

February 2010

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

"Our Family Serving Yours"

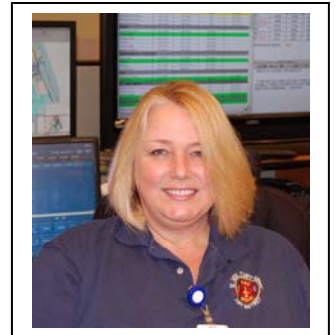


CONGRATULATIONS to KATRINA BRIDGES and JEFF LEE EMPLOYEE and FIREFIGHTER of the QUARTER

Congratulations to Katrina Bridges, Employee of the Quarter and Jeff Lee, Firefighter of the Quarter. Both will be honored at the next Fire Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 17.

Katrina has been with the Fire District since March 1997 and is currently Telecommunicator Trainer and CAD Coordinator in Communications. She was cited for her work in training telecommunicators, as well as her professionalism and dedication to the Communication Division. FF/Engineer Jeff Lee has been with SLCFD since February 1997 and is currently at Station #16 on the B Shift. Jeff was nominated for his work in creating the new Overtime Roster and for his dedication and hard work.

This is a new program which evolved through the Strategic Planning process. Quarterly winners will be selected by the Employee Awards Committee and selected from those nominated by fellow employees. To nominate someone, send an email to: Employee of the Quarter. The committee reviews all nominations and submits their selection to the Fire Chief for final approval. The next winners will be selected in April.



Meet your Fire Board—Frannie Hutchinson

In an effort to inform our employees about the Fire Board, Fire Line highlights one of our Fire Board Commissioners. This issue we highlight Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson.

Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson grew up in St. Lucie County. She graduated from John Carroll High School, where she met, and later married, her high school sweetheart. Prior to 1998, she was a stay-at-home mom. That was when a dinner table conversation with her children made it obvious to her that her children planned to leave the area, because they believed that there were no jobs and no future for them in St. Lucie County. As a result of that dinner table conversation, Commissioner Hutchinson began her political career in 1998, with the goal to improve the economy and enhance job opportunities.

Hutchinson began attending County Commission and City Council meetings and learning about the issues. She soon realized that her children had been correct. St. Lucie County was struggling and job opportunities were limited. That motivated her to successfully run for County Commission, where she served from 1998 to 2006.

(story continues next page)

Frannie Hutchinson – continued

As she looked at the boards and commissions on which County Commissioners served, she was attracted to the Fire Board. She knew about the Fire District because her father-in-law, Robert Hutchinson, had been a chief here. She served on the Fire Board from 1998-2006. After leaving the County Commission, Hutchinson was appointed by Governor Crist as a member of the Fire Board.

“Of all the boards I have served on, the Fire Board truly feels like family,” explains Hutchinson.

She sees many of the same issues today that she studied ten years ago, with a weak economy, lower property values and little growth. During her time on the Fire Board, she has had to deal with several big issues, including the resignations of Fire Chief Haigley and later Fire Chief Sizemore.

“With each new fire chief comes the changes they want to implement and the challenge inherent in that change,” explains Hutchinson. “The one issue that supersedes the rest is the budget. Over the last two years the major issue has been the budget and the challenge of more people with more needs.”

But the budget challenge has also brought out the best, as far as Hutchinson is concerned.

“The respect and the compassion I have seen through the years that the men and women of the Fire District have shown to people whether it is on a call to a home or an accident site, or at Fire Board meetings is something I have always admired,” said Hutchinson. “The prime example of their dedication was the budget this past year. The firefighters’ actions were admirable, and showed pure unselfishness to give up their pay raise.”

Hutchinson’s family has always supported her political life, and, to date, her five children have stayed in St. Lucie County. Now, she is concerned about the future of the county and how it will effect the next generation.



Foam Training Completed

During the months of Dec/2009 and Jan/2010, Fire District crews participated in Foam Operations Training at IRSC. This training was a back to basics approach focusing on the fundamentals of foam. Training consisted of assembly and use of foam firefighting streams, as well as specialized instruction on the uses and application of FireAde 2000 foam, which is being placed into service by the Fire District. These photos show Station 6, C Shift in training.

Congratulations
to recently released
Primary Paramedics
Craig Stokes
Justin Guercio

February Birthdays

ANICITO, NICHOLAS M
ATWELL, LAWRENCE R
BISHOP, JOSEPH R
BRUHN JR, THOMAS H
CANTALINE, KEITH E
CARRENO, RICHARD J
CHRISTOPHER, GRADY D
DRAWDY, PAULA E
EASSA, JOSEPH J
FIELD JR, WILLIAM F
GARCIA, YOLANDA
GULDE, ALLISON
HAZELLIEF, RONALD L
HERNDON, KEVIN E
HOGAN, CODY M
HOLLETT, GARY A
HOOD, ANTHONY P
KING, ROBIN W
LEWIS, CHRISTOPHER J
MARCHAND, ELIZABETH S
MORRISON, MARK W
NOELKE, LAWRENCE P
O'BRIEN, PATRICK J
PAYNE, JOSEPH N
REEVES, DAVID C
ROSSON, ZADIE V
SAYLOR, DAVID L
SIMO, ANTOINETTE
SMITH, SCOTT C
SMITH, WILLIAM Q
SNEAD, JASPER T
STANFORD, COLLIN P
STAROPOLI, JOHN-PAUL
THOMAN, JULIE A
WEST, GORDON S

Relay For Life April 23-24 Lawnwood Stadium Ft. Pierce

Relay for Life is a nationwide effort by the American Cancer Society to raise money and awareness about cancer. The event is an all night walk, with teams having at least one walker at all times. If you have never been to one, it is a fun event. For more information, or to form a team, check out the local website www.fortpiercerelay/fpfl.org or contact ACS at 772-562-2271, ext. 111.

Congratulations to the recent retirees:
Christ Russakis, Edgar Powel Defriest,
Mike (Rooster) Randal, Gary Charles,
Tim Munson, JP Smith, Will Padrick,
Mike Weiss, Todd Evans, Pam Daniels,
Karen Jones, and Puddin Race.

SLCFD Welcomes The Newest Members of Its Family

We would like to welcome these cutie pies born to SLCFD employees during the past year. May they each have happy lives and bring joy to their parents and grandparents. At left, Jake Blizzard, son of Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard. At right, Seamuson Paul Drawdy, grandson of Telecommunicator Paula Drawdy.

