



IN THE NEWS

Congratulations!

Lt. Carm Welsh of the Beecher Fire Protection District as the 2023 recipient of the Camp I am Me Life Safety Award



Prior to Welsh's joining the Beecher Fire Protection District three years ago, the only community engagement program that existed was the Annual Open House. Since then, Lt. Welsh has initiated a variety of programs including Junior Fire Academy, Slice of Advice, a Fire Truck Pull (in partnership with Special Olympics of Illinois, a bimonthly Farmers Market Safety Section, and a Senior Citizen Safety Academy) In 2022, the Beecher Fire District has successfully interacted with over 3,000 people which is greater than 50% of our population.

Lt. Carm Welsh has been the driving force behind all of these programs and the impact she has made on the Beecher community is evident. Please join me in congratulating Lt. Carm Welsh for receiving the Life Safety Award.

Congratulations!

Chief Rudy Horist of the **McHenry Township Fire Protection District** who was selected as the 2023 recipient of the IFCA Fire Chief of the Year. The McHenry FPD protects a population of over 55,000 residents and is responsible for protecting a 56 square miles operating out of 5 stations with 155 employees. Chief Horist's dedication to the community is exemplified by his efforts with a variety of groups including his parish, Kiwanis Club and the Knights of Columbus. An advocate for education, Chief Horist has obtained bachelor's and master's degrees, certification from the Illinois State Fire Marshal as a Chief Fire Officer and recognition from the National Fire Academy as Executive Fire Officer.



IN MEMORY



William J. "Bill" Wilczynski, III (67) new resident of Askum and formerly from Chicago River North neighborhood passed away on August 3, 2023. He was a longtime supporter of the Martinton Fire Department and MABAS Division 7. Graduate of Marian Catholic High School Class of 1973. Received his Bachelor's in Political Science and History from Quincy College Class of 1977. For the past 10 years worked for ServPro as Ambassador of Marketing and Sales. Die Hard fan of the Chicago White Sox, Bears, Blackhawks and Northwestern Wildcats football.



Billy L. "BL" Pembrook (91) of Greenfield, died, July 15, 2023, in Carrollton. He married Lois Ferne Crouch January 19, 1952 in Carlinville, and she survives. He served his country in the U.S. Army, and farmed his entire life with his dad, and then, his sons. He served on many boards, including the Greenfield Fire Protection District and the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts. He was instrumental in forming the IAFFD Foundation serving as the Scholarship Committee chairman.