

# Safety News from Northport Fire Department

By Jim Mahoney

## Summer Safety Suggestions

The official start of summer will take place later this month. Mother Nature has been most generous in 2012 with many summer like days in May and June. These type days, and the ones to come, offer the opportunity for many outdoor activities. Safety News suggests some basic safety concepts be followed when outdoors.

The first consideration is the care of the skin. The need for sun screen lotion of at least a 30 sun protection factor (SPF). The July 2012 issue of the University of California Berkley reports on the American Cancer Society's latest statistics. The death rate from cancer has declined 2.3 percent in men and 1.5 percent in women over the period from 1991-2008. The July 2012 issue of the Johns Hopkins Health After 50 newsletter reports that the incidence of skin cancer continues to rise. "More cases of skin cancer then the combined cases of breast, lung, prostate and colon cancers." This is so ironic considering the fact that skin cancer is the most preventable. You have to use the sun screen lotion. Try to avoid direct exposure to the sun during the hours of 10AM and 4PM. Wear sun glasses to protect the eyes.

Swimming is one of the top favorite activities. Adults must supervise children at all times when they are in home pools. Secured gates must be maintained around these pools so as to prevent small children (usually those that cannot swim) from entering. At beaches, adults and children should swim in designated areas with lifeguards. Lightning and thunder are the signals to immediately exit the water. Shelter should be taken inside a building – never under a tree.

Adults should alert children playing in the driveway behind a parked car. Earlier this month a mother in Hyattville, Maryland backed her car over children playing in her driveway. Her 8 year old daughter died from injuries inflicted by the backing up car. Each year there are reports of similar incidents here on Long Island. Northport Fire Department has reported the effectiveness of the "Spot the Tot" program and has made a special Spot the Tot flyer available (at no charge) at fire headquarters on Main Street.

Children and pets should never be left alone in cars for any length of time. In less than 10 minutes the internal temperature in the car can increase nearly 20 degrees from the regular air temperature.

## **Station 1 Center Stone Unveiling Ceremony**

Northport Fire Department held a special ceremony at Station 1 on Waterside Avenue on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> to unveil the newly refurbished center stone which had previously adorned fire headquarters on Main Street. Through the skillful efforts of FF Nick Prochilo and his volunteer work crew, the stone was removed from its original location. Past Chief Bruce Berglund designed the upgrade of this stone. FF Peter Nolan negotiated the actual work on the stone. The refurbished stone now adorns the South wall of Station 1. This stone did not cost the Village or the Fire Department any money. Rather it was the labor and interest of Firefighters Prochilo, Nolan and Berglund who saw the project through to completion.

Chaplain Paul Latuso offered a meaningful opening and closing prayer. Past Chief John McKenna handled the emcee duties in his usual concise and witty manner. Chief Chris Hughes welcomed the assembled group and congratulated the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their accomplishments to date.

Village of Northport Mayor George Doll and Fire Commissioner Chairman Phil Weber offered their congratulations as well as some relevant comments leading up to the building of Station 1. A commemorative time capsule was buried on the property. The formal honor of placing the time capsule was given to the department's current longest serving member Hon. Chief Peter Cross assisted by the department's current Captain of the Smokeaters (Junior Firefighters) Sam Bruno.

This writer, who also serves as the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chairman, proudly introduced the committee members. Also, a brief outline of what has been accomplished so far and the future plans culminating in the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Summer of 2014.

Details of subscription and sponsorship of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book will be printed in the next issue of Safety News.