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# “Fire Line”

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## DISTRICT COVERS:

- 30,000 Residents
- 13 Square Miles
- More than 30 bodies of water
- 2 major hospitals
- 7 churches
- 4 educational facilities
- 4 long term health facilities
- Over 300 commercial occupancies

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## Hot News .....

One of the most common misconceptions with the Winfield Fire Protection District is that, because we are a smaller department, “we just don’t have fires like we used to” or “houses just don’t burn down anymore.” Tell that to the owners of this house on Lindsey Avenue in Winfield. The occupants were awoken just after 3:00 a.m. by the newspaper delivery person, who saw the flames rising up from the back of the house.

Although the Winfield Fire District firefighters arrived first on the scene in just under four (4) minutes, it was obvious that the fire had been burning for quite some time. Shortly after our arrival, mutual aid assistance came from Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Warrenville, West Chicago and Wheaton.

Due to the close proximity and the extreme temperature of the fire, the houses on all sides of the structure fire were compromised. However, our firefighters took rapid measures to protect the surrounding homes and contain the fire to the

property of origin. Although this family suffered one of the most tragic events of anyone’s life, all of the occupants, including the family dog, were safely evacuated from the home.

At the time of printing, the cause of this fire is still under investigation. Have you taken the necessary steps to be sure your home is adequately protected? Do you have working smoke detectors on every floor and in every bedroom? Do you change their batteries twice a year? Do you practice home fire drills? Do you unplug your toaster and coffee maker?

Take a moment to go through your home and look for potential hazards. If you would like input from the Winfield Fire District, our Fire Prevention Bureau would be happy to conduct a residential fire inspection for you. For more information, please contact Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm at (630) 653-5050 for assistance. (For additional photos of this fire, please visit our website at [www.winfieldfpd.org](http://www.winfieldfpd.org).



Copyright Stephen Wilcox

5/29/06 House Fire  
On Lindsey Avenue, Winfield



additional photos of this fire, please visit our website at [www.winfieldfpd.org](http://www.winfieldfpd.org).

*Have you ever been to the Firehouse? Feel free to stop in for a visit. Our staff would be happy to show you around.*

Statistics show that 82% of the child safety seats inspected are installed with three or more errors.

## CPR Classes

Healthcare Provider CPR classes are held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. The 2006 schedule of classes for the rest of the year is:

- July 22, 2006
- August 26, 2006
- September 23, 2006
- October 28, 2006
- November 25, 2006
- December 23, 2006

There is a \$35.00 fee per participant, which includes the cost of the instruction manual. Register at Fire Station #1, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

## Services Offered:

### • Car Safety Seat Inspections

Child safety seat checks are available daily by appointment to be sure that a technician is available when you need your safety seat checked. In addition, a Child Safety Seat Checkpoint are conducted the 1st Saturday of every month at Fire Station #1 between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

### • Blood Pressure Checks

The Winfield Fire District on-duty paramedics are available to check your blood pressure at no charge to you.

### • Home Safety Inspections

Our Fire Prevention Bureau is available to assist you in making your home as fire safe as possible.

### • Block Party Attendance

If you are planning a block party, contact the Fire District to arrange a visit from our crew.

### • Tours

Individual and group tours are available upon request.

# Get to Know Your Firefighters



Lt. David Formento has been a full-time firefighter with the Winfield Fire Protection District since July of 1999. After a comprehensive testing process, which took place over the course of several months, Dave received his promotion

to Lieutenant in May of this year.

Dave began his firefighting career with the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company, where he still dedicates much of his free time. On his days off from the Fire District, Dave

runs a home repair business as well.

Dave and his wife, Mindy, live in the Village of Glen Ellyn, they have three boys (Michael, Trevor and Josh), and they are expecting their fourth child in August.

*“The Winfield Fire Protection District is . . . not affiliated with the Village of Winfield”*

### Daily Firefighting Staff:

- 1 FT Lieutenant
- 1 FT Firefighter
- 1 PT Firefighter
- 2 Contract Paramedics

## From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

Do you know what the difference is between the Village of Winfield and the Winfield Fire Protection District? Have you ever wondered why some agencies are referred to as Departments and others are Districts?

A fire department is a municipal agency that is governed by the City or Village officials. A fire district is self-governed. The Winfield Fire Protection District is a separate taxing body, which is not affiliated with the Village of Winfield. Unlike fire departments, the Winfield Fire District

is not funded, governed or operated by the Village of Winfield.

That being said, the Winfield Fire District has operated smoothly and efficiently, providing outstanding service on a very limited budget for over 18 years since our last referendum. However, by 2007/2008, the Fire District will be operating in the red. Tax Cap Legislation has prevented all taxing bodies from increasing property taxes more than the cost of living, which has averaged around 2%, while our annual expenses rise an average of 7%.

Unfortunately, the Fire District is now forced to seek voter approval to increase the portion of their property taxes which is paid to the Fire District in order to continue providing the quality of care you have enjoyed all of these years. Please educate yourselves on the Fire District referendum in November so that you can make an informed decision. In the meantime, I welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely,  
Phillip A. DiMenza

## Your Questions Answered

If you have questions that you would like to have answered, please contact the Fire District at (630) 653-5050.

- Q. Why should I vote to increase my fire tax? We just don't see as many fires as we used to.**
- A.** While it is true that number of actual structure fires seems to be lower, that number has actually increased over the last 15 years. In addition to fire protection, the Fire District also provides Emergency Medical Services, a Dive-Rescue Team, Hazardous Materials Team, Structural Collapse/Trench Rescue services, Mass Casualty Incident Command, and public education.
- Q. I never use the fire department.**
- A.** Although you may not have had reason to call 9-1-1, the fire department is always here, ready to serve you when you need it most. It is the most important insurance policy you hope to never have to use. In addition, every resident of the Fire District has benefited from the fire department through their homeowners insurance. Prior to 1991, the Winfield Fire District was classified as an I.S.O. Class 6 in the Village and an I.S.O. Class 9 in

the unincorporated areas without fire hydrants. In 1991, however, the Winfield Fire District was re-evaluated by I.S.O., and because the Fire District was able to prove that, through mutual aid and the use of tankers, we could deliver water to the unhydranted areas just as fast as we could get it from the hydrants, the entire District was given an I.S.O. Class 4, saving the District residents hundreds of dollars on their homeowner's insurance. Please contact your insurance agent to be sure you are receiving the best rating available to you. Doing so will help keep your homeowners insurance rates as low as possible.

- Q. What is that fire station at the corner of Winfield and Roosevelt Roads used for?**
- A.** That is an unmanned station that is used for paid-on-call response only. There are no living quarters and no office space available to utilize as a fully manned station.
- Q. Why don't you renovate that station to include living quarters and office space**

so that it can be a fully manned station instead of building a new station?

- A.** Not only is there not enough land available to add on to that station, the project would be extremely cost-prohibitive. In addition, the cost of manning that station would require the hiring of 9 additional firefighters, 3 per shift. After evaluating all of our options, It has been determined that the solution that best serves the residents of the District is to ultimately have one headquarters station, more centrally located within the district and near the railroad underpass and sell the other two properties.
- Q. Why do I see old cars sitting at the Winfield Road and Roosevelt Road station that look like they have been abandoned?**
- A.** The Winfield Fire District accepts donated vehicles that are used for training purposes. Those vehicles are used in simulated vehicle accidents, where the firefighter/paramedics are able to train with their equipment and sharpen their skills.

## Doing our Part...

Over the past 7 years, the Winfield Fire District has made every effort to secure grant funds to offset the costs associated with equipment purchase.

- 1999 - \$10,000 to purchase dive suits and equipment for the Dive Team.
- 2000 - \$6,000 to help pay for the cost of intercom headsets for the firefighters when they are in their vehicles and base station radios.\*
- 2001 - \$35,000 to purchase a thermal imaging camera to find victims in a smoke and fire filled room and to detect fire hidden behind walls and a Hurst "Jaws of Life" extrication tool.
- 2003 - \$48,000 to purchase portable radios for each firefighter and vehicle radios to insure effective communication while on the fire scene.\*

- 2004 - \$144,150 to provide each firefighter with his/her own set of NFPA standard turnout gear, to purchase a station vehicle exhaust removal system to insure a cleaner work environment and reduce the risk of future illness due to toxic fumes, and purchase fire prevention supplies and equipment.\*

The scope of these grants are set by the granting agency, so the Fire District is limited as to what items to ask for assistance with.

Although these grants have been of great assistance, these opportunities will not be available forever. In the meantime, however, the Winfield Fire District will continue to seek this type of financial assistance.

**\* The award of these grants required a 10% to 50% matching contribution by the Winfield Fire District.**



*Emergency Response Activity*

*Year-to-Date thru 6/30/06*

AMBUULANCES	345
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS	75
INVESTIGATION	53
WHEELS DOWN	6
OTHER	28
STRUCTURE FIRE	6
VEHICLE FIRE	2
APPLYANCES FIRE	0
RESURFACING FIRE	8
MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT	156

TOTAL:

## ***FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU***

*From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis*

### ***Are You Prepared???***

How much time do you have to get out of a fire? Not as much as you think. Real fires are hot, smoky and dark. You may have only a very few minutes to escape from fire. If you're ever in a fire, don't spend time getting dressed or trying to gather your belongings. Get out and stay out. Then call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

If you have a fire tonight, will you get out safely? You'll have a better chance of getting out safely if you've planned ahead. Develop a fire escape plan and practice it with the whole family. Everyone should know two ways out of each room and know where to meet outside. Make sure everyone understands that getting out is the first priority. And remember once you are out, stay out.

Teach your children not to hide in closets or under beds in the event of a fire. Hiding from the fire makes rescue efforts extremely difficult, if not impossible. Make sure nobody goes back into the house to rescue other family members or pets. Too often, this results in additional casualties, rather than rescues.

If you have any fire safety questions, please feel free to call me at (630) 653-5050.

## ***Safety First!***

With kids out of school, there are more opportunities for fun...and more chances of becoming sick or hurt from summer environmental hazards.

Insects are plentiful this time of year. Most of them are harmless, but some-including mosquitoes, bees, wasps and hornets-can range from annoying to downright dangerous. To reduce your chances of being bitten or stung, avoid using scented soaps, perfume or hairspray and avoid wearing bright colors or flowery prints, which attract insects. Don't let your children play where insects nest, including old wood piles, stagnant pools of water, and flower gardens. And be careful when you mowing your lawn, as people are occasionally attacked by angry ground bees after their nests are disturbed with the lawn mower.

Speaking of lawn mowers, exercise care when using them around kids. Mowers kick up sharp objects that can hurt nearby children. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that children under the age of 12 should not use mowers at all, and children under 16 should not use riding mowers. Always turn off the mower before unclogging the chute or servicing the engine. Earlier this year, our paramedics treated someone who lost several fingertips after accidentally putting his hand in the path of the blades.

The Winfield Fire District has more than 30 bodies of water, many in remote areas. Don't swim in a pond or lake that isn't specifically marked for swimming. Water may look calm and safe on the surface, but it can be home to hidden undercurrents, sudden drop-offs and entangling plant life than can pull you under.

## **Winfield Fire Protection District**



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