

FACT SHEET
HistoryWood Dale Library
520 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191

The Wood Dale Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1936 for the purpose of providing co-ordinated fire protection for the Village of Wood Dale and the surrounding rural area.

The department existed thru contributions from the residents which it served, until this no longer provided sufficient funds to allow them to expand quickly enough to keep up with the growth of the community.

The Wood Dale Fire Protection District No. 1 was formed in 1953. The creation of the Fire Protection District enabled the fire department to expand into their current building and to purchase badly needed equipment. The Fire Protection District is an independent taxing body. Its only function is to levy taxes for the purpose of providing fire protection to its constituents. This protection is provided by the Wood Dale Volunteer Fire Department under contract to the Wood Dale Fire Protection District.

The Wood Dale Volunteer Fire Department is a not-for-profit corporation, composed of 33 active members, volunteering their services without pay. They are dispatched by the Wood Dale Police Department, thru a radio receiver located in the home of each fireman.

The volunteer firemen maintain the equipment and the station. In 1970 the members of the Department received approximately 8000 man hours of internal training and in excess of 1000 man hours of external training. The average fireman gives 20 hours per week of his time to the department to answer fire and inhalator calls, training, maintenance and schooling.

The Wood Dale Fire Protection District has been able to provide good fire service to the taxpayers without any requests for additional funds, thru referendum, since its inception. The current cost to the individual homeowner for this service is \$15.88 for a home with an assessed valuation of \$10,000.00. The increase in total assessed valuation of the district has enabled it to operate without a rate increase for the past two years, despite skyrocketing costs during the same period.

Unfortunately, the explosive growth during 1970, as well as the eminent projected expansion for 1971 thru 1975 within our district is forcing us to grow faster than we are currently financially and legally capable. Our maximum tax rate is established by state legislation and we are within 20% of our limit. We are faced with two alternatives. First, allow our fire service to degrade, or secondly, request that you, the taxpayer, help us to continue to improve our service.

We, as firemen, find the first alternative completely unacceptable. We are dedicated to the preservation of life and property and know that degradation of the fire service increases the risk of the lives of those whom we serve. The second alternative, although not completely palatable in this era of inflationary trends, provides the only acceptable solution.

The expansion of the population within the district is making our current station obsolete. The time required to reach an emergency situation in the Western end of the district, is increasing. The problem of the railroad has plagued the residents in the Northern area of the district for many years. The fire apparatus has been held up for periods of 30 seconds to five minutes due to a train blocking the crossing.

Our research, as well as the authorities responsible for establishing the insurance rates for our district, indicate that we require two new fire stations. The new North station will be located on the South East corner of Wood Dale Road and Hawthorne Avenue. The South West station will be located on a Southern extension of Miller Lane, just East of the Georgetown area. The Fire Department now owns both properties.

The preliminary estimates the cost of construction of both stations, including necessary furnishings, is approximately \$650,000.00. The Volunteer Fire Department will furnish the required vehicles for each station. The cost to the property owner is currently estimated at \$14.50 per \$10,000.00 assessed valuation. This cost will decrease as the total assessed valuation of the district increases.

We therefore ask you to help us to provide the quality of fire service that you have the right to expect. Please vote "YES" for the Wood Dale Fire Protection District Bond Issue on April 27, 1971.