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Acting fire chief named

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Ebsen was named acting fire chief by Oak Park Village Manager Tom Barwin in a ceremony today at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Ebsen, who began his career with the Oak Park Fire Department in 1980, succeeds Chief William Bell who is retiring after nearly 30 years of service to the community. Bell's last day is Dec. 30.

Prior to becoming deputy chief in 2005, Ebsen served in numerous capacities with the Oak Park Fire Department, including firefighter, fire inspector and paramedic. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1989 and then battalion chief in 1994, a position he held until he became deputy chief.

Ebsen holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Elmhurst College and in 2009 completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Ebsen also has completed numerous courses on fire protection systems and fire investigation.

"I'm pleased to appoint Deputy Chief Ebsen to the interim fire chief position," Barwin said. "Tom has the education and experience, and has exhibited the professionalism and dedication to continue the exemplary fire and emergency medical services Oak Parkers rely upon."

The son of an Oak Park firefighter, Ebsen was born and raised in the Village. He currently lives in Elmhurst with his wife and has five children.

For more information on the Oak Park Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

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