

Transition at the top

One experienced leader hands torch to another at the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

By MADISON HARDY
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Hauser Lake Fire Protection District Chief Larry Simms passed the torch Wednesday night to James Neils after serving the community for 34 years.

“It’s been an honor to work with my team over the years. They’ve worked hard and they’ve helped the community tremendously,” Simms said. “We’re here to serve them, not serve us.”

Simms started his volunteer work when

the fire district was looking to innovate their training, participation, and communication practices. Shortly after joining the service, Simms began pushing for district medical training when he responded to an accident and didn’t have the training to administer aid.

“I said this is not going to work,” Simms said. “Most of our calls, probably 80-to-85%, are medical.”

With Simms’s recommendation, the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District worked to get most of the volunteers EMT, First Aid or CPR certified.



MADISON HARDY/Press

See CHIEF, C2 New Hauser Lake Fire Protection District Chief James Neils is pinned by his wife and son at Wednesday night’s ceremony.