

Safety News from Northport Fire Department

Celebrate October for Fire Prevention Month

By JIM MAHONEY

Traditionally October is observed as fire prevention month. This year on Saturday, October 18th, the Northport Fire Department will observe its 125th year of continuous and dedicated service to the Northport community. Joseph Pansini, the 50th Chief of Northport Fire Department, will lead the members along the usual parade route from Laurel Avenue, to Main Street and into the Village Park. The brief ceremony will include the recognition of 10 firefighters who have given over 50 years each to serving the people of Northport in times of emergency. That's a combined total of over 500 years helping people.

Following the ceremony in the Village Park, the participating marching bands will compete in a Battle of the Bands contest for bragging rights (and trophies) as the "Long Island's Best Marching Band - 2014." The two top bands will be recognized with awards.

Approximately 25 Long Island fire departments will be in the line of march. Southampton Fire Department will parade with three antique vehicles dating back to the beginning of the 20th century.

Food and beverages, 125th anniversary shirts and commemorative prints of fire headquarters will be available for purchase in the park. The musical entertainment is free. The parade will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Park ceremonies will take place near 3:00 p.m., and the musical performances will follow. The rain date for commemorative events is Saturday, October 25th, same time and same schedule.

Open House Awards & Baby Sitter Course

The annual open house and poster contest awards program will be held on Friday, October 24th, 7:30 PM at Headquarters. Everyone is invited to 204 Main Street to see a live fire, followed by the activation of smoke detectors and the fire suppression by

members of the department. Children with winning posters as well as the best participation school will also be recognized. This year's fire prevention theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives." A brief and informative DVD regarding this theme will be shown. The final class in the 39th annual fire department baby sitter course will be held on Tuesday, October 21st. There are 25 young people in the course. They are being trained by several instructors in the topics of personal & fire safety, child & infant care and basic first aid.

Flu Shot Reminder

Safety News urges everyone to get their annual flu shot. These are still available Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse office, 505 Main Street.

Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

Northport Fire Marshals John McKenna and Doug Pyne have offered some excellent and practical suggestions for use of wood stoves and fireplaces. They point out that 36% of residential home fires are caused by some malfunction in the heating system. The most common cause is a creosote build up in the chimney and/or stovepipe. All home heating systems need regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently. The Fire Marshals suggest Safety News readers follow their suggestions;

1) Have chimney and wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.

2) Clear area near and around the hearth of debris and flammable materials.

3) Leave glass doors open with a burning fire.

4) Close glass doors when fire is out.

5) Always use a metal mesh screen on fireplaces with no glass doors.

6) Fire ashes should be placed in a metal container and taken outside away from buildings.

With adherence to these suggestions, our Safety News readers should stay safe and warm this winter.