

# HOT TOPICS

April 15, 2002

Volume 1 – Issue 11



## EMS News

By Division Chief Robert Moreland

### Greetings Everyone!

It has been an exciting month for Delray Beach Fire-Rescue. We have been getting much attention from the local press as a result of the recent AED “Saves” at Borton Volvo and the Tennis Center. Both of the patients are doing fine and continuing their lives as normal.

A few weeks ago, I was contacted by the National office of the American Heart Association. They had been informed of the AED successes in Delray Beach and one in a corporation in Broward County. They were interested in using the Borton Volvo case for a video being created to promote CPR / AED training for Corporate America. On March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, **Letitia Osborne**, the Senior Marketing Director for the National Office of AHA in New York and Jenesis Productions from Tampa were in town and shot a reenactment of the case. It was pretty cool as the employees and customers who were involved in the resuscitation played themselves. The patient understandably, was not interested in playing his role, so we were able to get our own **Bill Rego** to play the part of the victim. Bill did a great job and even mimicked the skeletal muscle contractions that occur when defibrillation is performed! Who knows, maybe a new career, an Oscar!

One thing is for sure, none of us realized how long it would take and how many scenes and different angles it would require to get the necessary footage for the production. They finished up at Headquarters with some shots of the Station One crew from A shift who were involved in the case, responding in their vehicles, grabbing their equipment and looking good for the cameras. The production will be released this summer. It is really exciting to know that Delray Beach and Delray Beach Fire-Rescue will play a leading role in the National Campaign promoting Public Access Defibrillation. **Once again, you folks are Awesome!**

Next month look for a new case study designed to stimulate those brain cells!

### Attitude

## Community Education News

By Lieutenant Hal Knabb

Attitude, mine in particular, can fluctuate from moment to moment; especially when one loses sight of the “big picture”. Such was the case late one afternoon as I was finishing a job at the copy machine. Looking out the window I observed two cars pulling into the parking area outside of Fire Safety. A “sandwich generation” of young adults with grandparents and grandchildren in tow began disembarking from the two cars. Too many to count at a glance, yet they were close enough that I recognized two of them as participants in our recent child passenger safety class. As I approached the door to greet this group my attitude was heading south. “Don’t people know to call for an appointment? I’ll be here all night”. I was thinking they had come for free car seats for the entire family. Putting on my best customer service smile I began to meet and greet this rather large group. I soon learned that the grandmother was visiting from Nicaragua and her family wanted her to see where the car seat for her granddaughter came from.

“So, how do you like Delray Beach?” I asked the grandmother. Her reply startled me. “I don’t know, I got off the big plane and they drove me to this place”. Now, finally, I began to see the “big picture” unfolded before me. Three generations packed into two cars to pickup grandma at the airport and the first place they want to stop on the way home is the Delray Beach Fire Rescue Department! They were here to show appreciation. Their visit took no longer than thirty minutes and included a tour of the station and a quick picture with a fire engine and a real firefighter.

Afterwards, I felt foolish for having that initial negative attitude. I even thought “I’ve learned a lesson, I won’t do that again”. The truth is I learned a lesson but managing my attitude is a moment to moment challenge.

I am gradually getting acclimated to my new responsibilities as Division Chief of Administration and am excited about

## Administration News

By Brad Fitzer, Division Chief

the opportunity to grow and learn in this position. Thankfully, I have **Battalion Chief Hendricks** to help steer and guide me along during his remaining days with the Department. He will surely be missed when he retires at the end of this month.

There is a major project that will begin on April 15th to improve our apparatus room floor at Headquarters. This project will be a two-phase project to reconstruct the concrete of Bay #2 and recoat the floor with a non-skid surface. It will take approximately seven (7) days to complete the first phase of the concrete repair. The surface will cure for approximately thirty (30) days before it can be recoated. The second phase of stripping and recoating the floor will take approximately three (3) days. This project will require some of our apparatus to be relocated while the work is being performed. Your patience and cooperation during this project is greatly appreciated.

I am very interested in everyone's ideas and concerns; my door is always open.

Many thanks to the following for their assistance in making the C.E.R.T. picnic a success. **Stan Wasserstein and Jim Friedman**

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

By Bernard Federgreen

(Rainberry Bay); **Charlotte Lichenstein** and the Tuesday crew (High Point 7); **Renold Chery** (Haitian Community); **Leo Pruner** (Seagate/Highland Beach); **Tammy Wheatley** and **Battalion Chief Michael Hendricks** (Fire Department).

At this printing, the CERT recognition shirts will be distributed and the picnic will be over, but it will only be the beginning. I hope that you all had a great time.

And, once again CERT volunteers assisted at the Fire Department display at the Delray Affair.

"Is there a state law that says I have to take gas cans out of my truck before I fill them?"

## Fire Safety News

By Assistant Chief William Adams

We are accustomed to fielding questions regarding fire safety and fire code regulations on a daily basis in the Fire Safety Division. However, this was the first time I had ever been asked about filling portable gas cans. The lady who called me to ask the question had apparently just come from a service station where they insisted that she remove the cans from her pick-up truck before filling them. She was not happy about it.

I explained to her that vehicles often have plastic liners in the truck beds or trunks. Plastic is an electrical insulator. Gasoline flowing through the pump and hose can deposit a static electrical charge on the cans. This charge can then cause an arc capable of igniting the gasoline vapors. There have been several fires and injuries caused by this sequence of events.

That didn't seem to make an impression on this lady, however. She wanted to know if there was a state law that says you have to do it!

My point in relating this story is that all too often, changing the habits and behavior of human beings is a lot more complicated than just explaining the possible life-threatening consequences of following their current behavior patterns. Whether it is smoking, wearing seatbelts, wearing helmets when riding motorcycles, having properly installed child safety seats, or following fire safety regulations, there is often an initial denial of the need to change the way we do things.

Part of this denial is the tendency in human beings to believe that bad things can happen only to other people. For some, the fact that they have been lucky so far seems to be all the evidence they need that it won't happen in the future.

For others, like the woman who called asking about the gas cans, the only convincing argument seems to be that there is a law that says you have to change your behavior. She's in luck, the Florida Fire Prevention Code states: "Portable containers of 12 gal (45 L) capacity or less shall not be filled while they are in or on a motor vehicle or marine craft." (NFPA 30A, Ch. 9-2.2, 1996 edition).

# Disaster Facts

By: John Tomaszewski, Assistant Chief

As we all know, disasters have many different causes and effects. This month, I wanted to take a minute to provide a few interesting facts about various types of disasters and challenge our readers to reflect on how these emergency incidents relate to our ability to protect the life and property of our citizens here in Delray Beach.

- Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States.
- Moving flood waters as shallow as six inches deep can be sufficient to knock a person off their feet.
- Flood water is contaminated and undrinkable.
- Hurricanes are tropical storms with sustained winds over 74 miles per hours.
- Wind speed and storm surge as well as inland flooding are the causes of major destruction from hurricanes.
- Hurricanes come in five categories. Category 5 is the strongest.
- Hurricane season is from June 1 through November 30 in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Tornado winds can reach 300 miles per hour.
- Tornadoes occur most frequently in "Tornado Alley," a swatch of states from the middle of the country up through Ohio, but tornadoes can also occur in other states as well.
- March through August are the months that generally have the most tornado activity.
- Earthquakes occur in many states, including the Midwest, where the New Madrid faults runs through Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and other states not often thought of as at risk for earthquakes.
- Not counting the terrorist attack on Sept. 11. Some of the costliest disasters in this history of the U.S. include the *Northridge Earthquake* (1994) \$7 billion in federal relief; *Hurricane Andrew* (1992) \$1.8 billion in federal relief; *Hurricane Hugo* (1989) \$1.3 billion in federal relief; *Midwest Floods* (1993) \$1.1 billion in federal relief; *Loma Prieta Earthquake* (1989) \$867 million in federal relief; *Hurricane Marilyn* (1995) \$542.5 million in federal relief; and *Hurricane Fran* (1996) \$623 million in federal relief.

## Delray Beach Fire Explorer Post 320 Learning for Life

The Fire Exploring Program gives young people valuable insight into the fire fighting profession. By participating in the Fire Exploring program, the individual will gain personal confidence, learn how to use various tools, develop mechanical skills and aptitude, and gain a greater awareness of personal and fire safety. This insight will allow the individual to decide whether or not he or she desires to pursue a greater role in the fire service.

The Explorer Post participates in a large variety of community service projects, such as, the 24-Hour Relay Benefit for Cancer, the Delray Affair, Fire-Rescue Safety Awareness Day, and many other city projects such as Street Clean-Ups and Paint-Up Delray.

The Fire Department Explorer Post is an excellent resource for the energetic, active, civic minded youth of today.

Who is eligible? Male and Female youths between the age of 14 or just graduated middle school to the age 20 who have an interest in the fire rescue field.

### Current News

On March 25, 2002, the explorer program were involved in training at Station 2. Thanks to the help of *Kenny Thompson* (C-Shift) as the Belay Safety Officer, *Shawn Beckowitz* (A-Shift) as the *Chief Safety Officer*, *Mike McCleary* (B-Shift) as the Har-ness Safety Officer and *Mike Thornton* (C-Shift) as the Rope Safety Officer, the training was a success. The training consisted of one of the most important things every firefighter/paramedic will have to experience sometime in their career, Rappelling. The post repelled off of the house tower at Station 2 and in doing so, we had a chance to learn a few things about anchor points, tying knots and safety precautions. Once again, thank you *Kenny, Shawn, Mike M. and Mike T.*

Also, the Explorer Post attended and helped the CERT program at the Delray Affair on April 5th, 6th and 7th.

### Future News:

ATTENTION! All Delray Beach Fire-Rescue personnel. If you have any ideas or insight on training or city events, please inform one of our advisors either *Kenny Thompson or Shawn Beckowitz*. We would love the input.

Also, we are currently looking for approximately 10 new explorers. If you know of anyone age 14, or just graduating middle school, to age 20 that might be interested, please contact an Explorer advisor and inform interested candidates to attend a business meeting at Station 1 on the 2nd Monday of every month. Information is located in the Administrative office adjacent to the training rooms on the second floor.

We are also in need of new sponsors (male and female) for current ride along candidates. If you are interested in having an explorer and you meet the minimum standards contact *Kenny, Shawn or Chief Koen*.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has helped the Explorer Post along the way. And a very special thanks to *Chief Koen*.

*Writers: Erika Munson & Cesar Ortiz-Lora*

*Editor: Daniel Marullo*

*Approval: Kenneth Thompson*

### Brief Description and Benefits of Program

# Training and Safety Division

by Division Chief Russell Accardi

All EMT's and Paramedics will need to attend the upcoming Bloodborne Pathogen training for re-certification requirements. The sessions planned on a shift schedule will be May 1,2,3, 2002. If you will not be available on these dates make plans to attend on April 3, 2002, as this will be the only other day scheduled. Contact **Lt. Victor Williams** for further information.

If anyone knows someone who would like to become EMT certified, we will be hosting the first EMT course in conjunction with ATEC. The EMT program begins in May 2002 and will meet on Monday and Wednesday nights at Fire Headquarters. The in house Paramedic program is continuing and they meet Tuesday and Thursday nights at Fire Headquarters. If you need registration information you can contact ATEC at 742-2847.

We have scheduled another Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) class on April 27, 2002, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Training & Safety Division will contact personnel being scheduled for this class.

The Training & Safety Division has been working on a program to provide company officers with a comprehensive training curriculum. We are pleased to announce the first delivery of the Officer Development Program will be April 22-26, May 6-10, 2002. The goal of this program will be to provide new officers a training course to prepare them for their role as a supervisor in the department. The first delivery will be for some of our recently promoted Lieutenants. We will be scheduling future deliveries to include all Lieutenants.

Another training initiative in progress is expansion of the FETN satellite capability currently available at station one. This is the programming, which airs Pulse; American Heat and other related training segments. This enhancement will allow the remaining stations to also receive the broadcast signal.

A third Thermal Image Camera is being placed in service on Engine 2. This will give us capability of a camera in the east on Engine 2, central with the battalion chief, and west on Truck 5. These imagers are equipped with a wireless transmitter that can broadcast the images to a TV monitor being installed in the battalion chief's vehicle allowing the command post to monitor interior conditions. **Thanks goes to the Del Aire community for their contributions enabling us to purchase our second and third Thermal Imagers.**

**Lt. Mark Reynolds, Lt. Greg Giaccone, and Engineer Mark Siciliano** attended a forty hour Haz Mat Technician Train the Trainer course presented by the IAFF at the Florida State Fire College March 11-15, 2002. Instructors for this program included **Bob Ingram**, Chief in charge of Haz Mat Operations for the FDNY, **Al Valerioti**, Training Chief of Waterbury Connecticut Fire Department, and **Russ Accardi**, Training Chief of Delray Beach Fire-Rescue.

**Lt. Mark Reynolds and Lt. Greg Giaccone** constructed a great leak simulator allowing water and air pressure to be used to simulate a multitude of leak problems for the Haz Mat Team. (see photos above). Training was conducted for all three shifts March 20,21,22, 2002 using this new prop. Many compliments were given from the users of this "Plumbers



Nightmare".

## Special Operations Responses:

"A" shift responded to a regional Haz Mat incident at I-95 and Congress Avenue involving a Propane gas tank truck rolled over leaking with the driver still in the vehicle.

"A" shift also responded to a natural gas leak at Atlantic Avenue and N.E. 4 Avenue.

"B" shift responded to a regional Haz Mat incident at the Delray Water Treatment Plant for a Chlorine gas leak from the one ton cylinders. Several entries of Delray and Boca Raton's Technicians were needed to control the leak.

"B" shift also responded to a multi vehicle roll over involving a travel trailer, damaging two 30 Lb. LPG cylinders with one leaking on I-95.

"C" shift responded to Sherwood Forrest for a Propane gas leak.

## Training Schedule 2002

April 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Hose Testing

April 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Hose Testing

April 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Confined Space Rescue  
with Boca Raton

April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>  
Company Level  
Model 2

April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Rapid Sequence Intubation

## From the Chief's Desk

The last “quarterly awards” ceremony caused me to reflect on just how much is going on in Delray Beach on a regular basis. The ceremony recognized members of the public, the business community, the leadership of the American Heart Association and lots of Fire Fighters and Paramedics for a great job taking care of our customers. At the end of the process, all you could do was say “WOW!”. Several photos are in this edition, which give evidence to the diversity of actions and outcomes that represent the involvement of this agency in the affairs of the community.



*Rick Lewis presents Chief Koen with a department award given by the American Heart Association.*

And, there is still more. By the time you receive this newsletter, *Delray Affair* will again be history concluding a three day run which attracted well over 200,000 folks to our city. This is the city's premiere “special event” and requires the deployment of many Fire-Rescue resources and our best efforts to keep the downtown safe and orderly. Also, on April 13th a pair of events occurred which relate to pre-active training and preparation. The first event was our “C.E.R.T. Round-Up” and bar-b-que at Morikami Park for our C.E.R.T. volunteers. This event gave us a chance to have a little social time before Hurricane Season, which begins June 1st. Also, the second annual C.P.R. Day was a great success. The event was held at FAU and attracted a great number of participants from Delray Beach, Boynton, Boca, Highland Beach and Gulf Stream. A special “tip of the hat” goes to **Dan Burns** who served as Delray Beach's “Community Chairperson” and really put some energy behind the project.

*Paint-Up Delray* was another chance to participate in community improvement activities. This year Fire-Rescue took on the

house at 214 N.W. 7th Avenue and at the end of the morning, it was the best looking house in the neighborhood. Thanks to **Rob Moreland, Brad Fitzer, Rich Murphy, Russ Accardi, Jim Tabeeek, Victor Williams, Mark Reynolds, Chris Ackerman, Katelyn Ackerman** and several members of the noontime **Kiwanis Club** who took time out that day to make our city a little better.



*Chief Koen congratulates FF/PM Eduardo Cagnin on his new job with Miami Fire Department.*

On a sad note, we extend our sympathy to the family of **Lt. Robert Brown** (ret.) on the passing of his father. Bob will be in the area for a while, and hopefully, some of you will get a chance to say hello.

Congratulations to **Div. Chief Brad Fitzer** upon his acceptance into the Master's of **Public Administration Program at Nova University**. It will be a challenge, Brad, but in the long run, it will be well worth it. Brad also recently assumed new duties at Division Chief-Administration and is currently working with **Chief Hendricks** to transition a number of important projects prior to Chief Hendricks pending retirement at the end of April. Thanks Mike for all you

have done over the past several months to deal with the endless line of issues involved with logistics and support. **You have made a difference!** And the same must be said of the hard work of **Lt. Barry Searles** who will also be leaving us at the same time. Thanks Barry for your commitment to community safety over a long and distinguished career. We will also miss **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Eduardo Cagnin** who joined the Miami Fire

Department recently. Best wishes Eduardo on the next phase of your professional journey.

**Lt. Joe Liguori** was honored recently by being selected to referee at the Florida State Boy's Basketball Tournament Finals in Lakeland. This tournament is held every year in March and concludes the 2001-02 season. **Less than 1% of the officials in Florida are selected each year to referee this event.** Joe is also President of the East Coast Basketball Officials Association in Palm Beach County. **Congratulations Joe and ....keep your eye on that ball.**

**Kerry B. Koen**  
Fire Chief

## Admin./Support Services News

### By Ellen P. Wickert, Admin. Officer

**IAFF Contract:** All the retroactive forms for the new IAFF contract have been completed and will be reflected in the April 12, 2002 payroll. Your cooperation during this time was appreciated.

**EMS Billing News:** The new Medicare ambulance fee schedule was implemented on April 1, 2002. There have been several changes to this fee schedule including changes to the billing procedure. **Chief Rob Moreland** and I are working on getting this important information out to all personnel.

**Telestaff:** The Telestaff implementation team has been working on the information gathering portion of this project and it is now in the final stages. Part of the team will be traveling to California at the end of this month to complete the data base and begin configuration training. The next phase will be testing the system and training of all personnel.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Simple Red Potato Salad

#### Ingredients:

5 pounds      New red bliss potatoes – small and firm  
 2 cups        Mayo  
                   Red onion – diced medium  
                   Capers – washed and drained  
                   Fresh dill – chopped  
                   Lemon juice – to taste  
                   Sugar – to taste  
                   Salt – to taste  
                   White pepper – to taste

#### Procedure:

Mix all the ingredients except the potatoes together to make a dressing for the potatoes. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours. Before use, check for seasoning and mix well again.

Slice firm, red (new) potatoes into 1/2 inch slices. Place in cold salted water and bring to boil. Reduce heat to a fast simmer, and cook until potatoes are about 90% done. Do not over cook.

Remove to a colander and rinse with cool water. Drain well. Place on sheet pan and immediately place in refrigerator to cool completely. Once chilled, cover with plastic wrap and hold.

Just before service, fold in 2 cups of the “dressing” taking care not to break up the potatoes. Serve chilled and garnish with fresh dill, fresh tarragon, and parsley and lemon wheels.

Serves: 20

### Tomango Salsa

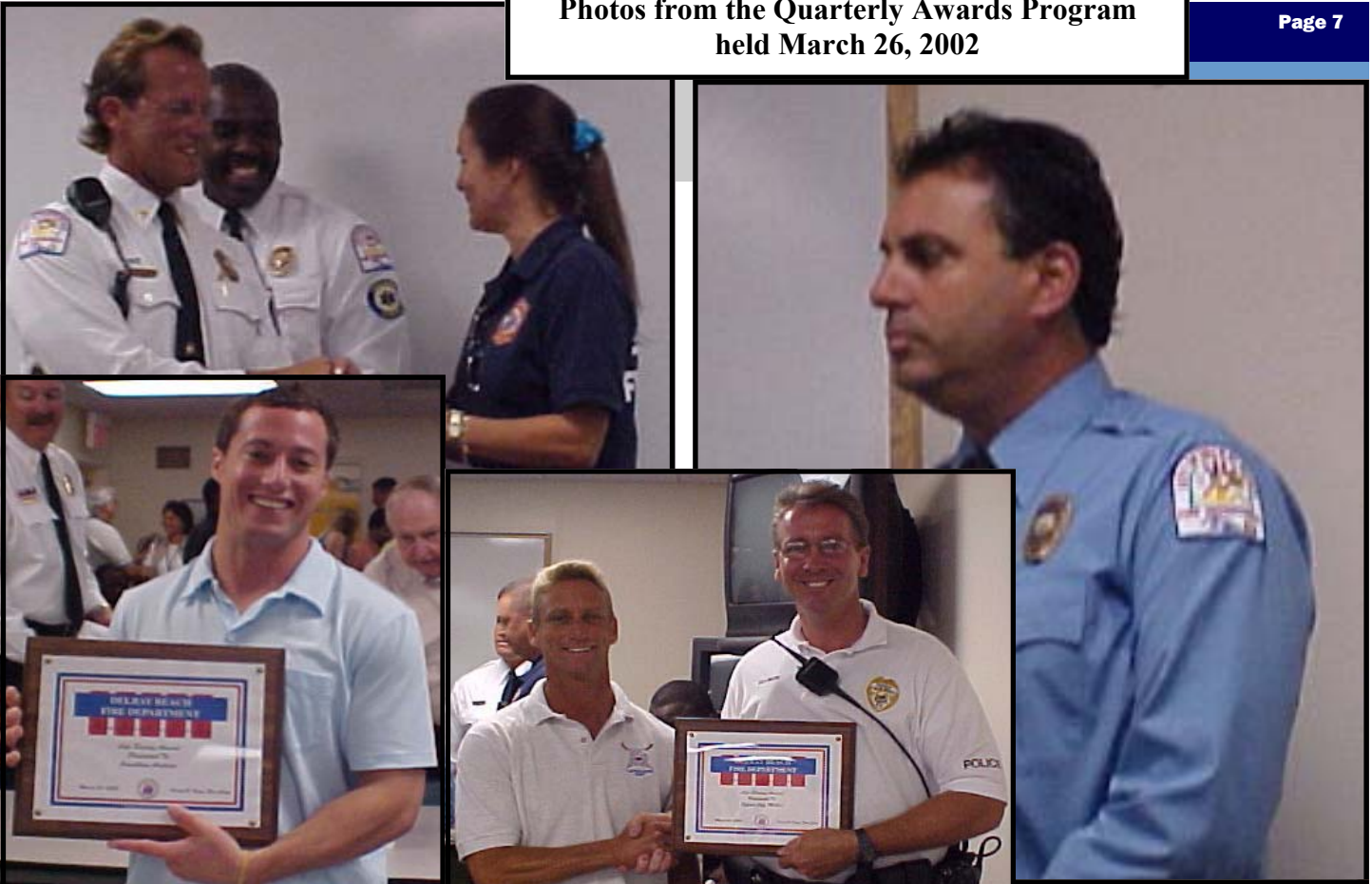
2 Cups diced fresh plum tomatoes  
 1-1/2 Cups diced mango  
 1 Cup diced red papaya  
 1/4 Cup sliced green onions  
 1/4 Cup diced red onion  
 1 Jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced  
 1/4 Cup chopped cilantro  
 1 Tablespoon brown sugar  
 2 Tablespoons minced garlic  
 2 Tablespoons olive oil  
 3 Tablespoons lime juice

In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, mango, papaya, green and red onions, cilantro, jalapeno, sugar, garlic, olive oil and the lime juice until well blended. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.

### Photos from the Quarterly Awards Program held March 26, 2002



Photos from the Quarterly Awards Program  
held March 26, 2002



*This Borton Volvo Team with the assistance of an AED saves a customers life.*



The distribution of our next newsletter is May 15, 2002. All news articles should be turned in to Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before April 29, 2002. Deadline for turning in news articles will be April 29th at 5:00 p.m. We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of "Hot Topics" and we look forward to producing our next new and exciting issue. Thank you for your participation.

## Departmental Anniversaries

Barry Searles	April 25	25 yrs.
Steve Hull	April 25	25 yrs.
Douglas Vaughn	April 25	25 yrs.
Michael Kenopke	April 21	17 yrs.
Kathy Hoecherl	April 24	16 yrs.
Donna Wolfer	April 2	15 yrs.
Edward Crelin	April 16	15 yrs.
Steve Anderson	April 1	10 yrs.
Roxanne Tilghman	April 13	10 yrs.
John Lasko	April 21	4 yrs.

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All retirees may send their e-mail address to Cecelia at [shade@ci.delray-beach.fl.us](mailto:shade@ci.delray-beach.fl.us); we would love to hear from you.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Fire Department *Driver Engineer John and Bonnie Hansen's* two daughters, *Melissa and Melanie*, have each made an achievement in their lives.

*Melissa "Missy" Hansen* graduated on March 29th from Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida majoring in Show Production. Missy wants to work on a major cruise line for six months (possibly Carnival), and later be Hawaii bound for her theater production career. Good Luck, Missy!

*Melanie Hansen* has been accepted to Nova Southeastern University's Law School. She will begin her studies in August, 2002.

Kudos to the Hansen family for their daughter's accomplishments. John is a 21 year member of fire-rescue.



Lt. Hal Knabb and Mick Dube

Also, congratulations to *Mick Dube* (pictured left *with Lt. Hal Knabb*) who is the recipient of the 1st Haitian American Scholarship. Lt. Knabb presented him with an educational award at the quarterly awards ceremony held March 26, 2002.