

# PRESS RELEASE

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www.countrysidefire.com



*Via E-Mail*

April 29, 2025

For More Information: Fire Chief Chuck Smith  
Phone: (847) 367-5511  
csmith@countrysidefire.com  
Countryside Fire Protection District  
600 N. Deerpath Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061

### **Countryside Fire Protection District Earns GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for First Time**

**Vernon Hills, IL – April 29, 2025**

The Countryside Fire Protection District is proud to announce that it has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the first time in its history.

This prestigious award recognizes the District’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and high standards in financial reporting. The award was presented for the District’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024.

“This recognition from the GFOA reflects our commitment to responsible financial stewardship and open communication with our community,” said Fire Chief Chuck Smith. “It is a testament to the diligence and professionalism of our finance team and leadership.”

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and it represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. To receive the award, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR that satisfies both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The Countryside Fire Protection District provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, and public education to the communities it serves. Achieving this award affirms the District’s dedication not only to public safety but also to operational excellence and fiscal integrity.

“We are honored to receive this award and will continue to uphold the highest standards in service to our residents,” said Board President Bruce Brown.

For more information on the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, visit [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org).

*The Countryside Fire Protection District is an Internationally Accredited Agency by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and provides service to a 24 square mile district in central Lake County, IL.*

**PROUDLY SERVING**  
*Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Kildeer, Indian Creek and Unincorporated areas of Lake County*  
**SINCE 1959**

## About Countryside Fire Protection District

The District was organized in 1959 under the general laws of the State of Illinois providing for the organization and operation of fire protection districts. Countryside staffs two fire stations 24 hours a day and in 2024 responded to 5,414 fire, rescue and EMS calls. The District is an internationally accredited fire agency, meeting the highest standards set by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and is rated a Class 2 by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The District located in Lake County Illinois stretches from Milwaukee Avenue on the East and to Fremont Center Road on the west. The Northern most boundary is Winchester Road, and to the south, Port Clinton Road. The Canadian National and METRA Railroads traverse the District. The District provides a full range of services to its 36,384 residents. Our professional force of 46 full-time Firemedics train frequently to ensure readiness for those various services including fire suppression services, emergency medical services, underwater rescue and recovery, hazardous material response, fire prevention and public education, special rescue and community events.

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