



# PRESS RELEASE

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

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### *For Immediate Release*

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## Fire District Presents Awards

The Darien–Woodridge Fire Protection District held its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Service Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 22, 2010. Employees and civilians were recognized for various awards. Members were also noticed for their years of service to the Fire District and the Good Samaritan Emergency Medical System, and for certifications achieved over the past 12 months.

### **Personnel Service Awards**

5 Years – Trustee Frank Burns, FF/PM Darrel Parrish  
10 Years – FF/PM Brian Isley  
20 Years – Lt James Karasek, Lt Daniel Krakora, Lt James Skrabel  
25 Years – FF Randy Take  
35 Years – FF Jim Hobbs

### **Good Samaritan Service Awards**

5 Years – FF/PM Darrell Parrish  
15 Years – FF Matt Duffy  
20 Years – Lt James Skrabel  
30 Years – B/C Jay Worden

### **Certifications Attained**

Lt James Karasek – Fire Officer 2  
Lt Vince Phillips – Haz-Mat Incident Command, Ice Technician, Fire Investigator  
Lt James Skrabel – Haz-Mat Incident Command  
FF/PM Nicholas Anastos – Haz-Mat Operations, Fire Service Vehicle Operator, Firefighter 2, Technical Rescue Awareness  
FF/PM Jay Breitsameter – Haz-Mat Operations  
FF/PM Keith Kaschub – Instructor 1  
FF/PM Michael Olsick – Firefighter 2, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Haz-Mat Operations  
FF/PM Robin Skamser – Fire Apparatus Engineer, Haz-Mat Technician A, Technical Rescue Awareness  
FF/PM Brian Skopec – Haz-Mat Operations, Vehicle Machinery Operations, Rope Operations  
FF/PM Jamie Tunk – Rope Operations, Collapse Operations, Vehicle Machinery Operations

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FF Daniel DiFatta – Fire fighter 2, Technical Rescue Awareness  
 FF/Pm David Middendorf – Firefighter 2, Haz-mat Awareness, Technical Rescue Awareness  
 FF/PM Jennifer Phillips – Haz-Mat Technician A

**Award of Commendation** may be presented to a civilian or public service professional outside of the Darien-Woodridge Fire District. The act performed must have been of unusual character requiring initiative or ability worthy of special recognition.

This award was presented to Sgt Chris Marema and Officer Sean Murray of the Woodridge Police Department, and Prince Winbush, Brandon Evans, and Jim Strafaci of the Village Greens Golf Club in Woodridge. These individuals responded to a man not breathing on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole of the golf course. Their combined quick actions, use of an automatic external defibrillator, and performance of CPR resulted in a life that was saved.

**Award of Merit** may be presented to any active member of the Fire District who has performed an act of unusual character requiring initiative or ability worthy of special recognitions

This award was presented to Lt Mark Cooper. His extensive involvement and managing the Wal-Mart Christmas “Shop with a Hero” program for three years has resulted in a positive impact in the lives of many underprivileged children and families within our district. This program started with our Fire District and has expanded to included the Darien Police Department

**Fire Chief’s Citation** is for a member or unit whose act performed must have been of unusual character requiring initiative or ability worthy of special recognition.

This award was presented to Engine 621 consisting of Lt Phillips, FF/PM Kaschub, FF/PM Lopez, and FF Fagan. This was in recognition of their efforts at an apartment fire, where upon doing search and rescue they encountered a occupant who slept through the fire alarm. Their quick actions in removing this person prevented what could have been a very serious situation.

**Lifesaving Award** is to be used where a human life is saved, no personal risk in involved, and their actions affected the final outcome. Three awards were presented.

The first was presented to Lt Dale, FF/PM Tunk, FF/PM Anastos, and FF/PM Parrish. Their actions were for a man not breathing on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole of a golf course. Due to difficult access, multiple golf carts were used to transport personnel and equipment to the patient, and then return the patient, who suffered a second cardiac arrest on the way to the ambulance, back to the ambulance. Due to the professional coordinated actions of fire personnel and civilians, the patient was treated and released from the hospital.

Next was to Lt Skrabel, Lt Phillips, FF/ PM Kaschub, FF Take, FF Geary, and FF Sweeney. While treating a woman for a routine fall in the home, the patient suddenly became unresponsive and went into cardiac arrest. Their quick action in starting life-saving measures allowed the patient to make an excellent recovery.

The final award was to Lt Copper and FF/PM Lahanis for their rescuing of a semi-conscious female on the second floor of a townhouse that was experiencing a fire on the first floor. It was through their efforts that this woman survived.

**Employee of the Year** was presented to Fire Prevention Bureau Director Robert Morris. He was recognized for his efforts to institute a Fire District owned radio fire alarm monitoring system. The work involved establishing contracts, working with attorneys to rewrite District ordinances, researching alarm vendors, securing contracts for over 300 existing accounts, and monitoring the installation of those accounts. Also noted was the simultaneous completion of a new District map system which has been in the works for three years.

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