

The All Hands

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

May 2018

Volume 6, Issue 5



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- Promotion
- Flagler Montessori School
- Lead Yourself
- Being Noticed is one of the First Steps

Fire Chief's Message - Only the Best of the Best

By Darrel Donatto, Fire Chief



I am saddened by the resignation of Driver Engineer Yorgui Beltran, who spent a little over three years here with us at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. D/E Beltran was a great addition to the Fire-Rescue team and a great firefighter. He understood the expectations of our Town and he worked hard at exceeding those expectations on each and every call. However, I am happy for Yorgui as he is taking a job in a great organization that is much closer to his home and his family.

Customer service is a concept so deeply ingrained into our organization that it is a natural part of our service delivery. Yorgui cared deeply about helping others and he was exceptional at customer service delivery. He was extremely hungry and trained constantly to get better and to help those around him get better. He took every class he could – with the intent to promote quickly and to be the best at his job. Yorgui had grit – when faced with a challenge – he never gave up and always found a way to get the job done. He was one of the best firefighters we have ever hired. Yet, Yorgui was always humble. He was team player and everyone enjoyed working with him.

With Yorgui's departure comes the opportunity to hire a new team member – someone who fits our culture and who will one day be as good as or better than Yorgui.

We are extremely selective in who we choose to join our team. At Palm Beach Fire Rescue, we strive to only hire the best of the best. We seek people who are smart, who are hungry, yet who are humble. We seek people who love helping and making a difference in the lives of others. We seek people who love serving others and who have a track record of customer service.

In the next few weeks, we have three new members who will be joining our Fire-Rescue team. I am excited for them and for the organization. They all share our organizational values. They are all humble, hungry, and smart. All three will bring a new energy to the organization.

With the departure of some – we experience loss and grief; and, with the hiring of others we experience gain and excitement. Over the past five years – 67 people have resigned, retired, or otherwise departed service from Palm Beach Fire-Rescue. In that time, we have gotten very good at identifying those who fit our culture and share our values. We have interviewed a lot of great firefighters. However, being a great firefighter does not mean you will be a great Palm Beach Fire Rescue firefighter. We have also made a commitment that we will only hire the best of the best. Those who we choose to join our team must share our values and believe in our purpose.

I am saddened to lose Yorgui. However, in the same breath I am excited about adding the best of the best to our team. Together, we will make Palm Beach Fire-Rescue even better.



Administrative Update

By Jimmy Duane

Assistant Chief

The Knox Box system is a secured lock box utilized by almost 300 residents and businesses in Town. The Fire Department is extremely lucky to have as many as we do, which gives us the ability to gain immediate access to the residence or business in the event of an emergency situation during times when the occupant is unavailable or unable to open the door. During this inspection, Firefighters check all the keys inside the box, verify all keys are clearly tagged and marked, and test all keys to ensure they provide access. During hurricane Irma this past year, the department responded to multiple calls immediately following the storm. The department treats each and every call as a true emergency until such information can be ascertained to prove otherwise. During this time period, several homes and businesses required fire department access to ensure that the situation was safe. While many were accessed utilizing the Knox Box located on scene, the majority required forced entry, which can cause further damage. Residents and business owners that are interested in the Knox Box system may obtain information from any of the fire stations or by the calling the fire department main number.



As you drive around the streets of Palm Beach, you most likely noticed the Fire Rescue Department flowing water from the fire hydrants into the streets. During the month of June and July, all hydrants within the Town limits are tested for flow and residual pressures. In addition, hydrants are inspected for operability to ensure the system is working and ready for use. Fire hydrant testing is a requirement from the National Fire Protection Association; it is also one of the many factors which led us to becoming an ISO Class 1 Department.

Annual fire pump testing, which is normally completed in March was completed this month. Due to several unexpected service requirements to some of the older apparatus in the fleet, delays were created until repairs were completed. While we always strive for a smooth testing process, finding repairs during this phase helps to prevent incidents occurring during emergency situations. 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 quality of breathing air and maintenance of our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and equipment used to fill the SCBA equipment is a critical aspect for respiratory protection. Because of its importance, quarterly maintenance and air quality testing is performed. Channel Innovations completed the quarterly maintenance and air quality testing on the Department's air compressor system. Once again the quality of air tested high and the system remains in good working order.

The Rescue Apparatus Committee, along with the design engineers of Demers Ambulance completed the pre-construction phase of the new rescue, which is set to begin construction in August, with a delivery date of the beginning of October. This style rescue was designed to mirror the previous Demers Rescue purchased in 2016, with the exception of some minor changes. Like the previous purchase, the unit will function at maximum efficiency and is equipped with the highest safety standards. The F450 chassis significantly reduces the cost of the vehicle purchase, saving tax dollars to the residents. Equipped with the newest technology liquid suspension, patients and personnel will experience greater comfort during transports to the hospital. The interior design configuration is such so that EMS crews can easily move throughout the rescue module and treat patients. This unit will replace the existing Horton Rescue located at station two.

In March of this year, the decision was made to move the towers off of the mid-town beach, and place them in the grass area due to the erosion that took place following Northeast fronts. While services were never effected, having them sit on the sidewalk is neither astatically pleasing nor practical for beach patrons. Following the completion of the new beach groin near Gulfstream Road, enough sand was placed on the beach for the towers to be moved back in to position. In addition, damage that was sustained to the South tower during Hurricane Irma was repaired and a new shutter was put in place.



Temporary Lifeguard testing was conducted in late May. Several candidates' abilities were tested in lifelike situations performing victim rescues in the ocean. This strict and strenuous process will be followed up with an interview. Candidates who successfully pass the process will be evaluated by the Human Resource Department, who will then determine job selection.

EMS Division

By Sean Baker
Division Chief



Cardiac arrest – an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and disrupts the flow of blood to the brain, lungs and other organs – is a leading cause of death. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately getting CPR from someone nearby. Almost 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person’s chance of survival.

Further, according to Injury Facts 2017, choking is the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury death. Of the 5,051 people who died from it in 2015, 2,848 were older than 74. Food is often responsible for choking incidents in the elderly. Living alone, and having dentures or difficulty swallowing can increase risk.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue understands the importance of a robust community education program that can train bystanders how to handle cardiac arrest and choking emergencies. The department offers free community education to our residents and businesses with the goal of making the Town of Palm Beach one of the safest communities in the area.

Cesar Lora, Palm Beach Fire Rescue’s Community Education Coordinator, recently taught a class to the members of the Beach Palm Beach. This class taught the Beach Club employees CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) usage, and handling choking emergencies. One year after teaching this class, 2 employees were recognized by the Beach Clubs’s manager, David Shaw, at their employee recognition program. Rolando Rodriguez and Robert Young were honored for their heroic actions during 2 separate incidents where they sprung into action to save choking victims by performing the Heimlich Maneuver. These two employees showed courage and bravery by stepping forward when someone was in need. Their actions truly made a difference and the department is hoping to replicate this success throughout the island. Palm Beach Fire Rescue recognizes that community members are on scene before first responders and, with proper training, you can become a link in the chain of survival.



5

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING

YOUR HURRICANE SUPPLIES

1

Food/Water - Get supplies well in advance, enough for each person for at least one week.

2

Medicine/First-aid - Have 30 days worth of medicines and medical supplies. Fill prescriptions before the storm.

3

Communications - Have extra batteries or portable chargers for your cell phones and batteries for your radios.

4

Gas - Fill up your car or a gas can beforehand. If the power goes out, you will be unable to pump gas.

5

Money - Have cash on hand. With no electricity, ATMs and credit cards will not work.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit [weather.gov/hurricanesafety](https://www.weather.gov/hurricanesafety)

Hurricane Season 2018

The 2018 Hurricane season is off to a running start with the first named storm, Alberto, appearing on April 25, 2018. The Atlantic Hurricane season starts on June 1 through November 30, but Alberto’s appearance in April confirms that Hurricanes do not follow any calendar. The time to prepare for hurricane season starts now.

Palm Beach is a barrier island and is therefore highly susceptible to storm surge. Residents, business owners, and visitors to Palm Beach are strongly encouraged to EVACUATE the Island for any hurricane.

We are advising all residents to put together their hurricane plans now! The first step is to sign up for the Town of Palm Beach Alert System . This system allows town officials to push timely messages to the public that include road closures, evacuation messages, and many other forms of emergency communication. The alert system sign up can be found at <https://www.townofpalmbeach.com/list.aspx>.



Ocean Rescue

By Craig Pollock

Ocean Rescue Supervisor

The story of May at local beaches has been rain, rain and more rain. The beach attendance has been low due to the continuing rain pattern South Florida has been experiencing. Along with the rain, the swim conditions have not been too good. Both the shoreline and ocean have had massive amounts of seaweed throughout the month of May, making swim conditions unpleasant. On May 16th ocean rescue staff were able to get lifeguard towers placed back on the beach. The lifeguard towers had been on the seawall since early March due to large surf produced from winter storm Riley.



Coming up in June, lifeguard George Klein will be participating in a special event called the Crossing For A Cure. The Crossing For A Cure is a long-distance endurance charity paddle challenge and race that takes paddlers 75 miles across the Gulf Stream from Bimini in the Bahamas back to Lake Worth, Florida on Saturday June 16th. The event was inspired because of the incredible health benefits of the Ocean for those living with cystic fibrosis, a terminal lung disease. Travis Suit's daughter Piper was diagnosed with CF when she was four years old. This event serves as a fundraiser for the Piper's Angels Foundation, whose mission is to support and improve the lives of

families in the cystic fibrosis community through heightened awareness and providing education, life expanding activities, and urgent financial support. In addition to this amazing event, George will also be training and competing in numerous local lifeguard competitions. This will prepare him for the Southeast Regional Lifeguard Championships coming up in July in Flagler Beach, Florida. We wish him luck for all of these great events and know George will represent the Town of Palm Beach well.



Sincere Thanks for You're Service

May 20-26

Training

By Michael Marx, Training

This month's highlighted training event focused on the education of firefighters on the proper techniques for mitigating propane and natural gas events. Palm Beach Fire Rescue was provided an excellent educational opportunity by State Propane Environmental Service, in which firefighters were instructed on hands on gas mitigation techniques by a field expert. Firefighters and other emergency personnel routinely respond to emergencies involving natural gas. These emergencies include residential fires, odors, leaks in buildings, damaged gas lines, or occasionally an explosion with ensuing fire. The majority of time, firefighters arrive on scene of the incident prior to the utility company's awareness of the incident. In many cases, the source of the gas leak has to be determined and the incident is mitigated without any major consequences. But in some instances, what appears to be a routine gas leak incident can turn quickly into a catastrophic event. The country as a whole experiences many gas involved calls with varying outcomes. These type of incidents are not foreign to the Town of Palm Beach. We as a department categorize these incidents as low frequency/ high risk events. Such incidents can result in extensive property damage cost to the property owner or even worse can result in death.

In 2016, a gas leak in a basement meter room in a Silver Springs, Maryland apartment building caused an explosion and ensuing fire that killed seven people. The dead-bolted front door of the apartment directly above the meter room was blown off and found 300 feet away, across the street in a parking lot. In 2017, Workers in Manor Township, Pennsylvania, were investigating an odor of a gas leak outside a home and excavating a potentially leaking gas line near the home when an explosion occurred, killing one worker, injuring three other workers, leveling one home, and damaging several other homes. In 2014 firefighters responded to a major gas explosion with ensuing fire within the borders of the Town of Palm Beach. The fire/explosion was determined to have been the result of a gas leak located within the structure of the residence. Although this explosion did not result in loss of life, considerable property damage and disruption to normal life activities did occur. These low frequency/ high risk gas leak calls can have devastating consequences.



Predominantly methane, natural gas is colorless, tasteless, and, in its natural state, odorless. Transmission pipeline and utility companies add a distinctive odorant (butyl mercaptan) to natural gas so leaks can be quickly and easily identified. Natural gas is lighter than air and tends to rise, while most other flammable/energy gases tend to settle or migrate downward. Firefighters here in the Town of Palm Beach are concerned with the properties of natural gas as it effects the techniques used to mitigate the incident. For example, if occupants are home asleep within the residence and there happens to be a natural gas leak within the structure, the fact that natural gas

is lighter than air will cause the vapors to rise to the highest points within the structure. Therefore, ceilings and upstairs locations such as bedrooms would be of great concern. Occupants can be sleeping unaware of the immediate dangers. Firefighters use specific Standard Operating Procedures combined with practiced techniques to locate these areas under immediate threat. Whenever natural gas leaks occur inside, an immediate evacuation must be conducted for the safety of occupants. If occupants are not within the structure to detect the smell of a gas leak, the gas itself can accumulate undetected for lengthy periods of time. This in turn can create a greater threat of explosion caused by a multitude of items within the structure, such as pilot lights and electrical switches.

The Town's gas distribution system is old and undergoing replacement through the Undergrounding Project. This in turn has created an abundance of gas related incidents. Whether caused by old faulty systems or by the placement of new gas feeder lines, Palm Beach Fire Rescue has seen an increase in the amount of gas related calls. Palm Beach Fire Rescue responded to over 50 related gas incidents over the past year. Palm Beach Fire Rescue uses an advanced detection device called the MSA 4 Gas Monitor. This monitor has the capability to monitor four different gasses at one time. The gases monitored are Oxygen concentrations, Carbon Monoxide concentrations, Hydrogen Sulphide concentrations and explosive levels of combustible gases such as Propane and Natural Gas. Palm Beach Fire Rescue takes every opportunity to learn the latest techniques in gas incident mitigation. This entails bringing in house expert instructors and partaking in hands on training drills with Palm Beach Fire Rescue's gas props located at our Station 3 Training Facility. The more educated and trained the firefighters are for these incidents, the more positive the expected outcome should be.

Fire Prevention

By Martin DeLoach
Fire Marshal

Safety for our children is always a concern. Historically, there have been eight school fires that caused fatalities of 10 or more people which provided the direction for our public school fire codes. These preventative measures evolved from those losses. There was a loss of 294 people at the Consolidated School in New London, Texas from a gas explosion in 1937, the largest loss of life in a school. The Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago, Illinois in 1958 caused 95 deaths. This was a critical fire that brought about the requirements for fire drills. Sadly, students were found sitting at their desks with their heads down as directed by the teachers, who had not practiced fire drills.

Fortunately, the measures taken by studying why people died in the eight school fires has saved countless other lives. According to the United States Fire Administration, an estimated 4,000 school building fires were reported by United States Fire Departments each year (2009-20011). Although school fires do occur, school fire fatalities have become almost nonexistent.

The Palm Beach County School Boards recent decision to eliminate the code that required fire drills in public schools challenges the foundation of lessons learned 60 years ago. The reality of today's dangers should not be diminished and perhaps we need to identify additional elements that may add to the safety of our children when they are at school. I can still remember the tornado drills that we did as kids, sitting in the hall way with our heads down and hands over our neck to protect us from flying debris.

Seven Hundred and fifty five people died in the 8 school fires that helped provide the code changes to protect our schools. The fires occurred over 50 years, from 1908 through 1958, before measures were taken to protect our schools and our children from fires. One of the key items was the establishment of school fire drills to help teach the children how to get out of the building safely.

School shootings and active shooters have become a reality and unfortunately a common threat in the world that we currently live in. There is no quick fix to stop or even identify the best procedures to add additional safety. Trading the protections from one threat to alleviate another does not seem to be the prudent thought process to truly create a safe environment for our children.

There are no words that can be said to a parent that loses a child after sending them off to school and those unfortunate people are rightfully seeking answers to prevent other parents the same fate. Philosopher George Santayana stated "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"

Our world is changing and we must all be more diligent about our safety and the safety of our children.

The Fire Prevention Division along with the Shift Fire Crews completed a total of 121 inspections in the month of April.



Battalion Chief Article

By Keith Golden
Battalion Chief

Firefighters need intensive training under realistic conditions to learn the limitations of their equipment, breathing apparatus, and themselves. At Palm Beach Fire Rescue we accomplish this feat through Live Fire Training, air consumption drills, and being experts with our equipment in dark, smoke filled atmospheres. The training we receive is meant to closely replicate the hazardous conditions found when tragedy strikes. One of the most frequently encountered and dangerous conditions we face is Carbon Monoxide, which is the byproduct of combustion. Unlike other gases, Carbon Monoxide is invisible, odorless, and tasteless. Therefore we train and rely upon our gas monitors to identify these hazardous conditions. The reason we train is not only to overcome smoke and other irritating and toxic products of combustion, but also to constantly test our equipment to ensure that it is in the best working order to accomplish any task. Our training is designed to not only test the wearer, but to ensure the effectiveness of our self-contained breathing apparatus so firefighters can adjust to working in inclement environments, learning to control their breathing, and how to make their supply of air last longer. So while we are training remember, our training is not only designed to evaluate you, but to evaluate all of your equipment including your personal protective gear. We consistently look to make sure that we offer the best gear for:

Heat Protection

Thermal resistance

Reflectivity

Durability in high temperatures

Thermal capacity

Flammability

To those that answer the call of duty our training is designed to identify unsafe and untenable conditions, avoid unsafe and untenable acts and to mitigate any and all situations to the best of our ability so.....

On Your Mark, Get Set and Go Train.



Promotion



Angel Sronce started with Palm Beach Fire Rescue on January 6, 2014 as a Firefighter/EMT. Immediately Angel began taking classes to achieve her next goal of Paramedic, which she accomplished on November 23, 2016. After completing all the necessary requirements and participating in the promotional process, Angel was promoted to the position of Driver/Engineer on May 19, 2018. Angel currently steps up as an Acting Lieutenant and is well on her way to achieving her next career goal. She always displays a positive attitude and is a valuable asset to the department.

Congratulations to Angel Sronce on her latest promotion to Driver/Engineer.



Flagler Montessori School Tour at Station #1



Giving a station tour of the firehouse is not only one of our many proud traditions, it is also not much different than giving a tour of our own homes. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of sharing what we do with the community, especially with our future generations. A station tour falls into the PR category as much, or more, than anything else we will do while wearing our uniform. This long tradition also provides us with the opportunity to pass on fire and life safety tips all while having fun with our guests. Palm Beach Fire Fighters take great pride in showing what we do and how we do it. We have some of the best and dedicated people in the service and what better way to highlight the service we provide than a station tour. I felt great honor to receive positive feedback from the Flagler Montessori School teachers and parents, I quote "that was the best station tour I've ever been on" –The kids

Continue to take pride in our stations and uniforms and keep representing, the Palm Beach Way

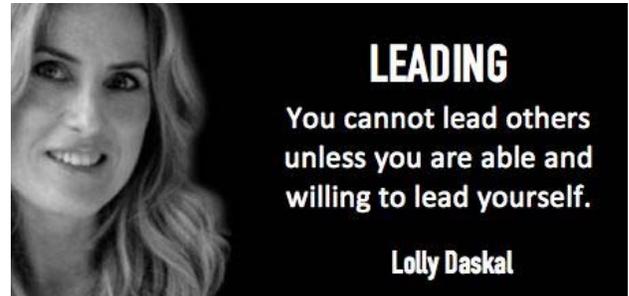


Lead Yourself

By Lolly Daskal, Posted on 24. Jul, 2011 at <http://www.lollydaskal.com/leadership/lead-yourself/>

Before you can lead others, You must be able to lead yourself.

If you cannot lead yourself others won't follow you.
 If you cannot lead yourself others won't respect you.
 If you cannot lead yourself others won't listen to you.
 If you cannot lead yourself others won't trust you.
 If you cannot lead yourself others won't understand you.
 If you cannot lead yourself how will you make a difference?



Leadership is demanding it is created from noble disciplines.

It requires an elevated sense of mastery with practice, skills, desires and commitment. It begins with leading ourselves to understanding, acknowledging, and attending to our insides.

It is the fundamental and necessary building block to greatness.

Set your standards high.
 Do the best you are capable of doing.
 Do everything to bring forth your personal best.

To lead yourself successfully is a self knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable of.

The better **you are at leading yourself** the better the chance you are at having a **positive impact on others.**

Lead From Within: The truth is we need each other.....to learn from each other.....to lead ourselves and to lead by example, because we are joined by a common cause....to lead from within so we can increase the quality and quantity of heart based leaders around the world.



Employee appreciation party at Council President Danielle Moore's home.

Photo Ops



C shift Stabilization training



C shift VMR airbag lifting stabilization training. FF Mazzola Leads crew in final scenario to receive squad signoff in probie book

Being noticed is one of the first steps to influencing the person above you.

John Maxwell, 360 Degree Leader

You will have to get out of your comfort zone and do things you have never done before.

When you step outside of your comfort zone and take on tough tasks that are not within your normal area of responsibility, you will inevitably make some mistakes; that is called learning. The key is how you react to your failures, not what your failures are. Leaders take responsibility for the failures, they don't make excuses or blame someone else. Remember, it is easier to go from failure to success than it is to go from excuse to success.

Successful people do things that unsuccessful people are unwilling to do. – John C. Maxwell



Photo Ops (con't)



On Saturday, May 26, crews from Station Three went to the Bath and tennis Club to visit with Gene Paul the General Manager. After many years of service with the Club Gene Paul is retiring. The Fire Rescue crews presented Gene Paul with a plaque thanking him for his dedication and commitment to the Town of Palm Beach and Palm Beach Fire Rescue.



B Shift responding to an accident on Seabreeze.

APRIL DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Training Hours

A Shift	778
B Shift	952
C Shift	917
Total	2323

Fire Prevention

Inspections 121

Ocean Rescue

Visitors	9,234
Town Ordinance Enforcements	100
Preventative Actions	75

FIRE and EMS

FIRE Calls	70
EMS Calls	175
Transports to Hospital	124

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Frank Mavigliano	06/05
Michael Curcio	06/10
Christopher McKay	06/10
Mario Reyes	06/20

JUNE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Willie Bonfante	06/02	16 years
Ryan Zabovnik	06/02	16 years
Anthony Curtis	06/16	02 years

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2018:

January	Stephanie Mavigliano	July
February	Craig Pollock	August
March	Charles Shinn	September
April	Kristen Ruest	October
May		November
June		December

Employee of the Month—Kristen Ruest



Firefighter Kristen Ruest joined the Palm Beach Fire Rescue organization September 12, 2016. She has been an integral part of the department from day one. Kristen goes above and beyond her required scope of duty on a regular basis and has provided an immense amount of training to the new hires of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. She has a passion for the fire service and in her short tenure with the department, has displayed great leadership qualities. She shows great compassion for patients and provides the highest level of customer service to the Town's residents and visitors. Firefighter Ruest always steps up whenever a new project arises. She has assisted Division Chief Marx with both project management of the Target Solutions Software System, and with the revisions of Standard Operating Guidelines and Procedures. She serves on the apparatus committee for the future acquisition of department EMS Rescue Unit's and assists in EMS Training during the new hire process. Kristen has built great rapport with her peers, sharing great tips on staying physically fit in the fire service and has provided help to whom ever needs assistance. Firefighter Ruest currently serves at PBF Station 2 on Engine 98, where she is making

a difference with her leadership and initiative. She currently is a step up Acting Driver and is completing the necessary requirements to become a step up Acting Lieutenant.

Firefighter Kristen Ruest is being recognized for employee of the month for her efforts in assisting Division Chief Baker with the Paramedic Sign-off Process. Kristen has spent an enormous amount of time mentoring and preparing new paramedics for their next step in the process which is conducted by Division Chief Baker and the Medical Director Dr. Kenneth Schepke. This entailed many hours of training spent within the Medical Simulation Lab. Kristen conducted multiple medical scenarios using the department's current medical protocols. She has coordinated and scheduled all necessary training in order that the paramedics may achieve and meet the standards set forth by the department and Medical Director. Kristen's Leadership efforts make our personnel more proficient, in turn making the Town of Palm Beach a safer place.

Firefighter Kristen Ruest is commended for her passion of the fire service, her dedication to the safety and survival of Town residents and their visitors. Her integrity is a great example to the newer personnel in our organization, making her a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and the deserving recipient for the April 2018 Employee of the Month Award.

