



# BOCA FIRE RESCUE NET

September 2009

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



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

## September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Ceremony

Again, mark your calendars for Friday, September 11, 2009, starting at 9:00AM at the Mizner Park Amphitheater. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Palm Beach County and Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services are hosting the ceremony this year. Our keynote speaker will be R. David Paulison, former Director of F.E.M.A. Amber Leigh (local country music star) will be singing the National Anthem. Please invite your neighbors and friends.

## Retirement and Promotions

EMS Captain **Scott Matheson** retired from the Department after serving nearly 28 years effective July 31, 2009. Scott's distinguished career included:

- 1983 - Firefighter of the Year
- 1995 - Firefighter of the Year
- 2000 - Paramedic of the Year

Scott's leadership in everything EMS was evident in the training he provided to the Department through South Tech, Palm Beach Community College and here as an instructor and mentor to new paramedics. Plans are underway to recognize Scott's retirement at the same time as Jerry Cochrane's retirement. Jerry's last shift is September 29<sup>th</sup>. In the interim, please wish Scott

well with his future plans.

Effective Monday, August 10, 2009, **Pat Bayne** was promoted to EMS Captain and **Rob Cervi** was promoted to Lieutenant. The "Badge and Award Ceremony" was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at the 6500 Building Auditorium. Please join me in congratulating both of these outstanding employees.



*Chief Wood, Pat & Shannon Bayne*



*Chief Wood, Bob & Mindi Cervi*

## Excellence Award – CPR Off-Duty

On June 19, 2009, Firefighter **Rhett Martin** was off-duty and on his way to his part-time employment as an emergency department technician at Boca Raton Community Hospital when he saw an elderly gentleman slumped in the hedges off of St. An-



*Chief Wood and Rhett Martin*

drews Boulevard in Boca Raton. Rhett witnessed that the gentleman still had his groceries in hand and was unsuccessful at getting up. Rhett immediately turned his car back around to assist.

Once at the scene, Rhett noticed that the gentleman was disoriented, pale and sweaty. Rhett called 911 – but while waiting for Emergency Medical Services to arrive, he saw that the man was unconscious and had lost his pulse. As the Boca Raton Fire Rescue paramedics arrived, Rhett began lifesaving efforts right there on the side of the road.

"It is a humbling experience when you don't have the medical technology that you are so accustomed to in the emergency department," says Rhett. "You definitely have to rely on your own trained abilities."

Once CPR was administered, the gentleman's pulse was restored and he was transported to the emergency department at Boca Raton Community Hospital. Miraculously, the man suffered no permanent damage thanks to Rhett's efforts.



“We’re very proud of him,” says Judie Tippett, director of emergency services at Boca Raton Community Hospital. “He gives his heart-and-soul to the patients he cares for and we witness his heroic efforts on a daily basis in the emergency department.”

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services is also proud of Rhett Martin and he is deserving of our Department Excellence Award.  
 Congratulations Rhett!!!

**Excellence Award**  
**Railroad Construction 101**

**Award recipients:** Deputy Fire Chief **Glenn Joseph**, Division Chief **Scott Johnston**, Division Chief **Pat Kelly**, Battalion Chief **Brett Lea**, EMS Captain **Pat Bayne**, Captain **Mitch Greenberg**, Captain **Ron Hartley**, Captain **Michelle Murphy**, Captain **Phil Strasser**, Firefighter/Driver **War-**

**ren Cann**, Firefighter **Jesus Barrera**, Firefighter **Tomas Martin**, Firefighter **Joel Narcowich**, **Thomas Sova**, Equipment Maintenance Specialist, **David Hobson**, Vehicle Technician III and **Carlos Vidaurreta**, Vehicle Technician I

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 Pat Kelly, the two rail cars are now set 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”. This portion of the prop area will be known as “Kelly’s Railroad Crossing.”

[see page 7 for photos]

Pat recently wrote “This was a monumental task, and is yet another example of what can be accomplished if we all pull together. They all [those listed above] left a great deal of sweat and a few drops of blood out there, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.” I echo Pat’s words. Congratulations to all of you!

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Senior Inspector **Matt Welhaf** and Captain **Michelle Murphy** as they were both accepted into the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program (four years) this past month. They join Assistant Chief **Dave Woodside** (completing his second year) and Deputy Chief **Glenn Joseph** (completing his first year). The rules changed last year and it now takes a minimum of a Bachelors degree to start the program.

*Until next month...be safe.*



Photo by Jay Bell

*Glenn Joseph, Scott Johnston, Pat Kelly, Pat Bayne, Mitch Greenbert, Phil Strasser, Warren Cann  
 Jesus Barrera, Joel Narcowich, Tom Sova, Dave Hobson, Carlos Vidaurreta, and Fire Chief Tom Wood.*



**Fire Chiefs Association  
of Palm Beach County  
Hosting Memorial Ceremony  
to Honor the Fallen of  
September 11, 2001**

On September 11, 2001, the United States withstood one of the darkest days in her proud history. In the days that followed, the men and women of the nation's fire services were heartbroken to the core as scores of their brothers failed to return home from Ground Zero. When the searching stopped, 343 firefighters had answered the final call and the nation mourned their fallen heroes, who laid themselves so unselfishly at the altar of sacrifice. With heads bowed in sadness and in reverence to their brothers, the nation's firefighters spoke a single solemn vow, *"We shall never forget."*

On September 11, 2009, the Fire Chiefs' Association of Palm Beach County will honor the promise as part of National Patriot's Day with a "Remembrance Ceremony" to be held at Mizner Park Amphitheater located at 590 Plaza Real in Boca Raton beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event will include participants and speakers from fire and law enforcement departments across all of Palm Beach County, and will also include fire apparatus, honor guards, EMS and law enforcement personnel, plus pipe and drum corps. The featured guest speaker, who will deliver the keynote memorial address, will be R. David Paulison, retired FEMA Director. In keeping with fire service tradition, the *"ringing of the bells"* will toll throughout the amphitheater, rung from a ceremonial brass station bell to honor *"The 343."* The ringing of the bells represents the

**FIRE CHIEFS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY  
PRESENT:**

**9/11 Remembrance Ceremony**

**September 11, 2009**

**9:00 am - 10:30 am**

**Mizner Park Amphitheater  
433 Plaza Real  
Boca Raton, Florida**

**Direct calls to 561-982-4019**

official end of an emergency and the return to quarters of all firefighters. The bells ring out five tones, three times in the case of a line-of-duty death, and this marks a firefighter's answering of the "final call." There will also be a 21-gun salute to honor the fallen from law enforcement.

In the aftermath of this infamous tragedy, 2996 civilians were either confirmed dead or reported missing and unaccounted for. In addition to the 343 firefighters, there were also 23 New York City police officers, 37 officers from the New York Port Authority, and 8 private EMS personnel.

**The Fire Chiefs' Association of Palm Beach County  
would like to invite you to be part of this special event.**



*At this time, we would also like to express our sympathies to retired firefighter Gary Pinkocze's family. Gary passed away suddenly last week while vacationing in Virginia.*



**Operations**  
By:  
John Johnson  
Deputy Chief

The Operations Division would like to thank and commend all personnel that responded and assisted with the structure fire at Boca Helping Hands on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The first-in crew made a great stop and contained the fire to only one bay of this very unique structure. The fire was in a building that had gone through many renovations over the years. This included the adding of structures, which changed the building from an old army barracks to a light industrial woodshop, then to its present condition of an office/warehouse. The building was also expanded and consisted of several different types of building construction. The rear of the structure was CBS with a bar joist and light weight concrete flat roof. The front consisted of office space that was wood frame construction with a drop ceiling. The roof was made of the old tongue and groove roofing materials. The area between the ceiling and roof is where the fire extended, and was extremely difficult to reach and extinguish.

Coming up this month: the Department has scheduled two promotional exams. This year the tests will be for Battalion/Division Chief and Firefighter/Driver Engineer. We look forward to a successful promotional process, and wish everyone that will be taking the exams good luck.



**Administration**  
By:  
Glenn Joseph  
Deputy Chief

**The Budget**

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009/10 has been published. The total proposed budget for Fire Rescue for the next fiscal year is \$33,416,500.00. The budget distribution is as follows:

- Operations accounts 78%
- Administration 9%
- Fire and Life Safety 5%
- Logistics and Support 5%
- Dispatch 3%

Proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2009/10 includes the following:

- Cardiac Monitor Replacement
- Completion of the Protective-Clothing Replacement Program (Bunker Gear)
- Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) Replacements (phase 1 of 2)

The last step in the approval process of the proposed budget is City Council approval. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009.

**Let's do the numbers for July:**

- **Total EMS Alarms** 788
- Average Resp. Time 5.16 Minutes
- EMS Unit (most alarms) Medic 2 183
- **Total Fire Alarms** 234
- Average Resp. Time 5.96 Minutes
- Fire Company (most alarms) Engine 5 171

- Other Incidents 139
- **Total Alarms** 1,273

Finally, I would like to express my condolences to the Pinkocze family for their loss. Gary spent the better part of his life in the service of his community, his wife, his children and the Fire Rescue family. We are all better as individuals, as a community and as an organization for having known, worked and lived with him. We will miss you Gary.

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



**Fire & Life Safety**  
By:  
David Woodside  
Assistant Chief

**Fire Watch**

Recently on a few occasions, I have been asked to clarify the need for a fire watch. In speaking to a company officer, I realized that there was a lack of understanding of what a fire watch really means or what is required.

There are two situations that would require a building to be on a fire watch: impairment to the fire alarm system, or impairment of the fire suppression system. Impairment means that a significant portion of the system is either out of service or not operating. NFPA 101 9.6.1.6 and NFPA 1 13.7.1.4.4 states that if a fire alarm system is out of service for greater than four hours in a 24 hour period, the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided. NFPA 101 9.7.6.1 and NFPA 1 13.1.9 states



that when a fire protection system is out of service for greater than four hours in a 24 hour period, the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch be established. Once a fire watch has been established, it shall remain in place until the system that was impaired has been returned to service.

A fire watch is a special assignment of a trained person or persons dispatched to walk the affected area. A fire watch involves special actions beyond the normal staffing. The individuals assigned to a fire watch should have training in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification. Their main responsibility is to walk the area looking for signs of combustions, and to notify the fire department and the building occupants in the event that an emergency should arise. The person should have an understanding of the particular fire safety situation, and the person assigned should have the ability to extinguish small fires and to protect the public from life safety danger. We require an hourly log documenting the time and areas of the building monitored during the previous hour.

**Knox Box at Utility Services**

The Knox boxes at Utility Services have undergone a transition. Each building no longer has a separate Knox box and key. There is now only one Knox box with a key, and it is located at the Guard House at the Airport Road entrance.

Inside the Knox box is a “cyber key” that provides access to all buildings at Utility Services.

The first arriving unit will need to retrieve the key from the box in order to access any of the buildings and the corresponding panels.

*See photos on page 11.*



**Special Operations**  
By:  
Scott Johnston  
Division Chief

**Florida State Haz Mat Operational Readiness Evaluation (O.R.E)**

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Delray Beach Fire Rescue and Boca Raton Fire Rescue were evaluated together as “One Team” available to respond anywhere in the state. I am happy and proud to let you know that once again, we passed with 100% readiness. The evaluations are funded by the S.E.R.C (State Emergency Response Commission) and conducted by a third party vendor based in Florida.

The evaluation process goes over everything from policies and procedures, equipment, and an actual interview process of personnel. The interview process is to find out if the personnel who will actually have “boots on the ground” are familiar with the policies and procedures. Questions asked pertained to: have they received medical evaluations and when were they last conducted, if they have been involved in ongoing training, and are the policies and procedures available to personnel? Questions pertaining to procedures you would actually go through on a Haz Mat response were presented, and all members from both Departments had the same answers across the board. We are fortunate to have our Palm Beach County Regional Haz Mat SOG which spells out most of the information they ask for.

Special thanks needs to go out to Capt. Dan Coine, FFD Scott Brooks,

FFD Mike Sklark, and one of our newest Haz Mat Techs, Karl Richards. It was their knowledge and abilities which helped us fly through the interview portion.

**New Florida Marine Fuel Regulations/ FS 327.66 “Carriage of Fuel Vessels”**

A presentation was given recently by one of the Commanding Officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission on a new statute which prohibits extra fuel being carried on a vessel. This law has been put in place due to all of the smuggling of illegal



Photo 5: Courtesy of Miami PD

immigrants and drugs onto the shores of Florida. Over the years, we have responded to countless calls of containers on the beach -- anywhere from 2 liter soda bottles to 55 gallon drums, obviously used for carrying extra fuel. This is directly related to



Photo 6: Courtesy of Miami PD

smugglers carrying extra fuel on board to travel greater distances with heavier loads, and then discarding the containers in the ocean which eventually wash up on shore. The random discarding of these containers poses both a safety and environmental hazard to all who enjoy our waters. This new law has a direct impact on how you carry extra fuel



when traveling on the water. When responding to any suspicious calls of vessels being "heavy" in the water, excessive smell of fuel vapors, or excessive containers on board, make sure you include Law Enforcement early in the call, and most of all operate safely and with caution when dealing with such incidents.

To view the statute in its entirety, visit:

[http://www.myfwc.com/docs/CommissionMeetings/2008/2008\\_Sep\\_IllegalTransportExcessiveFuel.pdf](http://www.myfwc.com/docs/CommissionMeetings/2008/2008_Sep_IllegalTransportExcessiveFuel.pdf)



EMS  
By:  
Bob Nelligan  
Division Chief

This may be my last newsletter as I will be transferring to the Battalion Chief position soon. The position becomes available as **Battalion Chief Jerry Cochrane is retiring on September 30th after almost 38 years of dedicated service.** Jerry's contributions to the Department go well beyond his years of service, as he has been a champion for firefighter rights and benefits throughout his career.

I have enjoyed my nearly three years as the Division Chief of EMS, and we have accomplished many things during my tenure in this position. Very few of them could have been accomplished without the as-

sistance from many dedicated co-workers. One of the most important additions to our Department when I came into this office was the addition of the Assistant Chief of EMS Operations. This addition allowed me to concentrate on field tasks while the Assistant Chief focused on administrative duties and the Documented reporting system. Many thanks to retired Assistant Chief Cindy Metcalf for providing guidance to me during the early months of being in this position. I would also like to thank all of the Administrative Staff, especially current Assistant Chief of EMS Operations Mike Barker and the entire Secretarial Staff for providing the support that was necessary to move forward with the many projects that have been completed. *Special thanks to Joanne Barnes, Dave Rosenthal and Amy Ross for providing a great deal of support to the EMS Division.*

A great deal of thanks goes to all of the members of Boca Raton Fire Rescue, who have submitted suggestions for updating equipment, removing obsolete equipment and providing input on how we, as a Department, can deliver our services to the public in a more efficient manner. The list of those submitting suggestions is long, and while we could not make all of the suggested changes, every one of those suggestions was greatly appreciated.

The EMS Captains have been the workhorses of the EMS Division, and I can't thank them enough for all that they do. They have unparalleled skills and experience, and have been my eyes and ears for the past 3 years. Much of what we do as a Department comes from information provided by them. These dedicated members bring a wealth of knowledge to every call, and have been

essential in providing consistent, high quality medical care on a day-to-day basis. They have also been a pathway for getting information and changes from the EMS office to the streets. The Battalion Chiefs have also been an essential part of providing ways to accomplish EMS issues. I cannot remember a time when the Battalion Chiefs did not go out of their way to provide support to the EMS Division.

The final piece of the EMS puzzle is Dr. Terry Cohen. Dr. Cohen has been a pleasure to work with over the years and he has provided leadership and supported when needed.

Once again, thank you to everyone that I have worked with during the past three years in EMS. I have learned a lot, but I know that I have a lot more to learn.



- |       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| 09/04 | Ryan Kelly      |
| 09/08 | Mike Lucas      |
| 09/09 | Jesus Rodriguez |
| 09/12 | Scott Kovi      |
| 09/14 | Tom Giddings    |
| 09/16 | Sue Sovo        |
| 09/17 | Ken Bailes      |
| 09/18 | Dave Weyer      |
| 09/20 | Don Horn        |
| 09/20 | James Haag      |
| 09/22 | Jesse Duffy     |
| 09/28 | Jeff Ross       |
| 10/01 | Kurt Holoboff   |
| 10/04 | Randy Hunsinger |
| 10/04 | Jeff Matheson   |
| 10/05 | John Johnson    |



Fire Support & Training Facility — Updated August 24, 2009. Photo by Aerial Photography, Inc. — Provided by Kaufman Lynn General Contractors.



### Logistics & Support

By:  
Raul Travieso  
Assistant Chief

With the help of a great many volunteers, a railway track and cars, along with added paving, were put in place at the Logistics, Fire Support and Training Facility.

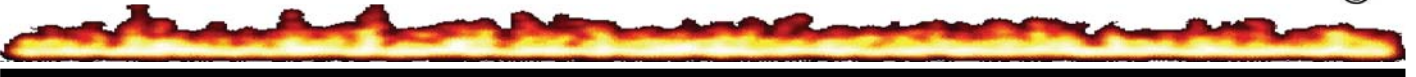
These two additions will assist in the confined space training, vehicle maneuvers, and railway hazardous materials training.

The railway “crossing” was named in honor of Captain Pat Kelly, who spear-headed the work. A “job well done” Pat!



Photo by John Johnson

*Captain Pat Kelly with his family, son Andrew, wife Tina, and son Eric.*



**Communications**

By: Mike O'Neil  
Division Chief

**Fire Station Alerting System**

The month of September will be an extremely busy month starting with the installation of two fire station alerting (FSA) systems. All of the equipment for the IP-based (Internet Protocol) FSA has arrived, and the vendor will start the process of configuring the servers, IP addresses, and the individual fire stations for the switch over. The operational "go live" date is the beginning of November. We do not expect any significant time outages greater than several hours for the switch over.

We are also installing a complete back up FSA to comply with the requirements of the Insurance Services Organization. In the event of a complete system failure with the primary FSA, the back up FSA will operate on a different radio system, and will interface with the existing station speaker system. Both systems will have voice logging/recording enabled.

**New Apparatus**

The Department has received seven new vehicles: five Medic Units, one EMS Captain vehicle, and a Battalion Chief's vehicle. The logistical effort to configure the installations of communications equipment is enormous with the removal of existing radios, David Clark systems, State required EMS radios, movement of medic units, and the changing of radio aliases. The Department mechanics have done a tremendous job in the prepping, and coordina-

tion of the stocking and equipment transfer for these vehicles, while still handling the workload of all of our in service apparatus.



**Training & Safety**

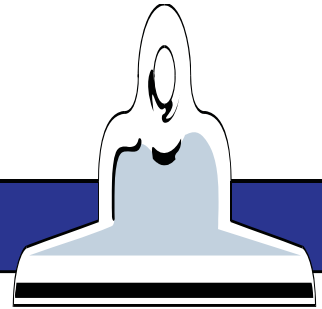
By: Pat Kelly  
Division Chief

Hello once again,

Promotional Exams are just around the corner. Good luck to all of those who signed up to take either the Driver's or Battalion Chief's Test. By now there will probably be many individuals preparing for the practical portion of the Driver's test. Please remember that the asphalt at Banyan Trail is new and can be easily damaged. If you are going to drive on the new asphalt, please make sure that the vehicle is moving before you turn the steering wheel.

Once again, if you are working on Fire Officer Two certification and need the ICS 300 class, please contact Jennifer Miller at 982-4042 or via e-mail to place your name on the list. If we get enough interest, we will schedule an in-house class.

Till next time, be safe.



**MEMO**

**AUGUST SERVICE AWARDS**

NAME YEARS

- Randy Lowe ..... 28
- Aaron Oatley ..... 13
- Jesus Rodriguez ..... 10
- Warren Hunt ..... 9
- Bob Rubino ..... 9
- Ed Guinn ..... 7
- Tom Karbowski ..... 7
- Scott Cannarozzi ..... 3
- Irena Elmstrom ..... 3
- Rhett Martin ..... 3
- Shea Miller ..... 3
- Karl Richards ..... 3
- Andres Veas ..... 3
- David Weyer ..... 3
- Tom Wood ..... 3  
(retired in Drop Plan, then came back as Fire Chief)



**Fireman's Fund Grant Helps Boca Raton Fire Rescue Purchase Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

On September 28, 2008, three people died from carbon monoxide poisoning in Boca Raton, two of which were Florida Atlantic University (FAU) students. Now, thanks to a \$27,000 grant, the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department will be creating an initiative whereby carbon monoxide detectors will be distributed to FAU students. The grant is being awarded by Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

A press conference to discuss the carbon monoxide initiative was held on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 11:15 a.m. in the auditorium at the 6500 Building. Boca Raton Mayor Susan Whelchel, Fire Chief Tom Wood, FAU President Frank Brogan, and Mr. & Mrs. Barry Smith, the parents of Derek Smith, one of the FAU students, were on hand to receive the check from executives of Taylor & Taylor Associates and Fireman's Fund.

Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning death in America. It is an odorless, invisible gas which can be given off by common appliances in homes - or even a car left running in an attached garage. Through education, the installation and use of carbon monoxide detectors will help reduce the risk of poisoning and keep tragedies such as these from happening in Boca Raton and surrounding communities.

The grant package is part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training, and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to over 1,400 different departments totaling more than \$23 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products, like Taylor & Taylor Associates, are able to direct these grants to support their local fire departments.

*Photo by Jay Bell*



As Reported By:

**Frank Correggio**  
Public Information Officer



**Pictured left to right:**

**Captain Warren Hunt,**  
**FF/P Neil Duffy**  
**Captain Jerry O'Brien,**  
**FF/P Chris Owen**

**Chris Owen and**  
**Jerry O'Brien using a**  
**special meter that detects**  
**natural gas.**



**Ruptured Gas Line Near Boca Raton Home**

On August 21, 2009, at approximately 1:00 pm, Boca Raton Fire Rescue responded to a call for a gas line rupture at 212 Key Palm Road. Firefighters arrived within minutes to find natural gas escaping from a one inch gas line that had apparently been ruptured by workman. Key Palm Road was shut down to all traffic while fire crews handled the incident. Working quickly to control the leak, crews used a special clamp to secure the line which was located approximately 3 feet below the surface. There were no homes that needed to be evacuated, no injuries and no damage to any of the homes in the area. Florida Public Utilities was called in to repair the damaged line.

*Photos by Frank Correggio*



***Local Boca Raton Business  
Damaged by Flames and Smoke***

On August 24th, Boca Raton firefighters responded to a report of a possible structure fire at Boca Helping Hands on N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street. A worker returned to the office and noticed smoke coming from the structure and called 9-1-1. Firefighters arrived in minutes, entered the building and quickly extinguished flames located in two offices. Crews set up high powered exhaust fans to remove the smoke, used Thermal Imaging Cameras to check for fire extension and Hazardous Material technicians used a special monitor to check carbon monoxide levels. Fire crews noticed that the fire had extended into the attic. Unable to reach the fire from inside the structure, crews cut holes in the roof where they were able to reach and extinguish the flames. There were no injuries reported. The cause of the fire and estimated damage is unknown at this time. The fire is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office, and is being considered suspicious.

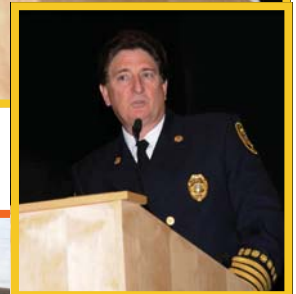




**Knox Box  
At  
Utility Services**



**More Photos . . .**



*From the presentation of the CO<sub>2</sub> detectors by the parent of the FAU student; Mayor Whelchel; Chief Wood.*



*Captain Pat Kelly  
"unveiling his sign" at  
the Logistics complex.*

*Talking with Assistant  
Chief Raul Travieso.*





September **11**, 2001