



January 2010

# BOCA FIRE RESCUE NET

<http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/fire/newsletters.shtm>



## Fire Chief Report

By:  
Thomas R. Wood  
CFO

Happy New Year!!!

### Citizen Courage Award Mr. William Greenberg

On December 15, 2009, Mr. William Greenberg was identified as the "Good Samaritan" that provided assistance to a woman who was choking on food in the Broken Sound Clubhouse restaurant. Mr. Greenberg successfully applied the Heimlich maneuver and dislodged a piece of meat from the victim's airway. The female patient had a complete airway obstruction and was unconscious. Subsequent to this lifesaving act, the patient resumed normal breathing and was conscious, alert and oriented. Mr. Greenberg acted in a swift and effective manner and most likely saved this woman's life.



For his "willingness to get in-

involved," Mr. Greenberg was awarded the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services "Citizen Courage Award", which is inscribed with the C.S. Lewis quote: "Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point." The award was presented at a ceremony on Tuesday, December 22, 2009.

### Structure Fire \$4 Million Dollar Loss



The largest fire of 2009 occurred on the evening of December 9, 2009, at a single family home at 224 Key Palm Road in the Royal Palm subdivision. This wasn't an ordinary fire. The 5,500 square foot home was fully involved from the moment we were responding. Flames were reaching 50 feet into the air and our master stream devices did well protecting the neighboring homes, but it took awhile for them to have an im-

pact on the main body of fire. No one was injured. The loss was estimated at \$4 million dollars. The incident was complicated by traffic congestion and road closures due to the City Holiday Parade, which had just started with an estimated 30,000 spectators. There were also 11 other emergencies dispatched within the first 4 hours of the fire, some of which were handled with the mutual aid assistance from Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue and Delray Beach Fire Rescue.

This was the most significant fire in 2009, and the 40 plus employees that worked the fire and provided additional assistance and coverage all did an exceptional job.

### Firefighter Marc Estridge Retires



Battalion Chief Scott Ward organized another "Last Roll Call Celebration" for Firefighter Marc Estridge, as he ended his 31 year career on December 16, 2009. The highlight of the morning came after the formal ceremony when Firefighter Jared Vermeulen presented Marc with a custom surfboard embossed with the Department seal and signed by nearly everyone in the Department. Marc was speechless. Congratulations Marc, and best wishes for a long retirement!



**Division Chief Pat Kelly  
wins the 2009 Florida Fire  
Service Instructor of the Year**



We were notified on December 21, 2009, that Division Chief Pat Kelly was selected to win the 2009 Florida Fire Service Instructor of the Year award. The award presentation ceremony will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at Fire Rescue East in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The following are excerpts from the two page narrative explaining why Pat was nominated...

“He is a ‘hands on’ supervisor, allowing others to work alongside and be part of the learning process. He also assists the new recruits in accomplishing their basic skills even when they do not provide their best performance. He inspires and encourages them to perform to their best ability.”

“When City funding for our furniture for these classrooms was lost, Division Chief Kelly saw an opportunity, stepped up to the plate and obtained used furniture at no cost to the City. The used furniture was donated by the Lynn Insurance Company from their old headquarters building, which was slated for demolition. He obtained executive leather chairs for our main conference room, classroom desks, classroom desk chairs and file cabinets with an estimated replacement value

of nearly \$50,000. We were able to fully furnish our three classrooms at the new Fire Administration Offices and one temporary classroom at our Fire Support Facility.”

“The ‘Training Prop Area’ at Fire Support is on its way to being a first class facility. With the vision, inspiration, and dedication of Division Chief Kelly, the site has been designed and development has begun. The first project was that of a barrier wall for the east side of the property. Following that was further infrastructure, which included more pavement, electric for future development and water mains for hydrants. While this was in process, Chief Kelly realized that the railway that we wanted installed needed to be completed before the final pavement was in place. This took a tremendous effort, both cerebral and physical. From acquiring the surplus concrete railroad ties, to designing, fabricating, and installing the clips and anchors, to straightening the actual rails and fabricating stops on the rails...this was ‘Railroad Construction 101.’ Chief Kelly was able to put together a crew to get the railway and the two rail cars in place prior to the final pavement being laid.”

“Division Chief Kelly continues to be resourceful by acquiring four 10,000 gallon tanks that will be utilized for a drafting pit and confined space prop. Pat’s dedication, tireless and industrious efforts should not go unnoticed, that is why we are nominating him for the “*FFCA Fire Service Instructor of the Year.*”

Congratulations Pat!!!

*Until next month...be safe.*



**Operations**

By:  
John Johnson  
Deputy Chief

The year has come and gone. The last newsletter mentioned that Division Chief Kelly was nominated for Training Officer of the year. Chief Kelly was selected as the recipient of this award and will receive statewide recognition at the upcoming Fire Rescue East Conference held in Daytona Beach during January 2010. Chief Kelly’s dedication, devotion, and passion for the Fire Service are unmatched throughout the state and maybe even the country. Please acknowledge his well deserved award.

The New Year will have many challenges. Many of you will be making New Year Resolutions...here are some to ponder for your health sent to me via email from a friend.

1. Drink plenty of water.
2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
3. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants.
4. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy .
5. Make time to pray.
6. Play more games.
7. Read more books than you did in 2009.
8. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
9. Sleep for 7 hours.
10. Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. And while you walk, smile.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy New Year.



**Administration**

By:  
Glenn Joseph  
Deputy Chief

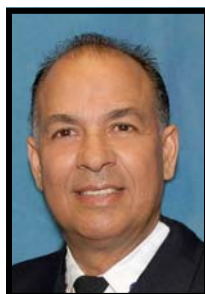


I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. In the last calendar year, the Fire Department enjoyed many successes; but the most important, in my opinion, is the addition of a medical unit at Fire Station 3. This permanent addition to our fleet will improve the level of emergency medical care provided to the residents of the barrier island.

I had an opportunity to sit on the interview panel in our last candidate screening process and was impressed with the quality of the applicant pool. In addition, every candidate to a person had very positive comments about the hiring process; the applicants were especially complimentary of our members who facilitated the testing process. Every candidate that we interviewed commented on the professionalism and the positive attitude demonstrated by our people. Irena Elmstrom, Warren Cann, Patrick Bayne and Brett Lea were mentioned by name by several of the applicants for their helpful attitude, positive feedback and their demeanor during the process. In my opinion, this level of professionalism exemplifies and distinguishes Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services from other organizations in the public safety community.

I would also like to thank Lynn Kunkel and her staff for their assistance in the past year. For example, Alicia's dedication and persistence allowed Fire Rescue to expedite the purchase of the Stryker Medical Cots, when the replacement of our medical cots became a Fire Department priority. I do not think we could have progressed as quickly as we did without her expertise and research skills. Thanks go to Diane LoPresti for her work on the City Physician RFP; and Sharlene Solis, thanks again for the very complex and detailed work you did on the uniform bid. The Fire Department appreciates the work each of you do for us.

As always, Be Competent, Be Professional, Be Safe.



**Emergency Management & Planning**

By:  
Raul Travieso  
Assistant Chief

The New Year promises to be an exciting one for the Planning and Emergency Management Section. Assistant Chief Raul Travieso announces Administrative Division Chief Joseph Majhess will be working along side Captain Todd Stewart to improve our building survey program and target occupancy pre-plan programs. Public Information Officer Frank Correggio will continue to manage the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) campaign and expand our public education fire safety program. Gail Jordan will be supporting our team and my office with

her clerical expertise during this year's annual review of Standard Operating Procedures, TAPIRS, and our Strategic Plan.

We are also looking forward to additional improvements in the Communication Center regarding a new program which is being implemented to include protocols for fire related emergencies and to complement our existing Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program.

We are also excited to announce that our Section will be responsible for the Fire Department's "Open House" scheduled for March 20, 2010.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your families a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous "New Year".



**Fire and Life Safety**

By:  
David Woodside  
Assistant Chief

Happy New Year from the Fire and Life Safety Division. We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season, and have great expectations for this turn of the decade.

The Aldridge-Benge Firefighter Safety Act unanimously passed the Florida House and Senate during the 2008 legislative session. The final rules for its enforcement recently became effective on **December 13, 2009**.

The statute requires the owner of any commercial, industrial or multi-



unit residential structure of three units or more constructed of light-frame trusses, to install an identification symbol adopted by rules of the State Fire Marshal near the main entry of the structure. The purpose of the symbol is to advise firefighters of the light weight truss construction within a building. The Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 69A-60.0081 provides direction to the building owner on how to comply with the code. Below are the general rules for marking buildings.

Structures with light weight trusses shall be marked with the approved symbol with the following letter(s) in the center circle:

- Light-weight truss roofs shall be marked with the letter “R”.
- Light-weight truss floor systems shall be marked with the letter “F”.
- Light-weight truss roof and floor systems shall be marked with the letters “R/F.”



FAC requires the symbol be placed/ marked within 24 inches to the left of the main entry door, and between 4 feet and 6 feet high from grade level. Everyone should be aware of the symbol and understand the implications in the event of a fire.

If any of these structures are identified during your building survey, please contact the Fire and Life Safety Division so that we can follow up on them. Additionally, Company Officers should note this information on their building surveys for firefighter safety. Please contact me if you have any questions at [dwoodside@ci.bocaraton.fl.us](mailto:dwoodside@ci.bocaraton.fl.us) or (561) 982-4030.



**Logistics & Support**

By:  
Mike Gergora  
Assistant Chief

2010 - “O”10 – Oh Wow! This year is starting off with a bang. Here’s what is on the agenda: the arrival of the new ladder truck, issuing the new bunker gear, ordering uniforms (over 2000 items), ISO re-inspection, and construction projects all just in the first month. This is followed immediately with receiving two new engines, reassigning first-due apparatus, and putting the bid out for our new Special Operations vehicle. The Logistics and Support staff is up for the challenge. Get ready for some exciting happenings.

Other outstanding Fire Rescue issues:

**Apparatus:**

Our new ladder truck has come off the assembly line and has arrived in Ft. Myers for the final fabrication details before being delivered to our shop. New Truck 5 is scheduled to arrive no later than January 6, 2010. Our Support staff is prepared to outfit the newest addition to our fleet with all of the equipment necessary to be placed in service by the last week in January. Training will be provided to familiarize personnel with the features and setup of this apparatus. I want to thank Assistant Chief Raul Travieso, Chief Mechanic Tom Sova, and Division Chief Pat Kelly for traveling to the Sutphen plant in Ohio on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to conduct a pre-delivery inspection. The following

pictures were taken on their trip (from left to right) showing the graphic scheme, and Raul and Tom trying to figure out what all that white stuff is on their car.



The Command Module will have been installed in the Battalion Chief’s vehicle by the time you receive this newsletter. This piece of equipment will assist Command Staff with incident/scene management. Please ask your Battalion Chief to show you the Command Module and demonstrate its capabilities.

The Aerial Truck will go into service as the first-due apparatus at Station 1 on January 4, 2010. We will also be reassigning other apparatus with the arrival of the two new



engines. I will post the new assignments in next month's newsletter.

### ***Special Operations:***

The draft specifications for the purchase of a new tractor/trailer Special Operations response vehicle have been completed. Division Chief Scott Johnston has done a great job with preparing this document. He was assisted by members of the Hazardous Materials Team in developing the specifications for what will be one of the premier Special Operations vehicles anywhere! This vehicle will give us the opportunity to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Boca Raton and provide our personnel with specialized equipment required for mitigating Hazardous Materials incidents.

### ***Equipment:***

The new bunker gear has arrived! Brunna Ward is in the process of checking this massive order for accuracy, segregating the gear to match your specific order, and then distributing the gear to our personnel. This will be an assiduous task that will take a couple of weeks, and you should be receiving your gear this month. Please be sure to thank Brunna for all of her hard work. In last month's newsletter, I requested that you check your clothing sizes with the sizing chart on the "Q" Drive in order to assure that we order properly fitting uniforms for you. As a friendly reminder, please email Brunna Ward with any changes by January 15, 2010.

### ***Facilities:***

*Station 1:* It has been reported that sugar ants have invaded the kitchen. We have dispatched a response team to combat these unwelcomed visitors.

*Station 2:* We continue to monitor the air conditioning situation in order to find the best solution prior to the return of the summer heat. Thank you for your patience while we work through this process with Facility Maintenance. I have made this one of my top priorities.

*Station 3:* The new lighting fixtures on the apparatus bay have been installed.

*Station 4:* The palm trees on Side A of the building are receiving a special diet due to what appears to be a nutrition deficiency. Thank you to A Platoon for bringing this to our attention and taking pride and ownership in our property.

*Station 5:* All of the wall lamps should be installed at this time. The delay was due to finding a suitable replacement for the fixtures that are no longer in production.

*Station 6:* The installation of the City Seal completes the installation of the station sign. Hopefully this will help minimize the requests for prescription orders from patrons of our neighbor to the east.

*Station 7:* The monitoring well is scheduled to be installed on January 5<sup>th</sup>. There should not be any interruption in our ability to provide service from this activity.

*Station 8:* Roof leaks have been reported and are being addressed.

*Support Facility:* A new storage shed is being installed next to the other sheds on the west side of the facility.

*Administration Building:* A new office is being constructed adjacent to Division Chief Mike O'Neil's

office. This space is being provided for the Medical Director.

*Miscellaneous:* Two additional hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed in all of our Fire Stations, Administration Building, and an additional dispenser at Fire & Life Safety.

### ***ISO:***

The time has arrived for the re-inspection by the ISO. The exact date for their visit has not yet been communicated to us, but it should occur at the end of this month. We have done everything possible to address their requirements. I am confident we will meet their expectations.

I am so thankful to be part of this organization and our fire department family! Your support and caring during this challenging time for my family has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Thank you for being such wonderful people.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions on how the Logistics and Support Staff can better serve your needs,

Until Then - Stay Safe and Professional!



### **The History of New Years Resolution:**

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar.

With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.



**Emergency Management & Planning**

By:  
Joe Majhess  
Division Chief

As we wrap up 2009, I have had a chance to meet with many of you regarding the status of the Department's CPR and Building Survey programs. Thank you all for taking the time and effort to bring your thoughts and concerns to me in a positive manner.



Regarding the CPR program, I look forward to moving ahead in a positive direction with the staff of Boca Raton Community Hospital in our Smart Heart partnership. Together, we will continue to provide high quality, professional instruction and strive to increase the number of City employees and community members receiving this potentially life saving training. Suggestions for program improvements are welcome. If you are interested in participating in the program as a CPR instructor or have any other thoughts or concerns, please email Gail Jordan or myself.

Concerning the Building Survey program, Capt. Todd Stewart has explored the many resources a well done survey could provide to the first arriving Company Officer and all Operations personnel on an emergency scene. This information will be evaluated, and those details approved to be added to the survey will be forwarded to Division Chief Mike O'Neil and our IT department

to be included in the new Building Survey software program. This is a time consuming process that will involve a joint effort from many personnel and departments. All will be kept abreast as we proceed.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.



**Special Operations**

By:  
Scott Johnston  
Division Chief

First and foremost, I hope you all had a Happy Holiday and that the "real" Santa Claus--not the one riding the BRFR engine--was extra good to you!!! I would also like to wish you and your families a Happy and Safe New year in 2010.

Things are busy in the Special Ops Division. The largest project going on presently is the completion of the new Special Ops rig specifications. We feel we have designed a very functional and state-of-the-art apparatus. The design we have chosen will consist of a "custom fire engine" cab / tractor with the research center actually built in the rear of the cab coupled to a trailer complete with all the storage we need, along with a very functional design. We should be in the actual bid process within the month of January. A special thanks to A/C Travieso for pointing us in the right direction, Asst. Chief Gergora for taking over in mid-stream and providing additional support, and especially FFD Nathan Nichols and FF Chris Owen

for providing the design and layout of the apparatus.



Our Haz Mat recert training got off the ground in December. Thanks to all that attended on their off time to accom-

plish this. We would not have been able to accomplish this if not for the help of Capt. Joe Brooks, Capt. Tom Carroll, FFD Doug Webb, FFD Nathan Nichols, FF Chris Owen, FF Matt Grunke, FF Karl Richards, FF John Gibson, and the drivers on HM6 who spent their whole day providing us with the necessary equipment, FFD Mike Lucas, FFD Mike Sklark, FFD Bill Puchalski and FFD Gary Swedenborg.

We already have some additional training on the schedule with outside instructors. The first being presented will be an advanced Grounding and Bonding class on January 11<sup>th</sup>. I have arranged for a representative from an electrical monitor company to come in and share his expertise in this field. This class will consist of BRFR personnel and others from the PBC regional Haz Mat Teams.

Look for more training to be posted in the near future in the areas of Radiological response, Con-Space and Rope Rescue.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.



Recent polls conducted by General Nutrition Centers, Quicken, and others shows that more than 50% of Americans vow to appreciate loved ones and spend more time with family and friends in the upcoming new year.



**Training & Safety**

By:  
Pat Kelly  
Division Chief

**Hello once again.**

As you are well aware, the Department is in the process of hiring new firefighters. If you have a specialty and/or are interested in assisting with recruit Firefighter Orientation Training, please contact Division Chief Pat Kelly.

**Wildland Firefighting**

The administration has decided that the wildland firefighting courses will now be voluntary for all personnel. The Department will cover the cost of the training, but attendees will not be compensated for attending class. Once completed, personnel will be eligible for statewide, mutual aid deployment to wildland fires, for which participants are normally compensated. We will determine the best delivery format and schedule for the courses once we have a head count. If you are interested, please contact Captain Greenberg to place your name on the list.

**Safety**

B Shift recently experienced a significant structure fire where the Battalion Chief correctly called for a defensive attack. This decision was based on fire conditions and resources that were immediately available. After the Post Incident Analysis, it was realized that had resources been more readily available, some first arriving officers may have decided on an offensive, interior attack; a decision which

could have had disastrous consequences. This realization underscores the critical need for an objective, complete size-up prior to committing personnel to an interior attack. In this case, an accurate size-up which included a 360 of the structure kept our personnel safe. Never take things for granted.

Till next time, be safe.



**MEMO**

**Service Years  
Recognition  
Month of December**

Frank Correggio	32
Dan Grader	32
Dave Covert	28
Bob Graffam	28
Mike Massengill	28
Joel Narcowich	28
Daryl Scott	28
Scott Stinecipher	28
Brett Lea	26
Vince Rubio	26
Joe Majhess	18
Ray Lintner	12
Matt Welhaf	8
Andrea Brennan	7
Jordan Flaschner	7
Brian Shapins	7
Craig Ashley	6
Chris Burden	6
Bob Cervi	6
Mark Dell	6
John Elliott	6
Joe Ildefonso	6
Chad Kozloski	6
Pat Lao	6
Brian Marlen	6
Curt Berryman	4
Gail Jordan	3



**January Birthdays**

- 01/01 Bill Puchalski
- 01/04 Mike O'Neil
- 01/05 Shaun Fix
- 01/07 Bill Fowler
- 01/10 Randy Lowe
- 01/10 Don Mullens
- 01/11 Bob Rubino
- 01/11 Sean Moss
- 01/12 Scott Cannarozzi
- 01/15 Paul Ceresa
- 01/15 John Treanor
- 01/16 Shelly Griffith
- 01/16 Sherry Griffith
- 01/17 Aaron Walden
- 01/18 Patty Van Buskirk
- 01/18 Mike Gergora
- 01/21 Gary Swedenborg
- 01/22 Lange Jacobs
- 01/23 Raul Reyes
- 01/23 Evan Gaub
- 01/26 Pat Kelly
- 01/27 Craig Ashley
- 01/28 Mario Eaton
- 01/29 Ron Devecki
- 01/30 John Wilson
- 01/30 Matt Welhaf
- 01/30 Keith Miller
- 02/01 Craig Montgomery
- 02/03 Erik Solensten
- 02/04 Curt Berryman
- 02/05 Pat Rea
- 02/05 Scott Shadoin
- 02/05 Carmen Aragona
- 02/08 Amy Ross





As Reported By:  
Frank Correggio  
PIO



### Fire Marshal's Association of Palm Beach County Installs New Officers

On Friday, December 4, 2009, the Fire Marshal's Association along with The Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Training Officers and the Association of EMS Providers all of Palm Beach County held its Annual Joint Officer Installation Luncheon at Boca Raton Fire Administration Building.



Among the new officers being installed was Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Assistant Fire Chief David Woodside, who was sworn in as the President for the Fire Marshal's Association of Palm Beach County. Swearing in the new officers was Keynote Speaker, Julius Halas, Director and State Fire Marshal for the State of Florida.



Chief Wood presented the Department's "Excellence Award" to two lifeguards from the Swim & Racquet Center, Lt. Mia Turner and Captain David Dovell, and two off-duty firefighters, Rhett Martin and John Elliott, for their assistance with an unconscious cardiac patient.



Advisor Matt Tupper, "Outstanding Achievement Award" winner Casey Gugliotta, Chief Tom Wood, & Lead Advisor Frank Correggio.

### Annual Fire Explorer Awards

On December 7, 2009, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorer Post #315 held its third annual awards night, sponsored by the Boca Raton Community Hospital at the Dawson Theater. Twenty young men and women from Boca Raton received awards of achievement for their work as Fire Explorers. Deputy Chief Zane Smith and Chief of the Post Jonathan Santana received the award for Fire Explorer of the Year. Explorer Casey Gugliotta received the Countess de Hoernle Outstanding Achievement Award, which was named in her honor for her outstanding work in our community. Fire Explorer Sara Jacobson and Matt Reeves received their gold badges for being promoted to Lieutenant. Boca Raton Fire Explorers honored Countess Henrietta de Hoernle with a firefighter statue for her friendship, kindness and support.

Along with family members and friends, nearly 100 turned out for this event. Also present was Fire Chief Tom Wood; Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Joseph; Local 1560 President, Captain John Luca; and Jan Savrick from the Boca Raton Community Hospital Foundation. The keynote speaker was Chief Robert Bertone, Training Chief at the Coral Springs Fire Academy.

Boca Raton Fire Explorer Post # 315 was started in 2004, and the success of the program continues to grow. In February 2007, after successful completion of the fire academy, EMT and paramedic school, Boca Raton Fire Rescue hired its first Fire Explorer from Post #315. Since that time three additional Boca Raton Fire Explorers have been hired.



**Explorers Shine at Fire Competition**

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorers attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Broward Sheriff's Office Explorer / Cadet Competition held at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach on Saturday, December 12, 2009. The Boca Raton Explorer Post # 315 Competition Team placed in six out of seven events and took home seven trophies.

The Firematic's Competition brought eight teams from Dade, Broward, Palm Beach counties, Naples, and Ft. Meyers to compete in seven different events. These events help to promote teamwork and help test the team's skill in hose handling and hose operation.



*L to R: Front Row: Ian Berry, Chad Watler, Jordan Euliss, Matt Reeves, Joe Berry, Nick Galiardo; Back Row: Frank Correggio, Mike Slattery, Casey Gugliotta, Sara Jacobson, Matt Tupper*

*Photo by Crystal Moreno*

Boca Raton Fire Explorers won four 1st Place, two 2nd Place, and won the 1<sup>st</sup> Place trophy for overall points. Seven members, some veterans and some new explorers, made up the Boca team. These dedicated and motivated young men and women trained for almost three months, 2-3 times per week to get ready for this event.

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorer Post # 315 is now setting their sights on attending The 2010 Explorer / Cadet Conference and Competition, which will be held in Coral Springs in February.



*Photo by F. Correggio*

**Explorers Food Drive**

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorer Post # 315 worked together and purchased food for **Boca Helping Hands**. The 21 members of Post # 315 individually purchased approximately **450 pounds** of non-perishable items to help this wonderful organization, who helps families in need. Linda Gove from Boca Helping Hands met with members from Post # 315 to accept the donation.

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Explorer Post # 315 is

made up of area youth between the ages of 14 and 21. Fire Exploring is designed to give the youth in the community the opportunity to discover the exciting field of firefighting and emergency medical services. Participating in local food drives as well as other charitable events is part of the Fire Explorers commitment to help in the community.