



AFTER ACTION REVIEW

The official newsletter for Clearwater, Florida Fire & Rescue

Summer 2011



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A Fitting Gift from Clearwater's Sister City



Mr. & Mrs. Guy Chaney of Clearwater presented a Japanese Firefighter's dress jacket to Division Chief Steve Strong on March 23, 2011. Mr. and Mrs. Chaney resided in Japan several years ago and decided that Clearwater Fire & Rescue would be the best home for this jacket since Nagano, Japan is our sister city.

Freda Turner: A Retrospective

Every year for 34 years, Freda Turner honored Clearwater paramedics' hard work. She and her late husband Thomas R. Turner established the award in 1977 to recognize paramedics who best exemplify Emergency Medical Service professionalism during the year. Competition was always keen and a team of chief officers selected winners based on dedication to duty, enthusiasm, skill in life-saving procedures, efficiency, responsibility and compassion during an on scene emergency. There was always a luncheon and ceremony at Regency Oaks honoring the annual recipients of the award.

She leaves behind a legacy of civic activism and service to her community

On March 31 at age 92, Mrs. Turner passed away, but not before she could

bestow the award on this year's honored paramedic, Fred Morris. She leaves behind a legacy of civic activism and service to her community and country that cannot be measured or equaled and the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department is grateful for her contributions to her efforts on behalf of its staff.

See Freda Turner, next page



In 2007, Mayor Frank Hibbard presented Freda Turner with the key to the city for her civic activism and support of city fire services.



Freda Turner **From the Front Page** **Awards from Recent Years**



2003



2004



2005



2006

Mrs. Turner grew up in New England and worked as a telephone operator. During World War II she served her country in both the Navy and Coast Guard where she was skilled at Morse Code. While in the service she met her husband Thomas, eventually settling in the Washington D.C. area following the war. She continued to work in the telephone company until she and her husband retired to the west coast of Florida. She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers, Waves National Lifetime member, Military Officers Association, and Retired Officers of America.

She also loved wildlife and music and could play piano and organ. She contributed to the Wildlife Federation and was a patron and sponsor of Ruth Eckerd Hall, The Florida Youth Ranch, the Crossing Guards, and EMTs. Her contributions to the Fire Department are in perpetuity in memory of her mother, Maybelle Rollins Bradford.



2007



2010



2009



2008

Letter from The Chief



Fire Chief Robert Weiss

When I was appointed to the position of Fire Chief on May 19, I was honored that the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council had the confidence in me to offer me the position, but in the end, it was your professional and dedicated service that made the decision to accept the offer easy.

One of the first questions I faced from line personnel and staff was “In what direction will you take the department?” My response was to stay on the current course – working to improve all facets of the department. This has resulted in the department being evaluated several times over the last several years with excellent ratings; the last one by ISO showed such an improvement in our Public Protection Classification that our Class 3 rating was elevated to a Class 2. These improvements reflect your hard work and dedication.

Although I plan to stay the course to continue these improvements, my long-term goal is to prepare the department for the future. We will focus on maintaining an excellent level of service to the public while addressing the current challenges that we face and will continue to face. The economy, changing service demands, and the future of the fire service in Pinellas County must be part of our strategic plan for years to come. It is my intention to be proactive, not reactive. However, this is something that neither I nor my staff can do alone. Change will come regardless, but if we work together to position ourselves, it will be that much easier for us to adapt. To facilitate the team effort, I plan to be more visible at the stations and get a chance to talk to you in a more personal setting.

Thank you all and keep up the good work you are doing!

New Engines Improve CFR Service

These new engines that went into service in June are at Station 49, Clearwater Mall; and Station 51, North Greenwood. The 2011 Pierce Velocity Engines have 1,500 gpm pumps, can hold 500 gallons of water and feature low hosebeds, a foam system and short wheelbases.



Employee News

Service Awards

5 Years Sean Becker
Justin Dilkes
Monica Juarbe
Scott Magness
Adam Mittler
Kevin O'Neill
Jason Rath
Jason Samanipour
Tiffany Seabolt
Edward Schultz
Tim Sparrow
Kent Watts

10 Years Kristin Hoekstra
Greg Newland
Anthony Tedesco
Jennifer Terrell

15 Years Michael Aleksa
Kevin Bowler
Stephen Coward
Louis Georgantas
Kevin O'Connor
Marvin Pettingill
Larry Williams

25 Years Donald Thomson

30 Years Stephen Langeven
Mark Smyth

Promotions

Robert Weiss to Fire Chief

Retirements

Fire Lt. Harry Williams

Fire Lt. Tom Allegretti

Transfer

Heather Latham, Staff Assistant in Fire Administration from Economic Development & Housing

Sympathy

To David Jackson, Driver/Operator, on the loss of his brother, Michael Jackson

To Asst. Chief J.P. Medani on the loss of his mother, Helen P. Medani.

To **Denis O'Connor**, Firefighter, on the loss of his uncle

To **Kevin O'Connor**, Firefighter/Driver-Operator, on the loss of his uncle

Stair Climb for Lung Association

A team of Clearwater Firefighters showed off their athletic abilities, climbing 914 steps in the American Lung Association's 2011 *Fight for Air Climb*. The team consisted of captain Firefighter Anthony Gomillion, Driver/Operator Mike Brown, Firefighter Christian Miller, and Driver/Operator James Van Zandt. They dressed in full bunker gear, with air packs, adding 65 pounds to their body weight that had to be hauled upstairs as fast as their legs could carry them.

The event started with a pep rally and fundraiser at the Clearwater Hooters the week before the March 26, 8 a.m. climb up the

42 floors of the Bank of America building at 101 E. Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa.

While the climb was open to individuals and teams not associated with the fire service, 113 firefighters took on the challenge of the event in full gear. Chris Miller came in 7th out of that group with a time of 9:31. Mike Brown was the second of the Clearwater team at 10:40, placing 13th among firefighters in gear, Anthony Gomillion came in at 14:50 and James VanZandt finished at 15:14. Alta Vista Sports provided the timing for the event and results for all of the 800 participants are available on www.athlinks.com



Tired but Happy: Clearwater firefighters Michael Brown, James VanZandt, Christian Miller, and Anthony Gomillion, who climbed the Bank of America building stairs in the "2011 Fight for Air Climb," catch their breath after the March 26 event in Tampa.

Births

To Justin Dilkes, Fire Medic, and his wife Rachel, a daughter, Hannah Lynn, 5 lbs., 12 oz., Feb. 11

Kudos

Firefighter Denis O'Connor received the Clearwater Rotary Club Public Service and Safety Award on February 2. He was nominated for his participation in the Susan G. Komen Tampa Bay 3-Day Walk for the Cure, Burn Camp, United Way Day of Caring, Paint your Heart Out, Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Great American Teach-In.

Slinging Ice Cream for a Good Cause

Photo Essay

Everyone loves ice cream, especially when it is paired with a good cause. Clearwater firefighters, some in bunker gear pants, grabbed the scoopers and leaped behind the Baskin Robbins counters on Cleveland Street and Gulf to Bay Boulevard for 31-Cent Scoop Night on April 27. From 5 to 10 p.m., the event packed the tiny stores and filled firefighter's boots placed on the counters. It raised \$900 to benefit the Clearwater Honor Guard and additional funds that were donated to the Fallen Firefighters Foundation.



News in Brief

WHAT IF a Plane Crashed in Tampa Bay?

Clearwater Firefighters got a chance to find out when the St. Petersburg International and the Tampa International Airports got together for a full-scale mock disaster drill in April.

Tampa International and St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airports routinely review their emergency response plans and procedures for accuracy and effectiveness. As a part of the review process, both airports conduct exercises in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations. On Tuesday, April 12, Clearwater firefighters participated in a full scale exercise playing out a scenario of a plane crash in Tampa Bay. With



the Coast Guard to review their responses to an event on a large scale. Agencies were tasked with reviewing their readiness and making changes in their planning and training. The event also served as an opportunity for all agencies to

work together and refine their command, control, coordination and communication.

Clearwater staff worked both incident command as well as handling triage for "victims," primarily volunteers from local schools.



command staged at the Courtney Campbell Causeway Boat Ramp, the exercise was the most comprehensive test to evaluate the operational capability of the emergency management system in a stress environment. Fire services from all over the bay area mobilized and deployed resources to demonstrate coordination and response capability in the event of a real emergency.

In addition to the airport's response to the simulated crash, the exercise allowed Fire Rescue, EMS, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies including



A Note from the Executive Editor

Elizabeth Watts, Public Safety PIO

As the city and its departments face budget and staffing constraints, Public Communications is no exception. In an effort to streamline and prioritize services, this will be the last edition of After Action Review. You can still look forward to continued communications from Fire Administration through emails and bulletins. Public Communications will continue to support Clearwater Fire & Rescue activities, events and initiatives and share the results with personnel and the general public on the fire and rescue website as well as the following social media sites:

- Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/city_of_clearwater/
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityofclearwater
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/clearwaterPubSafety>

We'd like to thank all of you whose contributions made this newsletter fun to produce and interesting to read. Please continue to send your training news, birth announcements, milestone accomplishments, etc. and we'll make sure they are included in the City Connection newsletter.

Thanks for all your help.

After Action Review Contributions

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In Remembrance

Lt. Glenn Witko - Firefighter and Friend



02/07/1965 - 12/21/2010