



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23rd, 2016

On Saturday, May 21st, 2016, the Darien-Woodridge Fire District recognized the outstanding performance of several personnel during its annual Awards Program and family gathering.

Additionally, two City of Darien Police Officers were recognized for their life-saving actions prior to the arrival of Fire District responders.

Sergeant Jason Norton and Officer John Jump were awarded the Fire District's Life Saving Award for their actions prior to the arrival of Darien-Woodridge personnel during an incident where a person was in cardiac arrest. Using their automatic external defibrillator and their subsequent performance of cardio pulmonary resuscitation, they provided an integral part of the patient care that resulted in a complete recovery of the person in distress. In addition to the two Darien Officers, Lieutenant Keith Kaschub, FF/PM Nick Anastos, FF/PM Robert Bebar, and FF/PM Edward Vrba received the District's Life Saving Award related to this incident.

Lieutenant Darren Lino, FF/PM Jay Breitsameter, FF/PM Darrel Parrish, FF/PM Jeffrey Taylor and FF/PM Jamie Tunk were recognized for their actions on another incident with a pulseless, non-breathing person with a successful outcome. They also, received the District's Life Saving Award.

Lieutenant Eric Baran, FF/PM David Ciarrocchi, FF/PM Anthony LaFemina and FF/PM William Landeros were also recognized with the District's Life Saving Award for their actions during another cardiac arrest call where they delivered the patient to the Emergency Department with a strong pulse and blood pressure and a successful outcome for the patient.

"Years of Service" awards were given to: Lieutenant Darren Lino – 10 years; FF/PM Mike Moran – 5 years; FF/PM Mike Schleich – 5 years; and FF/PM Thomas Trapp – 5 years.

Finally, Battalion Chief James Skrabel was recognized as the District's "Firefighter of the Year" and a copy of the citation is attached.



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CITATION TO ACCOMPANY

2015 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

BATTALION CHIEF JAMES SKRABEL

In the Fire Service, there are certain people who make an indelible impression on those with whom they work, teach and set a great example for. Such people are dedicated, professional, passionate and eager to continue their journey in this occupation through additional learning. They set the bar high not only for themselves, but also for those around them. They lead by example, take initiative and constantly look out for the best interest of subordinates, peers and the people they have sworn to protect.

Battalion Chief James Skrabel truly defines all of these attributes and he constantly strives to better himself as well as others. He is respected amongst the District personnel, as well as people outside the Fire District, because of his unwavering commitment, leadership, knowledge, experience, and his passion for not only the Fire Service as a whole, but specifically, for the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District.

Battalion Chief Skrabel's knowledge of the Fire Service is not just limited to firefighting tactics and strategies. It extends to every facet of the daunting challenge of being a great firefighter and leader, and ensuring that the knowledge base is passed along to all. In addition to his primary role as Battalion Chief, BC Skrabel has also met the challenge of heading up other divisions at DWFPD with equal passion and dedication, essentially improving and enhancing all.

Battalion Chief Skrabel played an intricate roll in the 2015 review by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). He, along with his peers, invested countless hours in researching and collecting the required data for the ISO review. His efforts aided the District in achieving an improved classification rating from Class Three Department to a Class Two. Only 1 out of every 50 fire departments across the country can claim such a rating.

For the aforementioned reasons and many, many more, the Darien-Woodridge Fire District is proud to name Battalion Chief James Skrabel "Firefighter of the Year".