

"Our Family Serving Yours"



Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to the recent MPA graduates (left to right): Paramedic Firefighter Rusty Hines, Assistant Fire Chief Carlos Duran, Fire Chief Ron Parrish, Deputy Chief Kevin Herndon, Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard, and District Chief Mike Bailey.

Meet Your Fire Board – Rufus "Butch" Alexander

In an effort to inform our employees about the Fire Board, *Fire Line* will highlight one of our Fire Board Commissioners in upcoming issues. This is the second in the series, focusing on the Vice Chairman Rufus "Butch" Alexander.

If you want to try to describe Rufus "Butch" Alexander in one word – it would probably be "tradition."

Commissioner Alexander comes from a family with a tradition of serving Ft. Pierce. He surrounds himself with employees who know the tradition of serving families. He is passing that tradition on to the younger generation through his work establishing the IRSC Minority Scholarship for Fire and EMS Students.

Commissioner Alexander can trace his roots in Ft. Pierce back to the late 1890s. In 1906, his family built the first residence on Avenue D. His grandmother Helen Peek, known as "Mama Peek" was the first African-American nurse in Ft. Pierce. That was 1924. The family business, Sarah's Memorial Chapel, was named after his great grandmother. His mother, also named Sarah, was instrumental in getting the first African-American soldier, from the Vietnam War, buried in Hillcrest cemetery, with full military honors. She was also instrumental in converting Ford Suburbans to hearses in order to deal with the sand streets that existed in Ft. Pierce.

Alexander attended John Carroll High School in Ft. Pierce. He went on to the Tuskegee Institute, a place rich in tradition, and learned early about the men blazing the trail for others. He graduated from Lynn University.

He became involved in politics when the 1906 family home on Avenue D was torn down by the city. He had heard from clients about their problems with city policy and city actions, and decided to run for office. He was elected to the Ft. Pierce City Commission eight years ago. He has served on the Fire Board since 2002.

For Alexander, the appointment to the Fire District Board was a special one. Alexander found the learning curve for coming to the Fire Board was not as challenging for him because of his experience with the funeral business. The Funeral Chapel had been the emergency medical service provider for many years, and the ambulance business was sold by his mother when the Fire District began EMS service. In addition, the Funeral Chapel was always near a fire station, previously on 7th and now on Avenue D, so he understood the commitment by the firefighters to the city.

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Congratulations**Recent Promotions:**

FF/Eng Frederic Barbera

FF/Eng Brian Smith

Released Paramedic:

Renee Forbes

September Birthdays

BEANE, STEPHEN E
BO, SIGURD J
CRATON, JOHN W
CROUSE, CHAD W
FISCHER, BYRON C
FITZPATRICK, ANTHONY C
GARVEY, JEFFREY S
GONZALEZ, BRIAN N
GUERCIO, JUSTIN J
HAMRICK, DONALAN R
HOBALES, JACKIE L
JOHNSON, MATTHEW C
JONES, KAREN J
KYZER, RONALD W
LEDBETTER III, ROBERT P
LEIVA, OSCAR L
LENZ, KENNETH C
MARTI, CARLOS A
MOODY JR, RALPH W
ODOM, JARED D
O'MALLEY, ANN R
PARENT, JAMES M
PERDEW, GARY M
RANDALL, MICHAEL E
RUDD, WALTER J
RUSSAKIS, CHRIST A
SAO, SONEATH
SAXTON, RONALD M
STABILE, JEFFREY M
STOREY, PERRY F
TINDALL, WADE C
TRABULSY, CARL D
VACHON, DANE C
VANDERLAAN, ERIC A
VASQUEZ, CASSANDRA E

Alexander (continued)

“Over time I have seen the pride in the Fire District become more obvious,” said Alexander. “It is a great place and people are happy to go to work, they want to go to work.”

The Minority Scholarship has been a source of pride, especially when LaToya Young went through the program. Alexander has known LaToya since she was a child. She came to him when she was trying to decide whether to go into the police department or the fire service. He suggested she talk to the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. LaToya kept him posted on her progress as she went through fire academy. He will never forget her smile when she told him she had become a firefighter.

“I want to assure the employees of the Fire District that they will always be taken care of,” explained Alexander. “As a Fire Board member, we need to take care of our employees.”

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Sept. 17 – **SLC Airport Opening of New Runway** at 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 25 – **SLCFD First Monthly Lunch** at Milner at Noon – Donation of \$5 (Flyer is on the Bulletin Board posted 8/20)

Saturday, Sept. 26 – **Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake** (Flyer about the challenge between the Fire District and Law Enforcement is on the Bulletin Board. Posted 8/27)

Big Heart Brigade

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and plans are in the works for this year's Big Heart Brigade. Attached to this newsletter is a note about plans for this year. You can contribute with gift cards from Publix, Winn-Dixie or Wal-Mart. Details in the attached flyer!

SLCFD MONTHLY LUNCHEON**JOIN US**

Date: Friday, September 25

Time: 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Place: Pavilion at Milner Administration Building

Cost: \$5 donation

Food: Hot Dogs and Hamburgers
Families Welcome!**August Run Report**

Zone	Fire	EMS	Total
1	57	360	417
2	8	51	59
3	29	268	297
4	16	131	147
5	27	242	269
6	24	199	223
7	8	142	150
8	12	24	36
9	9	21	30
10	16	163	179
11	10	25	35
12	27	298	325
13	24	50	74
14	32	222	254
15	36	309	345
16	17	129	146
17	9	89	98
Other	2		2
Total	363	2723	3086



Join our "Coming to the Rescue" Campaign

For most of us, Thanksgiving is a time for family, fun and feasting.

But for some, it's just another hungry day.

Attention Fire Fighters, Staff, Family and Friends:

Time is approaching for our annual Thanksgiving Meal Delivery to the citizens of Saint Lucie County. It is no secret that this year will be a challenging but rewarding task that we have ahead of us. If you have not been a part of this event in the past, I am asking for your support and helping hand. I have been to several meetings with The Big Heart Brigade Committee and not to my surprise we are faced with two obstacles. With the economy and jobs lost, the needs will be far greater than last year and the donations of food and supplies from our last year sponsors are not as plentiful as before.

So with this hardship that we are faced with I am asking for your help to make this another success and to hold our motto true, "Our Family Serving Yours".

Along with the generous donation from Saint Lucie Firefighters Local 1377, I am requesting that each family household with the Saint Lucie County Fire District donate a gift card from their grocery store. (PUBLIX, WINN -DIXIE, WAL- MART), in any amount that you can give. We have over 400 employees with the District. If each family contributed a \$ 15.00 card that would be \$ 6000.00 WOW! See what we can do together as a team and family. So if you feel your family can help ours, please leave your donations with Linda in Fire Prevention or call our office at 772-621-3371 or my cell 772-216-1448 and I will pick them up from you.

I will keep you updated on the times and dates that I will need your help with the food preparation and delivery. November 25th we will clean and cook turkey, and deliver on November 26th I will have you back with your family by 1pm. Thank you for your kindness and donation.

Big Heart Brigade of the Treasure Coast

Coordinator: Rick Hamner