

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Rae Carole Armstrong,  
Mayor

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Robert S. Pudney III  
Fire Chief



**CITY COUNCIL**  
Sharon Uria, *President*  
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Dr. Robert A. Levy

## NEWS CENTER

**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **FIRE DEPARTMENT IS FAMILY AFFAIR** **FOR TWO-TIME AWARD WINNER**

**Plantation, FL: October 6, 2008:** For the second time in his career, Paramedic/Lieutenant James Wallett will be introduced at the Plantation City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall as the Plantation Fire Department's Member of the Year.

Shortly after noon on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, The Plantation Fire Department received a 911 call from a women at Three South Pine Island Road, the Atriums Complex, who stated her apartment was on fire.

Despite pleadings from the 9-1-1 dispatcher, the women refused to leave her apartment stating she had several pets needing rescue.

Rescue 256 arrived moments later. Lt. Jim Wallett, an 18 year veteran of the department, advised he could see heavy smoke coming from the center of the apartment building and was proceeding to investigate. Upon reaching the apartment he and Plantation Police Officer Al Clark, observed an occupant's hand sliding down a kitchen window. Lt. Wallett and Officer Clark knew that there was little time to rescue her. They decided to make one quick sweep through the hallway of the apartment in an attempt to locate the woman. Lt. Wallett entered the apartment, followed by Officer Clark. Both rescuers crawled below the thick black smoke and proceeded towards the kitchen.

They shouted to her to crawl toward their voices. Though disoriented, she was able to crawl towards the awaiting rescuers. When she was within reach, Lt. Wallett grabbed the two dogs she was holding, and passed them to the crews waiting outside. The women still refused to leave the apartment claiming she had more animals to retrieve. Lt. Wallett grabbed the women and forcibly pulled her out of the burning apartment.

The women was treated and transported to Westside Regional Medical Center where she recovered. Several animals were removed from the apartment, given oxygen using the Fire Department's Pet Oxygen Masks and were taken to a local veterinarian where they also recovered.

For his heroic efforts, Lieutenant James Wallett is being honored as the Plantation Fire Department's Member of the Year for 2008.

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**Plantation Member of the Year  
Add one**

Wallett, whose wife Sandra is also a lieutenant with the Fire department's Rescue Division, was recognized at the Greater Plantation Chamber of Commerce Monthly Breakfast, on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 A.M. at the Jacaranda Golf and Country Club.

Wallett joined the Plantation Fire Department, as a volunteer firefighter in March of 1990. He was later promoted a lieutenant at Station One. In 1996 he joined the rescue division and was promoted to the position of Rescue Lieutenant in April of 2001.

Wallett' and his wife Sandra have two children and live in Sunrise.

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***All in the Family:*** Plantation Fire Department "Member of the Year" Lt. James Wallett (r), with wife, Paramedic Lieutenant Sandra Wallett (l) son Jimmy (front left) and daughter Kelli (front right).

Wallett was honored for saving a women and her pets from an apartment fire in March of this year. This is the second time Wallett is being awarded.

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