



## WWFPD Announces New Ambulance Fees and Policies

The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District board of trustees recently adopted a new ambulance fee policy designed to better serve our residents.

### New Policy Changes Collection Procedure

Last year, a WWFPD resident who called for an ambulance was charged an average of \$900 per transport. In addition, the District had a policy of pursuing residents who did not pay the transport charges, reserving the option to send overdue bills to a collection agency. In fact, if the matter went to a legal judgment, a lien could be put on the resident's house.

While the District's new policy does not change the average transport fee, the WWFPD will accept as payment whatever the resident's insurance company reimburses for ambulance service. The District will not pursue residents for the additional charges. A resident who does not have insurance and is unable to pay will not have to pay anything for the ambulance service.

### Don't Wait — Call 911 for an Ambulance Right Away

The District urges all residents not to hesitate to call an ambulance if one is needed. In an emergency, please do not attempt to drive yourself to the hospital emergency room. The District hopes that by changing the policy regarding ambulance cost, you will have one less reason to delay making that emergency call.

(For your information, an informal survey indicates that many insurance companies will not raise your insurance premiums even if there are multiple ambulance service charges in one year. However, if you are concerned, please consider checking with your own insurance company.)

### Please Help Us Spread the News

Please help us out by talking to your neighbors in the District so that everyone is aware of the new policy — and so that everyone is prepared to call an ambulance whenever one is needed.

### In This Issue

- **New Contract Benefits District**
- **2005 Call Summary**
- **SAFER Program Success**
- **What is the WWFPD?**
- **Open Burning and Fire Pits**
- **5 MORE Safety Tips**

# New WWFPD-Gurnee Contract Will Move District Toward Stronger Financial Health

In late 2005, the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District completed negotiations with the Village of Gurnee to create a new contract agreement. The trustees are pleased to report that this new contract will allow the District to not only clear up debt with the Village of Gurnee, but will also allow the WWFPD to create a pool of reserve funds.

## Background on the WWFPD-Gurnee Contract

As background, two years ago the WWFPD ended the fiscal year with a growing debt of approximately \$1.2 million to the Village of Gurnee for contracted fire and ambulance services. At that time, our total annual contract with Gurnee was approximately \$1.9 million annually. The main reason for this debt was that at that time, the contract with the Village of Gurnee allowed the Village to charge the District a percentage of the total amount they spent on fire and ambulance service – which was about 33 percent of their total expenses. Any increase in Gurnee’s spending increased the cost to our District, whether that service was provided to our residents or not.

## New Three-Year Contract Will Move Toward Debt Elimination

The WWFPD trustees began negotiations with the Village of Gurnee to create a new contract, which was completed in 2005. By restructuring the District’s obligation to more fairly reflect the expenses we generate for Gurnee, we believe that this new contract will allow the District to pay off our debt to the Village of Gurnee within this first fiscal year. Over the three years of this contract, we also will work toward building up a reserve of \$1 million.

## SAFER Program a Huge Success

Thanks to the SAFER Program, our residents truly are safer. SAFER stands for Smoke Alerting For Every Resident. This program, made possible through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, provided an opportunity for firefighters to install working smoke detectors to protect children, seniors, and their families.



Since the beginning of the program, firefighters have visited more than 6,859 residences in Wildwood, Grandwood Park and Park City, installing approximately 2,000 smoke detectors and replacing 1,100 batteries. (*Make appointments by calling the Smoke Detector Hotline at 847-599-6603.*)

The program has been a very well received. According to Steve Carlson, Lake County Board member from District 7, “I was at home one day when two smiling firemen knocked on my door and checked, maintained, and replaced the fire smoke detectors in my home. I am certain that their actions through this program will save property and lives in the area that they serve. We are certainly fortunate to have a fire department with this degree of dedication to the public that depends on them. Congratulation and hearty thanks!”

As Fire Chief serving Gurnee and the WWFPD, I am proud that this grant has enabled our Department to continue its progressive approach to Public Education and allow us to further focus life-saving resources in areas which we have identified as high-risk.

— Fred N. Friedl III, CFO & Fire Chief

## WWFPD Emergency Call Summary for 2005

**Total Calls  
for 2005: 5420**

### Calls by Type

Rescue/EMS: . . . . .250  
Fire: . . . . .145  
Village: . . . . .274  
District: . . . . .90  
Mutual Aid: . . . . .31  
Non-Resident  
Transport: . . . . .47  
District Transport: . . . . .53

### Calls by Month

January: . . . . .455  
February: . . . .350  
March: . . . . .363  
April: . . . . .391  
May: . . . . .460  
June: . . . . .453  
July: . . . . .579  
August: . . . . .540  
September: . . .454  
October: . . . . .471  
November: . . .429  
December: . . .475

# What is the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District? We're Your Fire and Ambulance Provider!

## WWFPD Serves Unincorporated Areas

The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District (WWFPD), along with the Village of Gurnee, make up a 32 square mile area stretching from Waukegan to Route 45. The area includes Gurnee Mills mall and Six Flags Great America.

The WWFPD is responsible for providing fire and ambulance coverage for the unincorporated lands within this area, while Gurnee Fire Department provides service for the neighborhoods within the Gurnee village limits.

The District provides fire and ambulance coverage by contracting for services with the Gurnee Fire Department. In this way, the Department provides 24-hour fire and rescue services for the entire area, operating out of two stations in Gurnee — 4580 Old Grand Avenue and 6581 Dada Drive.

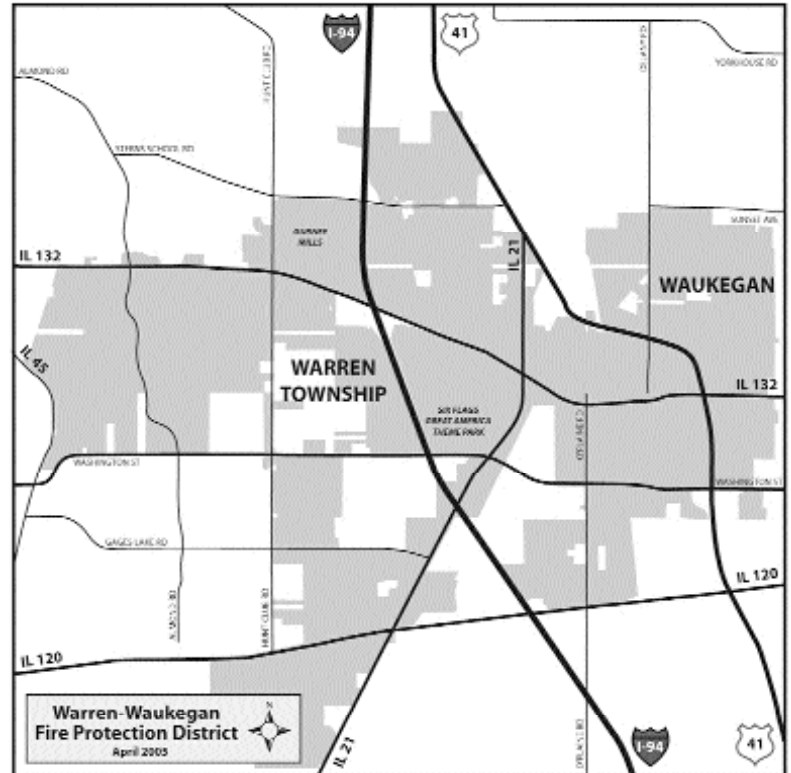
## Trustees Meet Each Month

Oversight for the WWFPD is provided by three District residents appointed by the Lake County Board. WWFPD Trustees are President John Badtke, Secretary Martin Klauber, and Treasurer Phillip De Runtz.

The WWFPD Board of Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Gurnee Fire Station #2, 6581 Dada Drive, Gurnee. Meetings may be held at other locations with notice. All meetings, except executive sessions, are open to the public. Minutes and agendas are posted at [www.wwfpd.com](http://www.wwfpd.com).

## For More Information

For information, contact the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District by calling 847-599-6600 or sending an email to [districtboard@wwfpd.com](mailto:districtboard@wwfpd.com).



The WWFPD is responsible fire and ambulance coverage to unincorporated areas, which are indicated in grey on the map.

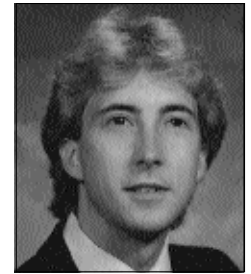
## WWFPD Board of Trustees



President  
John Badtke



Secretary  
Martin Klauber



Treasurer  
Phillip DeRuntz

## New Rules on Open Burning and Recreational Fires

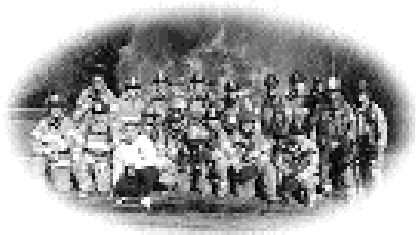
In November, the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District adopted the 2003 International Fire Code with Amendments. Section 307 of the Code addresses open burning and recreational fires.



Landscape waste is no longer permitted to be burned on your property. Permits are required for recognized wildlife management practices, prevention or control of disease or pests, or bonfires. (Permit applications are available from the Fire Marshal.)

Recreational fires are permitted providing the pit is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height, or it is in a portable fire pit designed for small recreational fires.

Additional safety requirements and restrictions are found in the Recreational Fires Guideline, posted on the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District website at [www.wwfpd.com](http://www.wwfpd.com). For questions or to request permits, please contact the Gurnee Fire Marshal at 847-599-6650.



**Warren-Waukegan  
Fire Protection District**

*c/o Gurnee Fire Department  
4580 Old Grand Avenue  
Gurnee, IL 60031*

PRESRT STD  
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## Spring 2006

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*The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection Newsletter is published periodically by the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District. Please consider sharing your comments and suggestions.*

*E-mail: [districtboard@wwfpd.com](mailto:districtboard@wwfpd.com)  
Phone: 847-599-6600  
Fax: 847-244-8693  
[www.wwfpd.com](http://www.wwfpd.com)*

## 5 MORE Quick Safety Tips

There are so many things you can do to keep you and your family safer. In the last issue, we gave you five simple tips. Here are five more...

- 1 Wear a helmet — every time.** A good fitting helmet is a must for everyone in the family. Wear it every time you use your bike, rollerblades, scooter and skateboard. That goes for grown-ups, too.
- 2 Learn to swim — and teach your children to swim.** Never swim alone. Children should always be supervised by a qualified adult.
- 3 Wear Coast Guard-approved flotation devices.** Even good swimmers need extra protection when boating and jet-skiing. Water wings are not effective, and can actually do more harm than good.
- 4 If you see lightning or hear thunder, take shelter.** If you are near a lightning alert system, be sure to heed its warning. Lightning can sometimes strike out of a blue sky, well ahead of or behind a storm's center.
- 5 Make a no-kid/no-pet zone around your outdoor grill.** Keep your grill (and fire pit) away from buildings and landscaping. And keep matches and other fire-starting equipment away from children.