

Fire Line



Summer, 2009

Community Survey Being Mailed

A community survey is being mailed out to 1,500 property owners of St. Lucie County beginning this month. The survey will go to full-time as well as seasonal residents.

The questionnaire was designed by the Capstone interns Daphanie Franklin and Robert Stone. The survey was presented to the Fire Board in June. The random sample was

pulled from the property appraiser's list.

The survey asks residents for their general impression of the Fire District, including if they feel SLCFD personnel are professional, visible, and accessible. The survey is in both English and Spanish.

A customer survey is also in the works for anyone we have transported. Those will be mailed out to a random

sample of ambulance billing contacts on a monthly basis.

A self-addressed return envelope is included in both packets. However, some residents might drop their completed survey by their local fire station. Please make sure the surveys get back to Milner.

Both surveys will also be on the website for the public and our customers to complete.

Retirement Pension Calculator added to Website

The St Lucie County Firefighter's and General Employee's Pension Trusts have recently added a retirement pension calculator to the Fire District's website. It can be found under the "Employees" section of the web page and is titled "Pension Calculator." This link

will take you to the pension calculator where you may run a calculation of the retirement benefits at the time of your projected retirement, and also will provide a calculation for your designated beneficiary. The pension trusts will be conducting a pre-retirement and



general information workshop in the near future to address any questions you may have.

Quarterly Newsletter

If you have anything you would like covered in any upcoming issues of either newsletters, contact

Catherine Chaney, PIO at 621-3333.

News from the Chief & Board

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Martin Luther King

As I look back over years of service at the Fire District I, just like many others, remember those "good old days." Not so long ago, as the population in St. Lucie County was booming, the Fire District was building new stations and purchasing new equipment. It was a good time — a time of comfort and convenience.

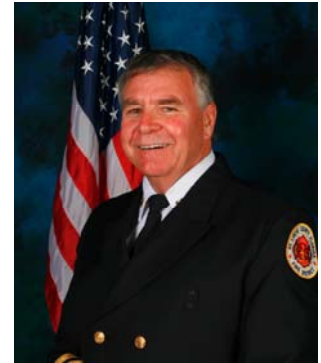
With the current economy, new fire stations have been taken of the

planning table, new equipment purchases postponed, and any new hires delayed.

This is the time we are being challenged and we will be tested. There will also be controversy as we decide what can be cut and what can be postponed.

The good news is the economy seems to be stabilizing... or maybe just not in a full free-fall. The bad news is that the turnaround will take some time.

I continue to ask each of you to examine every purchase and every cost incurred by the Fire District. If you have a suggestion to cut costs, make that suggestion known.



I congratulate the Union in their efforts to help the Fire District with personnel costs. It is truly appreciated.

We will continue to have the tools necessary to do our job and protect the public... we just may not have the latest and greatest. BUT, we do have the greatest in our people and because of that, I know we will be measured a true success.

- Ron Parrish

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

Ribbon Cut on New EOC



Chief Parrish joins the County Commissioners and Former County Manager Doug Anderson as he cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Emergency Operations Center by the Fair Grounds. The move date for Fire District Communications Division is in mid-July.

Strategic Planning Update

Strategic Planning is a specific process, which allows an organization to take a look at their environment; focus on their mission in that environment; identify goals; and determine the steps to reach those goals.

The first step used by the Fire District was to review its values. This had originally been done in 2007, with all employees participating.

The Committee then reviewed the mission of the Fire District, with these values in mind. (See box at right.)

The Committee went through a SWOT Analysis – which reviews the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the Fire District.

Finally, the members worked on identifying specific goals for the Fire District. A total of seven goals were identified. Objectives for each goal were written and reviewed.

Subcommittees have been formed for each Goal, and those people will work on the details to achieve that specific goal. Below are the goals with the team leader identified.

Goal # 1
Improve St. Lucie County's ISO Rating from 3-9-10 to 2-10.
Team Leader—Deputy Chief Buddy Emerson

Goal # 2
Achieve CFAI Accreditation for the Fire District. Team Leader — Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard

Goal # 3
Promote Sustainable Growth Management Strategies. Team Leader—Deputy Chief Kevin Herndon

Goal # 4
Enhance the Financial Viability and Efficiency of the Fire District. Team Leader — Clerk-Treasurer Gary Perdew

Goal # 5
Improve Public Image, Involvement and Awareness. Team Leader — PIO Catherine Chaney

Goal # 6
Enhance Comprehensive Succession Planning and Leadership Program. Team Leader — Assistant Fire Chief Carlos Duran

Goal # 7
Enhance Labor Relations and Improve Communication and Interaction between Fire District Staff and Fire Board. Team Leader— Fire Chief Ron Parrish

If you any questions, please feel free to contact the team leader. The entire Strategic Plan will be placed on the website after it is presented to the Fire Board at their August monthly meeting.

Mission

“To protect life and property by providing safe, efficient and quality emergency services, fire prevention and education for our community.”

Strategic Planning is a continuous process. If you have any questions or suggestions... make them known. Contact any team leader.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT**

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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.

Who are these Firefighters?



Last issue we showed two firefighters and asked if you knew who they were. Many of you emailed the correct response — Bill Gray and Glen Parramore. They were their rookie photos. Here are a couple more photos. We'll tell you who they are in the next newsletter.



July Birthdays

- BERGERON, KEITH R
- BOTTERBUSCH, DONALD L
- BRIDGES, KATRINA D
- BRYANT, WILLIAM D
- CENTER, JUSTIN P
- CONNOLLY, THOMAS F
- DOONAN, EDWARD M
- GAMEZ, IRAEL
- GASKILL, LINDA J
- HAMNER, RICHARD D
- HOFFMAN, ROBERT T
- HOLLANDER, SEAN T
- JERGER, TONY L
- KOVACH, JANEEN A
- KOZAC, STEVEN S
- KRAMER, CLEMENS E
- LEE, JEFFREY S
- LOBSINGER, KIMBERLY S
- MARTYKA, RICHARD M
- MOORE, WILLIAM G
- MORRIS, PETER K
- NOELKE, JOHN G
- SAPP, RYAN G
- SCHELIN, LENNART E
- SMITH III, RICHARD W
- SPERA, IGNATIUS
- STEPHENS, WILL H
- STIRRAT, KYLE M
- THOMAS, ROGER F
- THOMPSON, MARCUS J
- TILLMAN, JOEY S
- TREFELNER, JAMES D
- TUCKER, CHARLES A
- VAN DER MEULEN, DAVID S
- VAUGHN, JAMES R

May Run Report

We will begin publishing monthly run reports in the newsletter. Below is the report for May 2009.

Zone	Fire	EMS	Total
1	49	340	389
2	10	60	70
3	42	273	315
4	19	116	135
5	32	250	282
6	29	209	238
7	25	146	171
8	13	36	49
9	9	22	31
10	35	168	203
11	9	22	31
12	18	314	332
13	32	44	76
14	63	232	295
15	34	325	359
16	20	151	171
17	15	76	91
Other	10		10
Total	464	2784	3248