



“Clearwater’s Hottest Department”

SUMMER 2003

CITY MANAGER ADDRESSES C.E.R.T VOLUNTEERS

On Saturday, April 26th, almost 100 members of the *Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.)*, Clearwater Fire & Rescue Firefighters and Paramedics, the Civil Air Patrol, the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Red Cross, Clearwater Fire Explorers and other volunteer groups met at Station 48 Training Grounds for a mock tornado disaster drill. Members from CERT are trained in triage and disaster medical treatment techniques, light search and rescue, damage assessment, disaster fire suppression, and radio protocol. City Manager Bill Horne and Assistant City Manager Garry Brumback came out to observe the training as well as to thank the CERT members for their dedication in helping our city in emergency situations.



Pictured Here Top/L to R: Fire Marshal/Emergency Coordinator **Randy Hinder** and City Manager, **Bill Horne** addressing the Community Emergency Response Teams; C.E.R.T. members & CF&R A-Shift tend to “injured” victims during simulation exercise: FF/Paramedic **Steve Colbert** (Civil Air Patrol & CF&R), Moulage Volunteer **Pati Gross** & FF/Paramedic **Karen Jackson** (CF&R).

NEW FACES IN OUR DEPARTMENT



Rachel DeBella was born and grew up in Clearwater. She recently graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with an emphasis in technical and business writing. She says she would eventually like to own her own contract/freelance writing firm. Rachel was recently hired as a full time Staff Assistant in Fire Administration and looks forward to a career with our department and the City of Clearwater.

New Fire Inspectors and Future Firefighters for
Station 51. →



Mike Ward is originally from Tallahassee. Before joining Clearwater Fire & Rescue, he volunteered as a firefighter with Safety Harbor before going to work for Bellaire Fire Department. He was with B.F.D. for four years. Mike is enjoying his assignment in Fire Prevention/Life Safety.

Scott Pettay is a native born Pinellas County Floridian. He has been in fire/EMS for about eight years. Originally, he was a volunteer with Treasure Island Fire Department and then moved onto SunStar as part of a critical care team for six years. During this time, he also worked at All Children's Hospital Emergency Room. He wants to continue his advanced training by taking more classes toward becoming a fire officer. He likes to kayak and scuba dive and says he's learning a lot in his position as a Life Safety Inspector.

Robert Ramos was born in Brooklyn, NY but spent most of his adult life in the Tampa Bay area. Robert attended EMT school last year and completed the Fire Academy in December. He was a firefighter for Hillsborough County for a year before coming to Clearwater as a Life Safety Inspector. Robert enjoys playing baseball and at one time was drafted for the California Angels minor league team. His real "claim to fame" is that his uncle is CF&R's Lt. Nelson de Jesus.

Justin Nieves graduated from Gaither High School in Tampa and attended college for several years. He says he has always wanted to be a firefighter since he was 10 year old. Before joining the fire department, Justin worked as an electrician for 4 years installing medical machinery such as MRI equipment, X-Ray tables, CT and scanners for private business. He is enjoying his time as a Life Safety Inspector.



Jon Roberts is originally from a suburb outside of Albany, NY. While living in upstate N.Y., he served as a member of the fire department in the capacity of firefighter for five years, a Lieutenant for two years and a Captain for two years. In 1997, he moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma State University (O.S.U.) where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Protection and Safety. He also worked for the Stillwater Fire Department and volunteered at the Glencoe Fire Department as a Deputy Chief in charge of training for two years. When he graduated from O.S.U. in 2002, Jon formed a limited liability corporation which specialized in fire code consulting, CPR training, fire extinguisher training and inspections of fire suppression and detection systems. He is also currently enrolled in a Master Degree program with a major in Fire and

Emergency Management. Jon says he really enjoys living in the Tampa Bay area and is looking forward to the new challenges that his position as Life Safety Inspector offers with Clearwater Fire & Rescue.

Len Melanson is originally from Simsbury, Connecticut and moved to Florida in 1994. While in high school and college, he volunteered as a firefighter with a 100 member department in Connecticut. Len was originally hired six years ago with the City as a Clearwater Police Officer. He has an Associates degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Technology in Public Safety from Central Connecticut State University. He is married and he and his wife, Jill, are expecting their first child in December. He says that having experienced both sides of public service—police and fire—he believes the fire service is where he needs to be. His hobbies are playing the guitar, computers and working around the house.



Bay News 9 Meteorologist Alan Winfield Talks With City Safety Committee At Safety Village



Alan Winfield, Bay News 9 Meteorologist, was the guest speaker at the recent city-wide Safety Committee meeting. He spoke to the group about global and Florida weather patterns as well as hurricane predictions for the 2003 hurricane season which officially began on June 1st. Interestingly, some folks had no idea that their home might be in a flood zone. Alan went on to explain that in the “ultimate” Category 4 or 5 hurricane, with a direct hit from the Gulf, where the tide is high, the storm surge is at its peak and all the other conditions necessary to create a major disaster in our county, there would likely be only two small “islands” in Pinellas County--one

“island” in the City of Seminole and the other at the intersection of US Highway 19 N. and Enterprise Rd. in Clearwater. There was a brief question and answer period following his presentation. Before he departed, he reminded city employees to take the threat of a hurricane very seriously and have a viable plan for family, loved ones and pets in the event of a disaster.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Fund Raiser

Every year the Clearwater Firefighters host a beach volleyball tournament to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). This year, the tournament will be held on Saturday, August 23rd and Sunday, August 24th at the Holiday Inn SunSpree on Clearwater Beach. In addition to the volleyball competition, there will be a hospitality suite from 7:00 PM to midnight. People are invited to get involved by donating money, purchasing t-shirts, mugs and other items that will be for sale at the event. There will also be a raffle. Tickets will be sold ahead of time and during the tournament. Every dollar that is raised will be given to the children of Clearwater who have Muscular Dystrophy to assist in getting them motorized wheelchairs, leg braces and services such as physical therapy and doctor visits. The point-of-contacts in our department are LR Shawn Tellone and LR Wendy Cason.

Snapshot of Fire Fighters' Picnic – 2003



A picnic in “paradise”. It was another glorious April weekend at the Annual Fire Fighter Picnic held in Tarpon Springs by IAFF Union 1158. There was face painting for children of all ages, music, games, canine entertainment, the bouncing pen for the young-at-heart, and last, but not least, the food---delicious ribs and chicken grilled to perfection, hot dogs, cookies, cake, potato salad, chips, popcorn and almost anything you might want to drink. The attendance was excellent on both days. Some folks pitched tents and camped several nights with their families. If you're new in the department or haven't yet had an opportunity to attend, be sure not to miss the next one!



Citywide Leadership Class of 2003 Visits CF&R

by Karen Keegan



Left to Right: Karen S. Smoak (Customer Service), Cynthia Davis-Gryce, (not pictured, but talking to Elaine Lewis (Public Education Specialist), Paul Mack (Parks and Recreation), Lieutenant Stanley Loveday (Clearwater Fire & Rescue), Assistant Chief of OPS Pete Huffman, Reina E. Carbajal (library), & Sabrina Chute (Information Technology).

On May 21, 2003, the Citywide Leadership Class visited Clearwater Fire & Rescue. The current class consists of the following members: Karen S. Smoak [Customer Service], Paul Mack [Parks and Recreation], Lieutenant Stanley Loveday [Fire], Assistant Chief of OPS Pete Huffman [Fire], Reina E. Carbajal [Library], Sabrina Chute [Information Technology] and Cynthia Davis-Gryce [Sponsor from Equity Services]. This year's class had the opportunity for a quick tour through Station 45 and see acting Lead Medic Jennifer Wargin and Firefighter Sergo Alexander demonstrate how a firefighter descends a slide pole. In addition, the group was provided an informative overview of Marine Response Team procedures by Lieutenant Stanley Loveday. After the demonstrations and tour, the next stop was Safety Village.

Fire Public Information Specialist, Elaine Lewis, gave an interesting tour and explanation of the Safety Village program as well as an overview of the extensive list of other programs offered to the community by the Public Education and Life Safety Division.

The final stop was the Training Grounds at Station 48.

As the Citywide Leadership Class looks on, Lead Medic Sean McKay (center) explains the position and equipment used by SWAT members Paul Capo, Sean McKay and Michael Hutto.



Left to Right: Pete Huffman, Sabrina Chute, Stan Loveday, Paul Mack, Cynthia Davis-Gryce, Reina E. Carbajal, Karen S. Smoak and SWAT Team Members Paul Capo, Sean McKay and Michael Hutto. Additionally, Karen Keegan [Alumnus - Leadership Class of 2000-2001] acted as liaison between the Fire Department and this year's Citywide Leadership Class.

[A special note of thanks goes to Acting Lead Medic Jennifer Wargin, Firefighter Sergo Alexander, Lieutenant Stanley Loveday, and SWAT members Paul Capo, Sean McKay and Michael Hutto. All did a marvelous job demonstrating and explaining what they do on a typical day.] **Photos by Karen Keegan.**

Fire Hydrant Dedication

Several years ago, Virginia Costa (CF&R) and Lisa Huffman, formerly of Human Resources, got together and decided to find a way to "immortalize" Clearwater's Firefighters. In their brainstorming, they decided on a fire hydrant. Public Works was contacted and managed to locate an obsolete hydrant. This hydrant became the creative focal point for the monument. Public Utilities then installed the hydrant on a concrete base and Alan K. Ruud [Community Response Inspector, formerly with Building & Maintenance] and Jeff Rosenbaum [Building & Maintenance] put the finishing touches on this monument. To get the artistic effect he envisioned, "artist" Alan K. Ruud said he "primed it and gave it a gloss black base coat, then stippled it with gray, white and silver paint to mimic granite stone and then topped it with clear enamel; the base was done with the same faux finish". When Alan was asked why he was chosen to work on this project he said it was because of his background in metal preparation, coating applications, sandblasting and custom paint work on cars, street rods and bikes.

After the monument was in place, Wolfgang Bernhard, of Advantage Awards, provided the plaque to the Achievement Award Committee and Alan K. Ruud and Jeff Rosenbaum attached it in place. Alan K. Ruud, Jeff Rosenbaum and Wolfgang Bernhard all did an outstanding job on this monument and plaque. Thank you from Clearwater Fire & Rescue!



CITY OF CLEARWATER HISPANIC COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

In 1999, at the direction of the City Manager, the leadership within the City of Clearwater established a "Hispanic Task Force" to study the changing population of Clearwater residents. It was becoming apparent to the curious observer that the demographic nature of the citizenry was beginning to take on a new look—that of Hispanic and more specifically, Mexican. Recently, it was reported by the media that "one in six children in the United States is Hispanic and by 2020 the number is expected to be almost one in four. Hispanics outnumber any other demographic group in the country's largest school districts and their enrollment is also booming in the U.S. suburbs" (CNN.com-June 3, 2003). In order for the make-up of our employees to better reflect the population we serve, the members of the City of Clearwater's Hispanic Task Force have focused on the following objectives:

Mission Statement: ***"TO PROMOTE CITY EMPLOYEE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CLEARWATER'S SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITIES".***

Objectives: 1. *"Assist departments in the effective discharge of their responsibilities through:*

- *informational sessions to employees*
- *informational sessions to residents*
- *bi-lingual (English-Spanish) publications*
- *direct translations*
- *encouraging the hiring of bi-lingual employees*
- *coordination of community events*

2. *"Develop partnerships with social service, not-for-profit, and civic organizations to enhance existing City service provision".*

3. *"Conduct various research and analysis including, but not limited to:*

- *census data & community demographics,*
- *other local government Hispanic/Latino outreach program & services*
- *professional Hispanic/Latino organizations, associations, etc.*

The Hispanic Task Force has made excellent progress, with the support of City management and City employees, toward these objectives in the last several years. If you would like more information or have ideas you would like to present to the Hispanic group, please contact Elaine Lewis, Fire Public Education Specialist. She is your department representative on this coalition and welcomes your input.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employees in their recent promotion to Lead Medic with Clearwater Fire & Rescue: Brent Bronson, Jason Lynn, Tony Tedesco, Michael Hendry, and Alex Monte. Their effective date for promotion is June 23, 2003. Great job, guys!

Northwest Fire Station 51

by Wayne Hanson

After nearly two years of planning, land hunts, environmental reviews, annexation and station design, we're finally ready to break ground on the City's eighth and newest fire station. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on July 29th at 10:00 AM. Thanks to all who helped trudge our way through barrier after barrier to finally reach this milestone plateau. As you recall, the station is a twin of new Station 49, allowing more versatility and opportunity for expansion.

The geographic location of Overbrook Avenue and Betty Lane is prime to provide a central, highly responsive station for this area. Nonetheless, modifications in the intersection are necessary to more effectively navigate the northward turn onto Betty Lane. We worked with Tampa Bay Engineering, Pinellas County and City Traffic Offices, Progressive Energy, and our City Engineering and Planning Departments to design an effective new intersection. In addition to building the fire station, the construction contractor will also complete the modifications to the intersection.

The contract was awarded to David Gerald Construction Company, Inc., of Tampa at the recent July 17th Commission Meeting. Thanks to the experience we learned from Stations 44 and 49, coupled with the outstanding work of our Design Input Team, we are planning a modern, 12,000-plus square foot, 4-bay facility that will dramatically improve service and responsiveness to northwest Clearwater. Construction is scheduled to begin August 1st, with completion planned for late April. We intend to be operational in May 2004.

Accreditation

by Wayne Hanson

It's been nearly three years in planning, preparation, and performance, and Clearwater Fire & Rescue is on the brink of another historical event. Out of 33,000 fire departments, only 69 have been certified by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. We are scheduled to receive formal Accreditation status on August 21, 2003 at this year's Fire-Rescue International in Dallas, Texas. We are one of only a dozen candidates for Accreditation status this year, putting us in the top 0.2% of fire departments in the world! This lofty plateau is a reflection of the high-quality, professional performance you exhibit each day to the residents of our community.

This highly distinguished accomplishment is a direct result of the exhaustive, continuous efforts that many of you contributed to the formal Accreditation process. Special appreciation goes to Denise Balog who not only rode rein on every subject matter expert, she also organized, planned and produced each document for the Accreditation Team. In fact, over 20,000 pages of documentation were prepared and organized for review and analysis by the formal Accreditation Peer Assessment Team. Every aspect of fire-rescue services were reviewed and evaluated, including fire suppression, EMS response, training, water supply systems, communication systems, safety programs, emergency management, records management, human resources management, fire prevention programs, and much, much more.

The formal decision and announcement will not occur until the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) meets in August, but all indications are that we will receive formal Accreditation status. The Peer Assessment Team stated the following in their final report to the Commission: *The Peer Assessment Team does recommend Accredited Agency Status for the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.* We expect Chief Herald to bring back the formal Accreditation Certificate on August 27th. Congratulations to each of you!

Fire Station 49 Update

by Wayne Hanson

If you haven't driven by the new fire station recently, I recommend that you do. The building is going up quickly, so if you blink too long, the appearance might change before your eyes. The wood roof is already on, so it's completely dry inside. The metal roof is expected in about a month. Interior framing is up. The air conditioning ducting and air handling system are installed. They are working on wiring and plumbing at this time. Progressive Energy is installing permanent power. The final site grading will occur in July, with final paving to follow shortly.

You might have noticed the condition of the road itself in front of the new station. This roadway is being modified and upgraded by the Clearwater Mall developer. They will complete the final paving by mid-August. The plan calls to widen the incoming lane from Gulf-to-Bay as well. While doing this, they will permanently repair and pave the cut in front of the existing Station 49 also.

We meet with the contractor, engineer and architect regularly, so any problems are resolved quickly, although problems have been few. The contractor is doing high-quality work and is responsive to our needs and concerns. Speaking of the on-site contractor, if you decide to go by there, a drive-by is always acceptable. If you wish to go inside and tour the facility, please contact Wayne Hanson to set up a scheduled visit. The station is still technically a construction site and under the control of the contractor and our City Building Construction Superintendent.

In addition to four large bays, the station will include modern offices, a first class kitchen, excellent dorm accommodations, and firefighter-focused dayroom, exercise and dining facilities, all heavily influenced by your Design Input Team. Final interior and external colors have been selected as well. The current plan is to move in by the beginning of December. Don't hesitate to let Wayne Hanson or Ron Willms know if you have any questions.

Editor & Layout Design

Elaine Lewis -- Public Education Specialist / C.E.R.T. Coordinator

Contributors

[In alphabetical order]

Wendy Cason – Lieutenant Rescue
Virginia Costa – Personnel & Payroll Technician
Wayne Hanson – Fire Support Manager
Karen Keegan – Staff Assistant