

Weston Volunteer Fire Department open house is this Saturday

Written by Kimberly Donnelly
Friday, 14 October 2011 00:00

Climbing on fire trucks, using a real fire hose and watching the Jaws of Life in action are just some of the fun and educational activities on tap next weekend. The Weston Volunteer Fire Department is holding its annual open house at the Norfield Station House this Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 to 1, rain or shine.

“We do the open house in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week to give the community an opportunity to see our equipment and facilities and to learn about fire safety and what we as volunteers do,” said Weston firefighter Rob LaPlaca, open house coordinator.

Folks may climb on and into the department’s entire firefighting fleet, from the department’s first fire truck, a fully restored 1934 Mack pumper, to the newest attack Engine 4. A rescue truck and a marine vehicle will also be on display. Firefighters will provide tours of the equipment and explanations about how it is all used.

The Emergency Medical Services unit of the department will showcase its state-of-the-art ambulances and equipment.

Kids will be able to feel the power of a fire hose as they take aim — with the help of a firefighter — at “flames” on springs on a child’s playhouse, built by Mr. LaPlaca and his children for the event.

Kids may also try out the department’s thermal imaging cameras and dress up in real firefighting gear. There will be a face-painting booth and information on carbon monoxide detectors.

Children will get trinkets, toys, and fire helmets, and there will be a limited number of T-shirts.

There will be a live car extrication demonstration using the Jaws of Life at about noon. Kids may tour a smoke house trailer, designed like a miniature house, where they may learn fire prevention techniques and the best ways to escape from a fire.

Weston Volunteer Fire Department open house is this Saturday

Written by Kimberly Donnelly
Friday, 14 October 2011 00:00

There will also be a HazMat trailer on hand.

“It’s a lot of fun, and a great chance to learn some fire prevention and safety tips,” Mr. LaPlaca said.

The open house is also an opportunity for adults to learn more about the department and the volunteer opportunities available, he added.

The Weston Volunteer Fire Department currently has about 50 volunteer firefighters who go on more than 500 calls each year. They are all certified at a minimum in the Firefighter Level 1, with many members having higher training certifications.

Full operational drills take place at least once a month, with smaller drills scheduled weekly.

“We’re always looking for more volunteers,” Mr. LaPlaca said. Those interested may call him at 203-222-3110.

The open house is free. Parking is limited, but is available in the Weston Public Library lot, at Hurlbutt Elementary School, and in the dirt lot by the onion barn.