

Glendale's interim fire chief takes post

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GLENDALE - Village Council recently unanimously approved Walter Cook as its new interim fire chief.

Cook, an assistant chief of the volunteer department since 2006, replaces former Fire Chief Michael Finney, who resigned last month for family reasons.

Cook has been a firefighter since 1985, when he worked with the Forest Park Fire Department.

He will lead the 25-member all-volunteer fire department until a permanent chief is named.

He also will apply for that job.

Cook has been part of the Hamilton County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force since 1998, is a Homeland Security hazardous materials technician and is an adjunct professor at Butler Tech, where he teaches firefighting.

Glendale Village Councilmember Monica Alles-White said candidates would be sought within the fire department, as well as externally.

"We want as many candidates as possible," she said.

Alles-White said council would post the opening in newspapers and other publications, at other fire departments and online. The posting will remain for three weeks, she said.

The assessment team will consist of three-to-five members, including fire chiefs from neighboring communities.

Mayor Joseph Hubbard will interview the top three candidates, who will also appear before a fire committee for review.

Residents will have the opportunity to offer comments, Alles-White said.

Finney said goodbye at his final Village Council meeting on Monday, June 2.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve in Glendale," he said. "And it's been great to work with Council."

Also at the meeting, council announced:

* A rape awareness and self defense class will be conducted Sept. 27. The village is pairing with Woodlawn to plan the event, and is seeking corporate sponsors for the class at the Woodlawn armory, 10050 Woodlawn Blvd.

* Glendale Police are planning the annual sidewalk ride. Officers will patrol on bikes in June.

* Participation in the Click It Or Ticket program earned the police department a \$2,000 radar system. Police Chief David Warman said the unit would be installed in a police cruiser that will be bought in 2009.

