



# DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

## Fire Protection District

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7550 Lyman Avenue, Darien, Illinois ■ 630.910.2200 ■ 630.910.2203 (Fax)

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Contact: Robert J. Tinucci, Chief

630-910-2205

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dwfd601@comcast.net

### **Fire district to repeat tax rate increase referendum**

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District, as a result of voter rejection last March of its tax rate increase referendum, was forced to lay off six full-time firefighter/paramedics. This 15% percent shift staffing reduction of its emergency response capability “significantly diminished the District’s ability to save lives and protect property at a time when there is a growing need to increase that ability,” explained Chief Robert J. Tinucci.

The November 7 General Election will provide voters with an opportunity to reconsider the decision a small majority of them made during the March Primary Election earlier this year.

The information provided then, Tinucci now believes, may not have been what voters needed. “We are trying to remedy that with our new information program,” he said.

On average, the proposed increase would raise the District’s portion of the County’s annual real estate tax bill by \$13.00 per \$100,000 of market value. For a \$300,000 house the owners would pay \$39.00 more per year.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District is currently under funded because its tax rate is no longer adequate to pay for the steadily increasing costs of operating three fire stations, purchasing up-to-date vehicles and other emergency response equipment and providing necessary training and related personnel labor costs. “Financially, the District’s funding rate is woefully out of date,” Tinucci stressed.

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**Fire district tax rate increase—add one**

Among several neighboring fire protection districts, the Darien-Woodridge tax rate is by far the lowest, at \$.4928 per hundred dollars of equalized assessed valuation (approximately one-third of fair market value).

<b>Current</b>	
<b>Fire Protection District</b>	
<b>Tax Rates</b>	
Pleasantview FPD.....	.6671
Lisle-Woodridge FPD.....	.6413
Lemont FPD.....	.5811
Tri-State FPD.....	.5296
<b>Darien-Woodridge FPD.....</b>	<b>.4928</b>

The District is launching a new public information campaign to help voters make a decision on November 7 that can influence the local quality of life for years to come. If the voters reverse their earlier decision, the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District, Tinucci declared, will be able to “restore our goal of the quickest possible response time when fires, accidents and medical emergencies occur.”

While the odds of anyone ever having to call 911 are remote, District firefighter/paramedics responded last year to nearly 2,800 emergency calls. “That’s more than 7 per day,” Tinucci noted, concluding that “The odds were also against each of those calls ever having to be made. A fire department has to be ready, and only the voting public can make sure that it will be.”

Something to think about.

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