

Good Neighbor Award

Mr. Vince Tosti

Actions: March 3, 2005

Presentation: April 7, 2005

On March 3, 2005 at 2:45 am. Mr. Vince Tosti was leaving his home at 418 Manor Hill Lane for work. He smelled what he believed was smoke and investigated the area. He found smoke coming from the attached garage at 440 Manor Hill Lane.

He immediately began knocking on the front door of the home to arouse the occupants. His knocking awoke a 14-year-old who was asleep in the home. Mr. Tosti made sure no one else was in the house as he ushered the child to safety in his car. He then called 9-1-1 and reported the fire.

Upon arrival the Lombard Fire Department found a well-involved fire in the attached garage that had self-ventilated at the overhead door. The fire was held to the garage area and only smoke had invaded the living space.

The investigation of the fire found that Mr. Tosti's actions had prevented a far greater tragedy from happening. The fire had started several hours earlier in the garage. The fire had spread to most of the contents in the garage. The child was asleep and the single smoke detector was found to be inoperable. The fire department found heavy fire production beyond flashover.

At this time of the morning most everyone in the neighborhood is asleep. Due to the weather, windows are shut and the possibility of anyone driving by, and detecting the fire, is miniscule due to car windows being up and the darkness. The child would most likely not wake up by himself. In a few more minutes the smoke in the house would have become more dense and the fire would have penetrated into the house.

Without the good fortune of Mr. Tosti leaving for work at such an early hour, his willingness to determine what was causing the smell of smoke, and his efforts to notify the occupants, the outcome of the fire would have been much different, possibly a tragic loss of life.

It is with great honor that the Village of Lombard presents the Good Neighbor Award to Mr. Vince Tosti on this day April 7, 2005.