



# DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

## Fire Protection District

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

On Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Darien-Woodridge Fire District recognized outstanding performance of several personnel during its annual Awards Program and family gathering.

Additionally, two civilians were recognized for their life-saving actions, prior to the arrival of Fire District responders. Chad Morsch and Christina Rios were awarded the Civilian Commendation for providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a person who was in cardiac arrest in the parking lot at 2189 75<sup>th</sup> Street in Darien, IL on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

The patient was revived through the teamwork of everyone involved and was alert and speaking with paramedics upon arrival to the Emergency Room at Good Samaritan Hospital. The patient underwent cardiac catheterization and was doing fine at last check. Without the rapid intervention of the civilians in providing immediate, effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the outcome of would've been much different. Four other Darien-Woodridge personnel received the District's "Life Saving" award for their performance on the call. They were: FF/PM Shawn Lamb, FF/PM Anthony LaFemina, FF/PM Andrew Chearo and FF/PM Robert Bebar.

In addition, the "Life Saving" award was given to FF/PM Tony Browning and FF/PM Andrew Chearo for an incident involving a subject with difficulty breathing who subsequently went into cardiac arrest while in transit to the hospital and was subsequently revived, and another "Life Saving" award to FF/PM Andy Chearo along with Lieutenant Seth Dale, FF/PM Brian Skopec and FF/PM David Ciarrocchi for their successful revival of another cardiac arrest patient.

Four members of the Fire District were also recognized with an "Award of Merit" for actions performed off-duty, while on the way to a recreational sporting event. Lieutenant Keith Kaschub, FF/PM Michael Schleich, FF/PM Darrell Parrish, and FF/PM Daniel Firlit were in Channahon Illinois to participate in the "Warrior Dash" when they noticed smoke and visible fire on the exterior of a single family home that had begun igniting the siding and was impinging on utility services, including natural gas. They immediately took action to assure that a) 9-1-1 was notified; b) the residence was clear of any occupants; and c) extinguished the fire with immediately available equipment prior to the arrival of the Channahon Fire District.

"Years of Service" awards were given to: FF/PM Nicholas Anastos (5 years), Administrative Assistant Alicia Pavone (5 years), FF/PM Darrel Parrish (10 years); Lt. Brian Isley and FF/PM Amy Wasko (15 years) and Battalion Chief James Skrabel and Lt. James Karasek (25 years).

Finally, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony "Tony" LaFemina was awarded the Fire District's "Firefighter of the Year". A copy of the Citation is attached and is noteworthy.



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### *CITATION TO ACCOMPANY*

### *2014 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD*

### *FIREFIGHTER / PARAMEDIC ANTHONY "TONY" LAFEMINA*

Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony "Tony" LaFemina exemplifies the definition of dedication and professionalism and strives to better himself, as well as others. He has proven himself to be a role model and mentor to his peers, and his positive attitude and sense of humor are remarkable traits that all admire and enjoy.

Firefighter/Paramedic LaFemina has obtained many O.S.F.M. certifications by taking classes throughout the last three years, and obtained his Associate's Degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage.

In addition to his formal education and regular duties as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Tony serves as the primary District's Coordinator for CPR classes, Fire Extinguisher training and other Fire Prevention Bureau related training. Tony also plays an integral role in coordinating the annual Open House for the Fire District, which has grown in size and popularity in the community. All of these responsibilities take time away from what's most important... his family.

Firefighter Tony LaFemina serves these positions with the utmost pride, integrity, and dedication and is described by his brother and sister firefighters as one whose work ethic and attitude is contagious, and he exemplifies leadership in the Fire Service.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District is proud to name Firefighter/Paramedic Tony LaFemina , Firefighter of the Year.