



3511 WOOLLEY RD • OSWEGO, IL 60543 • (630) 554-2110 FAX: (630) 554-8681

*Rick Neitzer, Fire Chief • Dick Kuhn, President • Bob Tripp, Secretary • Paul Anderson, Treasurer*

*Rodger Long, Trustee • Jason Bragg, Trustee*

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2015

### **Fire Chief Rick Neitzer Retires OFPD Chief Retires after 35 years in the Fire Service**

**(Oswego, IL)** Oswego Fire Protection District Fire Chief Rick Neitzer will retire effective on July 1, 2015. Chief Neitzer has over 35 years in the fire service and started his career in 1979 as a firefighter/paramedic in Glendale Heights, Illinois. Chief Neitzer started with the Oswego Fire Protection District in 1987 and is one of the original six full-time Oswego firefighter/ paramedics.

Chief Neitzer started as a firefighter/paramedic and worked his way up through the ranks over the years. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1992 and remained in that position until he was promoted to the rank of Fire Chief in 2011, becoming the first fulltime Fire Chief for the District. Chief Neitzer has been instrumental in shaping the District to what it is today. He has greatly impacted the District over the years and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

The District has grown from a small-town volunteer department to a large fulltime fire department during his tenure. When the Chief started, there was one station and emergencies were handled by a mostly volunteer firefighter corps, with the department responding to 183 calls from April 1987 to March of 1988. In 2014, the District ran 4748 emergency calls. We now operate out of four staffed stations and cover approximately 63 square miles. There is no doubt that under Chief Neitzer's leadership we have grown and matured as a department in a positive manner.

The members of the Oswego Fire Protection District - past, present and future - thank Chief Neitzer for his dedication, exemplary service, and many sacrifices over the years. We wish Chief the best as he enters into his retirement, and ask that you join us in congratulating him. An Open House with coffee and cake will be held on June 30th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at our OFPD Station #1 located at 3511 Woolley Road in Oswego. RSVP to Cathy at 630-554-2110.

*The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.*

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JPC