

Winfield Fire Protection
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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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CPR Classes	2
Services Offered	2
Get to Know Your Firefighters	2
From the Desk of the Fire Chief	2
What's Happening?	3
Your Questions Answered	3
Fire Prevention Bureau	4
Safety First	4

Simultaneous Fires in Winfield???

What are the chances of the Winfield Fire Protection District having two house fires happening within minutes of each other? Well, ask the homeowners at 0N272 Pleasant Hill Road and 1N712 Bob-O-Link Drive.

On Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at about 3:23 p.m., the Winfield Fire Protection District was dispatched for a house fire at 0N272 Pleasant Hill Road in unincorporated Wheaton. In addition, the appropriate mutual aid departments were also dispatched from Carol Stream, Wheaton, and Glen Ellyn and a Chief Officer from West Chicago. Shortly after arrival on the scene, the Winfield Fire District was dispatched for a second house fire at 1N712 Bob-O-Link Drive in Winfield, less than a half-mile from the first incident. At this point, most mutual aid companies were diverted to the Bob-O-Link fire while in route to Pleasant Hill.

Although command at the Pleasant Hill fire was able to release one Winfield officer and one Winfield engine to the Bob-O-Link fire, our limited manpower prevented our response with additional vehicles or personnel. Instead, minutes went by before additional mutual aid companies were able to arrive on the scene from Glenside, Bloomingdale, Bartlett, and Naperville as well as a Chief Officer from Warrenville. Meanwhile an engine from the Lombard Fire Department sat in the Winfield Fire Station #1 to respond to any additional calls until Winfield companies were back in service.

Because the call for the Bob-O-Link fire was received second, some people felt that the response to the scene took too long. Unfortunately, many District residents were given the impression that the Winfield Fire District does not need additional manpower because we utilize mutual aid. “If Winfield can’t respond, Wheaton or West Chicago will come and put your fire out.” Statements like this one have

given residents a gross misunderstanding about how our mutual aid system works. Aside from the feeling of “help taking forever” during an emergency, the mutual aid departments (assuming they are available) have to respond from their jurisdiction. If any of the primary mutual aid departments are not available, the next furthest department would then be dispatched until another unit is available to respond. Those additional response times could have devastating results.

Aside from these two structure fires, a third house fire occurred on March 29, 2008 at 11:22 a.m. at 1N528 Ethel Street in unincorporated West Chicago. What started out as a chimney fire quickly breached the walls of the chimney and spread into the attic and went to the roof. Mutual aid for this fire was received from Wheaton, West Chicago and Carol Stream.

Whoever said that “Houses just don’t burn like they used to” hasn’t really been paying attention. House fires not only happen with just as much frequency, if not more, than in years past, those fires are much more toxic than ever before due to the synthetic fibers used in the furniture, carpet and drapes.

Next time you see a member of your Fire District, take a moment to stop and say “thank you.” Your house could be the next one they respond to for a fire or EMS emergency.

As a reminder, these newsletters are intended to be informational in nature in order to allow the residents of the Winfield Fire Protection District to learn more about the men and women who provide their fire and emergency medical services. Any error or omission of information is unintentional on our part. If you have any questions, please contact the fire district administration office, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm at (630) 653-5050.

When you call 9-1-1, we move as quickly as possible to respond to your emergency. But if we can't find your house, precious minutes can be lost. Take a few minutes this weekend to check the numbers on your house and mailbox. If they are missing, incorrect or faded, it may be time for a quick trip to the hardware store. In addition, the Winfield Fire Protection District sells reflective address signs which are installed for you at a cost of \$20.00 each. Contact (630) 653-5050 for details.

CPR Classes

Healthcare Provider CPR classes are held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. The 2008 schedule of classes for the rest of the year is:

5/24/08 6/28/08
7/26/08 8/23/08
9/27/08 10/25/08
11/22/08 12/27/08

There is a \$50.00 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.

It's getting to be that time of year!! Have you called to schedule your block party yet?!



Get to Know Your Firefighters

Brandon Clairmont was sworn in as Winfield's next full-time firefighter on April 15, 2008. FF Clairmont started in the fire service as an Explorer with the Winfield Fire District at the age of 16.

Once he reached 18 years of age, he was hired as a paid-on-call firefighter and sponsored to the Fire Academy, where he achieved his Certified Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations

Certificate and his Certified Fire Apparatus Engineer. His most recent educational accomplishment was his Paramedic license.

Brandon lives with his parents in unincorporated West Chicago.

"The mission of Burn Camp is to provide a safe environment for children who have experienced significant burn injuries.."

Daily Firefighting Staff:

1 Full-Time Lieutenant
1 Full-Time Firefighter
1 Part-Time Firefighter
2 Contract Paramedics

From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

The Winfield Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting its first and, hopefully, annual golf outing as a fundraiser for the Winfield Volunteer Fire Company and Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp.

The mission of Burn Camp is to provide a safe environment for children who have experienced significant burn injuries. It is their goal to provide a non-judgmental atmosphere in which children have the opportunity to build their self-esteem as they enjoy the varied activities that make up their camp experience.

The outing will be held at Klein Creek Golf Club on Pleasant Hill Road in Winfield on Thursday, May 29th, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and golf starting at 9:00 a.m.

The cost to golf is \$100.00, which includes the greens fee & cart, 2 drink tickets, BBQ lunch & awards as well as a giveaway bag.

The outing will be a best ball format, and scores will be based on one cumulative score of the foursome. There will also be a "closest to the pin" and "longest putt" contest.

During the outing, raffle tickets will be sold for various prizes and gifts.

In addition to golfers, the Winfield Volunteer Fire Company is also looking for additional sponsors. Each sponsor will have their name predominantly displayed at one of the tee boxes. The sponsorship fee is \$150.00.

Please consider helping these worthy causes. For more information, contact Dan Czwoznowog or Steve Justice at (630) 653-5050.

*Sincerely,
Phillip A. DiMenza*

What's Happening...

As you may have noticed, the Winfield Fire Protection District parking lot is getting a face-lift. The original parking lot was installed when the building was constructed in 1974, so it has lasted well over 30 years. However, age, weather conditions and the traffic of heavy vehicles has taken its toll. With the damage being severe enough to be a safety hazard, and since the Fire District plans on remaining at its current location for at least the next five years, the Fire District secured competitive quotes, and Arthur J. Lootens & Son, Inc. (the same contractor who poured the original parking lot) began work on Monday, April 28, 2008.

On another note, the Winfield Fire Protection District placed its new Dive/Technical Rescue vehicle in service as well. This vehicle was procured through a \$45,000 grant received from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The previous Dive/Technical Rescue vehicle was a 1982 Chevy Step Van with over 200,000 miles on the odometer. Although it served us well, while responding to the last couple of dive incidents, the vehicle broke down on the way to the incident and became more of a liability than an asset. Because of its age, the Fire District donated the old dive van to Marmion Military Academy to be used by their band to carry their equipment. Since working with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Deputy Chief Lewis has been asked to serve on their grant review committee to provide technical assistance and answer questions on the needs of fire departments around the country.



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 did I receive an ambulance bill for \$1,000 when I live in the District and pay taxes.
- A. As stated during the referenda campaigns, property taxes and ambulance service fees are the Fire District's only consistent source of revenue. With the failure of four referenda, increasing ambulance fees was the Fire District's only option for bringing in additional revenue.
- Q. What do I do if I see a fire hydrant leaking water or if I see water bubbling up from the ground.
- A. The fire hydrants and water mains within the Village limits are owned by the Village of Winfield. Please contact (630) 933-7100. For those in the unincorporated areas, please contact Illinois American

- Water Company. Their phone number is (630) 739-8810.
- Q. How can I become a volunteer or paid-on-call firefighter with the Winfield Fire District?
- A. The Winfield Fire District no longer utilizes volunteer firefighters. When openings are created on the paid-on-call roster, the Fire Chief will consider applicants who are Certified Firefighter II and EMT-B.
- Q. How do I become a full-time firefighter with the Winfield Fire District?
- A. Full-time firefighting positions are achieved only upon passing the written, physical ability and oral interview phases of the testing process when offered. All applicants who pass these components, are listed by score, and that list is good for a two-year period.

Emergency Response Activity

Year-to-Date thru 3/31/08

AMBULANCE		201
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	37	48
INVESTIGATION		2
WIRES DOWN		11
OTHER		
STRUCTURE FIRE	3	3
VEHICLE FIRE		
APPLIANCE FIRE	1	
BRUSH/GRASS FIRE	0	
MUTUAL AID GIVEN		80
TOTAL:		386
TOTAL MUTUAL AID RECEIVED:	42	

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis

Spring Has Sprung!!!

Spring and the weather it brings can become one of the deadliest seasons. Thunderstorms, flash floods and tornadoes are a very real threat during this time of year.

If you find yourself during a thunderstorm with active lightening, try to seek shelter until the storm passes. Stay away from trees and tall structures that could potentially be struck by lightening. Keep your body low to the ground and away from a water source or contact with metal.

Flooding roadways and ditches can not only be a hazard when driving, they can be deadly to innocent children. Try to avoid driving on flooded streets, as your vehicle can quickly hydroplane, causing you to lose control of the vehicle. Do not let your children play in the roads and ditches that are flooded. Not only can that water be filled with bacteria, a child can slip under the surface of the water or become entangled in brush hidden by the water.

During a tornado watch or warning, seek shelter, preferably in a basement with few or no windows. In the absence of a basement, locate a small windowless first floor, interior room like a closet or bathroom. Getting into a bathtub with a couch cushion over you gives protection on all sides from flying debris.

Safety Tips

With spring and summer right around the corner, please follow the following tips to ensure outdoor fun and safety:

- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Avoid underbrush and tall grass when hiking
- Use an insect repellent and follow directions for use.
- Inspect yourself for ticks after being outdoors for a long time.
- If you find a tick, remove it by pulling steadily and firmly.
- Don't wear perfume or scented lotions, as the scent may attract bees, wasps, hornets or yellow jackets.
- Avoid brightly colored clothing that may look like the color of flowers.
- Don't leave sugary drinks outside unattended and use covered containers to limit their odor.
- Don't swat or move rapidly when a wasp visits you or your food.
- Don't approach a wasp nest. If you do disturb a nest, **RUN AWAY** from attacking wasps.
- Clean up food and drink refuse, clean trash cans and fit them with a tight lid to reduce wasp visits.
- When in recreation areas, check your food and drinks before consumption. Stings inside the mouth and throat are particularly dangerous because of the potential of swelling and closing off the windpipe.

Winfield Fire Protection District



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Winfield, IL 60190

PRE-SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AURORA, IL
PERMIT #270

POSTAL PATRON