

The Village of Newark is proud to congratulate Newark Firefighters Juan Ortiz, Captain Doug Velte and Captain Rod Bliss, as well as Police Officer Dan Weegar.

The four hometown heroes recently received awards from the Northern Central Volunteer Firemen's Association. The firemen collectively received "Firefighter of the Year" and Office Weegar received "First Responder of the Year". For their lifesaving efforts, they were also honored at the Wayne County Firemen's Association banquet with Mr. Ortiz, Captain Velte and Captain Bliss receiving the "Fireman of the Year Valor Award" along with Officer Weegar receiving the "Emergency Service Valor" award.

On March 22, 2018, moments after clearing a motor vehicle accident scene, a call came in for a possible multi-family structure fire. Upon arriving, they found an elderly man trying to escape from a second story window. Office Weegar and Captain Bliss lifted Captain Velte to a roof while Mr. Ortiz, driver of Newark Rescue 7, secured the ladder. Captain Velte was able to free the victim from the window and the men guided him down the ladder to safety. The gentleman received a medical transport and the rescuers stayed to suppress the fire and to assist in the investigation and clean up. Thank you to these first responders for their efforts and congratulations on receiving these recognitions!



4 Heroes: Firefighter Juan Ortiz, Captain Doug Velte, Captain Rod Bliss, Police Office Dan Weegar

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Northern Central: Stew Bell -Northern Central 1st Vice President, Rusty Havert - Newark Fire Chief, Senator Pam Helming, Firefighter Juan Ortiz, Captain Doug Velte, Captain Rod Bliss, Police Officer Dan Weegar, Frank Orbaker- Northern Central President

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Wayne County: Floyd Johnson, Keith Battle, Retired Police Chief David Christler, Police Officer Dan Weegar, Newark Fire Chief Rusty Havert, Captain Doug Velte, Captain Rod Bliss, Firefighter Juan Ortiz