

# Fire Line



Winter 2010

## Citizen Fire Academy Launches in January

The St. Lucie County Fire District is beginning a Citizen Fire Academy for residents who want to learn more about their Fire District and how they handle emergencies.

The Fire Academy is a series of 6 sessions, meeting every other Thursday for the next 3 months.

The first session will be held Thursday, January 14. The Academy is free.

Residents will tour the Emergency Operations

Center and the Treasure Coast Public Safety Complex. Sessions will cover: home safety, fire prevention, tactical rescues, and hazardous materials. Demonstrations will include jaws of life, CPR, Air Rescue and more. Many classes will be hands-on learning.

Citizens interested are encouraged to log onto the Fire District website to learn more. Call Catherine Chaney (621-3333) if you have any questions.

## Academy Schedule January 14

SLCFD Administration  
Overview of the Fire District

## January 28

Fire Prevention  
Explorers Program

## February 11

Public Safety  
Complex

## February 25

Air Rescue  
ARFF

## March 11

Emergency  
Operations Center

## March 26

Honor Guard  
Graduation

Quarterly Newsletter  
If you have anything you would like covered in any upcoming issues of the newsletters, contact Catherine Chaney, PIO at 621-3333.

## Congrats to Chief Parrish

Fire Chief Ron Parrish has successfully completed the process to receive the professional designation of "Chief Fire Officer" (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) met on Dec. 9 to officially confer the designation upon Chief Parrish. Chief Parrish is one of only 663 CFO's worldwide.

The CPC awards the CFO designation after an individual successfully meets all of the organization's criteria. The process includes an assessment of the applicant's education, experience, professional development, technical competencies, contributions to the profession, and community involvement. All applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.



Above—Santa's Elves with their loot! The Elves distributed toys to 160 children.

## News from the Chief & Board

Many people make New Year's Resolutions. I want to share with you a few New Year's Resolutions for the Fire District.

First—Each firefighter, EMT, Paramedic, civilian employee will “do the right thing” this year. That might be while at an incident or while working alone on a project. It could also be in their private lives. They will instinctively do the right thing for the Fire District,

the residents of this county, or their family.

Second—Each employee will work to stay physically and mentally healthy. That means eating right, exercising, and finding a positive way to relieve stress.

Third—Each employee will work hard to strengthen their relationship with their peers, friends, families, the Fire District and the community.



My hope is that these three resolutions will make each of us stronger and happier this New Year.

### 2009 Fire Board

Doug Coward,  
Chair  
St. Lucie County  
Commission  
Rufus Alexander,  
Vice Chair  
Ft. Pierce  
City Commission  
Christopher Cooper  
Port St. Lucie  
City Council  
Chris Dzadovsky  
St. Lucie County  
Commission  
Edward Becht  
Ft. Pierce  
City Commission  
Jack Kelly,  
Port St. Lucie  
City Council  
Frannie Hutchinson,  
Governor's Appointee

## New Employees—Thanks to Workforce Solutions

A few new employees have joined us, thanks to Workforce Solutions. The employees are temporary (4-6 months) and are being paid by Workforce Solutions. This gives them the opportunity to receive working experience and improves their resume to potential employers.

Carla Rollins has joined I.T. for 6 months. She was a surveyor and mapper for

the surveying and engineering firm Arcadis in St. Lucie West. She is changing careers.

Mike Nichols was a real estate and mortgage broker in the area. He is also changing careers and will be with I.T. for 4 months.

Both Carla and Mike will be going to stations to help with computer problems.



Carol Lentz helping in H.R.

Crystal Barron has joined Ambulance Billing for 6 months. She is currently at student at IRSC in Health Information Management.

Carol Lentz has joined Human Resources for 6 months. Carol had been volunteering for the Fire District, and left for a few months of temporary work at Liberty Medical.



Carla Rollins and Mike Nichols helping in I.T.

## Meet Your Fire Board—Commissioner Dzadovsky

*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 Chris Dzadovsky.*

“Tasmanian devil” might be one catch phrase to describe Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, since he always seems to have multiple “irons in the fire.”

He grew up outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was one of 7 children. In 1978, he worked at Lenox Crystal, as a member of the American Glassworkers Union. Working for Lenox was a way to gain enough capital to begin a carpet cleaning company, which he started in 1979.

Then in 1983, Commissioner Dzadovsky began a 26-year career with U.S. Airways. While with the airlines, he served as Communications Director, Legislative Chair, and lobbied for the Association of Flight Attendants. From 1996 to 2001, he was a volunteer firefighter in Kennedy Township, Pennsylvania.

In 1984, Commissioner Dzadovsky’s passion for the ocean directed him toward becoming a certified scuba diver, with the goal of being an instructor in February 1995. In 1995, he bought Discovery

Diving and Fishing in Key Largo. He often stayed in Ft. Pierce while travelling the east coast of Florida marketing the school to dive shops.

An accident in 2001, changed his career and brought him down to Florida permanently. While on-duty as a volunteer firefighter, he “blew out” both knees, which snapped after he lost his footing while walking along a storm water damaged road. He did not immediately realize the serious extent of the damage. A number of surgeries on his knees ensued soon thereafter.

Commissioner Dzadovsky was initially denied workers compensation for his knee injuries, because he was working for a volunteer fire department. The experience so angered him that he pushed for legislation to protect all volunteer firefighters hurt while on duty.

Unable to return to the airline, in 2003, as he was going through rehabilitation, Commissioner Dzadovsky relocated to Ft. Pierce on a permanent basis. After moving to St. Lucie County, he attended IRSC, earning a degree in Applied Science for Business, and a second degree in Political Science.



Commissioner Dzadovsky has been involved in many community activities, including: the Fort Pierce Hibiscus Park Crime Watch & Neighborhood Association (Former President); the Hibiscus Park National Night Out program; and the "Stem the Violence" conference in Lincoln Park. The experience gave him a good idea on what volunteerism and public service could accomplish.

Commissioner Dzadovsky developed the Hibiscus Park Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (N.E.A.T.), and gained \$350,000 from the City of Ft. Pierce for capital improvements to Hibiscus Park. Dzadovsky assisted the Lincoln Park Business Association and helped initialize the development of Lincoln Park Main Street committee. Commissioner

Congratulations  
to Recently  
Released  
Paramedics:  
Charles Hubbard  
Andres Elizondo  
Anthony Hood  
Soneath Sao  
Richard Smith  
Salomon Rincon

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT**

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Port St. Lucie, Florida 34983

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This publication is for the employees, retirees and friends of the St. Lucie County Fire District. Any distribution of articles from this publication without prior permission is prohibited. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Chaney at 772-621-3333.

**Dzadovsky (continued)**

Dzadovsky also served on the Ft. Pierce Code Enforcement Board, St. Lucie County Skate Park Committee and the St. Lucie County Citizens Budget Committee. He was also the Interim Director of the Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, and was named the "Exchangite of the Year" in 2007, for his work with the Ft. Pierce Exchange Club.

Commissioner Dzadovsky's move to elective office was a natural transition from his community activities. In 2007, he was encouraged to run for Mayor, but in a crowded field of five candidates he was not successful. Soon after that, Joe Smith announced that he was not running for reelection to the County Commission, and Commissioner Dzadovsky successfully ran for the position. After the election, he requested to be put on the Fire Board. He felt his background would help the Fire Board in communicating to the public how the Fire District operates.

"I think the brotherhood of St. Lucie County firefighters is incredible," said Dzadovsky. "The commitment to the community and the volunteerism is shown in so many

ways. They are committed to give back to the community and there are lots of times they don't get credit, but they don't ask for it."

Commissioner Dzadovsky has enjoyed working on the Fire Board and appreciates the fact that it is an independent entity. "The funding has been available to make sure the Fire District had the equipment necessary to do its job," explains Dzadovsky. "In spite of the current economy, we need to maintain the level of service."

As part of the County Commission, Commissioner Dzadovsky is active in pursuing a federal grant to encourage energy efficiency. The program proposed by the county will be establish a Community Development Financial Institution, creating a non-profit bank which will offer residents low interest loans to transition their homes to solar energy or other renewable energy initiatives. Public buildings, such as Fire Stations, will also be able to utilize CDFI.

Commissioner Dzadovsky continues to stay active, both in elective office and with community activities.

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

- BARNES JR, DWANE A
- BERGERON, ANDREA D
- CHAMBERS, JENNIFER L
- CHARLES JR, GARY D
- CRISTALDI JR, MARK M
- CRITTENDEN, WILLIAM R
- DANNER, TROY J
- DEAN, MICHAEL E
- DIAMOND, JASON A
- EMERSON III, GEORGE H
- ERNST, MATTHEW A
- GARCIA, CARLOS A
- GARRIGAN, WILLIAM T
- GERMAIN, JACQUES E
- GOSNEY, JOHN M
- HARNAGE, STEVEN J
- HAY, MERADETH N
- HERCHENRODER, DONALD
- KECK, BARBARA A
- KIMBALL, ROD A
- KING JR, JOHN R
- MARTIN, TRAVIS M
- MICLEA, EMIL I
- MONACO, JESUS G
- MORRIS, JACOB A
- MOSELY, WILLIAM F
- MULLINS, JON D
- PEDREIRA, ROBERT B
- POOL, PHILLIP A
- POOLT, ARTHUR S
- ROBINSON, JANNA L
- SCHOOLEY, ROBERT A
- SMITH JR, ROBERT E
- STOLZER, CRAIG P
- TREU JR, WILLIAM L
- VARNEY, BRANDON J
- WALLS, SONNY R
- WILSON, NICHOLAS S