



“Clearwater’s Hottest Department”

**Fall/Winter 2005**

*Clearwater Fire & Rescue*  
*FIRE PREVENTION EXPO 2005*



Seven north county fire departments, the Division of Forestry and the St. Pete-Clearwater Airport Crash Crew all joined together and held a huge EXPO at Westfield/Countryside Shopping Town to kick-off Fire Prevention Week 2005. There were a variety of apparatus in the parking lot, along with antique fire trucks as well as indoor displays featuring life safety educational materials, Sparky, Fletch the dog, games, balloons, fire clowns and more. Hundreds of people from the community turned out to enjoy the event. Smoke alarms were given away and everyone who attended said the day was a wonderful success. The event gave our department an opportunity to show the **community the “best of the best”.**

James Van Zandt, Jennifer Wargin & Lt. Jevon Graham



Who’s Who?

# "Employees of the Month" & Other Awards

## Employee of the Month August 2005 Lt. Steve Coward

On March 7, 2005, paramedics responded to a cardiac arrest call for a gentleman on vacation from England. Unfortunately, they were unable to resuscitate the patient. Steve Coward drove the man's wife to the hospital to tend to the husband; invited her to stay at his home while arrangements were made; made phone calls to England to the woman's children; coordinated with the medical examiner, Moss Feaster Funeral Home, the British Consulate in New York City, and relatives in England; convinced British Airways to fly the woman home from Tampa rather than Orlando at no extra charge; arranged with Moss Feaster for transportation of the deceased back to England; contacted the rental company to retrieve the couple's rental car; and drove the woman to Tampa International and stayed with her until her flight departed. All this was done in one day on his own time. In the words of a coworker, "The selfless assistance he gave to the bereaved widow was more than many people would personally take upon themselves."

## Lightning Strike Team Station 44 A Shift, Station 46, R45, and LR48

The members include: Chris Menendez, Mark Anyon, Greg Holding, James Thomas, Larry Dean, Nathan Ballouz, Jim Westerman, Jeff Wallace, Peter Gushee, Craig Krueger, and Wendy Cason

On July 23 at approximately 5:01 pm E44's crew was returning from a call on Island Way. While driving around the roundabout, they witnessed a lightning strike on Clearwater Beach just south of Pier 60. Traveling approximately 1/8 mile, E44 was waved down by people on the beach. Lt. Menendez and his crew stopped on the beach and saw three people down, two in cardiac arrest and the other in respiratory arrest. With quick thinking, Lt. Menendez upgraded the call to a multi-alarm rescue call, which brought the units needed to assist on the call. E44's crew was faced with three critical patients for a few minutes until others arrived. All crews arrived and, without concern for their own well being, treated these patients in the middle of a heavy storm, with lightning strikes in the very close vicinity. The outcome of this call was remarkable! All three of these patients are alive and talking because of the quick thinking of these individuals.

## Employee of the Month – October 2005 Fire Medic Steve Colbert

On 6/11/05 Engine 51 responded to a medical call that they thought was just a "normal call." The patient was the only occupant of the apartment and, as usual, Fire Medic (FM) Colbert followed the patient around while the others looked for medication and paperwork information. It seemed like just another day, but everything changed in an instance. FM Colbert and a Sanstar employee followed the patient into the bedroom. The patient opened a drawer to a nightstand and reached for a gun. The patient gave no indication of being "combative." FM Colbert grabbed the patient's hand from the drawer before the patient could pull the gun out. They then escorted the patient out of the apartment and called the Clearwater Police Department. The Police Department stated the gun was a fully loaded 38 pistol with six rounds of hollow point bullets. Although everyone performed his or her job functions as normal, this incident could have turned out worse if FM Colbert had relaxed on the job. Because FM Colbert stayed with the patient, everyone was able to go home. This is just a reminder that there are no "routine" calls.

# Accomplishments, Promotions, Awards & Recognition



**J.P. Medani** has accepted the offer of new Assistant Chief of EMS. Chief Medani is a Florida certified paramedic and has most recently worked in Pasco County before joining CF&R. He spent over 20 years in Prince Georges County, Maryland, where he served as the EMS Shift Commander of a large department for 10 years. He has an extensive background in EMS and will be a great addition to the department. Chief Medani's first day with Clearwater Fire & Rescue was October 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Good Job!

Virginia Costa recently completed a 56-Hour Leadership Development Program and received a Certificate of Achievement from St. Pete College Corporate Training.

## Promotions

Assistant Chief Riley has been promoted to Division Chief of Operations effective October 17th. Chief Riley has demonstrated his ability in the past several months as the Training Chief and more than exceeds the qualifications for Chief of Operations.

Todd Connors was recently promoted to Fire Lt. Congratulations!

## Fire Fighter Combat Challenge Competition

In August, Clearwater Fire & Rescues' Firefighter Combat Challenge Team competed in Gainesville, FL for the Southeastern Regional Championships. The results are as follows:

### **Individuals**

- Anthony Gomillion - Open Male Individual category 1:49.78 ranking 12th out of 95 competitors (which qualifies for World Challenge)
- Mark Viola- Open Male Individual category 2:19.19 ranking 61st out of 95 competitors

### **Team**

- Anthony and Mark- Open Male Tandem Team category 3:24.06 ranking 7th out of 12 teams (which qualifies for World Challenge)
- Joe Kraus and Sarah Spreitzer (alternate)- Co-ed Tandem Team category 5:26.94 ranking 2nd place for Co-ed Teams

# Awards & Recognition Continued.....

**Lightening Strike Citation**



**Lt. Wendy Cason, Pete Gushee, James Westerman, Craig Krueger, Jeff Wallace & Chief Geer**

**Firearm Incident Commendation**



**Chief Geer, Todd Connors, Andrew Hawkins, & Steve Colbert**

**Lightening Strike Citation**



**Chief Geer, Lt. Chris Menendez & Mark Anyon**

**Lightening Strike Citation**



**Chief Geer, Lt. Jim Thomas, DC Don March, Chris Vaughan and John Lee**





**FF/DO Scott E. Shore** was recently promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force Reserve. He has a combination of over 23 years in the Air Force, with time served in both active duty and reserve units. Scott is currently assigned to the 622 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron located at MacDill Air Force Base, where he has spent the last 13 years. With his promotion he assumes the position of Assistant Superintendent for Communications-Operations and will oversee the management of 4.7 million dollars of communications equipment and personnel to support the Global War on Terrorism. Scott is a Persian Gulf War Veteran and has spent time supporting both peacetime and wartime operations in 17 different counties in his Air Force career. Scott has worked for Clearwater Fire & Rescue since May 1994.



**Virginia Costa & Denise Balog** are honored for all their continuous hard work and dedication to Clearwater Fire & Rescue



## *Clearwater Fire & Rescue SWAT Team Takes Honors*

The Clearwater Fire & Rescue SWAT team presented the Clearwater Police Department with the First Place Trophy for the “Medic-Up” Competition, during the recent Clearwater Police Department Awards Ceremony. The Clearwater Fire & Rescue SWAT team members are SWAT Team Leader Sean McKay & Lt. Brent Bronson. CF&R took the First Place title for the second time in three years. Clearwater Police Chief, Sidney Klein, said he was “happy to house this trophy for a while.”



Photo by Deidre Jones

The SWAT international competition is hosted by the International Tactical EMS Association, the National Tactical Officers Association and the Casualty Care Research Center. “This competition places international special operations medical teams from the military, federal government, and local law enforcement through a series of physically & mentally challenging hyper-realistic scenarios”, said Sean McKay. **L to R: FM Sean McKay, CPD Lt. Jim Steffens, Police Chief Klein, Fire Chief Geer & Lt. Brent Bronson**

# **Awards Recognitions & Citations**

**September through November 2005**



## ***Retirements:***

Mark Cairns, FF	32 (16 CFR, 16 CPD)	Retirement Date-9/01/05
James Fogarty, AC EMS	25+ yrs of service	Retirement Date-7/01/05
Mark Love, DO	27 yrs of service	Retirement Date-8/31/05
Lowell Nickerson, DO	25 yrs of service	Retirement Date-6/19/05

## ***New Hires:***

**Bobbi Eigenmann, Staff Assistant**  
**Randall Bingham – Fire Fighter**  
**Banks Colton – Fire Fighter**  
**Philip Gordon – FM/Fire Fighter**  
**Christopher Hannigan – Fire Fighter**  
**Robert Hansen – Fire Fighter**  
**Bradley Keating – Fire Fighter**  
**Thomas Knobl – FM/Fire Fighter**  
**Steven Lannon – FM/Fire Fighter**  
**Shawn Lawrentz – Fire Fighter**  
**Mauricio Perdigon – Fire Fighter**  
**Timothy Smith – Fire Fighter**  
**Vincent Supernor – Fire Fighter**  
**Jason Thibault – FM/Fire Fighter**  
**Christopher Van Opdorp – Fire Fighter**

## ***City Service Awards:***

**Virginia Costa, Personnel/Payroll Technician**      **25 years**

## ***Employee of the Month:***

**Lt. Steve Coward – August 2005**  
**FM Steve Colbert – October 2005**

## ***Commendations, Unit Citations and Medals of Honor:***

**Female Citizen with fire arm in bedroom incident:**

**FM Steve Colbert, FF/Act Lt Todd Connors, FF/DO Andrew Hawkins,  
Sunstar Crew-EMT Jared Carlson, PM Chad Hamilton, PM Eric Olson**

**Lightening strike incident at Clearwater Beach:**

**FS 44, Rescue Units, LR, DC, Engines & Dive Team  
Citizens - Sue Fredrickson and Kristen Peterson**

## ***Promotions***

**Jim Keller, Fire Inspector II**  
**Andrew Hawkins, FF/DO**  
**Richard Riley, Division Chief of Operations**



## New Staff Assistant for Fire Prevention & Investigations Division



*Bobbi Eigenmann* is a fifth generation Floridian and refers to herself as a "Florida cracker". She is also a third generation "local girl" from Clearwater. She attended the old Clearwater Junior High and Clearwater High School. Bobbi started her career with the City in January 1987 in the City Clerks' Department as a clerk typist doing the agendas for the City Commission meetings. She was promoted to Central Permitting, now referred to as Development & Neighbor Services. After 10 years, she transferred to General Services, Fleet Maintenance and was there for seven years as the Accounting Clerk. **Bobbi says she is "very happy to have joined the ranks of Clearwater Fire & Rescue and anticipates many more years with the City."** She is married and has three sons and five grandchildren. In her "spare" time, she is the dance director for "The Florida 50's Original Rockers" which is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of music and dance from the 50's and 60's.

Welcome to Clearwater Fire & Rescue!



Retirements: *Ed Bossom* 35 Years  
*Sam Willi* 32 Years  
*Eric Fetrow* 22 Years  
*Randy Bacher* 20 Years

### Service Recognition:

25 Years *Virginia Costa*  
10 Years *Dan Carpenter*  
5 Years *Kevin Boaden*  
5 Years *James Bronson*  
5 Years *William Muniz*  
5 Years *Shawne Patterson*

# Message from the Chief...



**We are now approaching the end of another year. It is nice to reflect on our successes, but I want to share some of my perspective of the future for our department.**

**During this first year, I have continued my assessment of our department. Through many events and discussions, as well as attempts to continue with existing practices, I have decided to change everything to improve the safety, efficiency, and professionalism of our department.**



**Over the next few years we will see a transition from our traditional practices, appearances, and even personnel. It is no secret that many of our more experienced people will retire. Our challenge is to replace them with the best new firefighters and officers possible. It is exciting to witness the impact of the newest firefighters and watch the progress of our largest recruit class. There are many more new firefighters to come.**

**The best example of this transition is in the Operations Division. Chief Bacher certainly raised our level of operational effectiveness along with our first step into our new training initiatives. Now that he has retired, opportunity is created. Chief Riley will lead us to a modern, high effectiveness level of Fire/EMS delivery. This transition will bring many new faces, new energy, and greater enthusiasm. Through the training initiative, we will continue to provide high-quality training to our personnel, especially our officers.**

**By now some of you have heard that I have decided to change to red apparatus. There are many reasons; costs of the orange continue to go up, warranty of paint is no longer available, and only one supplier left. But most importantly, if we are truly improved, we should look it. I want everything about us to look different and professional. It is a new day and we are a new department. This administration welcomes change and understands the value of leaving behind past practices, images, and traditions. Change also means leaving behind much of our negative influences from our past.**

**By the time you read this, our new Assistant Chiefs should be coming on board. After many months of negotiations and hard work, we will finally have management staff on the front lines. These candidates have very impressive qualifications, experience, and skills. All are key to our continuing commitment to accountability, safety, and incident management. We look forward to their contribution and positive impact.**

**Finally, we continue to develop our senior management staff. Development includes attending national conferences and training opportunities. We will continue to be active locally, statewide, and nationally to explore ways to improve our department. We are extremely pleased that so many outstanding candidates from around the country recognize that we are making history here and they want to contribute to that success story.**



## **New Fire Fighters Join Clearwater Fire & Rescue**

Pictured Left to Right, Seated: *Ben McBride, Jeff Roberts, & Chris Maine*  
Standing: *Nathan Brooks, DO Bill Wargin (Instructor/Trainer) & Fred Morris*

Photo by Betsy Clement



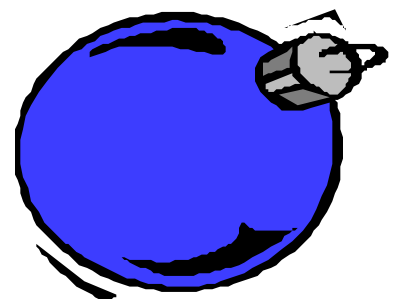
## **2005 Turner Award Recipients for Outstanding Fire Medics**

Mrs. Turner presented the Turner Award to *FM Kevin Boaden, Lt. Brent Bronson* and *FM James Westerman* on Thursday, Nov. 17th, 2005. Mrs. Turner held a luncheon in their honor and presented each of them with \$100 and a plaque.



Photo by Betsy Clement

*Happy Holidays to all our outstanding employees who make our department the 'best of the best'!*



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