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**FIRE DEPARTMENT NAMES 2023 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

(BEACHWOOD, OHIO –February 7, 2024) – Fire Department Chief Steven Holtzman recently announced that the 2023 Firefighter of the Year is Dan Wochele. He was honored at a City Council meeting in February with family and friends present. He has become the department’s fifth Firefighter of the Year and has worked as a respected member of the fire department for just over 20 years.

“Since day one, he has always had a great demeanor and positive attitude and served as a great role model within our department,” states Chief Holtzman.

The legacy of other department members’ contributions is important, so over the last several years, Mr. Wochele also has worked with the administration and has spent countless hours compiling over 40 years of members’ history and the material was put on display in the city’s firehouses. This celebrates past members’ service to the City of Beachwood, and they are thankful for being recognized.

Mayor Justin Berns expressed his gratitude for Mr. Wochele’s service. “We are deeply thankful for all of Mr. Wochele’s hard work serving the entire Beachwood community. Our lives depend on his skills and judgment, and for that we owe him our tremendous appreciation.”

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