Fire Chief Report
By: Thomas R. Wood
CFO, MIFireE

Retirement
Firefighter Jack Culligan
Jack was recognized with a "Last Roll Call" Ceremony on April 5th.

Promotions
At a ceremony on April 5th, we presented badges and recognized five promotions as follows: Assistant Fire Chief Matt Welhaf, Senior Inspector Jay Sumner, Lieutenant James Haag, Firefighter/Driver Casey Denhard, and Fire Prevention Officer Kim Puchalski. Please see the photos on Page 5. Please congratulate each of these employees.

Paramedic of the Year
EMS Captain Pat Bayne
The following is a blend of two nominations from Division Chief Mike Davanzo and Captain Nick Massimino: I would like to nominate EMS Captain Pat Bayne for the Paramedic of the Year Award. He has served this Department with honor and complete professionalism. He is very dedicated to his craft and to delivering the highest quality of care to the patients he encounters. He is an outstanding mentor and instructor of many disciplines including ACLS, PALS, and PHTLS. Pat is always willing to assist the EMS Division and the Department in any way he can. He is very well respected and admired by his peers and co-workers. Below is a list of just some of his accomplishments and activities this past year:

- He attended the Eagles (Medical Directors Conference) in Dallas, Texas.
- He attended the State of Florida EMS Leadership conference and the State EMS meetings.
- He was the lead EMS/Medical training instructor for the 21 probationary Firefighters this year and same for the 14 hired last year.
- He developed and taught the Pediatric Advanced Life Support class to the whole Department.
- He is a member of the EMS Medical Protocol committee.
- He was part of a crew that received the "Call of the Quarter Award" from the Delray Medical Center.
- The most impressive character quality about Captain Bayne is that he is approaching 20 years on this Department and still has the drive to challenge himself to learn and continue to grow with his own knowledge. For these reasons, I feel that he is very deserving of the award.

For all these reasons Pat was chosen as our "Paramedic of the Year." Congratulations Pat!

Executive Fire Officer Program
Assistant Chief Matt Welhaf and Division Chief Michelle Murphy both recently completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. The students attend four two-week sessions over a four-year period and need to complete four applied research papers, with passing grades. It is a lot of work. Congratulations Matt and Michelle!

EMS Distinguished Service Excellence Award
Boca Raton Regional Hospital - EMS Liaison - Sandi Savia

The following nomination was written by EMS Captain Shaun Fix: I would like to nominate Sandra Savia for the EMS Distinguished Service award. As this award recognizes "non-field" members of the EMS team who support EMS services and the delivery of service in the City of Boca Raton, Sandi, the EMS Liaison at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, exemplifies this mission.

I have continually witnessed Sandi personally greet all emergency and non-emergency personnel, who deliver patients, with a smile and genuine “hello” throughout the day, always asking how they are and if they need anything.

Sandi has been instrumental in the development of our relationship with the Cardiac and Neurological staff and the development of the Stroke and Cardiac “alert” transport destination policies.
In the interest of providing quality improvement, paramedic education, and the best patient care, Sandi routinely follows the treatment and diagnosis pathway of the patients we deliver and provides us diagnosis and outcome information. This helps our staff hone their diagnostic and treatment skills, as well as giving them psychological “closure” on cases they have worked hard to treat to the best of their ability. I routinely stop her in the middle of her day to research patients we have delivered. Sandi is never too busy to work with Boca Raton Fire Rescue to help us provide the best care to their customers.

Congratulations Sandi!

Rick Becker Memorial CPR Award
Boca Raton Ocean Rescue
Life Guard Kevin Hughes

The “Rick Becker Memorial CPR Award” was established by the late Jacqueline L. and the late Herman D. Becker as an endowment, as a lasting and living tribute to their son Rick, who died at the age of 44 from a sudden heart attack. This fund is dedicated to his memory with the hope that it would help save other lives in the future. The stated purpose of the “Rick Becker Memorial CPR Award” is to provide recognition annually to an individual who promotes CPR or provides CPR education to the community at large.

On June 28, 2016, at 3:57PM, Fire Rescue was dispatched to an emergency identified as a possible baby drowning and that CPR was in progress. Fire Rescue arrived on this scene to find a 2-year-old girl being treated by off-duty Boca Raton Ocean Rescue Lifeguard Kevin Hughes. The patient was conscious, alert, and responding normally. Bystanders on scene stated that the mother cried out and when they turned to look, the 2-year-old was floating in the community pool and unconscious. Without hesitation, Kevin took action, diving into the pool to assist the girl. Kevin removed her from the pool and began a patient assessment, noting that she was unresponsive, not breathing, and had no pulse, and he immediately began CPR. After approximately 4 cycles of 30 compressions, the patient began vomiting and responding, regaining consciousness.

We are thankful for Kevin’s actions. Kevin was awarded the “Rick Becker Memorial CPR Award.”

Congratulations Kevin!

Excellence Award
Captain Ben Frederick

Assistant Fire Chief John Treanor provided the following information:

I would like to recommend Captain Ben Frederick for an Excellence Award. Ben was extremely instrumental in developing a training program, as well as teaching that program, to the largest new firefighter group since 1988. Without his expertise, the twenty-one new personnel added to the Department would not be nearly as prepared to perform their duties. It is this preparation that allowed all twenty-one to be placed on duty and capable of delivering our services to the citizens of Boca Raton. I would also like to point out that Ben volunteered to create the training curriculum and its schedule, while on duty during times he was not responding to emergency incidents. The curriculum he created has now become the foundation of future recruit classes. I am confident these future classes will not only be as successful, but surpass the standards set. It is dedication such as that displayed by Captain Frederick that has made - and continues to make - Boca Raton Fire Rescue a Department capable of providing the world class service our citizens expect and deserve.

For his efforts, he was awarded our Department Excellence Award, which is inscribed with the Vince Lombardi quote: “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.”

Congratulations Ben!

Citizen Courage Award
Mr. Elysee Delcambre

The following account was relayed to me by Captain Joe Majhess:

On Monday, March 27, 2017, Truck 1 and Medic 1 responded to a cardiac arrest in the gym at 99 SE Mizner Blvd. While enroute, Dispatch advised CPR was in progress on a male subject, unknown age. Upon arrival, the patient had a pulse and was attempting to breathe on his own. This positive outcome was due in large part to the quick actions of Mr. Elysee Delcambre,
Personal Trainer, who was on scene and initiated CPR, and three Boca Raton Police officers who delivered one shock to the patient with their Department-issued AED and further assisted with resuscitation efforts, prior to Fire Rescue arrival.

We are thankful for Mr. Delcambre’s actions. He was awarded our “Citizen Courage Award,” which is inscribed with the following C.S. Lewis quote: “Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.”

Congratulations Elysee!

BOCA FIRE RESCUE

Building Department Employees

Also, I’d like to recognize two fellow City employees that, while not FD personnel, are integral parts of our Code Enforcement team. Welcome John Cosmo, the new Boca Raton Building Official. John recognizes that by continuing the very positive working relationship between the Fire Department and the Building Department, we make Boca Raton a much safer place to, “Live, Work, and Play;” I know I’ve heard that somewhere. Finally, I want to recognize my friend Mike DiNorscio (Assistant Building Official) for having earned his State Building Official License. Mike has been working hard during the past year to complete this very difficult task. Congratulations!

New Construction

As you travel around the City, it is easy to realize the Fire and Life Safety Division is quite busy. In the Downtown, the Tower 155 project (155 Boca Raton Road) is starting to come out of the ground, as is the project at 327 Royal Palm Road. Both of these buildings will be condominiums. In the recently opened Hyatt Hotel, Monday, May 1st, the Louie Bossi restaurant will be opening. Final inspections are also under way for many of the apartment buildings in the Broken Sound commerce area (Spanish River Blvd., north to Clint Moore, between I-95 and Congress Ave.).

The Altis Apartment Building (Military Trail next to the Office Depot HQ) will be submitting for a TCO by the end of May. The Training Section has scheduled tours for Operation Crews June 1st through 4th.
These tours will be conducted by Fire Inspector Joe Ildefonso. The Department continuously works to have all Fire Operation crews familiarize themselves with the larger projects nearing completion. Familiarization improves our response capabilities, thereby maintaining the highest degree of safety for the people we serve.

Get Ready for Hurricane Season

Finally, we are about a month away from having to “reason with hurricane season.” While the weather is still favorable, please take the time to get your home in order. You may want to consider doing a hurricane shutter drill; verify you have all the parts you need, and if you have accordion or folding shutters, make sure the moving parts are properly lubricated. Possibly, consider purchasing some extra bottled water and canned goods while there is no increased demand. One thing to avoid doing now is storing additional gas (LP) and fuel inside your house or garage. We all recognize these items will be important should a hurricane hit, but it is better to consider those extra supplies only when the possibility of a storm is imminent.

Stay Safe Everyone!!
Asst. Chief Matt Welhaf

Lt. James Haag

FFD Casey Denhard

Sr. Inspector Jay Sumner

Fire Prevention Officer Kim Puchalski

(Photos by Jay Bell)
EFO
Please take the time to congratulate Boca Raton Fire Rescue’s two newest Executive Fire Officers, Matt Welhaf and Michelle Murphy. The National Fire Academy’s (NFA) Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program provides senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and emergency services administration. The courses and accompanying research examine how to exercise leadership when dealing with difficult or unique problems within communities. Matt and Michelle received their announcement on April 10th that they had successfully completed the four-year program. Seventy-five percent of the individuals that start the program complete it.

Fire Service Awards
Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater, along with the Governor and Cabinet, honored the winners of the 2017 Fire Service Awards during a reception hosted Monday evening at the Florida Capitol. The annual award ceremony honors those in the fire service community who have shown excellence in their profession. Our very own Fire Inspector Robert Lemons was honored for receiving the award for Fire Life Safety Public Educator of the Year.

“These award winners are men and women who exemplify what it means to be a leader, and I am proud to celebrate their professional success,” said CFO and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater. “These individuals, along with all firefighters and first responders across Florida, willingly risk their own lives every day and often run into dangerous situations when others are running out. Their dedication makes each of them a hero in my eyes.” Please take the time to congratulate Fire Inspector Lemons on his accomplishment.

Managing Officer
I would like to again recommend the National Fire Academy’s (NFA) “Managing Officer” program to our Company Officers. The Managing Officer Program is a multi-year curriculum that introduces emerging fire service leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction and adaptive leadership.

The program is a professional development on-campus program designed for first-level or mid-level officers/supervisors. It provides foundational management and technical competencies, learning to address issues of interpersonal and cultural sensitivity, professional ethics, and outcome-based performance. The program consists of five prerequisite courses which can be completed online, four courses at the NFA in Emmitsburg, and then a community-based capstone project. In addition to your professional growth and development, you get to view emerging professional issues from a national perspective while developing professional relationships and support from fire service professionals from around the country. A certificate of completion is awarded after the successful completion of all courses and the capstone project. Application period will open October 15th to apply for acceptance into the program. For additional information, visit the NFA’s program site at https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/programs/mo_program.html. If you have any questions about the attending the academy, its training, campus, or need related information, please contact me or any other chief officer that has attended the academy.
The Bernie Tillson Memorial EMS Challenge - Saturday and Sunday, April 29 & 30, Pages 7 and 8
**Standard Operating Procedures**

As reported in my last newsletter, the Operations Division will be revising the Department’s SOPs. These revisions will also include a change to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Currently, we are working on a new Active Shooter SOP to incorporate the lessons learned from actual incidents, as well as what we have personally learned from the drills conducted with our Department, BRPD, and FAU PD. Another full drill is scheduled for this summer to test this new SOP.

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**Narcan**

As many of you are aware, Narcan is now being prescribed to laypersons who might witness an opioid overdose and to patients in substance use treatment programs. Although layperson Narcan administration has a great potential to save many lives, it also creates new problems all paramedics must be aware of. One such problem is that the half-life of Narcan most often is shorter than the opioid that was taken. Simply put, the Narcan will wear off before the opioid, thus allowing the overdosed person to regain symptoms and possibly die. To combat this problem, anyone that was administered Narcan should never be left alone and should always be transported to the hospital for a full evaluation by a physician.

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**Boca Bash I and II**

Lake Boca Bash or “Boca Bash,” as it’s known, took place on April 23, 2017, and again on April 30, 2017. This event is not run or organized by the City; in fact, it is coordinated via Facebook and attracts many local boaters. Year after year, we have provided resources to help those in need at this event. This is the first year it was planned on back-to-back weekends because of rain. By monitoring social media, we could determine the potential size of the events and were able to prepare accordingly. At last count, twelve patients were treated on April 30th with two being critical. I would like to thank all those who volunteered to work both events; you did a fantastic job.

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**Administrative Services**

By: Pat Rea

**Hiring Process**

Firefighter/Paramedic applications are back online and can be found on the City’s website at [https://www.myboca.us/588/Employment-Opportunities](https://www.myboca.us/588/Employment-Opportunities). The current group of candidates has completed the skills and swim testing portion of the process, and 33 candidates will be interviewing in early May. The next group of applicants will be starting skills testing, at the same time the first group is moving forward in the new-hire process. There are at least 9 anticipated positions to fill, due to expected retirements.

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**Promotional Process**

Please watch for postings on the promotional process for Battalion/Division Chief and Firefighter Driver, which should be coming soon.

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**Submit your Training Documents**

The Training Section is in the process of auditing and updating all education, certifications, and technical training documentation. Please help by ensuring that you have submitted all your information to Suzanne Dickens in the Training Division at sdickens@myboca.us.

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**Seminar**

“The Art of Reading Smoke,” a one-day seminar by Deputy Chief Phil Jose, is fast approaching (May 17 and 18). Seats are still available and you can sign up via Target Solutions by clicking the link under “Upcoming Events” in the Bulletin Board on the home page.

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**FDIC Conference**

My first visit to FDIC in Indianapolis will be completed by this time - an awesome experience with firefighters and instructors from all over the world in attendance. Many displays of new equipment and technology prove that the future of firefighting, technical rescue, hazmat, EMS, and training options are constantly evolving and improving.

Education is knowledge; training is proficiency; proficiency and safety are synonymous. Prepare yourself for the next alarm so that everyone returns home.
Greetings again from the Training Section!

Medical Training
Probationary Employees
The Training Section has taken on a new endeavor in training; Captain Massimino has been conducting Monday medical training with the probationary employees. This training is hands-on scenario training with all of the probationary employees. Two scenarios are given; one of the scenarios will be from Captain Massimino and the other from the station officers. This training is designed to help the probationary employee, as well as the station officers. The probationary employee will receive valuable training leading up to the Final Probationary Test; the station officers will gain an understanding (if needed) on how to train their probationary employees.

The next couple of months will be jam-packed with medical training, and with a building familiarization squeezed in between them. The entire month of May is dedicated to ACLS/CPR. We are combining the two disciplines into one training session. Please make sure to complete the pre-test for ACLS. The month of June will be dedicated to the PHTLS.

Safety Walk-throughs
Thanks to a joint venture between the Training Section and Fire and Life Safety Division, safety walk-throughs of structures will be conducted at least two times per year. Senior Fire Inspector Jay Sumner paved the way earlier this year with the Palmetto Promenade walk-through (Thanks, Jay). Our next visit will be to the Altis apartment building, located at 5500 Military Trail.

Please remember that we are all SAFETY OFFICERS, whether it be on the fire scene, at the station, or off-duty; please look after one another.

May 9, 2017, to discuss templates for the new radios. Once the template has been developed, we will start programming the new radios.

Base radios have been swapped out at all the fire stations, as well as at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. The next step will be programming of mobile radios for all apparatus.

Radio Tower
Construction of the radio tower at Municipal Services is complete. Antennas from the old tower are in the process of being moved over to the new tower. Construction on the west tower has not started at this time.

Radio Gear
Over the past month, I have had several requests for information pertaining to a shoulder holster-and-strap combination that would be compatible with our new radios. So, here it is - The Boston Leather FDNY Style Leather Radio Strap with Mic Straps for Motorola APX 6000XE. This item can be purchased from the Fire Store. Product code for holster only: 5611RC. The combination kit product code: W6543-5611RC1-5425.

Ride-a-Longs
Feedback from the Fire Rescue Ride-a-Longs has been extremely positive. Thanks for your professionalism and making them feel welcome. All personnel have stated they have a greater understanding as to how Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services operates and why we ask for additional manpower/resources on emergency scenes. Hopefully, you gained additional information from them, as well.
If Your Radio is...

**OUT OF SERVICE FOR REPAIRS**

I have to reiterate: Please contact the Division Chief of Communications via my cell phone when you have a radio that goes out of service, along with a work order attached, explaining what is wrong with the radio. The radio needs to be replaced immediately. If I am not available to retrieve it immediately, the on-duty Communication Supervisor can assign you a spare radio.

‘Till next time, from everyone in the 911 Communications Center, be safe.

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**EMS**

By: Michael Davanzo
Division Chief

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**Upcoming Changes**

As springtime ends and we embark on the summer, the EMS Division is busy with new and exciting changes in regard to equipment and training. During the month of May, the entire Department will be performing ACLS training. This summer, we will be transitioning from Life Pak to the new X-Series Zoll monitor/defibrillators. We believe this change will affect our patient care in a positive manner and enable us to deliver the highest quality of care, keeping with the Boca Raton EMS tradition of excellence. Furthermore, we are hard at work with the implementation of our new Image Trend Elite EMS reporting software (PCR). These are major changes for the EMS Division, as well as the organization. I appreciate everyone’s support and patience during this time of change.

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**EMS Competitions**

The EMS competition team is hard at work preparing for Clin-Con in July. If you should see any of the team members, please wish them well. Also, special thanks to Firefighter Anthony Jerina for coordinating and leading Boca’s annual Bernie Tillison Memorial EMS Challenge.

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**Summer**

Let us not forget that this time of year brings about an increased number of dive/boating accidents and heat-related illnesses, due to the summer months. We also tend to see an increase in pediatric drowning calls in the South Florida area, so please review your pediatric, environmental, and decompression sickness protocols. In addition, keep in mind that during the summer months, it gets very hot so don’t forget to stay hydrated and be safe.

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**Special Operations**

By: Aaron Oatley
Division Chief

Several items are worth noting from the Special Operations Division regarding training and equipment.

**Training** – Palm Beach State College has a number of TRT courses over the summer and fall, as well as the Hazardous Materials curriculum in September/October. Coral Springs Training Center also has Confined Space and VMR in the upcoming months. I encourage all of you to follow the proper channels and get your reimbursement pre-approved.

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Off-duty training will continue, with Comp Time being granted. Now that the Department has used sixty vehicles for in-service and employee orientation training, the Special Operations Division will be scheduling more extrication training. The Division recently held a rope operations refresher and we will continue to build on that, as well. The Division is in the initial stages of completing Confined Space and High Angle Rescue Training in the upcoming months. If the training is done at Fire Support, it will count towards your facility hours.
Please note that attendance of this training must be pre-approved by the Special Operations Division. This is simply to keep the student/instructor ratio at an optimum level and maximize the hands-on training for each attendee. Administration is being very supportive of this off-duty training. The Division hopes to build on what we have completed.

Equipment- Boat 3 was returned with a new fire pump in place. As of this writing, the pump is not functional, but should be very shortly after John Patfield completes some corrective actions. A new PO will be developed once the vessel is pumping as designed.

New rope was placed on all frontline apparatus. Truck companies get two blue lines (life safety) and two yellow (utility) lines, while engine companies get one of each. Additional equipment was added in company bags that will allow for some basic rigging. Training will be coming shortly. Remember that any rope use needs to be logged, and the form filled out, for inventory. Also, keep the rope assigned to your unit with that unit as much as possible.

A rotating rope replacement program has been started, replacing 20% of the rope annually to not only stay within compliance, but also provide for training rope.

The new vehicle extrication struts are ordered and delivery should be in May as part of a two-year plan. In-service training will be forthcoming. They are stronger and much more user-friendly than our current struts, but the stabilization principles are basically the same.

A number of budget requests have been submitted for FY 2017/18 from the Special Ops Division. Requests from all of the FD Divisions are prioritized by the Executive Staff and submitted to City Hall. The city administration then prioritizes budget requests from all other Departments and makes a final budget recommendation to the City Council.

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