

CB0053

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1/26/05



January 26, 2005

TO : William T. Lichter, Village Manager

FROM : George E. Seagraves, Fire Chief

RE : **GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD**

Please place on the Board of Trustees' Agenda for February 3, 2005, a Good Neighbor Award presentation to Donald McQuern for saving the residents of 44 South Columbine at the January 10, 2005 house fire.

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On January 10, 2005 at 3:30 am., Mr. Donald McQuern while on his way to work in Addison in the area of 44 N. Route 53 in Lombard, saw heavy smoke and fire coming from the rear porch.

Mr. McQuern stopped and called 9-1-1 from his cell phone while he was banging on the side door of the two-story home. After a few minutes of banging on the door Mr. Bill Soldwisch came to the door. Mr. McQuern asked Mr. Soldwisch (the homeowner) if there was anyone else in the home. With that Mr. Soldwisch turned and ran into the house to rescue Ms. Mary Fitzgerald who was asleep in a second floor bedroom in the front of the house. Mr. McQuern followed the homeowner into the smoke filled house to help with the rescue. Mr. McQuern and Mr. Soldwisch became separated in the smoke. Mr. McQuern then made his way through the smoke to the side door, at which time he heard glass breaking in the front of the house.

If it was not for Donald McQuern stopping and getting involved, Mr. Soldwisch and Ms. Fitzgerald would have died in the fire.

The Village of Lombard and the Lombard Fire Department would like to award Mr. Donald McQuern the Village's "Good Neighbor Award" for his part in saving the lives of the two people in the home.