



# FULLY INVOLVED

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TAMPA FIRE RESCUE

February 2015

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Greeks bearing gifts USF Pi Kappa Alpha chapter donates \$10K



From left, Don Rice, Chief Tom Forward, Hernan Hernandez and Jordan Romero.

Photo by Jason A. Penny

### What's Inside

**Chief's Column**  
*Career Advancement*  
Page 2

**On the Air**  
*Your Favorite Love Song*  
Page 3

**The case for insurance**  
*Capt. Wesley Adwell*  
Page 4

**Operations Division  
Update**  
*Chief Nick LoCicero*  
Page 5

**Battle of the Badges**  
Page 6

Tampa Fire Chief Tom Forward received a check for \$10,100 from representatives of the University of South Florida (Zeta Pi) chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity February 6. Chapter President Hernan Hernandez presented the check after raising funds from the 2014 Fireman's Challenge event held on October 25 last year. The money will support the new Tampa Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

"You guys serve the Tampa Bay community every day and we are really proud of you and proud to support you," said Hernandez. Hernandez also gave framed photographs of the event as well as a framed photo signed by members of the Zeta Pi chapter to Chief Forward as a token of their support for the department.

The Zeta Pi chapter held their first Fireman's Challenge in 2013 and it will continue to be an

annual event. This year the event will take place again on October 25. Students from the various sororities and fraternities at USF make up teams that compete in events which include a rope course, a fire hose drag and fire engine pull. Tampa Fire Rescue has supported the challenge by providing equipment as well as professional guidance on how best to compete.

Chief Forward said that he was impressed by the fraternity's leadership and was grateful for the dedication of its members in putting on such a successful event.

"It's easy for the nation to consider that our youth that are coming on board now really, really have lost touch with charitable things or the things that really matter in the community," Forward said. "But these brothers here from USF and the PIKES fraternity really are the epitome of recog-



## From the Chief:

### *Put me in, Coach*

**D**uring the past few promotional sessions I have had the opportunity to meet with prospective members of the department who have had questions about career progression and what it takes to get promoted in this organization.

As many of you are aware, all candidates for promotion must meet the minimum Tampa Fire Rescue Collective Bargain Agreement (Local 754 CBA) requirements to sit for the written exam, practical exam, and oral presentations if required, and must successfully pass these exams in order to be placed on a certified promotions roster.

Beyond meeting the minimum eligibility requirements and to emphasize a “culture of progressive learning and continuous process improvement” that is critical to our mission and to ensure that the community we serve has the finest professionals delivering these services, I take great effort in reviewing the service records of each qualified candidate in order to make the most informed decision for every promotion I make.

In addition to the candidate’s posted score, I take into account the individual’s time in service (TIS) that is, how long the candidate has been employed with Tampa Fire Rescue. I take into account the candidate’s time in grade (TIG), which is how long the candidate has been working in their current assigned/duty/rank position. Third, I take into consideration any and all certifications and licenses that the candidate has amassed over their career that will lend or support a greater opportunity for success for both the candidate and the crew that they will ultimately lead. The fourth promotional focus area I take into consideration is the candidate’s formal edu-

cation accomplishments and pursuits. Our work force has changed dramatically, and a progressive formal education coupled with career and industry knowledge and experience provides our workforce the greatest opportunity for future successes at all levels. The fifth area of concern that I evaluate is the candidates’ disciplinary history. This concern should be obvious and should require no additional comments for supportive understanding. Finally, I take into consideration any and all ancillary, extracurricular, charitable organization, community function, non-profit foundations involvement and other duties and functions of involvement where the candidate is giving of him or herself, without compensation, to better our communities.

Furthermore, your leadership wants to see your long-term demonstrated ability to operate at the next level. If you want to become a Driver Engineer, take responsibility and work like a Driver Engineer. If you want to be a Lieutenant, take responsibility and lead like a Lieutenant. Everyday operate at the next level. I challenge each of you to continue to push yourself and put yourself out there. Take every available opportunity to further your training, education and leadership skills. Master your craft. Teach each other. Support each other and build each other. My vision is to have Tampa Fire Rescue soar to new heights of teamwork in 2015. I challenge each and every one of you to be your most outstanding self.

I encourage all members of the department to ask their supervisors for promotion feedback. If you do not know why you are not getting promoted, it is time that you have an honest conversation with your supervisor or make an appointment through your chain of command to see the fire chief. I promise I will hold all supervisors accountable for assisting in scheduling your appointment and giving honest feedback.

There are several opportunities within the department to demonstrate leadership. All of you have incredible talents and abilities and I encourage each of you to find more ways to use your gifts to make Tampa Fire Rescue better. Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi states, “Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.”

Stay safe out there and I’ll see you soon...

#### Fully Involved

<b>Tampa Fire Rescue Chief:</b>	Chief Tom Forward
<b>Public Information Officer:</b>	Jason A. Penny
<b>Contributors:</b>	Chief Nick LoCicero Capt. Wesley Adwell

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# On the Air

February is here and Valentine's Day is on the calendar. We asked:

**What is your favorite love song?**



*All My Exes Live In Texas by George Strait. That song epitomizes my philosophy of life and love.*

- F/F Bryan Frink  
Engine 6C



*Whenever You Call by Mariah Carey. I love that Motown sound and she really knows how to sing in that style.*

- Maureen Patricio  
Executive Aide



*Rock My World (Little Country Girl) by Brooks & Dunn. Country girls are their own breed and they don't look too bad in jeans.*

- F/F Zachery McKee  
Engine 7C



*Let's Get It On. Not the Marvin Gaye version but the Jack Black version (Barry Jive and the Uptown 5) from the movie High Fidelity. I'm an emotional man and I really love my wife.*

- F/F Jonathan Hamilton  
Truck 1C

## Airport crew at Gasparilla Children's Parade

Tampa Fire Rescue ARFF team members along with other Tampa International Airport staff participated in the Children's Gasparilla Parade January 24 for the second year in a row. The parade has been held annually since 1947 and takes place along Bayshore Blvd. This year

ARFF-7, a 1986 Oshkosh vehicle was used in lieu of a traditional Gasparilla type float and was accompanied by over 200 aviation authority personnel. This year ARFF's Captain Al Schaffer performed cooking duties for TIA employees and their families.

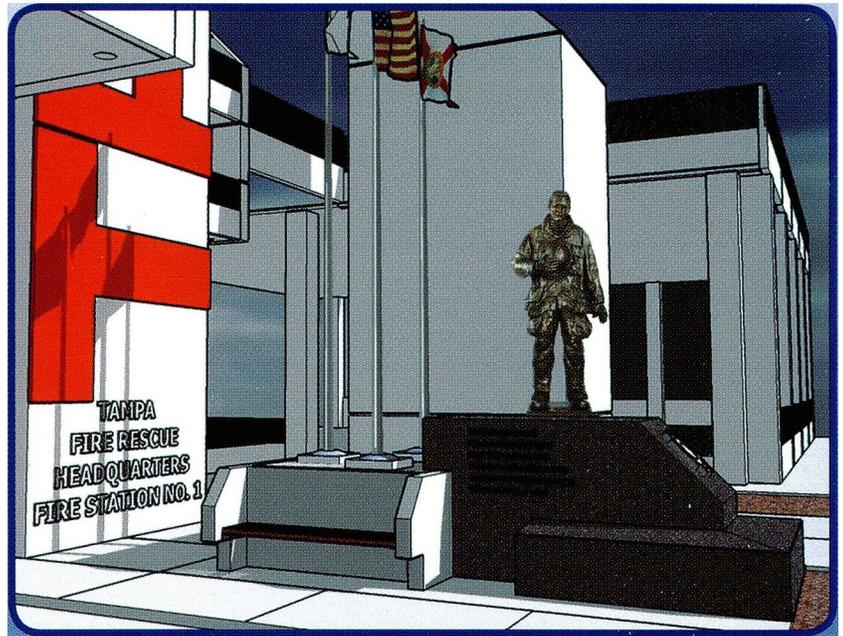


## Greeks

nizing... what it is to be involved in your community.”

Forward said the fraternity has shown its commitment to the health and safety of the community by their deeds and actions. “They’re not just talking the talk,” Forward said. “They’re walking the walk.”

In addition to Pi Kappa Alpha, the City of Tampa Retired Fire & Police Association and the Tampa Retired Firefighters Association have both donated significant funds in support of the memorial. According to a fund-raising letter from the Friends of Tampa Firefighters, Inc., “The memorial will be erected on Zack Street at the main entrance to the Headquarters building. It will reflect etched black granite with a life-sized bronze statue of a firefighter postured in a solemn stance, flanked by our nation’s flag, the Fallen Firefighter’s flag and the City of Tampa flag. A light system will be affixed that allows for continuous illumination in low light conditions.” According to Friends of Tampa Firefighters the approximate cost for the memorial is \$160,000. The Tampa Firefighters Memorial dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 11.



Artist's rendering of the Tampa Firefighters Memorial to be located at Tampa Fire Rescue Station 1

## Insurance for the ones you love

By Capt. Wesley Adwell, Truck 21B



Many consider February as the month of love. For Valentine's Day, we express our love by giving gifts to those who are special to us. Flowers, candy, and cards are all very popular choices. Life Insurance is not.

In December, I highlighted some financial strategies that could be beneficial to you and your family. One of those topics was life insurance. This is not a topic most people are comfortable talking about or dealing with, yet it one that is very important.

Everyone should take the time annually to review their life insurance coverage, especially if they are not yet vested (employed for less than 10 years). Review the type of coverage you have, when it was purchased, and in the case of term insurance, when the policy expires. It's also essential to review the beneficiaries on your policy. Did you have a child since you purchased the policy

or has your marital status changed? If so, be sure to contact the insurance company to update your beneficiaries.

Life insurance comes in a variety of types, cost range, benefits and coverage. Some cover a specific timeframe (term) and others a lifetime (permanent). There are also options which allow you to get a return of premium, accumulate a cash balance, loan provisions, etc. Using insurance as an investment vehicle should not be its main purpose; covering the need is what's important.

Life insurance is typically purchased for your loved ones. If your family depends on you financially, its true purpose is to help them when you are gone.

Life insurance proceeds can:

- Replace your income
- Help pay bills including a mortgage, credit cards, and other living expenses
- Finance future needs such as your child(ren)'s education
- Protect your spouse's retirement plans
- Cover funeral costs

The cost of life insurance increases as you get older. Therefore, it is more advantageous to obtain a policy at a younger age. In addition, developing a serious health issue prior to being insured may make it more difficult to get coverage and the premiums will likely be higher.

In the tragic event that something happened to you on or off duty, nothing could replace you when you're gone. However, life insurance could mean your family would be financially secure.

That would be a true gift of love.

# Operations Division Update

By Chief Nick LoCicero, Assistant Chief— Operations



*“Officium Paratus”*

As I was preparing to write this month’s article Tampa Fire Rescue responded to church fire in north Hyde Park. The two-alarm fire was substantial. Arriving units were faced with heavy fire already piercing through the roof. Unfortunately, TFR could not minimize the damage to this historic structure, but there were successes. Primarily no personnel or civilians were injured. The surrounding structures were not impinged upon ultimately keeping families in their residences, and nearby businesses well, remained in business. If you take the time to Google [“firefighter deaths and church fires”](#) you will find many examples of how dangerous these types of fires are. Unique to this structure was the fact that there were “below grade” rooms that had to be taken into tactical consideration as well. The last time we had a church fire of this magnitude was around 1990. I have mentioned previously that the success and or failure of an incident weigh heavily on the shoulders of the company officer. I mention these issues as yet another [after action report is published](#) out of California which occurred on June 2, 2011. The structure was a multi-level, single-family residential structure in San Francisco, CA, that resulted in the death of two firefighters.

The fire started in the basement and resulted in ventilation limited (fuel rich) fire conditions in the basement area. After the rear basement windows began to fail, the interior stairwell acted as a chimney for hot gases in the basement to flow towards regions of lower pressure and vent openings located on the front side of the structure. The temperature of the gases in the interior stairwell was estimated to be in excess of 7000 C (13000 F). Two firefighters were located in the flow path between the basement and the doors on the front side of the structure, were exposed to these elevated temperatures, and later died as a result of their injuries. In our Hyde Park fire, the initial actions of the company officer(s) were appropriate timely and accurate. We must not lose focus on the appreciation of the rapidly changing fire conditions and coordinat-

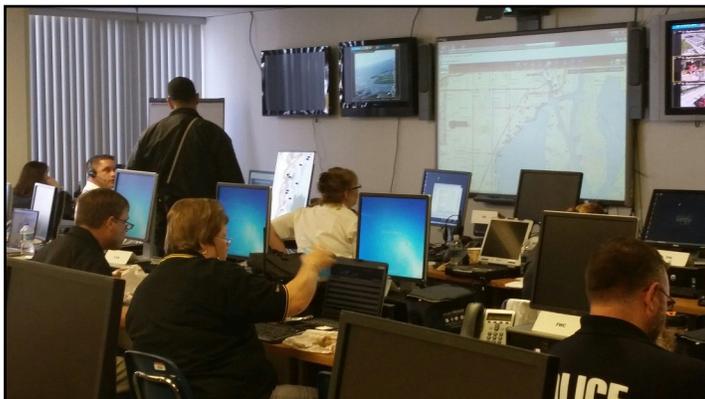
ed fire attack, more to come on that topic in future posts.



**Firefighters respond to the two-alarm fire at the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in North Hyde Park February 2.**

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all those on duty and those working the Gasparilla Day Parade on January 31. As we all know special events such as the day parade are no easy task to manage. We even had a stubborn brush fire to manage in addition to the parade. My thanks to all involved for their efforts.

Until next time, be safe.



**Representatives from Tampa Police and Tampa Fire Rescue work together in the Joint Operations Center (JOC) during the 2015 Gasparilla parade.**



**Firefighters and paramedics prepare to deploy the fleet of medical response vehicles prior to the 2015 Gasparilla parade.**

## Fire and Police face off in Battle of the Badges

The Tampa Bay Firefighters Hockey Club and The Tampa Bay Lightning alumni will be participating in the annual Battle of the Badges game, presented by Brighthouse Networks, at Amalie Arena on Sunday, February 15th at 5pm.

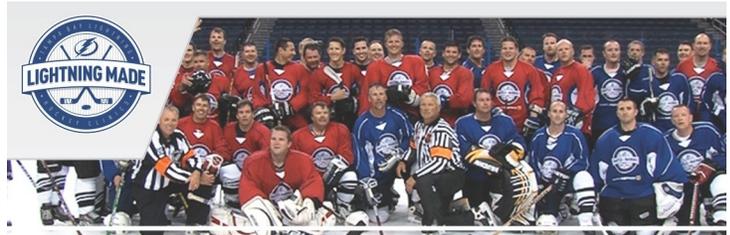
Hockey Day in Tampa Bay will be highlighted by a Battle of the Badges game, presented by Bright House Networks, featuring local fire departments versus local police departments. Lightning alumni will also participate in the Battle of the Badges game and John Tortorella will help coach both teams during the game.

“Hockey Day celebrates and puts the spotlight on our great game at every level we touch in the Tampa Bay area,” said Lightning executive director of community hockey development Jay Feaster. “From youth to high school to adult, from ice to street to sled hockey, literally every program our Community Hockey Department interacts with during the year will be on display at Hockey Day. The fact that all of the proceeds will go to charity makes it even more special, and we are looking forward to an incredible day of hockey.”

Dave Andreychuk and fellow Lightning alumni will also take on the Tampa Bay Sled Hockey team in a sled hockey game at 1:45 p.m. The University of Tampa will play against the University of South Florida to start the on-ice activity, with the culmination of Hockey Day featuring two local high school teams facing off against each other in the Lightning Cup Finals.

Hockey Day tickets are \$10, with all proceeds being donated to Sun Coast Law Enforcement Charities, Inc., benefitting the family of fallen Tarpon Springs Officer Charles Kondek, and the Lightning Foundation, benefitting the Lightning Sled Hockey Program.

All activities on Ford Thunder Alley will be free. The event will also feature Lightning used equipment sale for attendees.



### HOCKEY DAY IN TAMPA BAY

Join Lightning Made Hockey for a full day of celebrating the game of hockey!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015** | \$10 DONATION\*

Featuring an all-day long Tampa Bay Lightning used equipment sale!



Recycle for HockeyGreen.com



Drop off a broken composite hockey stick at the Total Hockey booth to receive a \$10 Total Hockey gift card.



STREET HOCKEY  
8:00 AM



DOORS OPEN  
10:15 AM



USF vs. UT  
11:15 AM



SLED HOCKEY  
1:45 PM



LIGHTNING CONF. ALL-STAR  
3:15 PM



BATTLE OF BADGES  
5:00 PM



LIGHTNING CUP  
7:00 PM



TBL vs SJS  
WATCH PARTY  
8:30 PM

\*All proceeds will be donated to Sun Coast Law Enforcement Charities, Inc., benefitting the family of fallen Tarpon Springs Officer Charles Kondek and the Lightning Foundation, benefitting the Lightning Sled Hockey Program. Visit TampaBayLightning.com/LightningMade for more info.



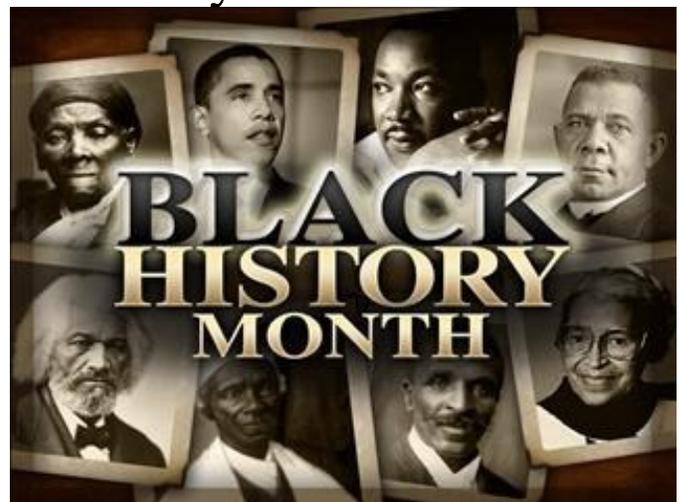
## 27th Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration

The 27th Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration will take place on Wednesday, February 18th at 11 a.m.

The celebration's theme is “Celebrating African-American Sports Legends in Tampa Bay.” This cultural extravaganza seeks to honor Olympians, exemplary athletes, sports advocates, and coaches. The event hosted by the City of Tampa Black History Committee, Inc. (COTBHC), will be held at the Tampa Convention Center - Ballroom C, located at 333 South Franklin Street. This community-oriented event is free and open to the public. Parking is available for a fee in the Tampa Convention Center Garage.

Joining Mayor Bob Buckhorn on the program will be Tampa City Council member Frank Reddick. The keynote address will be delivered by Clemmie Perry, Founder and Director of Women of Color Golf. The nationally-acclaimed Kuumba Dancers, jazz saxophonist Caleb Lattimore, and multitalented artist, Jacob Stevenson will delight and entertain the audience throughout the celebration. Rod Carter, morning anchor for News Channel 8 Today, will emcee the program.

The 27th Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration can be seen live on City of Tampa Television (CTTV). CTTV can be found on Bright House Networks Channel 640 and Channel 15 on Verizon FiOS. Refreshments will be served following the program.



The City of Tampa Black History Committee, Inc. is a non-profit organization that promotes Tampa's rich heritage and encourages scholastic achievement. Find us on Instagram and Twitter @COTBHC. For more information about the program, please contact Frank J. Crum at 813-679-1841 or via e-mail at [Frank.Crum@tampagov.net](mailto:Frank.Crum@tampagov.net)