

West Lafayette Fire Department
April 2010

BASi Chili

Once again, crews from the West Lafayette Fire Department proved to be a big hit for our employees as they judged our annual chili cook-off contest. We appreciate the time they spend judging the many varieties of chili and they always represent the city of West Lafayette very well!"

"Chief,

Chris A. Plantenga
Corporate Safety Director
www.BASInc.com

Grand Prix Occupancy Limits

Inspector Lancaster attended the April 1st Bar Coalition Meeting as a timely reminder to the importance of not exceeding the occupancy limits in buildings and in particular in the night clubs on Grand Prix weekend. A week prior to the Grand Prix he went to many of the businesses and spoke with the owner or manager to reinforce this point and the weekend of the Grand Prix he made an evening visit to the night clubs in the village. Inspector Lancaster reported that he observed no overcrowding violations within the buildings.

Training

Butch Lysolm of OAIRE Inc. was hired to present "Advanced Vehicle Systems Concerns for First Responders". The material was very up to date and well received. Vehicle safety systems such as airbags work quite well as accidents are occurring however, there are components that can seriously injure firefighters working the accident or fire scene. Hybrid and hydrogen vehicle information was also presented.

Eighteen WL firefighters attended this year's Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. Classes ranged from basic firefighting to information needed at the highest levels and as always the quality of assembled instructors was second to none.

Funerals

Lorren Philip Wright passed away at the age of 89. He was born in 1920 and began his career as a West Lafayette Firefighter in 1955. He served as Chief for a time in the 1970's. His wife of 68 years and their family miss him very much. While planning the funeral they looked for ways to involve WLFD. The department was able to hold a last alarm service at the viewing and provided an escort to the cemetery. The family sent several thank you notes to the department one of which read in part, "thank you for the superb job...our whole family was deeply moved and appreciative of all your efforts".

About three years ago WLFD had a small part in the service of a retired Lafayette firefighter as the procession passed through West Lafayette. Our part, however small, must have meant a lot to the family as just the other day a family member dropped off pictures of our department's participation and again expressed their appreciation. A firefighting career is unique in many ways and being able to help families in their time of grief is special not only to them but to us also.

Chief Drew