

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release



Contact: Catherine W. Chaney
St. Lucie County Fire District
772-621-3333
cchaney@slcfd.org

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Payne, Thomas named Employees of Year by St. Lucie County Fire District

St. Lucie County, FL – Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Payne was named Firefighter of the Year and Master Mechanic Farrell Thomas was named General Employee of the Year by the St. Lucie County Fire District. Both were honored at a recent Fire Board Meeting.

Joe Payne has been with the Fire District since 2001 and is currently at Station #7 in Lakewood Park. He is in the middle of a 2-year term as President of the Treasure Coast Big Heart Brigade. He is instrumental in all stages of the Big Heart Brigade's Thanksgiving meal – working on planning, cooking and delivering the meals.

“Joe is a reliable firefighter with a solid work ethic. He is self-motivated and his calm, up-beat personality makes it easy to work with him,” said Fire Chief Ron Parrish when presenting the award to Payne.

Payne is also active in Professional Firefighters & Paramedics Local 1377, currently on the Executive Board.

Master Mechanic Farrell Thomas has been with the District since 1985 and supervises Fleet Maintenance. He has been instrumental in organizing the rotation of all the fire engines, rescue trucks and cars, to make sure they have an extended life on the streets. This was critical during the downturn of the economy.

“He has gotten every last breath of exhaust out of every vehicle,” said Fire Chief Ron Parrish in comments before the Fire Board.

Thomas also assisted in negotiating the lease program to purchase new apparatus, which resulted in a reduced financial impact for the Fire District.

He is active in the community, and has served on the Sherriff's office Auxiliary for several years.



Fire Chief Ron Parrish with Farrell Thomas



Fire Chief Ron Parrish with FF/paramedic Joe Payne