



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Fire Prevention Week Proclamation October 4-10, 2009

Report in Brief

Fire Prevention Week is dedicated to raising awareness about the dangers of fire and how to prevent it. The City Council has annually recognized Fire Prevention Week in Woodland and the Woodland Fire Department has coordinated this recognition with community education and awareness activities.

Staff recommends that the City Council join the National Fire Protection Association in proclaiming October 4-10, 2009 as Fire Prevention Week and dedicate this year to raising public awareness of the dangers of fire and staying fire smart.

Background

The history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and lasted 27 hours. In the end, the Great Chicago Fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

This year's theme is to Stay Fire Smart - Don't Get Burned! Testing the water before putting a child in the bath may sound like common sense. Wearing short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking on the stovetop and other simple actions may be all it takes to prevent devastating burns.

This year's Fire Prevention Week 2009 focuses on burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires.

Discussion

The celebration of Fire Prevention Week has been a long standing tradition in the community. It gives the Fire Department personnel the chance to introduce themselves to community youth in a

non-threatening and learning environment. Through this interaction, Fire Department staff teaches youth, teachers and parents the importance of fire safety and fire prevention.

This year our opportunities to educate young children are limited as the funding for the First Grade Public Education Program was eliminated to meet the City's fiscal challenges. The Fire Department's opportunities to educate this year will have to occur through interaction with children at community events, during tours at the fire stations and through the media. While this is a challenge, the Fire Department will seize every opportunity to educate the public on fire safety and believes community youth is an appropriate focus.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council join the National Fire Protection Association in proclaiming October 4-10, 2009 as Fire Prevention Week and dedicate this year to raising public awareness of the dangers of fire and staying fire smart.

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Fire Chief

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City Manager

Enclosures

City of Woodland

PROCLAMATION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our City; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries; and

WHEREAS, Thermal burns outnumber scalds nearly two-to-one, but for children ages five and under, scalds outnumber burns roughly two-to-one.

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, while heating equipment and smoking are the leading causes of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, Woodland's Firefighters are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Woodland's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

THEREFORE, The City Council does hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2009 as Fire Prevention Week throughout the City of Woodland, and urge all the people of the City of Woodland to protect their homes and families by heeding the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Week 2009, and to support the many efforts of our fire and emergency services in the prevention of fires and burn injuries.

Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor
William L. Marble, Council Member

Martie L. Dote, Council Member
Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member

