



MOVIN' ON UP

Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District

The Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District's history began in the early 1890's when Lisle's first all-volunteer fire force was organized to provide fire protection to the people moving into the area. Hand and horse-drawn equipment were used until Julian M. Long and his father built the department's first motorized fire engine in 1928. Later that year when Chief Joe Long died, his brother Julian Long became Chief and served as Chief until 1971. Long continued to serve the District as honorary Fire Marshal until his death in 1984.

In 1944, the Lisle Fire Protection District was formed as a special taxing body to better provide fire protection to the district which encompassed thirty-eight square miles. Its headquarters were located in the rear of the Long Implement building on the corner of Main and Front Streets. The equipment for the southern portion of the district was housed in an old barn at Crabtree and Woodview, until 1967 when a tax referendum provided the funds to build Station 2 at the corner of 75th and Janes Avenue. The paid-on-call program also began that year. Firefighters were paid \$3.00 per call for each call they attended.

During the 1970's, the District experienced many changes. In 1971 the District hired Paul Boecker to serve as full-time Fire Chief. In 1972 the first full-time

firefighters were hired. In 1976, a capital improvements referendum was passed and led to increased staffing, improved fire protection, and advanced emergency medical services. In 1977 the District purchased a Mobile Intensive Care Unit Ambulance with full paramedic services. The District also acquired a new ladder truck and the land for the new Station 1 which was built during 1979. In 1978, the District's name was changed to the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District to better reflect the area served.

Throughout the eighties and nineties, the District's growth continued. Three satellite stations were built and specialties including Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT), Hazardous Materials, Cause and Origin / Fire Investigations, and Technical Rescue Teams were formed. In 1990, the District received a Class 2 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District was the first district in the country to achieve this rating. The District then set upon a plan to achieve a Class 1 rating in 1993, a rating which it has maintained to the present. This classification can contribute to lowering a property owner's fire insurance premium.

From its simple beginnings, the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District has evolved into a truly professional organization. The Fire District has five fire stations (3 in Lisle and 2 in Woodridge) as well as a stand-alone Maintenance Facility. LWFD protects the Village of Lisle and most of the Village of Woodridge (primarily west of I-355), and some unincorporated areas of DuPage County. The district provides Fire Suppression & Rescue, Advanced Life Support Ambulance service, and Fire Prevention activities. It also conducts fire service training for local fire departments, monthly CPR courses for the public, and numerous public education programs by request. The Fire District protects approximately 30 sq. mi. and a population of over 70,000 residents. The Lisle Woodridge Fire District responds to over 6,000 alarms annually.

The primary Mission of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District is to provide a variety of services designed to protect the lives and property of those people within the District from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies or exposures to dangerous conditions caused by man or nature. Its Vision is to be recognized by our community and employees as a model of excellence in providing fire protection, emergency medical services and related services; a District dedicated to continuous improvement in every detail of the service we provide; a District that fosters an environment of tolerance, trust and involvement; a District responsive to the community's needs and concerns.

Today, the Fire District's response area includes residential single and multi-family; low and high-rise, institutional, commercial, educational, and industrial occupancies and structures. It is home to three universities, and sits at the cross-roads of three major interstate highways: I-55, I-88, and I-355. Daily Fire Suppression and Rescue (FS & R) Shift Staffing (36 personnel) includes:

- 1 Battalion Chief
- 4 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Engines
- 2 Ladder Trucks (1 ALS)
- 4 ALS Ambulances
- 1 Heavy Rescue Squad

This is complemented by an Executive and Administrative Staff consisting of the Fire Chief, two Deputy Chiefs (Administration and Operations), three Bureau Chiefs (Training, EMS and Fire Prevention) one Executive Secretary to the Fire Chief, a Finance Department with a Director, Finance Assistant, and Accounting Clerk, an MIS Specialist and a Receptionist.

The Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District continues to change and progress while remembering its valued traditions under the direction and guidance of two strong policy boards. Fire Commissioners Dennis Callan, John Kelly and Max Armstrong serve with nearly six decades of combined service. ■

Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District

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