



“Clearwater’s Hottest Department”

Spring 2004

CLEARWATER FIRE FIGHTER OF YEAR – 2004



Clearwater Fire & Rescue is proud to announce Firefighter Douglas Swartz as “Firefighter of the Year” for 2004. Doug has been with the department for two years, assigned to various fire stations and positions within the department. In Doug’s short tenure at Clearwater Fire & Rescue, he has demonstrated his dedication to the fire service through his professionalism and dedication to duty. Soon after starting with CF&R, Doug created the department’s first Honor Guard. He developed the training, recruited personnel and designed the uniform. As a direct result of Doug’s hard work, in April 2002, Clearwater Fire & Rescue had its first Honor Guard consisting of eleven members. The Honor Guard has grown to sixteen members. Doug also helped develop a departmental policy and Funeral Contingency Plan stemming from the Honor Guard.

Doug has also been primarily responsible for the Holiday Food Basket Program for the last two years. This program gathers donated food and contributions for less fortunate families during the holidays. Doug and other volunteers created food baskets for the less fortunate and delivered them to area families. This year they delivered food to approximately 60 families and some local area missions.

Fire Chief Rowland Herald presented FF Swartz with the Firefighter of the Year plaque, certificate, and uniform ribbon at a ceremony held at Station 47 on March 26, 2004. Doug was recommended for this award by his peers and selected from a list of very outstanding and qualified candidates.



Congratulations, Doug!

NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF OF FIRE PREVENTION



Clearwater Fire & Rescue welcomed our new Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, G.C. Wine, on March 1, 2004. G.C. comes to us from the Virginia area and has an extended and very proud family history in the fire service. GC began his career as a fire fighter in the Town of New Market, VA, where he later served as Fire Chief in 1996. Prior to that time, while attending Northern Virginia Community College in pursuit of an Associate's degree in Fire Service Administration,

he was a Fire Protection Specialist at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport. He also worked for the City of Staunton Fire & Rescue from 1993-2001. While there, he served as a fire fighter, EMT, paramedic, Shift Captain, HAZ-MAT Officer, EMS Officer, Training Officer, Chief/ Deputy Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Chief. He also started his own consulting business in 2001 and served as an operational consultant for Medical and Security Services LLC in Reston, VA. He also taught advanced paramedic skills labs for the Paramedic Program at Northern Virginia Community College from 2002-2004. His current certifications are many, to include Airport Fire Fighter, Nationally Registered Paramedic, CPR Instructor, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor, Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor, Fire Inspector, Fire & Explosives Investigations, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Fire Fighter and Fire Officer. GC is planning to buy a home in Dunedin and is excited about new challenges and his career with Clearwater Fire & Rescue.

Welcome, Chief Wine!

Recent Promotions

Congratulations!

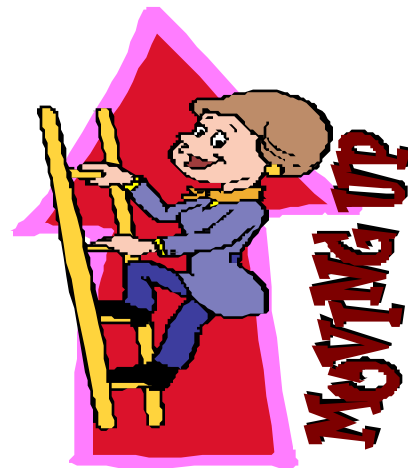
(Pictured L to R)

Bill Wargin, promoted to Driver Operator; **Sergo Alexandre** Promoted to Paramedic and **Mike Alaska** promoted to Driver Operator. (Not pictured).



Congratulations!

*(Pictured L to R) **Scott Pettay** and Shawne **Patterson**, both promoted to Lieutenant with Life Safety Management/Fire Prevention Division.*



NEW RECRUITS GRADUATE

On March 26, 2004, eleven new Fire fighters took the Oath of Honor at a ceremony held in the City Council Chambers. The Oath of Honor is as follows: **“On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public interest. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the Constitution, the community and the agency I serve, so help me God.”**

The ceremony was well attended by family and department members. The City Manager gave the invocation and welcomed the new fire fighters to the City. Fire Chief Herald and Deputy Chief of Operations, Mark Weinreich, awarded the graduates with their badges and Certificates of Completion. Congratulations are in order to each of them for successfully completing a rigorous training and Apprenticeship Program.

The graduates are: Stephen Avise, Heath Brenner, Patrick Davis, Peter Gushee, Al Hinson, Sean Lefort, Marcelino Lugo, Anthony Rocco, Matt Schad, James Van Zandt and Zebulun Veal. Marcelino Lugo was selected as the **“THE MOST MOTIVATED RECRUIT”**.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Eighteen new Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) members recently completed the eight-week CERT training offered by Clearwater Fire & Rescue. The CERT members are trained in the Federal Emergency Management Agency curriculum, which includes Disaster Medical Operations, Psychology of Disaster Relief, Light Search & Rescue, Terrorism and Disaster Fire Suppression. Currently, there are approximately 120 certified CERT members in the City of Clearwater who are available to assist our department in the event of a large-scale disaster, such as a hurricane. CERT members act as our **“eyes and ears” in their various neighborhoods** or assigned coverage areas. They can also assist in the mitigation phase after the storm passes. The CERT program comes under the current umbrella of



President Bush's Citizen Corps. The State of Florida has taken the lead in developing CERT teams and is among the top five in the United States. In Pinellas County, more and more municipalities and fire departments are realizing the vast benefits of

having a cadre of CERT volunteers to help in times of major emergencies.

Clearwater Fire & Rescue Honor Guard

Charter Members: Doug Swartz, Pat Conrey, Pete Georgantas, Jennifer Wargin, Kevin Bowler, Jeff Patterson, Tammy Whitham, Steve Colbert, Mike Faulkner, Geraldo Cruz and Steve Smith.
New members: Gary Costa, Mark Herny, John Klinefelter , Jon Lopez and Todd Archer.

"Clearwater Fire & Rescue's Honor Guard has been featured in multiple events since its inception in May 2002. The Honor Guard has participated in and/or presented colors at several events including: Rescue Me Night at Tropicana Field, Pinellas County Service of Remembrance on 9/11/02, Washington DC and NYC annual memorials, various firefighter and family funerals, City of Clearwater holiday parade, Grand Opening ceremony for the new Sand Key Fire Station 44, and Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Clearwater Mall Fire Station #49.



The Honor Guard team currently consists of fifteen fire department members who volunteer their own time to practice and formally perform the intricate movements required on command. Their dedication and hard work is transparent through their admirable and honorable presentations. It's truly a privilege to have this team represent Clearwater Fire & Rescue."

Congratulations to the team! They will each receive \$15 and mention at a City Council meeting and placed on the plaque at City Hall.

NEW LIFE HAZARD SAFETY INSPECTORS

Jim Keller (pictured on left) is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. After 25 years of service as a Cleveland fire fighter he decided to become a Floridian. Since moving to the Tampa Bay area, Jim has obtained Florida certification as a Fire Inspector, EMT, NFPA Fire Inspector and NFPA Plans Examiner. He is also continuing his education in the area of Arson Investigations. Jim lives with his wife, who is an Administrative Assistant in St. Petersburg. They have two daughters and enjoy traveling and playing golf.



Tim Satterfield (pictured on right) graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1974 and attended the University of Georgia where he played football. In September 1976, he began working for the Clayton County Fire Department in Georgia. After 26 years with the county

and one year with the City of McDonough Fire Department as a Fire Inspector and Plans Examiner, he retired. In 2003, he relocated to Florida with his wife. They have one son who is 21 years old. Tim enjoys antique cars, playing golf, traveling and sports.

Welcome, Inspectors Jim & Tim!

Service Awards

March 2004 Service Awards

Public Education Specialist- Elaine Lewis (5 years)

April 2004 Service Awards

Firefighter/Driver Operator - Gary Costa (25) years

Fire Lieutenant - Herman Pittman (30 years)

Engagement

Congratulations!

Steve Smith (B-Shift) and his fiance, Devon, on their recent engagement.



NORTHWEST FIRE STATION OPENING

By Wayne Hanson



The long-awaited opening of our eighth fire station is finally upon us. After two years of planning and nearly a year of construction, Fire Station 51 is scheduled to open this summer. As many of you recall, we spent a lot of time locating and acquiring the site. Then, to help accelerate the process and save on design costs, we are using the same design as the new Station 49, with enhancements from “lessons learned” there.

Some improvements may seem only aesthetic, but actually should result in improved utility and effectiveness. For example, we mainly used flat paint in Station 49, creating some cleaning concerns. At Station 51 semi-gloss is in most common and high-wear areas. We extended the counter between the kitchen and the dining area to allow a microwave and coffee machine and eliminate the need to go all the way around the counter and into the kitchen numerous times per day. We made the island narrower and moved it farther from the stove to allow more access space. Some things may not be very noticeable, but are true enhancements. For example, the door to the washer/dryer area in the exercise room was widened to more easily accommodate installation and removal of the appliances and the ANSUL system has been incorporated into the range hood for additional space in the pantry. Additionally, the entertainment cabinet in the dayroom was modified to allow better visibility and easier access to video components.



Several improvements were made to the bay as well. First, the tank-fill spigots are located on two center columns, front and rear, with one being inside and the other outside the bay. At Station 49, these are on the outside, past the bay doors, requiring hoses to lie on the ramps in front of several bay door exits. Next we positioned the drop-cords in the bay to work more effectively with the apparatus and improved the location of the GFCI breakers, as well. Several of you saw the advantages in using a little darker color on the bay floor, reducing stain visibility. Thanks to all who made positive suggestions to help improve the effectiveness and appearance of Station 51.

The station construction is proceeding well. All interior and exterior walls are up. The interior painting is about complete. The roof and the bay ceiling are installed. Flooring, cabinetry and utilities are about to be installed. The site work and landscaping were delayed due to a variety of factors, but are under way now, along with the improvements to the Betty Lane-Overbrook intersection. This actually freed up resources to achieve the rapid progress on the facility itself.

We are currently on track to finish the facility work by May, and concentrate heavily on the site-work and intersection improvements. By the beginning of June, station equipment, such as bunker gear and hose racks will be installed. We will begin furnishing the office areas and installing systems in June, but the site work will continue. Some site work is being delayed due to the international steel shortage which impacts availability of our storm drains and pipes. We are assessing the schedule so we can plan all other related activities. As we firm up the schedule, we'll set and apprise you of the Grand Opening date.

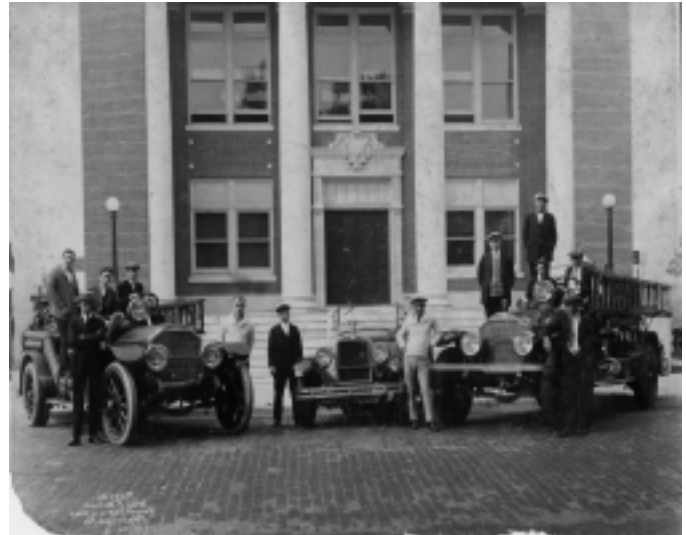
History of Clearwater Fire & Rescue-Update

By Karen Keegan

This is the location of Clearwater Fire & Rescue's roots.



Karen Keegan identified this photo as being the old Clearwater City Hall in 1927. Its original address was 29 N. Ft. Harrison Ave.



Both photos are located in the Clearwater Quarterly Pictorial Historical Journal, Volume I, Issue 2, Fall - Page 40.

Hugh Yeager identified this photo. The correct caption is "The girls and boys who saved our town on the night of the great fire Oct. 30, 1891."

A little historical unknown fact, Clearwater Fire & Rescue hired its first African American on January 17, 1972. They were as follows:

**Firefighter Ralph Payne
Firefighter Willi Williams
Firefighter Fredrick D. Woodard**

**Served on the department from 01/17/72 – 01/26/73
Served on the department from 01/17/72 – 10/21/85
Served on the department from 01/17/72 – 03/26/87**

Lt. Vincent Booker provided the above information for the Department's newsletter.

Editor & Layout Design

Elaine Lewis -- Public Education Specialist / CERT Coordinator

Contributors

[In alphabetical order]

Wayne Hanson – Fire Support Manager

Karen Keegan – Staff Assistant

Elaine Lewis – Public Education Specialist

Steve Smith – Fire Fighter/Paramedic