlie Shinn taking the lead. Completion of this course will give our personnel the State of Florida Aerial Certification that is required for participating in the upcoming Driver/Engineer promotional process being held later this year.



Palm Beach Fire Rescue partnered with Dr. Andrew Warshaw of the American College of Surgeons the Colony Hotel, and the Greater South County Road Association to roll out the Stop the Bleed Campaign for the Town of Palm Beach. Our goal is to have Stop the Bleed Kits located in every public location that houses and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the island and to teach residents, visitors, and our business partners in the community how to react when they encounter someone with severe bleeding. Palm Beach Fire Rescue will offer this training free of charge along with our current public education programs that include: blood pressure screenings, CPR classes, fall prevention, smoke detector installations, and fire extinguisher training. We will be developing training procedures for this program during the first week of May and hope to have this service available shortly thereafter.

Aerial Operations Class



B/C Update

By Phil Dudley
Battalion Chief

We now have more dignitaries, secret service personnel, celebrities, and corporate executives than ever traveling the roadways of Palm Beach. Many of the vehicles these high profile people are traveling in are armored and designed to keep projectiles and people out. These vehicles are reinforced with 1" steel and 3/4"- 3" bullet resistive glass, and thick reinforced hinges. Our extrication tools cannot cut through this steel and glass master tool will not cut the glass. So what do we do if we arrive on an emergency incident with an unconscious driver?

There are very few articles out that address extrication involving armored vehicles. Acquiring an armored vehicle to conduct hands on training is next to impossible. Therefore, we must rely on the small amount of knowledge that is shared from experience.

Since our extrication tools will not be effective on cutting/removing the steel we need to concentrate on the glass. The tools of choice are the sledge hammer, reciprocating saw, and hydraulic saw.

The most basic of these tools is the sledge hammer. This can breach some bullet resistive glass, but is very labor intensive. The sledge hammer would be used to strike glass multiple times in an area in order to make a large enough hole for the rescuer to reach in and open the door. This is considered to be the last choice due to the labor involved.

The reciprocating saw is a better option than the hammer, yet it still requires a sledge hammer to make a purchase point for the blade to be inserted. Using a metal blade, make circle cuts in an area for the rescuer to reach in and open the door. If opening the door to extricate the victim is not an option, then the windshield would be the next option.

The hydraulic saw is considered to be the best tool for breaching bullet resistive glass. The hydraulic chainsaw, with the Stanley tool, on TRT 97 has a diamond tip blade making it more desirable. When cutting out the windshield, cut handholds to help prevent dropping the heavy 3/4"- 3" glass on to the vehicle, crushing the patient.

Personnel Protection

Cutting any type of glass creates a large amount of glass dust. Personnel protection is a must which includes respiratory (dust mask or SCBA), bunker gear and protective hood. When the first opportunity presents itself cover your patient with a blanket to limit their exposure to the glass as well. After extrication is complete, all gear must be decontaminated to remove the dust mist that adhered to your protective equipment.



Fire Prevention (con't)

By Marty DeLoach, Fire Marshal

April is a month that we often see many of our friends and relatives come and go from sunny South Florida. This is also a time of year that we experience dry conditions due to the absence of rain. There have been numerous wild fires around the county as well as throughout the state. Palm Beach Gardens Fire-Rescue has already fought several brush fires across the street from the Gardens Mall. Our urban environment often places us in a sense of denial that we could have a wild fire here in Palm Beach. If you drive around you may notice several vacant lots or areas that have overgrown vegetation that could certainly burn. We have large lots that often comprise of several acres of land, which can produce a very impressive fire. Always follow all of the fire safety rules for wild fires, especially the use of smoking materials and fireworks particularly during dry conditions.

The construction season is ramping up and will begin May 1st. With it will come some beautiful changes to the already amazing homes and businesses here in Town. These changes do not occur in a vacuum and we will be experiencing parking issues, dust, noise and an occasional road closure to see the projects to completion. Due to all the construction, we will also have to endure numerous false fire alarms during the construction season.

Construction dust, hot work, fumes and other construction activities cause alarm activations. Once the construction is complete, if the fire detectors are not cleaned and calibrated, they will not function as designed and can cause additional false fire alarms. We are working with Town officials to find solutions to minimize the false fire alarms caused by this construction. This issue, along with contractor parking and work hours were discussed with the contractors at a meeting on April 19th. Essentially, the contractors get so focused on their work that they fail to properly cover the detectors to protect them from the harmful dust or smoke that construction often produces.

There are several ways that the residents and building owners can help to avoid the false fire alarms caused by construction activities. Please ensure when your contractors work in your home or business that they cover detectors during construction to prevent dust accumulation in the detector chamber. At the end of the day covers should be removed. If possible, change to heat detectors during the construction period and change back to the smoke detectors after the construction is completed.

When hot work is performed, like plumbers soldering pipe or an air conditioning contractor connecting Freon lines, protect the smoke detectors or temporarily take them out of service in the immediate area of the hot work. Sawing, grinding, and drilling

operations all cause dust that can set off a smoke detector.

Detectors in areas where painting is taking place should be removed or covered to prevent paint fumes from entering the detection chamber or getting on the chambers or elements of the detector. Detectors with paint exposure or painted detectors must be replaced as well as any sprinkler head.

Smoke detectors that are installed for commercial applications come with a cover as do most residential detectors. These covers should be saved for future use, when you have construction performed in your building; it is difficult to find these detector covers if you need them at a later date. They are available, but generally will need to be ordered on line. In a pinch, blue painters tape can be used but must be removed each day and re-applied if there will be construction that can trigger an alarm the next day.

We also experience false alarms from defective equipment, pull stations accidentally being bumped and toaster ovens to close to a detector. In 2009 the NFPA did a study and found that U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated 2.1 million false fire alarms. The International Association of Fire Chiefs flagged the response to unwanted (False) alarms as a major challenge facing the fire service. They see decreasing financial resources with reduced staffing coupled with increased call volume for emergency medical services, all hazard responses are finding it difficult to continue to meet their core mission of protecting life and property. False or unwanted alarms nationally comprise around 7 to 10 percent of calls for service. Former president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Hank Clemmensen, stated these alarms are a drain on fire department resources and pose a significant safety hazard to both responders and the public.

Alarm systems are critical to occupant safety. We can all recall the story about the little boy who cried wolf to many times and no one came when the wolves did finally show up to eat the sheep. We need to all be vigilant in keeping our system and the components working as designed. We all must remind our contractors to protect our system by covering the detectors when they perform their work. All alarms should be treated as real by the general public for their safety. We all need to work together to ensure that when the alarm sounds it is not crying wolf.

We inspected 108 different businesses or buildings in March. In total the fire suppression crews and prevention inspected 505,587 square feet of buildings. We had 46 violations that we are working with the owners to correct.

On Becoming a Person of Influence

By: Leo J. Lampinen, February 19, 2014

<http://asmithblog.com/becoming-person-of-influence/>

John Maxwell has summed up, in one sentence, a real definition of leadership. “Leadership is influence; nothing more, nothing less.” John C. Maxwell

But if leadership is influence, then what is influence? And how can you become more influential?

Influence is the ability to affect the emotions and behaviors of others through your own actions and words. It comes in many forms, and is extremely powerful. Influence can be either good or bad, but as leaders trying to become better leaders, we are always going to focus on the positive.

Becoming a person of influence

To be an effective leader you need the ability and the desire to affect positive change in others. A person of influence is not known only for their knowledge, but for how they interact with people on a daily basis.

“The essence of influence is pull. It’s an attraction. Great influencers attract people, to themselves, and to their ideas.” Bob Burg

Essentially, to get people attracted to you and your ideas and build a baseline to becoming more influential you need to focus on five main points. These focus points should be your guide towards building a strong foundation on becoming a person of influence.

Care

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” John C. Maxwell

If you intend to affect positive change in the people around you, the first thing you must do is care. You care enough to open up to them, to call them out, to challenge them, and to have a general interest in their personal and professional development.

Connect

An effective leader must have the ability to connect with people on a personal and professional level. This means caring enough to add value on a daily basis. Of course, there are several ways to accomplish this. I like to start by asking a couple questions.

What can I do to help them excel?

What drives them to succeed?

These are baseline questions, but are a great start to connecting with someone. It is also important to be genuinely interested in whoever you are trying to connect with.

Continued on the next page

On Being a Person of Influence (con't)

Contribute

A leader's contribution is often times the most noted and the most publicized or recognized. Great leaders focus on making a contribution, but should not make being recognized for the contribution a top priority. Otherwise, keep the best interests of the recipient or the organization up front.

Collaborate

You must have the ability to work together versus being just a 'boss'. Most people will find it very hard to connect with someone who just calls the shots and doesn't get in the game. Leadership isn't telling people what to do. The best leaders work hard to secure a spot up front so that they can clear room for the team to move in and then continue to work alongside.

Control

"Emotions drive our behavior and they also determine performance levels and our scope of leadership influence." Steve Gutzler

If your emotions drive your behavior, then it is important to control those emotions. Everyone deals with stress in everyday life, it is important to control your words and actions that are affected by daily challenges. Our words and actions are what we use to influence and affect positive change. As leaders, if we lose control our influence can be skewed. Be aware of what triggers will set you off and recognize how your behavior is changing in response to those triggers.

Notable Mentions

Lt. Brian Matzen was accepted into the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program in Emmitsburg Maryland and completed 2-weeks' worth of training in March. This series of courses is part of an intensive 2-year fire officer development program that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal / professional skills in management, risk reduction, and adaptive leadership.

Lt. Joseph Sekula has completed a 1-week course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This course, taken at one of the most prestigious fire -service educational complexes in the country, covered Command and Control decision making at multiple alarm incidents.

Driver/Engineer Yorgui Beltran completed or obtained certificates for 10 classes during the months of February and March. His hard work and diligence allowed him to obtain the Fire Officer II designation from the State of Florida.

Firefighter Paramedic Cesar Lora completed 6 classes during the months of February and March in addition to working on the completion of his Bachelor's Degree.

**HIGHEST
STANDARD**

New Hires—Lieutenant Ed Sabol



An Army veteran and seasoned firefighter/paramedic, Ed Sabol has a passion for helping others. A former firefighter paramedic for Reedy Creek (Disney World) and lieutenant at The Villages, his motto was “take care of your team and success will follow.” Ed’s influence extends beyond the job description; his desire is to mentor others to achieve their potential and reach their dreams. In the past, Ed helped many of his Rookie and veteran firefighters to venture on to positions they never thought they would reach – many of them have now become lieutenants, chief officers and leaders in the community. In his off time Ed enjoys training for triathlon races; to date, he has completed 6 full length Ironman distance events; he finished the 2016 race year as an All World Athlete. Ed is looking forward to racing Ironman Louisville 2017 this year alongside his wife, Sarah, who he coaches to podium finishes each year. Ed and Sarah are newlyweds and recent transplants to the treasure coast; Sarah is a chiropractic physician running a clinic in Palm City. Ed is excited about working for the Town of Palm Beach and the opportunity to be a part of an amazing community of fellow firefighters.

Structure Fire



Photo Ops



During the 2017 Florida Fire Service Awards at the Florida Capitol, CFO and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater recognized Deputy Chief Donatto who recently received the Fire Chief of the Year Award for the State of Florida. Pictured from left to right: Florida Department of Agriculture and



Stokes basket and truck training



Palm Beach Fire Rescue aerial training at Palm Beach County Fire Rescue



Training on Hurricane Glass

MARCH DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	570
B Shift	912
C Shift	986
Total	2468

Fire Prevention Inspections

127

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	19,765
Town Ordinance Enforcements	132
Preventative Actions	123
Jelly Fish Stings	14

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	68
EMS Calls	160
Transports to Hospital	109

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Brenedon Andrews	04/02
Jill Bassford	04/05
Laura Deckers	04/11
Patrick Frawley	04/11
James Weber	04/11
Joseph Sekula	04/15
Phillip Dudley	04/21
Thiago Barosa	04/21
Timothy Martin	04/23
Daniel Dirocco	04/25
Marc Bortot	04/26
Danny Gargiulo	04/27
Michael Bennett	04/27

APRIL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Belinda Hardy	04/85	32 years
Jose Ruiz	04/93	24 years
Bradley Caudell	04/94	23 years
David Burke	04/96	21 years
Mark Bradshaw	04/97	20 years
Jill Bassford	04/01	16 years
Damon Patrick	04/01	16 years
Hector Ayala	04/03	14 years
Jody Sronce	04/07	10 years
William Layman	04/09	8 years
George Klein	04/15	2 years
Martin DeLoach	04/19	1 year

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2017:

January	Cesar Lora
February	Abigail Farrell
March	Charlie Shinn



Employee of the Month— Charlie Shinn



Lieutenant Charles "Charlie" Shinn joined the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization 15 months ago, and has been an integral part of the department from day one. Charlie has a passion for the fire service and after a 30-year career in a neighboring department, he continues to share his knowledge and passion on a daily basis. His willingness to share his expertise in truck company operations has led to improved firefighter safety and has provided excellent service to the Town residents and visitors. Lieutenant Shinn currently serves at PBF Station 1 on Truck 97/Rescue 97, where he is making a difference with his leadership and initiative.

Lieutenant Shinn eagerly teaches others new aerial apparatus techniques in rapid victim removal, vehicle positioning, below grade operations, and ladder safety. Charlie was a previous employee of the month recipient from February 2016 and has quickly become one of the department's leaders through hard work and maintaining an attitude of service. He is also an excellent mentor and has directly affected the careers of those around him as they prepare to take on the roles of Company Officer or Driver/Engineer. Several of his firefighters have stated that he has had a direct impact on their lives by his willingness to put in the extra work to make those around him better.

Charlie's passion for aerial trucks and teaching was directly responsible for Palm Beach Fire Rescue obtaining our Florida State Training Site Credentials. The State approved Training Site title gives the department the ability to use our own highly skilled, passionate instructors to blend established teaching methodologies with custom content better suited to our needs. Charlie is currently the lead instructor for the department's first ever State Certified Aerial operator course and upon completion of this class our firefighters will receive a certification that will make them eligible to promote to Driver Engineer.

Lieutenant Shinn is commended for his passion of the fire service, his dedication to the safety and survival of Town residents and their visitors. His integrity is a great example to the newer personnel in our organization, making him a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the March 2017 Employee of the Month Award.