

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Tuscola Assistant Fire Chief Haake honored in walkout ceremony

By Kendra Hennis

Assistant Tuscola Fire Department Chief Chip Haake was honored with a walkout ceremony on August 2 from the Tuscola Fire Department to celebrate his 29 years of service to the community. Haake started his first responder career in 1991 as an EMT with Ace Ambulance in Tuscola. In 1992, he was hired to the Tuscola Fire Department by Dennis Dietrich. Over the years, he ascended the ranks from firefighter to Lieutenant and training officer, until being named Assistant Chief in 2017.

In addition, Haake has been a member of the City of Champaign Fire Department since 2003, where he currently serves as a Lieutenant. Haake said that training was a very important part of the job for him, and serving with both forces as well as training with the Illinois Fire Service Institute allowed him to bring all of the things he had learned and help each department. Haake exclaimed that a very important part of the job was to "never stop learning."

At the ceremony, Haake was read a few remarks from Tuscola Fire Chief Brian Moody. Moody exclaimed,

"It is fitting we honor this Chief Officer who has given over 29 years of service to Tuscola and who has been a positive influence on our brotherhood." He continued, "Working side by side with us; learning and teaching along with us - this man has imparted something positive to us all. Our community is blessed. This is in part because you and those before you have given of themselves to the greater good. You have answered all types of calls - left your life and family on hold - at night and on weekends in weather good and bad. You have been a key element in the saving of lives, in protecting property and in teaching our community how to prevent fires... This man has shown an enthusiasm for the fire service, for training others, and for keeping us all safe. I personally cannot thank you enough for all of the years you have committed to our department and this community."

Haake was presented with multiple awards and memorabilia, including a departmental plaque, bugle from officers, helmet, and flag. Another was an ax from the firefighters with a plaque that reads, "Passion is a pow-



Assistant Tuscola Fire Chief Chip Haake giving remarks at his Walkout Ceremony from the Tuscola Fire Department on August 2. Haake assisted in serving the Tuscola community for 29 years.

Photo: Kendra Hennis

erful tool. Your dedication to be the best leader you could be had defined who you were as an officer and as a Chief. Not just any Chief, a "Fireman's Chief". A Chief who

works for his people, and continued to display a high level of integrity by adhering to your strong moral principles and your consistency in character. As a Fire Fighter, is your ultimate goal to work for an officer, and Chief, who had a strong foundation, who is confident and recognizes the values in others; and who focuses on the strengths in themselves and the people that work for them. You have always proved success in these areas because you understand that being a great leader is only as valuable as it is practical. No one understood better than you, that it takes courage to fulfill vision, and your vision came from passion, not position. Be proud of the hard work you have done, the person you are, and the difference you have made here and for the City of Tuscola. Thank you for everything, Chief."

Haake remarked that, "Being on the Fire Department in Tuscola is a job of passion, either your heart is in it, or it's not. I was passionate about that job for 29 years and I enjoyed helping the residents of Tuscola in their times of need and worst times."

59th Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale to be held August 27 and 28

Come join in for the 59th Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale which will be held August 27 and 28 at the Otto Center, mile south of Arthur, Illinois.

The activities will begin Friday at 4:30 p.m. with a pulled BBQ pork dinner

and the auction starting at 6 p.m. On Saturday a pancake and sausage breakfast runs from 6-10 a.m., with the auction beginning at 8 a.m. The silent auction is from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The children's activities begin Saturday at 9

a.m. and feature a train ride around the grounds. The children's auction will begin at 10 a.m. A featured activity for the children will be a petting zoo.

Lunch items will begin to be served at 11 a.m. including a chicken dinner, butterfly pork chops,

bacon burgers and river fries. Other food offerings include a full lunch stand, peadros (taco salad), hot homemade pretzels, lemon shake-ups, fried pies, ice cream, slushies, root beer floats and a variety of baked goods. Be sure to take home some of the

homemade yeast donuts, tea rings and cinnamon rolls made fresh both days.

The auction features a variety of handmade quilts, locally crafted Amish wood furniture and many other items. The proceeds from the auction are distributed with 80% given to

Mennonite Central Committee and 20% remaining in the local community.

For more information concerning the sale, please contact Richard Beachy (217-259-1427) or visit the website at <http://www.arthurreliefsale.org/>.



Submitted photos
 On August 6, Karis Hortin was crowned 2021 Miss Moultrie-Douglas by Makenna Green, Miss Moultrie-Douglas 2019-2020. Karis will resume the duties of Kali Pierce who resigned from the position due to the time commitment, travel, and financial reasons on July 31, 2021. Karis' first duty as Miss Moultrie-Douglas will be to attend County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair on Friday, August 13, 2021.

Karis is the daughter of Mary Hatfield (1986 Miss Moultrie-Douglas, pictured right) of Tuscola. She is a senior at Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, IL. Karis will graduate this December with a Bachelor's Degree in Business. She will also compete at the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant January 14-16, 2022, at the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention.

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